

THE RIC TIMES



ROCHESTER
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

A co-educational day & boarding school | Year 7 to Sixth Form | Non-selective & high performing | ISC accredited

Non-selective 6th form

No option blocks
Average class size 8

Boarding at Rochester

Weekly and full

Retake GCSE while starting A levels

A fresh start

Rethink your subjects

Intensive, short GCSEs and A levels

Switching schools

Year 13 move to improve



University entrance specialists

Founded in 1984, Rochester Independent College is a co-educational day and boarding school offering a distinctive alternative to both traditional independent education and the highly selective local grammar schools.

Visit and you will immediately sense this difference. The mutual respect between teachers and students is palpable. There is no uniform, no bells ring, students and staff are on first name terms and the average class size is 8.

The first thing you'll notice is that we occupy a one-of-a-kind urban campus. At the heart of a designated conservation area, the historically distinctive site with listed buildings linked by award-winning wildlife gardens creates a special sense of place to explore and in which to live, study and work. Visit our campus just once and you'll swiftly see why RIC is a school unlike any other.

RIC aims to give students an enjoyable and successful experience of school in an international environment with small classes and high-quality teaching and pastoral care. Students in all years of the school do not sit in rows but gather around one table, in the style of a university tutorial. The focus is on achievement without unnecessary pressure; the lively, supportive and informal atmosphere leads to exam success. At RIC students learn and achieve more because they enjoy school and feel positive about themselves.



Caitlin Borowsky, below left, who has attended RIC since year 7 says:

"RIC gives you space, the flexibility to take things into your own hands and structure your education to suit you. There is no 'one size fits all' attitude."

Having achieved outstanding GCSE results including 2 A* grades in year 10, she got offers from all four of her chosen Medical Schools and the three A grades at A level she needed to meet them. She is now off to Sheffield, her first choice.

Caitlin consistently worked hard but says she did so in a very supportive environment: **"The teachers always gave me a lot of time outside of lessons, even in break times. I always had my questions answered and the interest and passion of the teachers for their subjects really shines through."**

RIC's flying doctors

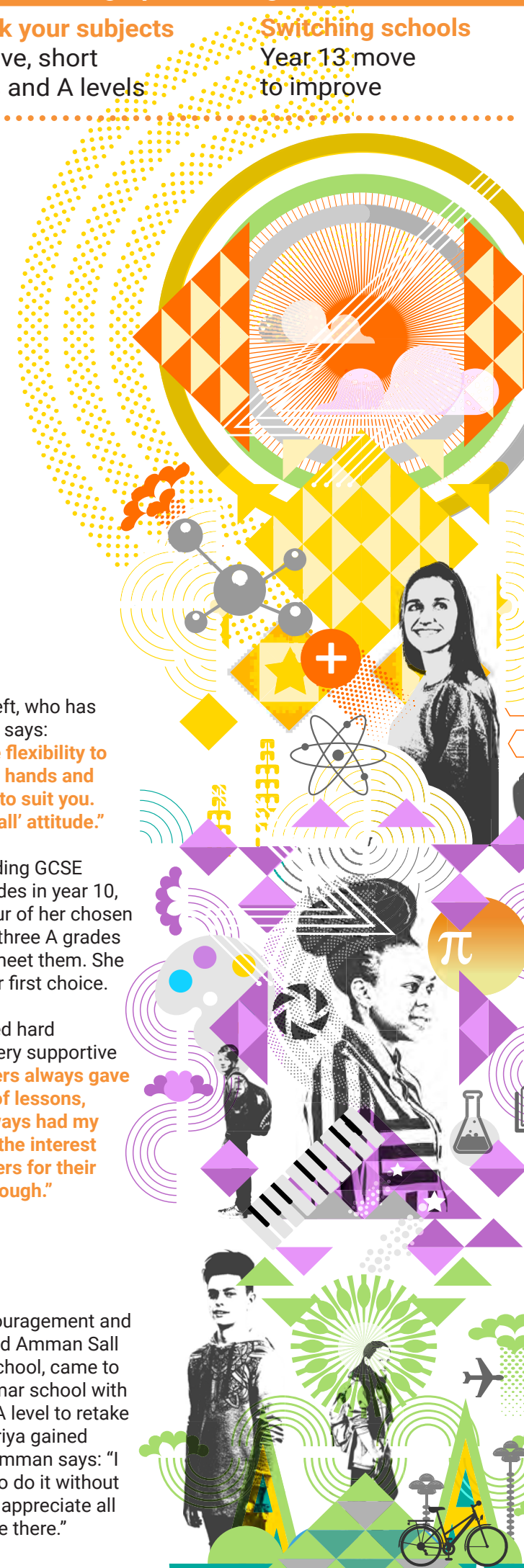


Despite the increased competition and the reduction in places available to those who resit, students from RIC have again gained places at Medical and Dental Schools. Bolu Alade (Medicine at Liverpool) says: "Retaking seemed a massive risk. But with my place confirmed I know it was all worthwhile. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of the insight you provided in the mock interview."

