

# THE RIC TIMES



ROCHESTER  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

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

## Successfully Academic and Creative

RIC is in the top 2% of schools in England for progress at A Level



### Admissions Accomplished for Science Fliers

**RUSSELL GROUP** RIC students get into Oxbridge and the Russell group in impressive numbers- 14 to Oxbridge, spots at all the G5 universities and 33 Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Science places over the last 5 years.

Our students though don't slavishly chase league table rankings but make informed decisions about university choices, demonstrating a characteristically RIC independence of thought.

Triple A\* student Kristina from St Petersburg turned down a coveted offer from Cambridge for Veterinary Science, preferring the course at London's Royal Veterinary College. She attended their 'Night At The Vet College' event in year 12 featuring dissection demos, CGI predators and paleo-art. RIC offers a full programme of UCAS trips to uni campuses.

Another triple A\* flier of the year, Thai Scholar Nutthanon, is following his interests in climate change and sustainability by rejecting the usual Russell Group options and choosing a BSc in Environmental Science at UEA, ranked top for research impact in Earth Systems.

While at RIC, as well as A levels Nutthanon did a certified online course the College offered to all students and staff run by AimHi Earth- the education to action hub- in association with The Eden Project, designed to inspire and empower environmental changemakers. Kristina and Nutthanon are both RIC Ambassadors, sharing their boarding school experiences online.



### RIC @ The Royal Academy



Two RIC students had work selected to hang in the prestigious 2021 Royal Academy Young Artists Summer' Show.

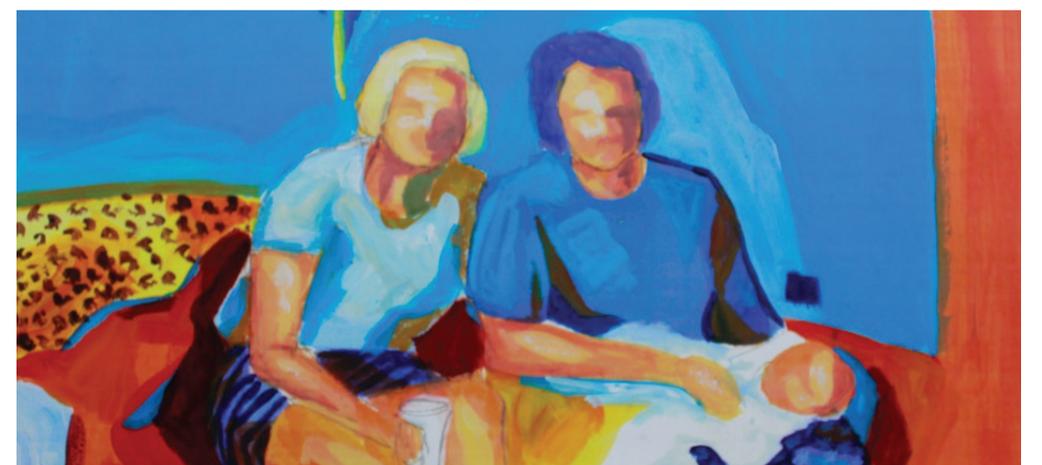
Ashley-Rae has just finished year 13 and Otto started in year 7 in September. Their work hung in the Clore Learning Centre at Burlington House, Piccadilly throughout the summer.

RIC has also been announced as the winner of the national Independent Schools Association Award for Excellence and Innovation in Fine Arts.

In our most recent ISI inspection it was noted "Pupils demonstrate an excellent aesthetic appreciation of the visual arts" and that this was a significant

contributing factor to the judgement finding the personal development of pupils as "excellent."

Each year we publish a catalogue showcasing student work in the arts. University destinations include all UAL Colleges including Central Saint Martins and London College of Fashion.



# RIC's Frontline Flying Doctors



The pandemic put our doctors in the spotlight and the critical role of health care heroes has been highlighted during the last two turbulent years.

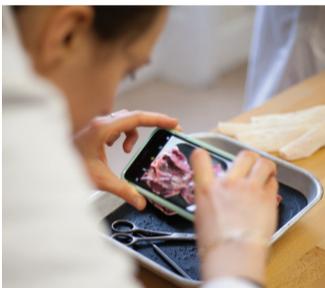
RIC students, staff and graduates have been doing their bit as part a national drive to help the NHS Covid response.

Our brilliant College nurse Ammy has been working at a local vaccination centre, as has Boarding Assistant and 2021 Diana Award winner Anna McGovern.



Conor transferred from Gravesend Grammar to RIC and was fast tracked through graduation from Newcastle University's Medical School this summer.

Conor's mum Julie, updating us said: "He intercalated for a year to do a Masters in Public Health and is now working in a newly created junior doctor role."



Conor said: "RIC's use of testing & reflection mirrors a lot of what I used at medical school."



## Seeing The Funny Side of Medicine

Students aiming for medical school at Rochester enjoy a stimulating programme of visits and events. In 2021 the RIC MedSoc will be enjoying among other distractions doctor turned Edinburgh Fringe stand-up favourite Adam Kay's sell out show 'This Is Going To Hurt' based on his experiences as a junior doctor. In his work Kay sings

songs about medical conditions as diverse as yellow fever and OCD, describes in gory detail episodes from his years in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and reflects on issues such as making access to medical school more socially inclusive and being part of the LGBTQI+ NHS community.



## Specialist Support for Future Docs

RIC students have access to some of the best university applications advice available. Official Royal Society of Medicine partner The Medic Portal is also part of Dukes Education. From this academic year, RIC's campus will be the Kent host centre for The Medic Portal's BMAT, MMI and interview prep courses.



RIC's own specialist medical prep programme is run by Dr Yang Ooi who teaches Science from year 7 in the Lower School to A level. Dr Ooi also works part time as a London GP.

He says: "I encourage students to think critically, guiding them to become self-sufficient and questioning scientists." Dr Ooi introduced himself to Rochester students by with a lecture, 'Faints, Fits and Funny Turns' exploring the causes of blackouts and dizziness, how to diagnose and treat them.

Book now for BMAT course, Medical School interview course and MMI Circuit Course.

