

Academic and Creative

Rochester Independent College



Craft your story, find your direction

Successfully individual

Consistently academic



Top university choices for RIC students are a pair of very different London institutions, both opening new campuses in Stratford's Olympic Park.



Ranked top are UCL- Times University Of The Year 2024 and UAL, second in the world for Art and Design- "the world's biggest factory for making trouble" according to Grayson Perry, ceramicist and former Chancellor of the art school.



Fliers of the year

Former RIC students celebrated two places at Cambridge University. Naemi, from Germany joined for science A levels after studying at an international school and won a coveted place for Medicine while Theodora from Sevenoaks is studying Classics.



Sharing the news that she would be joining the prestigious School of Clinical Medicine Naemi said: "I wanted to thank everyone for your amazing support and opportunity to study with you. I couldn't have done it without Rochester." Her delighted RIC Chemistry tutor Dr Sophie Hilton said: "I am so happy for her, she will make an amazing doctor!"



The teaching of medicine at Cambridge dates from the reign of Henry VIII but also starting medicine this year is Esther from Chrisland High School, Nigeria who won a place at Brunel University, London's newest medical school. She says "We were helped a lot with personal statements, UCAT practice and interview preparation."

Other 2024 high fliers include Filippo from Italy and Sofiia from Ukraine embody the RIC spirit of excelling both academically and creatively. They are set for UCL, a G5 university with famous connections to Jeremy Bentham, 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.

Sofiia took A levels in Philosophy, Art History Textiles and English Literature. She runs an experimental poetry night in Brighton, 'Redemption Rhymes' and while at RIC introduced the Ukrainian synth pop duo Bloom Twins who performed an al fresco fundraiser gig on campus. She will study Philosophy and Art History.



Filippo studied Performing Arts, English Literature and Film Studies. At RIC he starred in our full scale musical productions of Legally Blonde and Oliver! and ran the boarding film society. He continues to work as a pastoral assistant at RIC on weekends while studying Creative Arts and Humanities at UCL.



RIC is the official UK host of The Great British Economics Olympiad

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RIC climbers scale new sporting heights-

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Prizewinners from Rochester to Westminster-

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40 Years of RIC: Where pigs fly and futures soar-

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"Rochester Independent College is a breath of fresh air."

Muddy Stiletto's





## Come as you are...

**1** RIC supports realistic high ambitions and helps you realise them without unnecessary pressure

It is always a shock not to receive the grades you wanted, but it need not be the end of high aspirations. Star scientist Brian Cox scored a grade D in A level Maths but, after a number one hit with his band D:Ream best known for the New Labour anthem "Things Can Only Get Better," went on to complete a PhD in Particle Physics.



What gives Rochester's A level retake students the competitive edge is that they often add new subjects as one year intensive courses alongside resits.



Erin switched from Holcombe Grammar with DEE to retake and upgraded these results to A\*A\*A\*A and will read Anthropology at UCL. Erin said that "It was the best decision I made to come to RIC during my A levels. 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."



**2** RIC won't judge by your 11+ results and offers a distinctive secondary school alternative

Some of our year 7 students from local primaries and preps have passed the Kent or Medway tests, some have narrowly missed, others have

opted not to take them at all. Vice Principal Leighton Bright who has children in both the Lower School and Sixth Form at RIC says:

"The transition from primary to secondary school can be a daunting time for parents and children alike. There are many schools in Kent which achieve good exam results, but parents are also looking for schools which achieve these while focussing on student well-being and happiness."

## Reasons to come to RIC



**3** RIC helps you aim for top STEM related courses

Last year we were visited by former student Sandra Adele. Doctor or lawyer?