Thank you for all the encouragement and support." Priya Takhar and Amman Sall (left), both off to dental school, came to RIC from the same grammar school with matching ABB grades at A level to retake Biology and Chemistry. Priya gained A*A* and Amman A*A. Amman says: "I wouldn't have been able to do it without all the help at RIC. I really appreciate all the support from everyone there."

"RIC was beyond instrumental for me. It completely reinvigorated my love of learning."

Abigail Pile, Durham History graduate



Switching schools for exam success



Lower School and Year 11

Students join different year groups for many reasons.



Nikita Pillai joined year 11 after time in many different schools.

"I've studied in different schools in 3 continents and RIC has been my most enjoyable experience. Teaching here is tailored to each student and the environment was welcoming from day one."

Oliver Laming (above, now off to Edinburgh to read History) joined in year 9: "My previous school helped a lot with my Aspergers, but didn't offer the GCSEs I wanted. RIC has given me far broader options than I would otherwise have had."

Sixth Form

Changing schools after GCSEs is a popular option, sometimes to access a more adult environment, or a wider choice of A levels, or simply because of a move into the area.

Cherish Layton (above) joined RIC year 12 from a school in Grimsby after a family move to Kent. She is now heading to Sussex to read Psychology.

"RIC was very different from my secondary school. I went from being in classes of 30 to classes of 8, which makes such a difference. The teachers are very friendly and try to give you any extra help you need. The best aspect was the atmosphere. Everything felt so relaxed and I could do my work in a way that suited me best. Without the teachers' support, I wouldn't have done as well."

New Subjects

Choosing A level subjects is not an easy process and, in many schools, it is even harder to change them. At RIC, we understand that something has to change if the path a student has chosen is not working. As Laura Heppel, who changed her focus to Arts having already completed Science A levels, says: "One thing that makes RIC different is the attitude to subject choice. Picking up something new is encouraged - try different classes to find the best fit. RIC excels at helping students find their stride before moving on to Higher Education."

Charlie Morris decided to make the change at the end of year 12 and moved to RIC as a boarder to focus on expressive arts rather than sciences. He gained ABC in Drama, English and Photography and is off to Winchester, his first choice, to launch his career in Film.

Transferring for Year 13

Transferring mid A levels is an option, particularly if disappointing results have knocked your confidence or you want to change direction and not lose a year.

Jessica Learmont joined in year 13 to take Film and History of Art from scratch instead of her science AS subjects while continuing English, her chosen University subject, which she will now take at Exeter.

For aspiring actress, Elizabeth Brown (above), who converted disappointing AS grades into top A levels, it is a move she will never regret: "It really was the best decision I have ever made. Over this year, I have grown as a person, I've discovered that I don't just fit into one box. RIC helped me regain my confidence in drama and essay writing too and has shown me other interests to be passionate about. I am really excited about the course at E15."