## University Destinations for RIC students 2021

RIC Course	Previous School	University Course	University	RIC Course	Previous School	University Course	University
Year 14	Oundle	Medicine	Aberdeen	Year 14	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar	Dental Surgery & Oral Science	Leeds
Year 14	Dartford Grammar School	Biology	Bath	Year 13 transfer	West Kent College	Advanced Psychology	Leeds
Year 14	Gravesend Grammar School	Accounting and Finance	Bath	2 year course	King's Rochester	Financial Mathematics	Leeds
Year 13 transfer	West Kent College	International Event Mgmt	Brighton	Year 13 transfer	British Sch Al Khubiarat UAE	Engineering	Leicester
Year 14	Chew Valley School, Bristol	Dentistry	Bristol	2 year course	King's Rochester	Bioveterinary Science	Lincoln
Year 14	Tonbridge Grammar School	Neuroscience	Bristol	2 year course	MadamLauKamLungSchool	Fashion Photography	London MET
Year 14	Rochester Grammar School	Biology	Bristol	Year 14	St Edmunds, Canterbury	Product Design &Tech	Loughborough
2 year course	Wilmington Academy	Psychology	Canterbury C/Church	2 year course	Badminton School	Media & Communication	Loughborough
Year 14	King's Rochester	Architecture	Cardiff	Year 14	Simon Langton Grammar	Marketing & Management	Loughborough
Year 13 transfer	SMK KGV, Malaysia	Medicine	Cork Medical School	Year 14	D'Overbroeck's	Chemical Engineering	Manchester
2 year course	Riga Zolitude Gym, Latvia	Computer Science	Durham	Year 14	QE Faversham	Dentistry	Manchester
Year 14	St Edmunds, Canterbury	International Business Mgmt	East Anglia	2 year course	West Heath	Politics and Criminology	Manchester
2 year course	Coopers Secondary School	Computing Science	East Anglia	Year 13 transfer	Weald Of Kent	History and Sociology	Manchester
Year 13 transfer	Princess Chulabhorn, Thailand	Environmental Sciences	East Anglia	2 year course	Tonbridge Grammar	Biomedical Sciences/Lang	Manchester
2 year course	Duke Of York's	Business Management	East Anglia	2 year course	School Of Phayao, Thailand	Biomedical Science	Manchester
Year 14	Latymer Upper	Psychology	Edinburgh	2 year course	Triam Udom, Thailand	Elec & Electronic Engineering	Manchester
Year 14	St John Fisher	Astrophysics	Edinburgh	Year 13 transfer	Royal Russell School	Elec Mechatronic Engineering	Manchester
2 year course	International Sch, The Hague	Software Engineering	Edinburgh	2 year course	Fort Pitt Grammar	Fashion Business & Mgmt	Manchester MET
Year 14	Chulalongkorn Uni, Thailand	Computer Science & Maths	Edinburgh	2 year course	Holcombe Grammar	Criminology	Manchester MET
Year 14	Maidstone Grammar School	Computer Science	Exeter	Year 14	Gravesend Grammar	Pharmacy	Medway Sch Pharmacy
Year 14	Priory Lodge	Classics	Glasgow	Year 13 transfer	Cardiff Sixth Form College	Computer Science	Newcastle
2 year course	Shanghai Language School	Computing Science	Glasgow	Year 14	King's Rochester	Dentistry	Newcastle
2 year course	Cobham Hall	Neuroscience	Glasgow	2 year course	Rainham Mark Grammar	Computer Science	Nottingham
2 year course	Rise School	Management w/Economics	Goldsmiths	Year 14	Maidstone Girls Grammar	Environmental Science	Nottingham
2 year course	Tettenhall College	Media & Communications	Goldsmiths	Year 14	UTC Newhaven	Financial Mathematics	Nottingham
Year 13 transfer	Grey Coat Hospital School	Forensic Psychology	Goldsmiths	2 year course	Walthamstow Hall	Zoology	Nottingham Trent
2 year course	Srinakharinwirot, Thailand	Electronic Music & Computing	Goldsmiths	2 year course	Eastbourne College	Media Comms and Culture	Nottingham Trent
2 year course	Sutton Valence	Equine Veterinary Nursing	Hartpury	2 year course	Wellington Academy	Media Comms and Culture	Nottingham Trent
2 year course	Gravesend Grammar School	Accounting & Finance	Kent	Year 14	Tunbridge Wells Grammar	Motorsport Technology	Oxford Brookes
Year 14	Weald Of Kent	Biomedical Science	King's College Lon	2 year course	Oxford Manor, Nigeria	Philosophy & Politics	Queens Belfast
2 year course	Tonbridge Grammar School	Fine Art and Art History	Kingston	Year 13 transfer	Thomas Aveling School	International Business	Queen Mary
Year 14	Malvern College	Photography	Kingston	2 year course	Portuguese Sch Mozambique	International Business	Queen Mary
2 year course	Riga School, Latvia	Graphic Design	Leeds	2 year course	Shanghai Language School	Computer Science	Queen Mary
Year 14	Simon Langton Grammar	Economics & Geography	Leeds	2 year course	Confucius Int School, China	Accounting & Finance	Reading

"Pupils say that it's confidence-boosting to watch your grades go up. Many students transfer here after poor progress elsewhere and the effect can be dramatic." *Good Schools Guide*

# Just What The Doctor Ordered RIC's Multiple Pathways To Medicine

## 1 Year Courses for Medicine



Sean from Malaysia took a one-year intensive A level course after studying at SMK King George V, one of the premier schools in Malaysia. He achieved four A\* grades in Chemistry,

Biology, Physics and Maths and has a place at University College, Cork Medical School where the first recorded lessons in Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery date back to 1828.

## 2 Year Courses for Medicine



Hassan from Saudi Arabia has just finished his first year at UCL's Medical School. He first came to RIC for a one-year GCSE course. Hassan says: "RIC was a lot like the international school

I studied at in the Middle East. The diversity of cultures eased me into RIC where I have attended Science fairs, musicals, plays, art and fashion exhibitions, won essay writing competitions and played on the football team. RIC was like to home to me for three years."

## Changing directions @ RIC



Bella from Canterbury had two years out of school before starting her A levels at RIC and is now studying Medicine at the University of Plymouth. Bella says:

"Deciding to return to school at the age of 18 was a huge change, having originally planned to study fashion design. I was very shy before RIC. My experience here prepared me for independent learning and taking a proactive approach with my studies. It's made me more confident with interactive learning and asking questions."

Moving in the opposite direction was Maia from Colfe's School who originally joined RIC as a boarder to retake A levels for Medicine but swiftly decided to switch, opting for one-year courses in Fine Art and English Literature and winning a place at UCL's Slade School of Fine Art.

You can talk directly with Hassan, Bella and Maia about their experiences at RIC and university on our student ambassador online platform.



## Retake A levels for Medicine

Not everyone demonstrates what they are capable of in exams first time around and RIC offers a second chance at success for students who go on every year to medical school after retaking A levels.



Dillon who joined RIC from Caterham School and is now studying Medicine at Sunderland says: "I came to Rochester with CDD grades, but I still had a desire to do medicine. My

tutor helped me through the entire application process. I've learnt the value of hard work and dedication."



Daisy who joined RIC from Tonbridge Grammar School and is now studying Medicine at Sheffield adds:

"I remember the stress of not getting into university and trying to plan what to do next and I'm so relieved I made the decision I did. I came with BCD grades and left after only one year with A\*A\*A."

## UNI DESTINATIONS 2016-2021

RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES **43%** 284 ENTRANTS

320 ENTRANTS **48%** TIMES TOP 30 UNIVERSITIES

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE

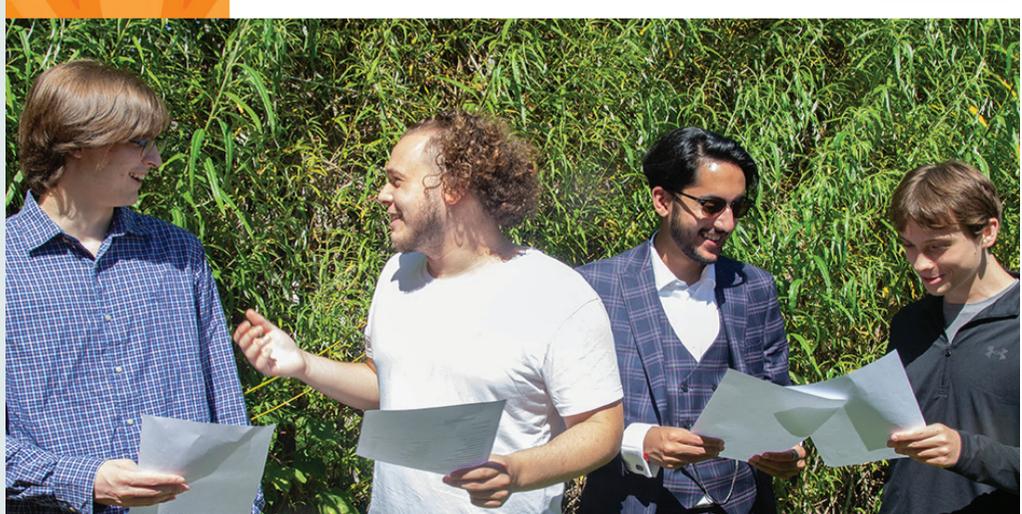
MEDICINE DENTISTRY VET SCIENCE **35 PLACES**