While growing up in Nigeria it was taught that she could become one or the other. "A career in science was not presented to me as an option" she



says. Fast forward and in 2023 47% of STEM graduates in Africa are women and Sandra is currently reading for a DPhil in Clinical Medicine at Oxford, a member of Christ Church and Junior Dean of Exeter College. Her background is in Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Global Health. Sandra spoke about her journey to Oxford and gave advice about the application process and college



## Leave as you want to be.



selection. She also shared memories of some happy times being taught in the RIC Maths shed!



maker Jason Reitman, director of Ghostbusters: Afterlife and Juno and Evan Dando, of Lemonheads fame. Skidmore College is a liberal arts college considered a "Hidden Ivy." Like RIC, these often boast smaller class sizes, fostering strong mentoring relationships between students and staff. In another echo of RIC, the campuses of Hidden Ivies are known for their vibrant, inclusive communities.



**4** RIC enables you to switch schools and get back on track

Alec joined RIC from India for a one-year GCSE course followed by two year A levels. Alumni of Skidmore College, where Alec now studies Psychology, include film-



## University Entrance Specialists



**5** At RIC we'll teach you how to think, not what to think

RIC prepares students for the university that will suit you, not just those at the top of league tables. Andy from Beijing, China said:



"RIC gives me more freedom to study art, and gives me a safe and free environment to think philosophical questions and explore my own mind. It is a good place for students who want to be artists." After

achieving A\*AB in Textiles, Fine Art and Digital Media Andy went to study Fine Art at Goldsmiths whose alumni include Damian Hirst, Sarah Lucas and Steve McQueen.



Andy, A level Fine Art

### RIC's Top University Destinations 2019-2025

Rank	University	No of RIC students placed
1	UAL	28
2	UCL Kent	20 20
3	Bristol	18
4	Manchester Leeds	16 16
5	Loughborough Southampton	15 15
6	UEA Reading Nott'ham Trent	13 13 13
7	Edinburgh Newcastle	12 12
8	Nottingham CCCU	11 11
9	York	10
10	Exeter Westminster Kingston	9 9 9
11	Sheffield Cardiff	8 8
12	Liverpool	7

## I joined RIC because...



I wanted to be treated less like a means for the school's success, and more like a human being.



The teaching style and relaxed environment are better for both my learning and mental health.



I liked the idea of not having a uniform, unlike traditional boarding schools. I also liked the variety of subjects to choose from and it really intrigued me.



The smaller classes and less pressure to take on things suits me. Previously being at a grammar school they put too much pressure on me.



It encouraged me to reach the highest grades possible without heavy amounts of pressure. As well as making school something to look forward to rather than dread.

## Aim higher with Dukes Plus



Dukes Plus is a family of specialised consultancy services and educational experience providers, including the highest standards of university preparation. RIC students benefit from advice,

workshops and test prep courses from industry leading experts who provide expertise in university admissions- Oxbridge Applications, competitive US applications with A-List and Medical School Admissions with The Medic Portal.



The Medic Portal



OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS



## RIC's flying doctors



Congratulations to two of RIC's newest flying doctors! Abi Wong and George Hales retook their A levels together at RIC and won matching places at Exeter University. We bumped into George last at the Kent County Show and were thrilled to hear that he and Abi have now graduated and are preparing to start practicing as fully fledged doctors!



## Test driving dream careers



We're excited to announce another good reason to join RIC. We partner with Dukes Education's InvestIN, offering a range of immersive career experiences, and hands-on workshops alongside top industry professionals. InvestIN provides RIC students in Years 10 and 12 with a bespoke careers curriculum and a certificate of career-readiness. Students choose a full day of interactive career simulations in any one of nineteen

careers ranging from Software Engineering to Investment Banking, Fashion to Forensics.

## RIC are 'ones to watch'



retake exams or a chance to focus exclusively on the Creative Arts or preparing for medical school, RIC offers it. Not only that, pupils can start at different points in the school year, into any year group with any subject combination.

Class sizes average 8 so the style of teaching leans more towards university tutorials. The personalised attention means excellent results with many securing places at top art colleges, and medical schools as well as Oxford and Cambridge. Everyone is on first-name terms and with no uniform the atmosphere is relaxed, friendly and purposeful."

Rochester Independent College has been selected as one of **Carfax Education's 25 Ones to Watch** as part of their Schools Index. RIC is included in the "Something Different" category, showcasing "schools that break the mould, offering unconventional and innovative approaches to education" and "possessing distinctive qualities, setting them apart from the mainstream."