University Destinations 2017

UCAS places as at 21/8/17

| Student Name | Previous School | University Course | University | Student Name | Previous School | University Course | University |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Jesulabomi Aiyere | St Olave's Grammar | Accounting & Mgmt | Kent | Rebecca Feyikemi Delano | Sherborne International | Law | Leicester |
| Lola Akinpitansoye | St Catherine's Catholic | Accounting & Finance | Portsmouth | Allan Delow | Kent College, Canterbury | Politics and Intl Relations | Nottingham |
| Bolutife (Bolu) Alade | Rainham Mark | Medicine | Liverpool | Henry Dobson | King's Canterbury | Mechanical Engineering | Nottingham |
| Fatima Ansari | Chatham Girls Grammar | Economics & Finance | Brunel | Edward Evans | Canterbury Academy | Computer Science | Kent |
| Olivia Bagshawe | King's Canterbury | Management | Leeds | Gabriella Felipes | Westside School, Gibraltar | Film, Culture & Marketing | Liverpool |
| Olivia Barker | Fort Pitt Grammar | Fashion | Fashion Academy | Oliver Fielder | Bethany School | Project Mgmt Surveying | South Wales |
| Lucetta Barrett | St Edmund's, Canterbury | Popular Music | Anglia Ruskin | Ethan Fishwick | Wilmington Grammar | Geography | Oxford Brookes |
| Imogen Basi | King's Rochester | Graphic Communication | Bath Spa | Varit Foongvanich | Thai Government Scholar | Mathematics | Cambridge |
| Nada Bassiony | Rochester Grammar | Medicine | Liverpool | Rose French | Dover College | Zoology | Southampton |
| William Batey | QE Grammar | Civil Engineering | Swansea | James Fry | Bennett Memorial | Archaeology | Bradford |
| James Bazeley | St Edwards, Oxford | PE/Psychology | Oxford Brookes | Andrew Galletly | Thomas Aveling | Mechanical Engineering | Lincoln |
| Charlotte Bendkowski | Sutton Valence School | Eng Lang & Creative Writing | Brighton | Oscar Garcia | King's Rochester | History | Nottingham |
| David Bevis | Wilmington Grammar | Law | Exeter | Amardeep Ghataura | Bishop's Stortford High | Product Design | Notts Trent |
| Henrietta Boeg | Judd School | Biomedical Sciences | Bath | Philippa Graham-Black | St Edmund's, Canterbury | Medical Imaging | Exeter |
| India Bonneau | Brockwood Park School | Graphic Design | Falmouth | Mia Gray | Ashford School | Midwifery | CCCU |
| Caitlin Borowsky | RIC Year 7-13 | Medicine | Sheffield | William Griffiths | Sevenoaks School | History & Politics | Leicester |
| Elsbeth Bowes | Walthamstow Hall | Sociology/Social Psych | York | Lorcan Halfacre | King's Canterbury | Linguistics with Spanish | Newcastle |
| Joshua Brimelow | African Rd, New York | Film | Southampton | Hugo Halpern | RIC Year 7-13 | Biochemistry | Sussex |
| Elizabeth Brown | Kent College, Canterbury | Theatre Arts | East 15 Essex | Ella Halpern-Matthews | Tonbridge Grammar | History | KCL |
| Carl Burgess | QE Grammar | Ancient History | Liverpool | Jake Hayward | Skinners' School | Mathematics | Reading |
| Jemima Burn | Gad's Hill | Law with Criminology | Brighton | Charis Heim | Judd School | Human Physiology | Leeds |
| George Burns | St Edmund's, Canterbury | Management | Nottingham | Catherine Henry | RIC Year 7-13 | App Behavioural Science | Greenwich |
| Hugo Cannon | Homewood College | Biology | Bristol | Laura Heppell | Sir Roger Manwood's | English | Sussex |
| Haydn Cavalier Tej | King's Rochester | Business Mgmt & Finance | South Bank | Laura Horner | Cobham Hall | International Development | Sussex |
| Kiatmeta Chongfungklang | Thai Government Scholar | Mathematical Physics | Nottingham | Matthew Howarth | Alcester Grammar School | English Lang & Lit | Lancaster |
| William Clark | Bennett Memorial | Product Design & Tech | Manchester Met | James Irvine | Greenacre School | Digital Media | Portsmouth |
| Timothy Collie | Beths Grammar School | Building Surveying | Brighton | Goldice Javadian | Folkestone Girls School | Biomedical Science | Sheffield |
| Charlotte Collins | St Olave's Grammar | Environmental Science | Nottingham | Benjamin Joseph-Ebare | Brooke House Sixth Form | Applied Computing | UEA |
| Daniel Davidson | Morrison's Academy | Medical Sciences | Dundee | Gabriella Kehily | Simon Langton Grammar | Economics | Durham |
| Robert Davidson | Eastbourne College | Engineering Foundation | Oxford Brookes | | | | |
| Arielle de Lacey | King's Rochester | Psychology & Philosophy | Oxford | | | | |

"At RIC they'll treat you like you're at university and there's a positive, hard working but fun vibe."

Akin Wright, Manchester University English student



Retaking and Boarding

Sometimes students decide to return to A levels after completing year 13 at other schools and board while doing so.

Henry Dobson joined having already spent a few weeks at university. He accepted a place to study Physics through Clearing, but soon realised that was not for him. So he decided to retake his A levels as a boarder, improve his grades and apply for Engineering. He now has a place at Nottingham having improved his BCC in Chemistry, Maths and Physics to AAA.

Matthew Howarth (above) also boarded to allow himself the best chance to improve his grades. While not completely changing direction, he took a new set of humanities subjects from scratch in one year. He went from BBC to A*AA and won the place at Lancaster he was aiming for.

International Boarders

RIC students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including from international schools.

Cho Wang Lee (Trevor) had studied at an international school in Hong Kong before coming to the UK. After attending a school in Devon for a year, he switched to RIC for its more adult environment and because of his desire to study Philosophy, for which he now has a place at Warwick. Anemme Bassey (above) from Nigeria, is one of 12 students to gain a grade A in English Literature at the College this year.

Among RIC's top international performers are Adisorn Panasawatwong, who is off to study Physics at Oxford University and Pinphong Sukkaew who is going to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

In 2016 the next chapter of the College's development began and we joined the Dukes Education Group.

Our students benefit from specialist university admissions advice from Oxbridge Applications, Dukes US Admissions and Dukes Medical Applications. Dukes Education supports students to win places at many of the most competitive universities world-wide, including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, the LSE and Imperial College London.

Our teachers now benefit from exchanging ideas with staff from other schools in the group like Cardiff Sixth Form College and Fine Arts College, Hampstead, London.

This year, RIC students were invited to the Dukes Education Young Person's Medical Conference. The event included talks on the future of medicine from pre-eminent professionals in the medical field, with application tutorials and taster workshops.

Highlights included the much-celebrated 'Be A Doctor For A Day' workshop - fully immersive experiences in which students took the role of medics in challenging scenarios, such as a medical tribunal and the operating theatre. The students were able to talk to top medical consultants and doctors about their professional lives, gain tips on how to apply to medical school and examine real-life clinical cases.