**97 PLACES** FINANCE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

CREATIVE & VISUAL ARTS **68 PLACES**

RIC Course	Previous School	University Course	University
2 year course	School 56, St Petersburg	Veterinary Medicine	Royal Veterinary College
2 year course	Singapore School	Business Management	Sheffield
2 year course	Beijing High School, China	Accounting & Finance	Sheffield
2 year course	Tonbridge Grammar School	Art & Humanities	SOAS
2 year course	Good Shepherd, Australia	Politics & Int Relations	Southampton
2 year course	Sura Nari Withhaya, China	Geology	Southampton
Year 14	Tonbridge School	Aeronautics & Astronautics	Southampton
Year 14	Walthamstow Hall	Biomedical Engineering	Southampton
2 year course	Buckswood School	Film Studies	Southampton
2 year course	Interhigh	English	Southampton
Year 14	Bromley High School	Midwifery	Surrey
2 year course	Myddelton College	Medicine	St Georges
2 year course	QE Faversham	Esports	Staffordshire
2 year course	Coopers Secondary School	Business & Management	Sussex
2 year course	International School, Abuja	Music Technology	Sussex
2 year course	Ravensbourne	Economics	Sussex
2 year course	Frensham Heights	Design Management	UAL
2 year course	Shaanixi Normal Uni, China	Advertising	UAL
2 year course	Felsted	Fine Art	Uni of British Columbia
2 year course	International Sch, The Hague	Illustration & Animation	UCA
Year 13 transfer	Sriboonyanon Sch, Thailand	Mathematics	UCL
Year 14	Holcombe Grammar	Anthropology	UCL
Year 13 transfer	Suankularb College, Thailand	Physics	UCL
Year 14	Maths School	Philosophy	UCL
2 year course	Lyceum N1, Podolsk, Russia	Economics	UCL
2 year course	King's Rochester	Economics	UCL
2 year course	King's Sch Al Barsha, Dubai	Pharmacy	UCL
Year 13 transfer	Royal Russell School	Psychology	UCL
2 year course	Sutton Valence	Finance & Banking	UWE
Year 14	Dartford Grammar School	Interior Architecture	Westminster
2 year course	Cranbrook School	Geography	Winchester
2 year course	Mayfield Grammar School	Forensic Psychology	Winchester
Year 14	Trinity School Sevenoaks	Law	York
2 year course	Home Education	Archaeology	York

## ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2021



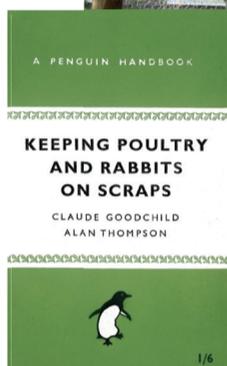
"Pupils have come from grammars where they felt under too much pressure, or from large schools where they felt overwhelmed, and they have flourished here." *Good Schools Guide*

# Rewilding Mind & Body In The RIC Gardens



We're obsessed with collective nouns at RIC and they're a great tricky IELTS topic. The garden is home then to our flock of chickens who might also be a peep of chickens or a clutch of chickens, or even a chattering of chickens. They reside next door to the Maths Shed but that proximity hasn't led, as far as we are aware, to any advanced mathematical powers although they have become proficiently prolific egg layers.

The garden is an inspirationally bucolic backdrop for the College's artists, film-makers and photographers as well as being the venue for our annual answer to Glastonbury and Latitude- The RIC Summer Festival.



This year we are very excited by the visit of what GQ has called "the world's leading immersive theatre company" Punchdrunk who specialise in

site specific, interactive experiences. RIC students saw one of their early hits 'The Masque of The Red Death' at the Battersea Arts Centre and

the company now have shows playing in New York and Shanghai. A workshop will delve into Punchdrunk's methodology and students will reimagine the RIC gardens as a performance landscape, exploring

the relationship between text and space when creating an audience centred experience.

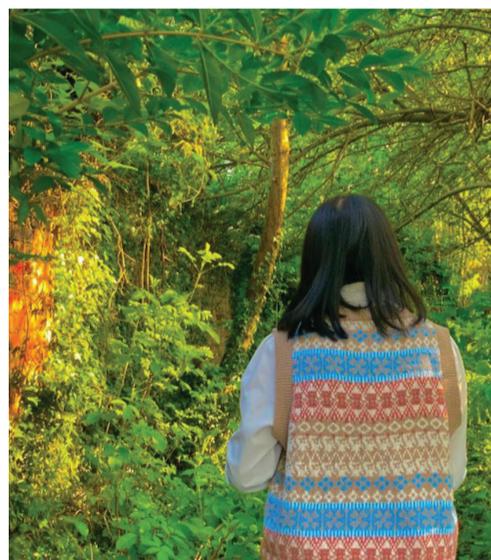


## Football, fencing, fitness and flying pigs

RIC's garden has won many awards and remains the heart of the College. The site was deliberately built up around the garden and we are committed to investing in it and fostering it for the next generation of students and, more ambitiously, for the local area and the planet.

Rewilding involves restoring natural habitats and systems to the point where nature can take care of itself, hitting the reset button for our relationship with the natural world. Curating spaces for wellness, wildness and wildlife in our gardens is important and our own RIC contribution to carbon sequestration.

We are exploring the possibility of establishing a forest garden where trees, shrubs and perennials are mixed in such a way as to mimic the structure of a natural forest, the most stable and sustainable type of ecosystem in this climate.



reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and maybe even improve your memory! One of our new garden spaces for 2021 is a dedicated wellness centre, neatly located by our refurbished MUGA.



and an energetic and fun fitness bootcamp run by @getlenefitnessacademy. Back for 2021 is our young, scrappy and hungry for success Flying Pigs football team!



Nature is the theme for Mental Health Awareness Week this year. According to Harvard Medical School simply taking a walk in nature can help



Also crucial for wellbeing is of course sport and the garden has this year been host to basketball, yoga, street dance, fencing with @inspionsports



## Making music add up

Maths and Music involve similar mental gymnastics. Eminent mathematician Carol Vorderman was a backing singer for Liz Kershaw's band "Dawn Chorus & The Blue Tits" who were signed by Stiff Records in 1984. There were hints of Fibonacci numbers and the golden ratio in Bach's music and he was Einstein's favourite composer.

The newest member of the RIC Maths teaching team is jazz pianist and Oxford University Maths graduate Rob Dimpleby. Like lead Maths teacher Dave Tittensor Rob is also an accomplished musician. Recent gigs include Ronnie Scott's and SoFar sounds with 7piece neo-soul group Pangolin and a European tour with NME top 100 band Patawawa.

Rob says: "For the very brightest students I have enjoyed teaching them some university level maths. In Further Maths at RIC I also like to drop in a question taken from a past Oxford MAT paper."

In the recent year 7 taster day Rob taught an interdisciplinary mathematical music class. Students listened by numbers and combined the study of fractions with that of octaves. And they were encouraged to do something fun with ukuleles.