Carfax's panel handpicked 25 institutions, acknowledging their unique characteristics. The guide says about RIC: "Flexibility is the watchword here. Whether you are looking for 1 year GCSE or A level course, the opportunity to



## One year A levels - an alternative foundation

One year A level courses save time- and fees- and can lead to better university placement outcomes than foundations. Students must be aged 17+ and have a good level of academic ability and English.



Angel joined from Lifeforte International School, Nigeria for a one year A level course. She was one of our top performers, securing AAB grades in Business Studies, Sociology and English Literature and a place to read Law at Exeter University. Students at RIC hail from some of the top Nigerian schools including Grange, Greensprings, Day Waterman, BIS and CIS.



Alisa from School N9, Ekaterinburg, Russia was also a success on the



with the RIC pup, Head Dog Oscar.



Theerakun from Triam Udom Suksa School, Bangkok took a one year A level course in Maths, Physics and Further Maths with IELTS, secured A\*AA and has a place at UCL for Mechanical Engineering. Our Thai scholars this year hailed from schools including Suankularb Wittayalai School.







# University destinations 2024



Year	Previous School	University Course	University
2 year A level	Liceul De Muzica, Romania	Music production & sound	ACM, London
2 year A level	Staatliche Realschule Gauting	Fashion Design	AMD Munich
2 year A level	Home Educated	Modelmaking	Arts, Bournemouth
Year 13 transfer	Dartford Girls Grammar	Business and Social Science	Aston
Year 13 transfer	Oxford Sixth Form College	Business Management	Barcelona Business
2 year A level	Sevenoaks School	Music Production	BIMM
2 year A level	Gads Hill	Musical Theatre and Dance	BIMM
2 year A level	Home Educated	Biological Science	Birmingham
2 year A level	GEMS Metropole, Dubai	Business & Marketing	Brighton
2 year A level	Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong	Data Science	Bristol
Year 14	Suankularb Wittayalai	Maths & Computer Science	Bristol
Year 13 transfer	Home Educated	Engineering Design	Bristol
2 year A level	Chrislands Abuja	Medicine	Brunel
Year 14	Franciscan Kreuzburg	Medicine	Cambridge
Year 14	Home Educated	Classics	Cambridge
2 year A level	Anglo American, Moscow	Game Design	Canterbury Christ
2 year A level	Lycee Moliere, Belgium	Psychology	Canterbury Christ
2 year A level	St. Joseph Convent School	Creative Writing	Canterbury Christ
2 year A level	Luyfe Rivas, Spain	Digital Design	Centro Universidad
Year 14	Borden Grammar School	Finance	City
2 year A level	d'Overbroeck's	Mechanical Engineering	City
2 year A level	Cia First, Cambodia	Game Design	East London
Year 14	Suankularb Wittayalai	Astrophysics	Edinburgh
Year 14	British School Of Brussels	Business Management	Erasmus, Rotterdam
2 year A level	Greensprings, Lagos	Sociology	Essex
Year 14	Radley College	Chemistry	Glasgow
Year 13 transfer	Cardiff Sixth Form	Business	Glion, Switzerland
2 year A level	Box Hill School, Surrey	Graphic and Digital Design	Greenwich
2 year A level	Moscow Central Art	Digital Animation	Hertfordshire
2 year A level	Abbotsholme School	International Business	INTO Manchester
2 year A level	Lucton School	Fashion: Design, Branding	JCA London Fashion
Year 14	Kaennakon Wittayalai	Mechanical Engineering	Kent
2 year A level	St John's Catholic	Architecture Foundation	Kent
Year 13 transfer	Dover College	Business/Marketing	Kent
2 year A level	Cobham Hall	Clinical Psychology	Kent
Year 14	Mayfield Grammar	Economics	Kent
Year 13 transfer	Babington House	Law	KCL
2 year A level	Faith Montessori Ghana	Neuroscience	KCL
Year 14	King's Canterbury	Molecular Genetics	KCL
Year 14	CTK St Mary's	Pharmaceutical Science	Kingston
2 year A level	Wellington School	Photography	Kingston
2 year A level	Solefield School	Maths, Statistics, Economics	Lancaster
2 year A level	Trinity, Sevenoaks	Chemistry with Foundation	Leicester
Year 14	Dartford Grammar	Biomedical Science	Leicester
2 year A level	Vilniusuzupio Lithuania	Filmmaking	London Film
Year 13 transfer	Cesare Balbo, Italy	Interior Design	London Met
2 year A level	Trinity School	Biological Sciences	Loughborough
Year 14	Sedbergh School	Psychology	Loughborough