Top 5 Science Destinations

Rochester Independent College 2012-2017

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|----|
| 1 | Cambridge University | 13 |
| 2 | Bristol University | 10 |
| 3 | Exeter University | 8 |
| = | Liverpool University | 8 |
| 4 | Imperial | 6 |
| = | Leeds University | 6 |
| 5 | University College London | 5 |
| = | Sheffield University | 5 |
| = | Swansea University | 5 |



| Student Name | Previous School | University Course | University |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Alexander Kidd | Sutton Valence School | Social Anthropology | Manchester |
| Ilya Kovalev | King's Rochester | Business Studies | Lincoln |
| Alexander Lai | Rochester Maths | Economics | Surrey |
| Oliver Laming | Trinity School | Ancient & Medieval History | Edinburgh |
| Cherish Layton | Ormiston Academy | Psychology | Sussex |
| Jessica Learmont | Ashford School | English | Exeter |
| Cho Wang (Trevor) Lee | Shebbear College | Philosophy | Warwick |
| Pierre Marr | St Gregory Catholic School | Biological Sciences | Reading |
| Arran Mattu | Gad's Hill | Computer Science | Westminster |
| Lara McCormick | International School, Istanbul | Media Journalism & Culture | Cardiff |
| Thanakorn Milinthalajinda | Vajiraavudh College | Electrical Engineering | Greenwich |
| Rory Miller | Millfield School | Intl Business Mgmt | Reading |
| Tamsyn Morgan | Cranbrook School | Liberal Arts | Leeds |
| Charles Morris | Cranbrook School | Film Studies & Production | Winchester |
| Oliver Norman | King's Canterbury | Economics | Bath |
| Edward Norton | Bennett Memorial | English Lit & Drama | UEA |
| Moriah Ogunbiyi | Rochester Grammar School | History | Kent |
| Thomas Oliver | Judd School | Politics & Int Relations | Bath |
| Callum O'Shea | Sutton Valence School | Economics | Reading |
| Adisorn Panasawatwong | Thai Government Scholar | Physics | Oxford |
| Quentin Pantics | Home Educated | Film and German | Kent |
| Maria Pasqui | Intl School, Luxembourg | Photography | Roehampton |
| Alina Peermohamed | Maidstone Grammar | Philosophy/Psychology | Warwick |
| Max Pelvang | Sutton Valence School | Modern Lang/Business | Nottingham |
| Zara Petts | St Edmund's, Canterbury | English Literature | Newcastle |
| Daniel Phillips | RIC year 7 to 13 | Mechanical Engineering | Leeds |
| Nikita Pillai | Bangalore Academy | Business Management | Reading |
| Pattaraporn Pinturak | Thai Government Scholar | Mathematics & Economics | Queen Mary |
| Ivan Prisyazhnyuk | King's Canterbury | Physics | Lund, Sweden |

| Student Name | Previous School | University Course | University |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Keerttiga Ravi | Worth School | Business & Management | Leeds Trinity |
| James Read | King's, Canterbury | Mathematics & Economics | Newcastle |
| Adam Russell | St Olave's Grammar | Geography | Leicester |
| Hammza Saleh | Chatham Boys Grammar | IT for Business | Coventry |
| Amman Sall | Mayfield Grammar | Dental Surgery | Plymouth |
| Oliver Settle | King's Rochester | History & American Studs | Manchester |
| Mohammed (Awais) Shafi | Dartford Grammar | Biological Sciences | Leicester |
| Harrison Sharpe | Sutton Valence School | Graphic Design | Nott Trent |
| Laura Skinmore | Cobham Hall | Textiles -Fashion/interiors | UCA |
| Daniel Smith | Westcliffe High School | Economics & Mathematics | Leeds |
| Gabriel Solomon | Rochester Maths | Economics | City |
| Prudence Sparkes | Worth School | History of Art | Nottingham |
| Pinphong Sukkaew | Thai Government Scholar | Natural Sciences | Cambridge |
| Priya Takhar | Mayfield Grammar | Dentistry | Manchester |
| Barnabas Tedder | Gravesend Grammar | Ecology | Brighton |
| Jonathan Tikare | Rochester Grammar School | History & Politics | Leicester |
| Molly Tottman | King's Rochester | Geography | Loughborough |
| Charles Turnbull | King's Rochester | Film | Bournemouth |
| Hannah Turner | Invicta Grammar | Property Dev & Mgmt | Greenwich |
| Megan Udy | Wilmington Grammar | Geophysics | Liverpool |
| Amelia Walker | Simon Langton Grammar | Environmental Science | Manchester Met |
| Rapee Wanaset | Thai Government Scholar | Physics | Southampton |
| Jessica Westerman | King's Rochester | Global BBA | ESSCEC |
| Luca Williams | Jumeirah School | Television Production | Gloucestershire |
| David Wilson | Tunbridge Wells Grammar | Psychology & Sports Studies | Stirling |
| Thomas Woods | Eastbourne College | Genetics & Evolution | Chester |
| Eleanor Wyncoll | Oxted Girls | Psychology | Surrey |
| Rose Yanni | King's Canterbury | English & Modern Langs | Exeter |
| Kirsty Young | King's Canterbury | Politics and Sociology | Leicester |
| Seonaid Young | King's Canterbury | Theology & Religious St | Nottingham |

“Having come from a local Grammar School joining RIC with its average class size of 8 was a breath of fresh air.”