"Pupils appreciate the peace, greenery and wildlife of the surroundings within an urban setting and enjoy the gardens for relaxation and personal reflection." ISI





# From Black Mountain To Star Hill

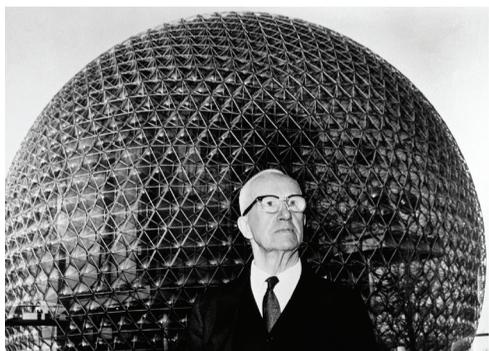


## Geometry & sustainable triangles

RIC's mission to fuse the academic with creativity and the natural world is embodied in the garden Maths Shed which is kitted out with an electronic keyboard. The maths shed is one of several subject hubs that have sprung up in the college's picturesque grounds over the years, including an observatory for GCSE Astronomy.



We're always thinking about innovative teaching spaces to inspire our students and teachers. New for this year is a Geodesic Dome, the iconic structure imagined by the amazing polymath, sustainability and design pioneer Buckminster Fuller. Fuller perfected the mathematical ideas behind geodesic domes and hoped that their properties-greater strength and space for minimum weight- might be the future of housing.



The first full-scale geodesic dome was erected by Fuller on the campus of The Black Mountain College, a pioneering progressive school based on the democratic principles of John Dewey which emphasised the study of art as a central component of a liberal arts education. Bucking the dominant trends of the age and non-hierarchical, the school became a refuge for émigré artists and an incubator of innovation for the American avant-garde.



Josef Albers of the Bauhaus ran the painting programme while his wife Annie taught textiles and design. Merce Cunningham's dance company was founded there, John Cage's music was first performed on campus and faculty included architect Walter Gropius and artists de Kooning, Cy Twombly and Rauschenberg as well as Fuller himself.



Black Mountain College was a diversity pioneer with African American faculty and students on roll years before the desegregation of education in the United States. Like RIC it's a school like no other, read more on the Tate website.

## Exponential Mathematical Success

While atmospherically relaxed and pretty non-hierarchical as independent schools go, RIC is not an experiment in alternative education. Our curriculum is largely a traditional academic one, testing is regular and systematic and the biggest subject in terms of GCSE and A level entries is Mathematics.

David Tittensor who has taught Maths at RIC since 1994 says: "Good universities like Further Maths because it differentiates. Success at it shows students have the ability to understand and apply more difficult concepts, allowing them to discriminate between applicants, many of whom would quite easily gain A or A\* in the standard A level."

RIC offers successful one year A level Maths courses to students, including those who are over the age of 18 when they start the course.

Purin from Thailand took Maths, Computer Science and Further Maths as one year A level courses, gaining A\*A\*A\*

Imperial College London in what was really only nine months of study. He was awarded the CIFE Mathematics Prize and has just completed his first year studying Computer Science at Imperial.

Jiryayus, a Gold Medal winner in the International Mathematics Olympiad, also from Thailand joined RIC in 2019

for a one year A level course. He has just completed his first year at Trinity College, Cambridge. Jiryayus says: "At RIC I was taught by



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE teachers who are excellent in the subject.

With the small class size, teachers were able to answer all questions and give constructive feedback to homework. In addition, there was a weekly practice test to make sure that we really understood the lessons and to make us familiar with the exam style."

### Back to the classroom



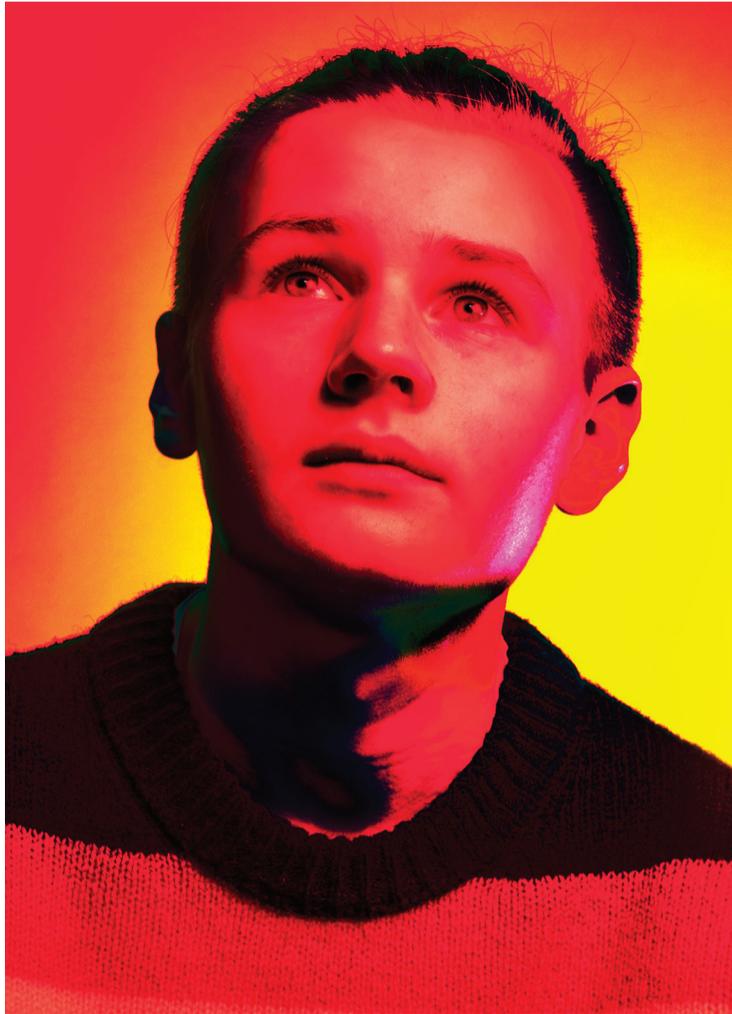
Danny Cheung came to RIC from Hong Kong in 2004 to study English and work in our kitchen. Danny was as adept at algebra as he was at cooking so he attended A level classes while

continuing to work in our catering team. Post A levels, RIC awarded Danny a full scholarship to allow him to stay in the UK and study at university.

After graduating from City University, with a first-class degree in Mechanical Engineering Danny then rejoined the College, working in the classroom rather than the kitchens. He is now a fully naturalised British citizen!

Danny says: "I teach as I remember being taught, sometimes in exactly the same rooms! Maths here is not reading out from powerpoint presentations or following text books in a linear way. Demonstration questions are made up on the spot by teachers and we talk through the steps as we write the solutions, asking students to check answers or spot mistakes."

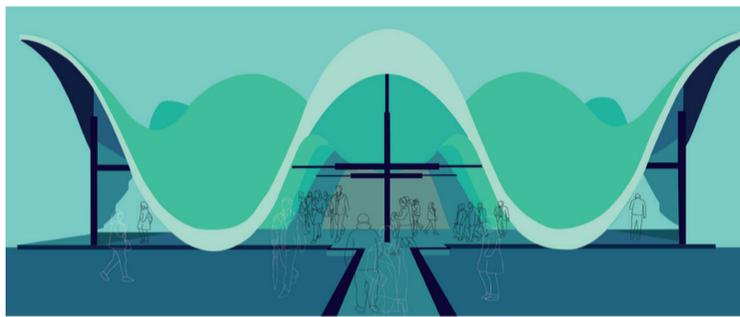
# RIC Gallery Winner ISA Award for Excellence & Innovation in Fine Arts