RIC Course	Previous School	University Course	University
Year 14	The Perse, Cambridge	Philosophy and Economics	LSE
Year 13 transfer	Sir Roger Manwood's	History and French	Manchester
2 year A level	Botswana Marv-a-Pula	Political Science	McMaster, Canada
2 year A level	Loretto, Musselburgh	Film & Media	Newcastle
Year 14	Kent College Pembury	Business and Finance	Newcastle
Year 13 transfer	Simon Langton Boys	Economics	Nottingham Trent
2 year A level	Holcombe Grammar	Criminology	Nottingham
2 year A level	Canterbury Steiner	Engineering	Oxford Brookes
2 year A level	Reddam House	Architecture	Plymouth
2 year A level	Valley Park School	Music Production	Point Blank
Year 14	St John Fisher	Law with Business	Portsmouth
2 year A level	Rochester Grammar	Linguistics	Queen Mary
2 year A level	King's Rochester	Game Design	Ravensbourne
2 year A level	King's InterHigh	Animation	Ravensbourne
Year 14	Cranbrook	Economics and Finance	Reading
2 year A level	Chong Gene Hang, HK	Finance Foundation	Reading
2 year A level	CIA First, Cambodia	Business	Regents
Year 14	Santa Theresia, Jakarta	Bioveterinary Sciences	Royal Vet College
Year 14	Judd School	Dentistry	Semmelweis
2 year A level	British School, Manila	Medicine	Semmelweis
2 year A level	Children's Int, Lagos	History	SOAS
2 year A level	Marina School, Gambia	Global Development	SOAS
Year 14	Gads Hill	Sports Coaching	South Wales
Year 13 transfer	David Game	Medicine	St George's
2 year A level	Utama, Malaysia	Civil Engineering	Surrey
2 year A level	Weald Of Kent	Psychology	Sussex
2 year A level	Children's Int, Lagos	Psychology	Sussex
2 year A level	King's InterHigh	Mechanical Engineering	Sussex
Year 13 transfer	Rochester Grammar	Pharmacy	Swansea
Year 14	Merchiston, Edinburgh	Computer Science	Swansea
2 year A level	King's Rochester	Photography	UAL, Camberwell
2 year A level	Valley Park School	Fine Art	UAL, Chelsea
Year 13 transfer	Fachklasse Grafik, Luzern	Film Practice	UAL, LCC
2 year A level	Beijing New Talent	Interaction Design Arts	UAL, LCC
2 year A level	Agora Sant Cugat, Spain	Computer Animation	UAL, LCC
Year 13 transfer	Oswestry School	Music Production	UAL, LCC
2 year A level	Felsted School	Documentary Photography	UAL, LCC
Year 14	Triam Udom Suksa	Mechanical Engineering	UCL
Year 13 transfer	British Int School, Ukraine	French and English	UCL
2 year A level	Optima School, Ukraine	Philosophy & History of Art	UCL
2 year A level	Istituto G&Q, Biella, Italy	Creative Arts & Humanities	UCL
2 year A level	Hundred Of Hoo	Psychology	UEA
Year 14	Simon Langton, Boys	Psychology	West London
2 year A level	Newton Academy, Seoul	Economics	Warwick
2 year A level	Santa Theresia, Jakarta	Architecture	Westminster
2 year A level	Trinity School	English Literature	Westminster
2 year A level	Tonbridge Grammar	English	York



# Economics Olympiad

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD** Now in its third year at RIC, the Economics Olympiad is a launchpad for future leaders, testing students' problem-solving skills in real-world economic challenges.