Georgina Winney, Bristol University Neuroscience graduate

RIC Gallery



Robert Davidson, A level Graphic Design



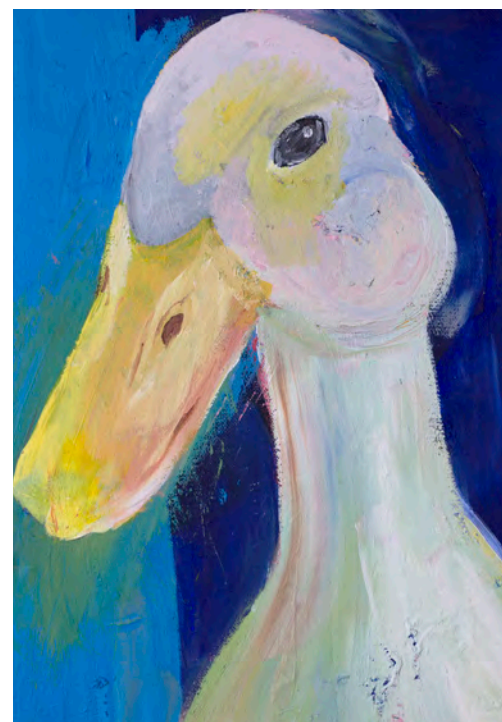
Rhea Purewal, A level Graphic Design



Laura Skinmore, A level Textiles



Alina Peermohamed A level Textiles



Abby French, GCSE Fine Art



Tamia Chando, GCSE Photography

'It's hard to imagine better provision for an artist.' **Good Schools Guide**

RIC's commitment to the arts will be marked in autumn 2017 by the official opening of a landmark public art sculpture by Bjork collaborator Henry Dagg, commissioned to form the gates of the campus. The gates, already a hit on social media, make music with vibraphone bars, tubular bells and organ pipe-like tubes with resonating strings that can be plucked, struck or bowed.

In the Lower School, art is a core subject with 4 hours every week. It's a case of Artsbacc not Ebacc for many at GCSE with options from Photography

and Media to Graphic Design and Textiles. Film Studies is one of our strongest subjects at A level and GCSE.

Alfie Rutter has been selected for this year's Royal Academy A level Online Summer Exhibition out of more than 2,400 entries. Although only a GCSE student, Alfie was old enough to enter, and his piece is one of 49 selected works display on the RA website.

Such is the strength of the arts at RIC students now routinely skip traditional foundation years and proceed straight

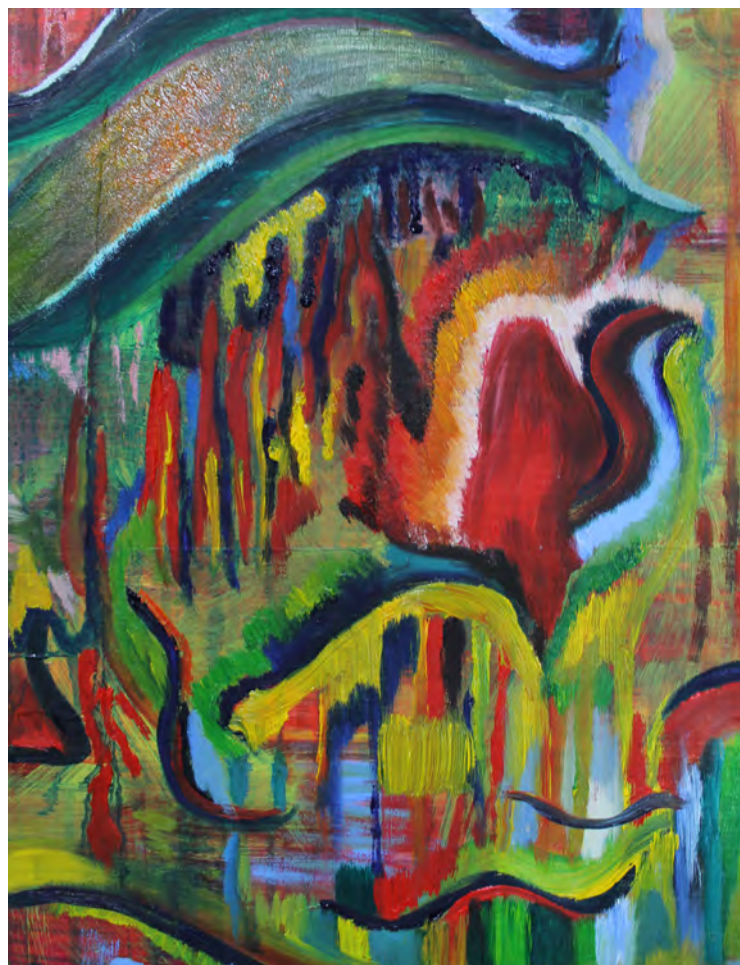
to degree courses. Head of Graphic Design at Falmouth University Bryan Clark says: "High calibre students are often accepted directly from A levels if they can obtain the specialist insight and an introduction to the fundamentals of the design process at school. RIC delivers this, with not only top grade students but also those with a depth of experimentation and energy."

RIC follows the success of its own art students after university and department staff visit end of year degree shows to support alumni. Our new website has

artwork commissioned from former student Ray Smith.

All those who teach in the department are practising artists, designers and photographers. Joining in 2017 is fashion and portrait photographer Michael Daks who has previously lectured at Paris College of Art, Parsons NY, Southampton Solent and Instituto Marangoni. An artist in residence scheme sees a range of practitioners working with students throughout the year. Local artist Billy Childish runs workshops and students also visit his studio.