Harrison, A level Photography



Ashley-Rae, A level Fine Art



Neha, A level Graphic Design



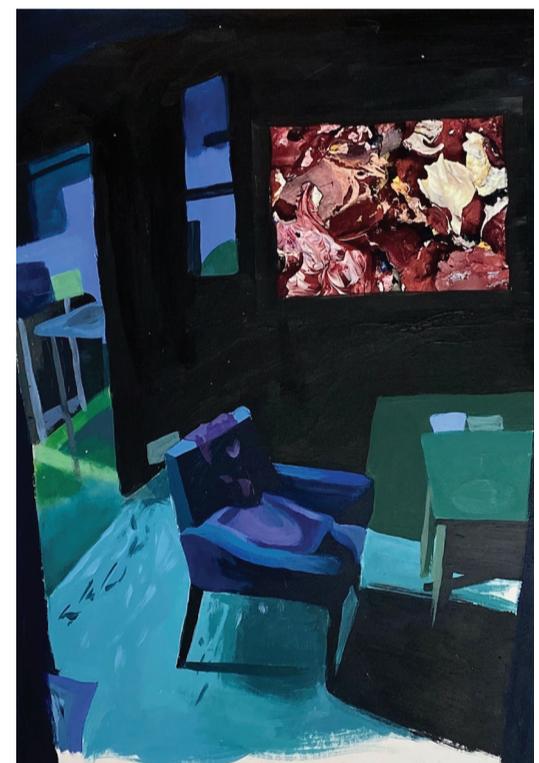
Pan, A level Graphic Design



Gina, GCSE Textiles



Jekabs, A level Photography



Sophia, A level Fine Art

## Prize winning lockdown art

During this difficult year, RIC has been helping students and staff find creative pathways to better wellbeing, running therapeutic pottery workshops for staff and students.

Just as our teaching has had to respond in innovative ways to the pandemic, so has the prize-winning artwork of our students. The ISA Film and Digital Awards praised Year 12 student Peyi's touching



yet unsettling short animated film on the subject of mental health 'Disconnected'.

Two RIC students were runners up in the ISA National Arts Awards. In the London South competition nine RIC students won, were runners up or were highly commended. Year 13 student Gigi from Hong Kong who won the Fashion and Accessories prize says "It is one of the best decisions I have made in my life to come and study art in the UK. I have met lots of brilliant creative arts teachers here at Rochester."

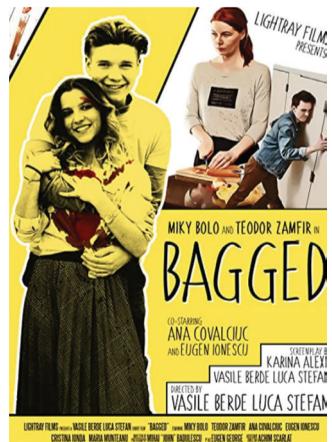


## More prizes bagged



Luca from Romania won the top prize in the 2021 Boarding Schools Association Khadija Saye Photography Award, impressing judges with a collection of images titled 'Brighton Murder Mystery.' Calling it 'an attention-grabbing concept' judges praised the 'filmic quality' of the

shots. Luca's photography made the front cover of the BSA magazine and he continues to develop his creative portfolio with a promotional film for RIC while his debut short 'Bagged' is building a buzz online.

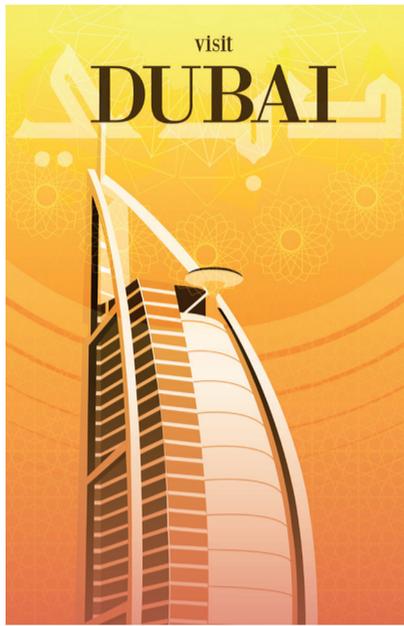


"Pupils have a well-developed aesthetic and cultural awareness. Achievements in the visual and creative arts are excellent." ISI

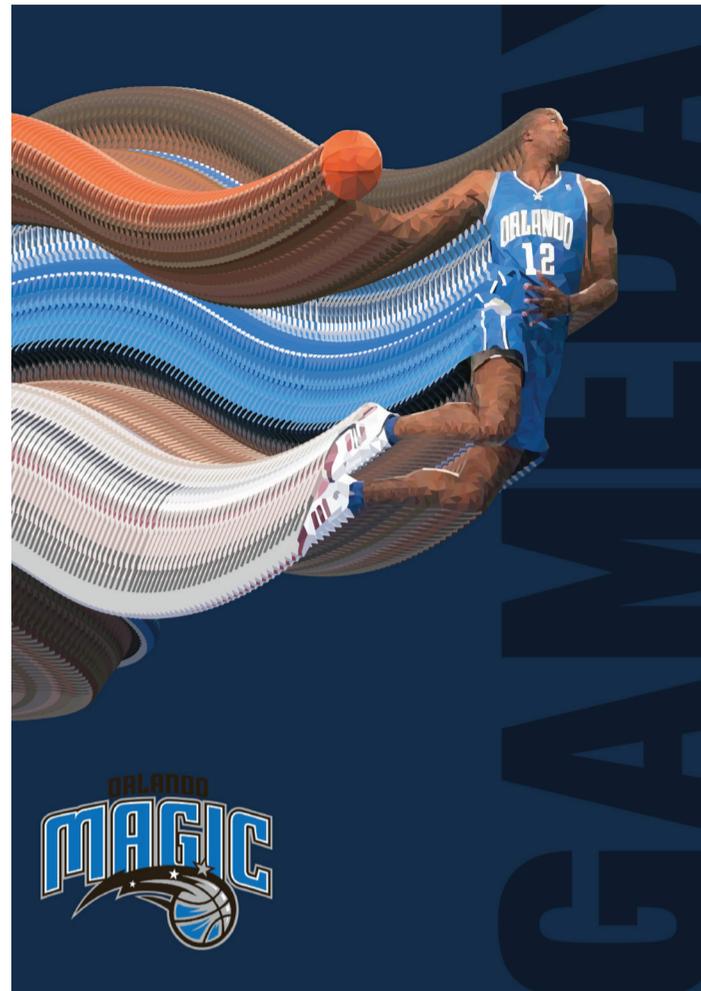
"It's hard to imagine better provision for the artistically inclined." Good Schools Guide



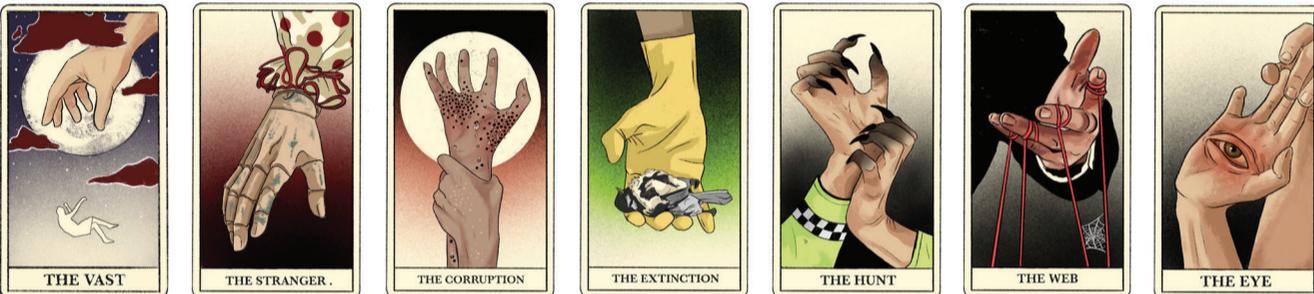
Xinao, A level Photography



Toussef, A level Graphic Design



Seb, A level Graphic Design



Sofya, A level Graphic Design



Matteo, GCSE Textiles



Florence, A level Fine Art



George, A level Photography

## Fantastic Fran and FabRIC

RIC teachers are also a prize-winning bunch.