In 2024, over 1,000 students battled through two tough online rounds, with the top 25 reaching the national finals at RIC. Five standout teams competed for a place in the international finals, tackling economic debates on the lower Thames crossing, judged by top academics.

The winning team- students from The Royal Grammar School High Wycombe, Bishop Vesey's, St John's College Cardiff, and Charterhouse- went on to represent the UK in Hong Kong, where they triumphed in the Business Case round against teams from 51 countries.

All finalists leave with an RIC goody bag including copies of renegade economist Kate Raworth's paradigm busting 'Doughnut Economics'



## From Star Hill to the West Wing

 It's an interestingly febrile time on Capital Hill and A level Politics and History students will be heading to Washington in 2026 for a transatlantic trip designed to supplement their studies.

Meanwhile, Lower School students went on a visit to Amnesty International's Shoreditch HQ. Year 9s tackled big topics, from women's rights to refugee justice, taking their activism beyond the classroom. They learned about the history of women's rights around the world and a variety of workshops,

which proposes a new model for thinking about the subject, breaking our addiction to growth and Gen Z's favourite TikTok financial content creator and coiner of the term vibecession Kyla Scanlon's new book- 'In This Economy? How Money and Markets Really Work.'

This year's team GB will be competing in Baku at the international finals, accompanied by competition organiser David Hodges. Freddie, one of last year's competitors says: **"The IEO was an incredible experience that allowed me to delve deeper into the world of economics. I met some truly inspiring people at both the UK finals and the Hong Kong finals. It's an amazing opportunity for any young aspiring economist to showcase their skills and demonstrate their commitment to the economics and finance industries to future employers."**



## Freudian couches and crocheted Marxists

Psychology and Sociology are two of the most popular subjects at RIC. A level students were in Hampstead this year to visit the house where an emigre Sigmund Freud lived in with his family during the last year of his life.

The ground floor houses Freud's study with his iconic psychoanalytic couch. Upstairs are Anna Freud's room and a new room housing

a replica on which the students were able to sit. The couch features in 'Freud's Last Session' starring Anthony Hopkins and Matthew Goode dramatising a fictional meeting between Freud and C.S. Lewis.

Even our social scientists are a creative bunch- here's Karl Marx crocheted by one of our Y12 boarders, Diana, who gifted it to her Sociology teacher Kamilla.







## Around the world with RIC

### Roman Holiday

Our students enjoyed a Roman educational holiday over the Easter break with classical ruins, Renaissance art, pizza and piazzas.



### Amazing India

Nehru called India “an ancient palimpsest” - layered with history, thought, and creativity. Mark Twain went even further, hailing it as “the cradle of the human race.” In 2025, RIC students saw it all first-hand on our most ambitious international art and design adventure yet. From the Le Corbusier’s modernist cityscape of Chandigarh and Lutyens’ grand Imperial Delhi to the wilds of a tiger safari, the Golden Triangle, and the shimmering Golden Temple of Amritsar, this was a trip that truly spanned centuries of culture and innovation.



### Arctic Adventures



From the heat of India to the frozen north, another fearless RIC crew ventured to Sweden.

The Ice Hotel?

We didn’t just visit—we explored the artistry behind its construction. Ice climbing and cross-country skiing in Björkliden pushed limits, while Kiruna delivered the ultimate Lapland experience: team-building in the snow, mastering fire-making, and dashing through the wilderness on a husky sled.



### Liverpool & Manchester: The Powerhouse Cities

Lower School students stayed closer to home but packed in just as much adventure. A ferry ride across the Mersey kicked off our Liverpool visit, complete with a deep dive into maritime history. Then, onto Manchester: first stop, Old Trafford, where football fever took hold then the National Football Museum. But it wasn’t all sport- at the Imperial War Museum, students explored powerful exhibitions charting real stories from WWI to the present.



The final word? Year 10’s Will summed it up best: “This is the best trip that I’ve been on at RIC.”