"The informal nature of RIC made it feel welcoming- a place where you were heard, seen and cared about."
Ginte Barzdaityte, Central Saint Martins and UCL art graduate



Alina Peermohamed, A level Fine Art



Yijin Wang, A level Fine Art



Mia Jackson, A level Fine Art



Harrison Sharpe, A level Graphic Design



Alfie Rutter, GCSE Fine Art



James Kennedy, GCSE Photography

Ralph Steadman Art Scholarship



World-famous illustrator Ralph Steadman has given his name to the College's sixth-form arts scholarship and acts as chief judge. This year, RIC will run and fund in full the second of these competitions. The scholarship will again comprise a two-year full scholarship for A levels at RIC.

Applicants are invited to submit three pieces of work in any medium and a personal statement to:

steadmanscholarship
@rochester-college.org

*Closing date Friday 15 December 2017

Star Hill Starman

Former RIC student Tom Wynn Owen, graduated from UCL's The Slade School of Fine Art in 2017 and joins his former teachers on the staff in September.

Tom came to the College from The Judd School, Tonbridge, for a two-year A level course, studying Music Technology, Fine Art, Photography, Philosophy and History of Art.

Tom says he chose RIC as it was: "The only place that would let me do the subjects I wanted and did not make me wear a suit. RIC had awesome teachers, good trips, cool plays in London and lots of help available."

One of Tom's first projects as a member of staff is painting a mural of David Bowie in the Lower School. A young Bowie is recorded as performing there before his career blasted off into the popular cultural firmament.



"RIC is unique in that it gives you the safe space to explore your youth and also find independence and maturity."


Pamela Farrugia, East 15 Drama student

RIC's Lower School - Years 7-11

Combining academic rigour with a creative buzz



Fast Facts



- A friendly, social environment that will broaden your child's perspective
- A nurturing school where your child will achieve academically without undue pressure
- Quality teaching with personalised, regular feedback and reporting
- A flexible curriculum closely aligned to your child's interests with an emphasis on the core subjects but with an unusually broad choice of creative arts
- Smaller class sizes where your child will not slip under the radar
- A chance to be free from petty school rules and an obsession with uniform
- A school with low staff turnover
- A school where inspectors say that personal development and behaviour 'is excellent'
- An expectation that all will grow in confidence and self esteem, do well in exams and have great memories of school life

2017 marks the tenth anniversary of the first year 7 intake and the third year that RIC has waved goodbye to students who have been with us throughout their secondary education.

RIC is non-selective academically and provides a broad education. There is no assumption that subjects in the lower school curriculum will be followed through to exams, but RIC also provides opportunities for early exam taking if individual students are ready for them. This means students can specialise at their own pace and find their own strengths and interests while remaining part of a very small supportive year group of people who often have widely differing talents - which is an education in itself.



The students leaving this year, having spent their entire secondary school career with us, are an exceptional bunch. Not only for their excellent A level results, but also for their diversity and individuality. Within the small group, they represent a wide range of different interests and personalities.

While we aim to provide a truly all round education and do not tolerate inconsiderate behaviour, we don't expect students to become the embodiment of some kind of school ethos. There is room for every student to be an individual.



Dan Phillips (above) joined RIC for year 7 with a high 11+ score. He wanted a broader focus on arts and humanities than seemed likely in local grammar schools while still achieving in core subjects.

Dan has taken full advantage of RIC's creative arts facilities and has cemented this into excellent GCSE grades with an A in Media Studies taken in year 10 to complement the A* he gained in Mathematics in the same year. Rather than the one art subject that all RIC students are encouraged to take at GCSE, Dan numbers four amongst his total of eleven GCSEs (9 at A or A*). Dan now has the 3A*s at A level in Maths, Further Maths and Physics he needs to pursue his dream of a career in Engineering, together with a B in Economics.



Year 7 Taster Days

- Wednesday 27 Sept
- Thursday 3 Nov 2017

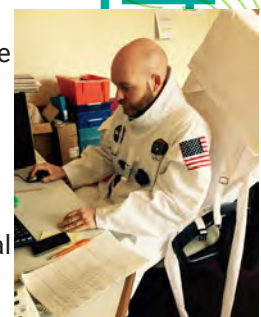
Call to book a place

Cross-Curricular Study Weeks



Each year there is a different theme. This year it was crime. Lower School students took part in a CSI-style investigation around the campus. Activities were centred on a 'murder' staged in the main hall. Science lessons concentrated on the forensic methods used to collect evidence, including fingerprinting, testing hair samples and blood spatters. A mock trial took place with students forming teams for the defence, prosecution and jury and there was a visit to the Crime Museum in Hastings.

NASA space suit made famous by the Apollo missions.



In previous years: 'Britain and the Sea Week' included visits to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, the Historic Dockyard in Chatham, the traditional boatyard in Faversham and a day crossing the channel.

'India Week' included visits to East India Company sites in London's docklands, the Brighton Pavilion, the Gravesend Temple, a local Indian restaurant and a Bollywood dancing workshop.