Textiles teacher Fran Baur was recognised through the high quality of entries submitted by her Fashion & Textile design students.



The students entered sustainable designs to the annual WoolMark company, 'Wool4Schools' competition, open to young designers in the UK, in partnership with UAL and designer Feng Chen Wang.

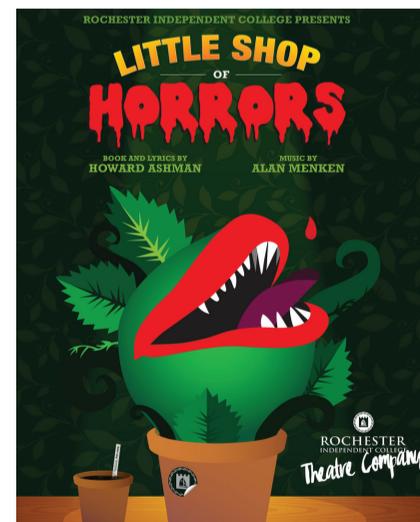
The theme of the competition this year was 'Wool on the Go' that focused on designs fit for an eco-friendly commute.



## From Skid Row To Chatham's Central Theatre

Musical theatre fans will be relieved to know that Audrey II the carnivorously succulent, R&B singing pot plant has survived the pandemic. RIC is looking forward to showcasing the talents of our students who will be performing 'Little Shop of Horrors' at the Central Theatre, Chatham on the 2nd and 3rd February 2022. It's a spoof musical based on the 50s B-movie horror genre.

Another acclaimed company, Frantic Assembly will again be working with RIC Drama students in our own on-campus theatre space this year.



"Pupils describe the music here as 'sick' and rave about the music technology opportunities and their bands, which they can showcase at the summer festival." Good Schools Guide

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Project 2025



RIC's Project 2025 sees transformative plans for campus development. It's a hugely significant moment in the College's history, supported by significant investment from Dukes Education, our parent company. It will allow us to offer boarding for younger students and improve facilities across our Star Hill home. Part of the project includes a new centre for the Visual Arts on our existing site to be named after Pete Gowers, long-serving RIC fine art teacher and Medway artist.

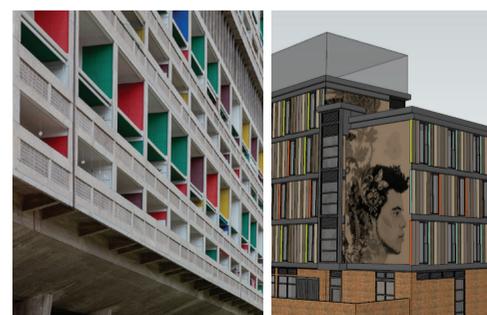
RIC recently acquired the former Missions to Seamen Institute and the AF Smith & Sons building opposite the College's main campus at Bardell Wharf. This will see the development of a residential village with study bedrooms and communal spaces for our boarders; a small cinema (to be called The Majestic as a homage to 2000+ seat movie palace that once sat



on the corner of the High Street and Star Hill) a canteen and medical centre. In consideration of these historically significant buildings, we will retain and restore the original facades.

We're keen to reflect our priorities at the college in the design- health and wellness literally at the heart- with a wellbeing garden and gym in the atrium, mirroring the way we have the gardens at the centre of the existing campus. Our boarding students are not permitted to bring cars and there will be a smaller traffic footprint than if the site had been developed for housing. Architecture nerds might pick up nods

to Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation with the use of colour which will be echoed in the interiors. This building also had healthy community living and personal development at its heart and a school on the roof! It links the two historic naval ports of Marseille and Chatham neatly as well, and to the way ship-building references will be incorporated in the design and materials. Le Corbusier was no stranger to designing student accommodation with the Swiss Pavilion student housing in Paris.



RIC is a Medway Champion, supporting the city's bid 2025 City of Culture bid and proud to be part of such a special part of Rochester. We look forward to working with local residents and businesses as we try and contribute to the exciting development of the Sun Pier to Star Hill conservation area as a creative quarter. This flagship development will complement the Heritage Action Zone that surrounds it, helping to engage local communities through art and cultural projects. RIC's commitment to this is embodied by a landmark public art sound sculpture- The Flying Pig Musical Gates- that were commissioned from a local artist to form the main campus entrance.



# School's In For Summer 2022

We are launching a summer programme in 2022 with our Dukes Education partners at SBC International.



SBC are the market leaders in premium summer course provision and RIC will join a prestigious roll call of host centres that includes Eton College, Canford and Headington and well as Oxford and Cambridge Colleges.



Eco Arts, and Business and Marketing (Creative Entrepreneurship).

All courses include an exciting calendar of trips, activities and social events on our campus. For further details see the SBC website.



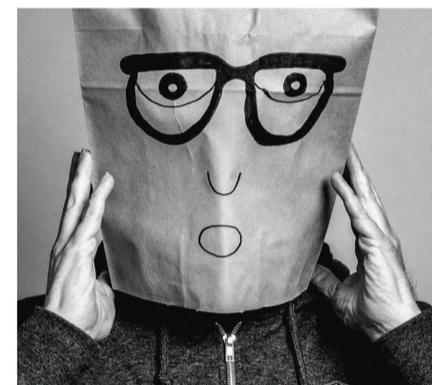
Building on RIC's reputation for both academic excellence and mind-blowing creativity we are offering 5 different courses in very small classes where international visitors will study and socialise alongside local students. Courses include Mathematics,



## Academic and Creative Scholarships

Illustrator Ralph Steadman has given his name to the College's arts scholarship competition. In September 2020 we awarded the third of these which comprise of a two-year full scholarship for A levels at RIC to a local student with outstanding creative potential who otherwise would not be able to access independent education. RIC uses community hubs to showcase student artwork, there is an annual summer show and exhibitions at local gallery spaces. In 2021 we awarded our first RIC Ship Science Scholarship to an international student interested in studying Marine Engineering at a UK university.

This award is particularly appropriate given our area's local ship building traditions both at Chatham Dockyard and on the Swale.



## Top 15 Independent schools in Kent and Medway for value added progress at A level

This A level performance score measures the progress sixth form students make. DfE Performance Tables 2020.

This means on average that RIC students achieve 0.42 of a grade higher in their A levels than students elsewhere with the same GCSE grades, helping them secure places at their first choice universities.

RIC is not academically selective, either at 11+ or sixth form. Our students' average A level grade of B- is though comfortably above many selective schools, both independent and grammar, nationwide.

**RANKED TOP IN MEDWAY AND IN THE TOP 2% OF SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND on this key measure**

	Name of School	No of students with an A level exam entry	Progress score	Average grade per subject
1	Bethany School	46	0.63	C+
2	<b>ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>B-</b>
3	St Edmund's School, Canterbury	60	0.35	B-
	Kent College Canterbury	55	0.35	B
5	Sutton Valence School	77	0.28	B-
6	Kent College, Pembury	62	0.23	B
7	Ashford School	78	0.22	B-
8	Tonbridge School	162	0.21	A
9	Oneschool Global UK Maidstone Campus	14	0.15	C-
10	Walthamstow Hall	55	0.14	B+
11	Benenden School	94	0.07	B+
12	Beechwood Sacred Heart School	42	0.05	C
13	King's School, Rochester	41	0.03	C+
14	St Lawrence College	67	-0	C
15	Sackville School	13	-0.07	C-

Source: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk>

"Around half of the pupils come from the independent sector, the rest from families with no tradition of independent education. 'It's genuinely diverse' said a pupil." *Good Schools Guide*

# RIC's Mission To Mars

## Students find galactic way of beating Covid boredom



a constellation of images, moments, thoughts and ideas carefully curated from students' lockdown lives, some set to an inevitable Bowie soundtrack. Footage of Elon Musk and RIC vox pops are set against short films of cyclists, people and birds along the Medway at dusk and two dogs wrestling on a sofa in China."