## RIC students making sporting headlines

At Rochester Independent College, success isn’t confined to the classroom. Our students are pushing boundaries in elite sports while excelling academically.

### BMX Bandit

#### Elsa’s European Triumph

Former Year 11 student Elsa continues to dominate the BMX world, winning the Cruiser Girls final and retaining her European title. A member of the British Olympic development squad for both racing and freestyle, she’s raced on tracks across the globe.

“Going to Colombia and Azerbaijan were pretty cool,” Elsa shares, reflecting on her incredible journey in the sport.



### The Scientific Swimmer

Nam joined RIC for Year 13 from St Olave’s, determined to balance top-tier academics with elite swimming. A British-Vietnamese swimmer with ambitions for an MSci in Chemistry, he’s already engaged in cutting-edge nanoparticle research at UCL.



competed in the Swim England National Championships where he qualified to race in the 50m and 100m breaststroke. With his relentless drive, Nam is poised for success in both science and sport.

“Time management is everything,” he says. “You have to plan, prioritise, and push yourself- but also know when to step back and recharge.” Nam



### Equestrian Excellence

A huge congratulations to Year 12 student Freja, who, alongside her horse Loris Concerto, claimed victory in the combined training class (dressage and show jumping) at the NSEA. This impressive win secures her spot at the national championships- a fantastic achievement for both rider and horse!

## RIC academia

We’re excited to announce that thanks to an incredibly persuasive proposal from Year 12 student Grace, all students and staff now have access to JSTOR. JSTOR is an online academic goldmine that supports research and independent learning. Grace highlighted how essential JSTOR’s vast collection of 2700+ academic journals- spanning art, humanities, and sciences- can be for research, providing access to millions of primary sources and scholarly articles.

RIC has also introduced Uplearn to A level students in Psychology, Economics, Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. This gives our students free access to world class learning content, personalised exam practice and 24/7 tutor support to supplement their classroom studies.



## RIC’s got talent



RIC’s Sixth Form is bursting with talent—whether it’s on stage or in the recording studio.



Charlie is one of our stand-out sixth formers, the creative engine behind our music scene, putting it firmly on the map. From planning lunchtime masterclasses on forming bands and gigging to inviting Graphics teacher Mark

Millington to talk about design in the music industry, Charlie is



making things happen. Recently, he shared the stage at an RIC concert with rising UK singer-songwriter Luke McAuley and helped organise our Winter concert. His goal? To carve out a career in music and play alongside industry giants.

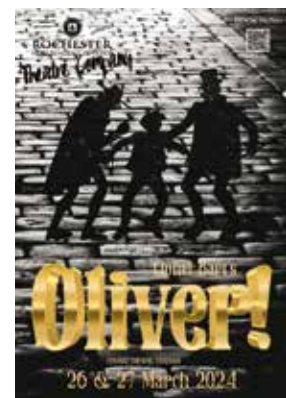
His advice to aspiring musicians: “Your personality will carry you much further than your skill. Be nice, stay positive, and always bring the good vibes.”

RIC is now home to a newly refurbished music department complete with practice rooms, a recording studio and a corridor decorated with vintage gig posters and iconic album covers.

“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



## Oliver!



touch of Medway inspired menace 2024 saw the RIC production of Lionel Bart’s Oliver! with an

Packed with poignant and famous songs, urban urchins, controversial rogues, a certain cavapoo called Oscar in for Bill’s Bullseye and more than a

international cast from year 7 to sixth form directed by Sally Harmer. With 50+ students involved whether being on-stage, ensemble or tech, it has been our biggest theatre event so far!