'Darwin and Evolution Week' included Kew Gardens, the Natural History Museum and Lyme Regis for fossil hunting.



Lower School Arts Week

Lower School students this year took part in our first official Arts Week. We kicked off with a trip to the Design Museum. Workshops helped students to gain new perspectives on the role of designers and the impact of design in everyday life.

Back at College, students spent a day producing work in response to what they had seen, using practical skills and techniques in Fine Art, Design Technology, Electronics, Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles and Three-Dimensional Design. The end product, simple lights, used all manner of materials.

The week culminated in a residential trip to Paris. As well as the obligatory trips to the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre we visited the Centre Pompidou and the Musée d'Art Moderne. On their return to College, students worked on their own ideas inspired by their trip and designed sculptural pieces that were exhibited at the RIC Summer Festival.

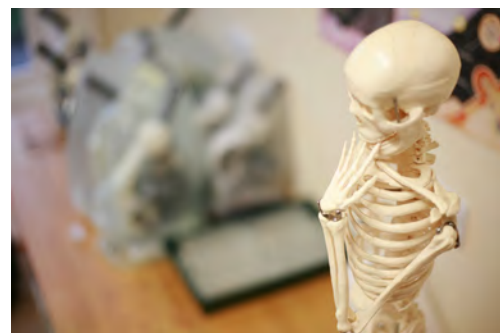


Last year, 'British Science Week' went cross-curricular and landed in the Lower School with an emphasis on all things space related. Students and staff learned about the Cold War space race in their History lessons, polished their Russian language skills and donned a replica

STEM Olympians of RIC



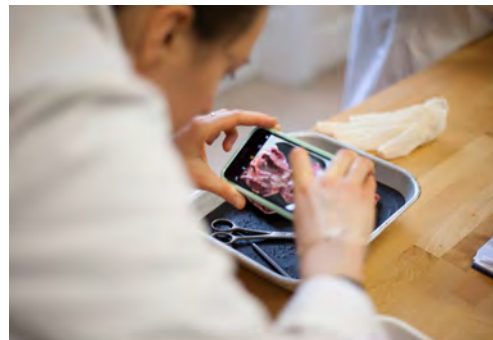
A glance at the university destinations of RIC students reveals a wide range of impressive courses for those intending to pursue mathematical, scientific and engineering careers.



It is no accident that each year since 1990 RIC has taught gifted scholars sponsored by the Thai Government. Julia Plaistowe at the Office of Educational Affairs at the Royal Thai Embassy says: "we send our best students who have been awarded Thai Government Scholarships to RIC with the expectation they will all be taught to the highest standard and be well looked after. Many of them go on to Oxford, Cambridge, UCL and Imperial."



The Thai Scholars have often represented their country at the highest levels in Academic Olympiad competitions. They join other high achieving, motivated students in small classes of around 8 students to gain top grades – often in one year.



It's not only international students who go on to top universities for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) courses. One local student joined RIC for retakes having narrowly missed a Medical School place after A levels at a local Grammar School. During the year, despite gaining offers for Medicine, she was inspired instead to move into research sciences. Courses range from Astrophysics at Edinburgh to Medical Engineering at Swansea, Natural Sciences at Cambridge, Biomedical Engineering at UCL, Medical Imaging at Exeter, Sound Engineering at Birmingham and Geophysics at Liverpool.

Students here often combine Science A levels with the creative arts. Engineers

often take Graphic Design and Music Technology A levels, Architects Fine Art and History of Art. Pawita Boonrat who graduated from Manchester this year with a first class degree in Physics is now embarking on a PhD that draws on her interest in Art, fostered while at RIC.

Conor McManaman joined from Gravesend Grammar and is now studying Medicine at Newcastle. He did English Literature alongside Chemistry, Biology and Maths and says: "RIC's use of testing and reflection mirrors a lot of what I use at medical school and I am particularly thankful that I learnt these techniques when sitting my A levels."



Maths teacher Danny Cheung is celebrating after his British citizenship ceremony at Rochester's Corn Exchange this year. Danny first came to the College from Hong Kong as a cook in 2004. RIC awarded Danny a full scholarship to study Engineering at City University where he achieved a first class degree. He then returned to teach A level alongside his own former teachers.

Teaching and learning without borders

One aspect of the winning formula at RIC is the dynamic mix of local students from a variety of backgrounds with inspirational young people from overseas. And the staff are similarly talented and diverse with UK educated staff complemented by inspirational teachers from Europe and further afield.

Sociology and Psychology specialist Dr Kamila Pawlikowska studied Sociology at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (Poland) and Comparative Literature at the University of Kent at Canterbury. Her PhD was published as Anti-portraits: Poetics of the Face in English, Polish and Russian Literature. She recently completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tokyo and was a visiting lecturer for a month at Penn State University.

Teaching Chemistry is Dr Sophie Hilton from France whose medical research was based around the design of enzyme inhibitors. Sophie says: "Working at RIC is like a breath of fresh air, the small classes and the fact that the students are very well

behaved and want to succeed means I can convey my enthusiasm for Chemistry and turn my attention to every student."