At RIC the lockdown experience has been a little more 'out of this world' than just Netflix marathons, zoom quizzes and baking banana bread.

documentary style film exploring the science and humanity behind a central question: What motivates our desire to colonise Mars?

regularly to discuss ideas, develop content and feedback on creative work. Director Arne Pohleier of Two Gents Productions described the project as a "heaven-sent creative outlet to escape from lockdown and an opportunity to re-evaluate this life on Earth. The resulting film presents

At RIC our students' **mental health** and wellbeing is a **top priority**, that's why we've partnered with @Health\_Assured to offer **free, 24/7** mental health support and counselling in areas including stress, anxiety and exam pressure to **all students aged 16+**.

Mission to Mars has been a participatory interdisciplinary arts project, creating a

Working mainly through online interactive sessions, would be astronauts met

## Digital Learning with Generation Z



RIC was founded in 1984, the same year the first Apple Computer went on sale with Ridley Scott's Orwellian

parody advert launching it at the Super Bowl. You might know it from the more recent Epic Games Fortnite homage.



corporate branding, web marketing, as vloggers, search engine optimisers, commercial semioticians & trend forecasters.

form that inspires and prepares the digital natives and creatives of the future.

Aiming for Sound Engineering at uni? Match Music Technology with Maths and Physics. Fancy being a Fashion Designer? Why not try Textiles, Photography and Chemistry.

for a streetwear label. Digital Arts are now part of our curriculum from year 7 up and includes digital photography and games design. Our new cohort of year 7s have all been issued with ipads and we're on the journey towards being an Apple Distinguished School.

When we talk to our students about future career plans, their roadmaps are colourfully more diverse than those of a generation ago. Many aspire to work in

They are increasingly making bold A-level and GCSE choices tailored to equip them for 21st-century careers. We're trying to offer a curriculum from year 7 to sixth

In 2019 we introduced the Cambridge A Level Digital Media & Design. Student projects have ranged from an immersive digital experience for a museum to a social media campaign



## RIC Detectorists and Dark Academia

RIC amateur archaeologists have been digging up the past under the enthusiastic historical oversight of Assistant Principal Ellen Crozier. Earlier in the year, Ethan in year 8 found a medieval coin that sparked a College wide numismatic investigation. His coin was eventually identified as a very lightly

clipped and pitted halfgroat of Henry VI with the KCC finds specialist saying 'Your group has done a much better job than the average archaeologist could do, coins tend to be a quite specialist field.'

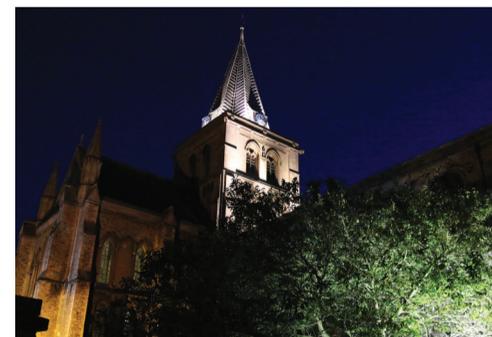
### Spellbound on Star Hill

Even more exciting is the discovery of RIC's very own witch's bottle, dating we suspect from the 17th century. Witch bottles were counter magical devices, supposed to



ward off witches and were placed in walls, often containing pins, human hair and urine. Ours was discovered in a cesspit behind Gainsborough when we were extending the building over ten years ago.

It was not recognised as a witch bottle by the archaeologist at the time and stored with other finds considered less significant in the RIC cellar until visiting mudlarker Fleur Alston of Kit and Caboodlers fame who was trawling the College site



identified it as a witch bottle this summer. We followed guidance from the Museum of London's bottles concealed and revealed team who are judging the find of historical significance and planning a live stream opening of its contents. We're expecting it to be big on #witchtok.

"Parents all speak highly of the pastoral care, and the growth in confidence they have witnessed in their children."  
Good Schools Guide



# Switch On To The Idea Of Switching To Rochester



## Students came to RIC from 30 different countries in 2020/21

RIC offers transfer opportunities directly into year 11 or year 13, allowing students to catch up and get back on track for academic success. We also offer retake programmes and intensive one year A level courses that fast track you to undergraduate study.



Given the current emphasis on diversity and inclusion it seems appropriate to focus on students winning places to UCL, one of the most popular university destinations for RIC students

and with connections to Jeremy Bentham, a liberal thinker whose ideas influenced the first institution in England to admit students of any race, class or religion and the first to welcome women on equal terms with men. A recently published Bentham manuscript even sees him arguing for the use of gender neutral pronouns. We think he would have approved of RIC diversity initiatives.



### A Level Retakes

Erin is one of 8 RIC students heading to UCL this year. She switched from Holcombe Grammar with DEE to retake and upgraded these results to A\*A\*A\*A and will read Anthropology. Erin said that 'It was the best decision I made to come to RIC during my A level. The teachers gave me back both the confidence and the grades I needed. I do not know any other school that cares like RIC does.'



### One Year A Level: Alternative To Foundation Courses



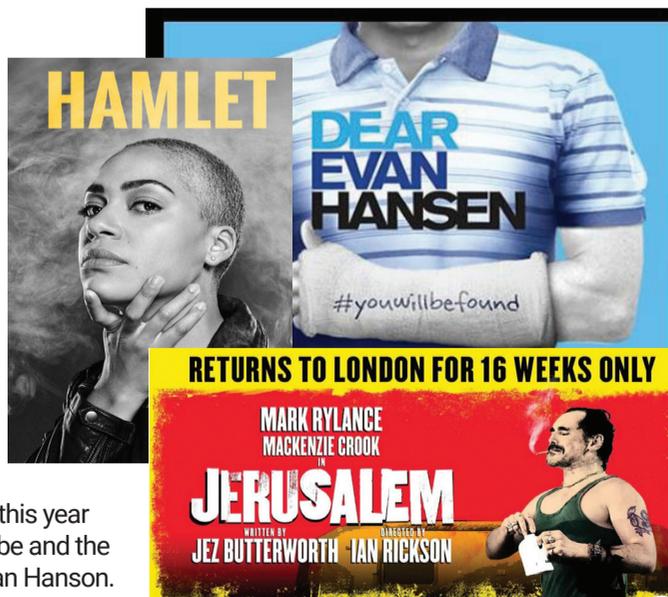
One of 2020's fliers of the year, Wincent from China has just finished his first year at UCL studying Maths but his route there was an unusual one.

In his own words: "I was studying in foundation in UCL from 2018 to 2019. However I got one point below the entry requirement to the degree. Because of my unyielding personality, I chose one more year to fight for UCL again. I chose Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics for one year A level at RIC. I found quite different study life in RIC from the foundation- A level includes more content and more details."

Wincent successfully achieved 3 A\*s and returned to UCL's Gower Street campus, this time as an undergraduate. His story demonstrates that a one-year A level course can be a more effective route to the degree you want to study than a foundation course-even sometimes those run by the university you want to attend.