## RIC’s Film Stars and Tim Burton’s Gothic



Rochester has a distinguished place in film history. When David Lean was making his adaptation of Dickens’ Great Expectations here he previewed Brief Encounter in a cinema near Chatham dockyards. The historic setting has been the backdrop for Suffragette starring Meryl Streep, the Bond film The

World Is Not Enough and a new music video for The 1975. RIC has supported many young filmmakers over the years. Clio Barnard, the BAFTA nominated director of The Arbor and The Selfish Giant, was filmmaker in residence and returned to speak to A level Film students last year. Our students were shortlisted in the 10 Shot Film Awards run by The One Day Film School who are regular visitors to campus. ‘Cheesy

Love Story’ was nominated in the years 10-12 category. RIC cinerats are regular visitors to the BFI for study days linked to their studies, recent ones devoted to Tarantino’s Pulp Fiction silent film aesthetics.

Digital Media students stepped into the surreal, gothic world of Tim Burton at the ‘World of Tim Burton’ exhibition at the Design Museum in London. From eerie sketches to intricate sculptures, the

exhibition offered an immersive experience into the mind of one of cinema’s most distinctive visionaries.







## RIC arts

*Winner ISA Award for Excellence & Innovation in Fine Arts*



George, A level Fashion & Textiles



Kimmy, A level Fine Art



Shona, A level Photography



Yuhan, A level Photography



Amelija, A level Photography



George, A level Fine Art



Kimmy, A level Fashion & Textiles



Noelia, A level Graphic Design

### Fashion outlaws and photo activism

Students embraced the rebellious spirit of 1980s London at the Fashion and Textile Museum's, Outlaws exploring how fashion renegades such as Leigh Bowery, Boy George, and John Galiano challenged conventions.

Textiles students also visited the controversial Unravel-The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art



exhibition at the Barbican which showcased international, intergenerational artists communicating

vital ideas about power, resistance and survival.

Meanwhile Year 12 photographers turned their lenses towards social justice at Tate Modern, for the Zanele Muholi retrospective.

As a visual activist, Muholi's work uses photography, sculpture, and video to capture both struggle and triumph.



### RIC debate and quiz masters

"Time spent arguing is, oddly enough, almost never wasted." said Christopher Hitchens in 'Letters to a Young Contrarian.'



Our debating teams at RIC are a spirited

bunch, reaching the finals of the annual English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace competition at Dartmouth House. It's the oldest and largest schools' debating competition in the UK and the team was led by Head of English, Bob Simpson. There were around 400

schools participating. RIC students also celebrated last year winning the CIFE sixth form colleges quiz championship. Their prize was high tea at Westminster hosted in parliament by a real life lord of the realm!



Komm so wie du bist, Geh wie Du sein willst • Come as you are, leave as you want to be



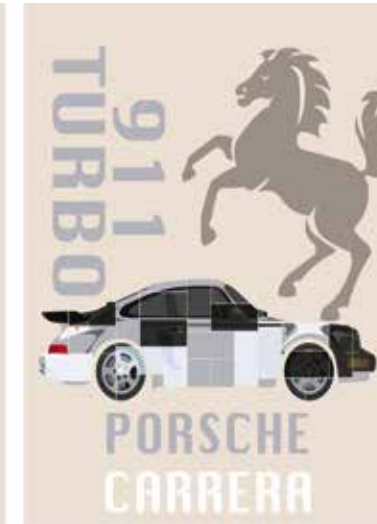
*"It's hard to imagine better provision for the artistically inclined." Good Schools Guide*



Catri, A level Fine Art



Bivek, A level Graphic Design



Jordi, A level Graphic Design



Sebastian, A level Graphic Design



Zander, A level Photography



Saul, A level Photography



Anna, A level Textiles

Amelija, Photography



Jasmine, A level Textiles



Vasilisa, A level Graphic Design



Derong, A level Photography

### FABRIC at UAL



Congratulations to Lexi our former student on her Foundation Showcase at Central Saint Martins. Our Textiles teacher Fran visited to catch up with Lexi and, across the river, with Polina and who was showing at Camberwell. All three have proceeded to UAL degrees, Lexi at CSM and Polina at LCF.



top arts student across the UK's leading independent sixth form colleges! The award will be presented at the House of Lords.

A prize-winning animator, Vasilisa is pushing creative boundaries by blending traditional ink drawings with digital webcomics.