New to the History department is Dr Zacharoula Christopoulou whose PhD at UCL was on First World War memory in European Culture. Joining to teach Maths is Constantine Tucker. A keen chess player, kickboxer and youtuber, Constantine is working on a range of fun maths videos. He previously presented a chess programme for Greek television. Constantine and Zacharoula both studied at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki before moving to the UK. Ancient Greek club in the Lower School is now set to be as successful as Latin club.

Joining the boarding team is University of Bologna graduate Antonella Marchitto who also teaches Italian, Russian and French and will be working closely with our residential students.

Dr Anthony Gilliland from Spain, also on the boarding team, has a BA Hons in

Government from the LSE and a PhD in Politics. Anthony helps run our evening study clubs for students. Our MFL team includes Nadia Boulez and Aurelie Hubert

(French) and Carmen Torres (Spanish). They ensure the range of languages offered is as wide as possible and that students are encouraged to continue learning them.



I loved the small classes and the creative environment. I remember happily spending entire weekends in the photography studio. After RIC I was accepted at the Professional Conservatory of the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York. I'm sure that if I hadn't studied at RIC I wouldn't be where I am now, I couldn't even speak proper English before arriving! Irina Bravo from Barcelona, Actor

"I am so glad I found out about Rochester, as it truly is a magical place. Allen finally has a place to let his true abilities shine."
Denice Zhuang, Principal, Power Talk, Shantou, China

RIC in the Good Schools Guide



Atmosphere

RIC is described as a "place for individuals" where "the campus is as unique as the school" and "the students are a strikingly nice bunch and there's a lovely air of tolerance and warmth."

The review quotes one mother saying: "That playground talk, everyone wanting their child to be in the top set, you don't have that" but makes the point that this lack of "school gate competitiveness" and traditional formality is not at the expense of academic results or artistic high flying: "The top five student destinations in the last eight years are Leeds, Nottingham, Sussex, Cambridge and Imperial. Two RIC students have won places on the prestigious Fine Art degree course at UCL's The Slade School."

Describing the no uniform, first name terms environment, the review observes that parents say the teachers are "very passionate about their subjects" and another pupil, comparing the teaching to that at his former grammar school said: "The teaching is of a better quality and the teachers know their subject to a greater depth." The review notes "a firm concentration on exam technique, but still the school isn't seen as an exam factory" and highlighted the "rich cultural programme."

Subjects singled out include "Maths, English Literature and Film Studies (RIC A level results in these subjects have won Good Schools Guide Awards)" and the Creative and Visual Arts provision: "It would be hard to find better provision for an artist." "Parents especially appreciate the efforts made to ensure each pupil gains the best possible grade. One said: 'There are a lot of extra lessons before exams, in the holidays and so on. They will do as much as they can if they think you can improve your grade.'" Another praised the fact that they don't charge for extra tuition in the evenings and holidays, adding: 'I was concerned about my son's maths and suggested getting him some tuition. They said it was their responsibility, and I should not be looking for tutors. They did some extra work with him and he got an A, so I was ecstatic.'

Student care

"Parents all speak highly of the pastoral care and the growth in confidence they have witnessed in their children. One has three children at the school and she says: 'They are all very different but the school is spot on at all of their weaknesses and strengths.'" "They are strict about homework and behaviour, but removing petty rules means the rapport between pupils and teachers is much better. As one pupil put it, 'The only thing to rebel against here is education itself'."



Switching schools for exam success

"Many students transfer here after poor progress at AS or A level and the effect can be dramatic. One pupil told us he was predicted to get Ds and Es at AS; he moved from his grammar to the college in February, and in July he achieved three As at AS and an A at A level. Another student moved after getting a U at AS, and she says, 'In my first two weeks here I learned more than I had in the whole previous year'."



"Testing means you can't get delusions, you really know where you are at any point," said one pupil. Another, who was told by her grammar school that she needed to 'lower her sights' said: 'The teaching style is completely different, we are tested all the time and my grades have gone up consistently.'" "Other pupils have come from grammars where they felt under too much pressure, or from large schools where they felt overwhelmed, and all say they are learning better and enjoying school more here. 'I worried a lot at my old school, here it's a better environment,' said one. 'At my old school if you improved, they didn't notice,' said another."



Their view

The review notes that parents' money won't be spent on "the trappings of a public school – no mahogany-rich headmaster's study, certainly no suave head in a handmade suit." RIC is judged "a sound investment- 21 per cent of all students got AAB in facilitating subjects last year, and among the retakers, all got into university, and three-quarters won Russell Group places."

Above: RIC allotment Left: RIC Maths shed



RIC Fast Facts

- Year 7 to sixth form entry
- Day and boarding
- GCSE, AS and A level retakes
- Transfer for Year 13 or restart Year 12
- One Year GCSE courses
- Repeat Year 11 or transfer after Year 10
- All boards
- No subject combination restrictions
- No minimum GCSE grades required
- Regular Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science university placements
- No uniform
- Minibus services from Maidstone, Kings Hill, Sevenoaks, Otford and Tunbridge Wells
- 300 students
- 90 on-campus supervised boarding places
- 37 mins by train from London St Pancras
- 85% UK students, 15% International,
- Average class size is 8
- Good Schools Guide award winners in Maths, Science, English and Film.
- 38 different A level subjects