### #Backtothetheatre

Boarding at RIC is an ideal stepping-stone between school and university. Accommodation for sixth formers is all in single rooms. Only 37 minutes by high-speed train from central London RIC students have the capital as their classroom and are able to enjoy premier league football games, West End theatre, museums and galleries. Trips organised for this year include to Shakespeare's Globe and the hit musicals Six and Dear Evan Hanson.



### Switching for Year 11



Jack celebrated his impressive collection of results with five grade 9 and three grade 8 GCSEs and a BTEC distinction. Jack said 'RIC cares more about your learning rather than only getting you to complete the work yourself. The small classes have really helped me get where I am today.'



### Switching for Year 13

Originally from Nigeria, Nono transferred from Queen Ethelburga's School for the final year of her A levels. Nono pursued two additional A level subjects in Year 13 in Politics and Global Perspectives from scratch, alongside continuing English Literature. Nono achieved her academic ambitions by securing a place to study Law at Lancaster University something she and her family are not confident would have happened without switching schools and subjects.

Chloe from China who is now studying Economics and Philosophy at the LSE says: "I chose RIC as there are lots of different nationalities. The classes are much smaller here than in China so you and the teacher can easily ask each other questions."



"Relationships between pupils are totally inclusive, creating a harmonious community of day and boarding pupils." ISI

# Non-Uniform Education

RIC's Lower School- Day from 11+, Boarding from 13+

At RIC children are taught in class sizes that average 8 and are free to wear whatever they like, as long as their clothing is not dangerous or offensive. Teachers, who are addressed by their first names, don't waste time telling resentful uniform code refuseniks to tuck their shirts in.

With the rules relaxed, students choose to dress sensibly on a daily basis for the classroom, not the catwalk. Whilst we are a non-selective school, we require all of

which values respect highly, and rudeness is not tolerated."

At RIC students adopt a formal approach to their studies and treat exam preparation seriously. Mobile phones are handed in at the start of each lesson. Importantly, the lack of uniform is widely debated among our students – they're aware of the danger of defining individuality in terms of clothing, and of issues such as body image and self-esteem.



says: "We all perform better and work harder when we are happy, engaged and motivated; these feelings and emotions are as important in an educational environment as they are in the work place. Not all schools suit all children; everyone is an individual and should be treated as such. Whilst formally arranged open events are useful, it's a great idea to have a look around potential schools during a normal day."

As well as local students from the age of 11+ RIC's Lower School will be welcoming students from elsewhere in the UK and from 30 countries around the world into our boarding from year 9 up from September 2022.



our students to approach their studies with enthusiasm and curiosity, and to demonstrate kindness and empathy to their classmates.

The ISI judged that the personal development and behaviour of RIC students was "excellent," saying: "The use of first names and informal attire generate a relaxed environment. Sanctions are few in an atmosphere

The RIC Lower School offers a full academic curriculum, complemented by specialist provision in the visual, digital and performing arts. Forthcoming trips include a much-delayed Iceland adventure and a repeat of our relocation to Cornwall with surfing, Tate St Ives, throwing and handbuilding at Leach Pottery, visits to the Eden Project and the Minack and massive amounts of friendship making. Head of Lower School Leighton Bright



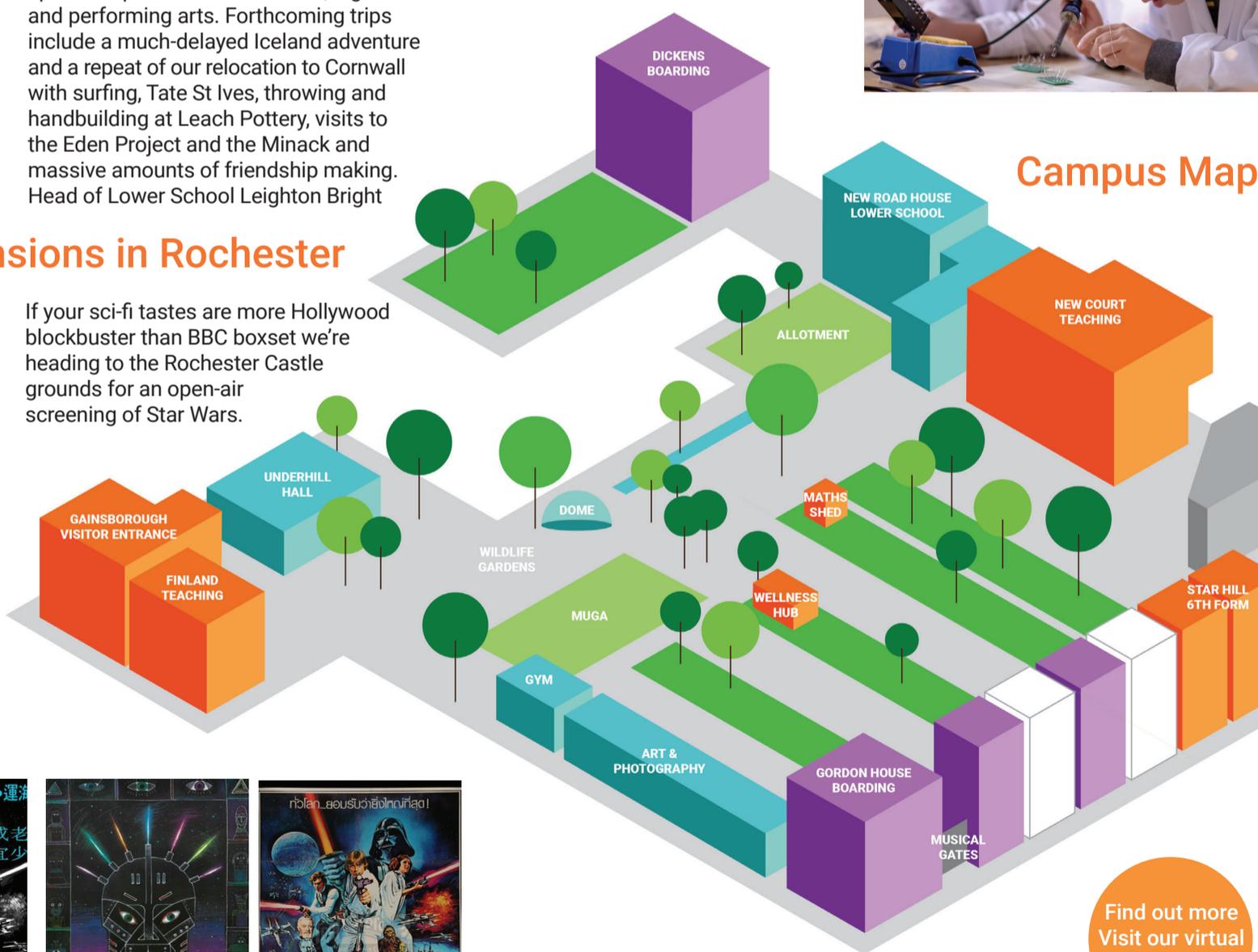
## Time & relative dimensions in Rochester



The Physics department hasn't managed to crack the Gallifryan mysteries of time travelling but a life-size Type 40 TARDIS will be materialising at RIC this term.

Visitors to the campus often comment that RIC is bigger on the inside than the outside. Some even dub it Tardis like. Soon they'll be able to spot a replica of Dr Who's time travelling police box with the broken chameleon circuit, transformed into a garden lending library.

If your sci-fi tastes are more Hollywood blockbuster than BBC boxset we're heading to the Rochester Castle grounds for an open-air screening of Star Wars.



Find out more  
Visit our virtual  
open house



We're advertising the trip using original posters from some of the countries our boarders hail from. Can you identify any of them?