### From Russia with art Celebrating stories

RIC has a new fiction library. There's a collection ranging from 100 must read Penguin Classics that break boundaries and challenge conceptions to graphic novels and vintage Marvel comics.



We've also hosted a visiting teen fiction writer. Year 7s quizzed C.T. Frankcom on the writing process, while Year 11s honed their storytelling skills in a creative writing workshop.

We're excited to sponsor the 2025 Faversham Literary Festival.

Our students attended events alongside bestselling authors, rising stars, and local talent. This week-long festival has inspired with workshops, slam poetry, and talks from icons like Michael Palin, Jeanette Winterson, and Tim Peake. We love its support for local charities, schools, and the creative energy it brings to the town.



Приходи, какой ты есть, выпускайся таким, каким хочешь быть • Come as you are, leave as you want to be







## School, but different



**The Ambassador Platform** Find out what life at RIC is really like by chatting to our ambassadors. At RIC we have a team of student ambassadors from all over the world who you can connect with online and get their views on what makes life at the College tick.



Ethan joined RIC for A levels in English Literature, Business Studies, Film and Digital Media. Ethan led the student council last year and has interests ranging from sport to digital marketing and entrepreneurship. He is now studying Games Design at Ravensbourne University, London.



Hi I'm Stephanie, a year 12 boarding student studying Economics, Business, Politics, and Sociology. I'm a bass guitarist studying grade 8. I moved from Hong Kong in 2023 so feel free to contact me.  
很高興認識你  
Interests: Literature · Movies · Music



Krittin was one of four Thai Government Scholars at RIC this year, taking one-year A levels in Maths, Physics and Further Maths with IELTS. Krittin was awarded a gold medal at the International Astronomy Olympiad and is now studying Physics at Edinburgh University.



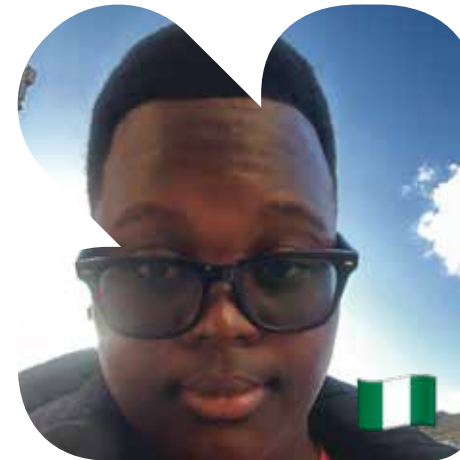
Hi, I'm Dylan. I am a day student at RIC and live in Rochester. I joined in year 10 to do my GCSEs. I am now in year 12 studying Politics, Sociology, Psychology, and History. I am also chair of the student council. If you have any questions about my subjects or Rochester I am happy to help!  
Interests: Politics · Reading · Sports



Andrei was a star music scholar from Romania and is now studying at ACM London. He was a memorable character in this year's Oliver! He is a singer, pianist and music producer and making waves in the London music scene and on TikTok and is still sometimes spotted busking with his accordion on Rochester High Street.



Hello, I'm Brisa, I am a boarding student in RIC, I am from Mexico and it's my first experience in a boarding school. I am always here to answer your questions and help you. Don't hesitate to write to me if you are curious or want to know more about our school. Interests: Digital drawing or with paint, Graphic Design, Fine Art



Hello, my name is Muhammad. I am in year 12. I am a boarding student at RIC coming from Abuja. I attended The Grange School, Lagos. I now study Digital Media, Graphic Design, Fine Art, and Business Studies. Let me know if you have any questions. :)  
Interests: Animation · Art · Gaming



Angelina from Moscow was frustrated there wasn't an Economics Olympiad competition in the UK. Undeterred, she contacted the International Economics Olympiad and worked to help accredit RIC. The GBEO now serves as the national qualifier for the UK team. Angelina is now studying Economics at KCL.



Hi! I'm Kamilya and from Kazakhstan. I'm a year 13 boarding student studying Maths, Psychology, Graphic Design and Economics. Please send me a message if you've got any questions :)  
Interests: Art · Reading · Cooking · Socializing



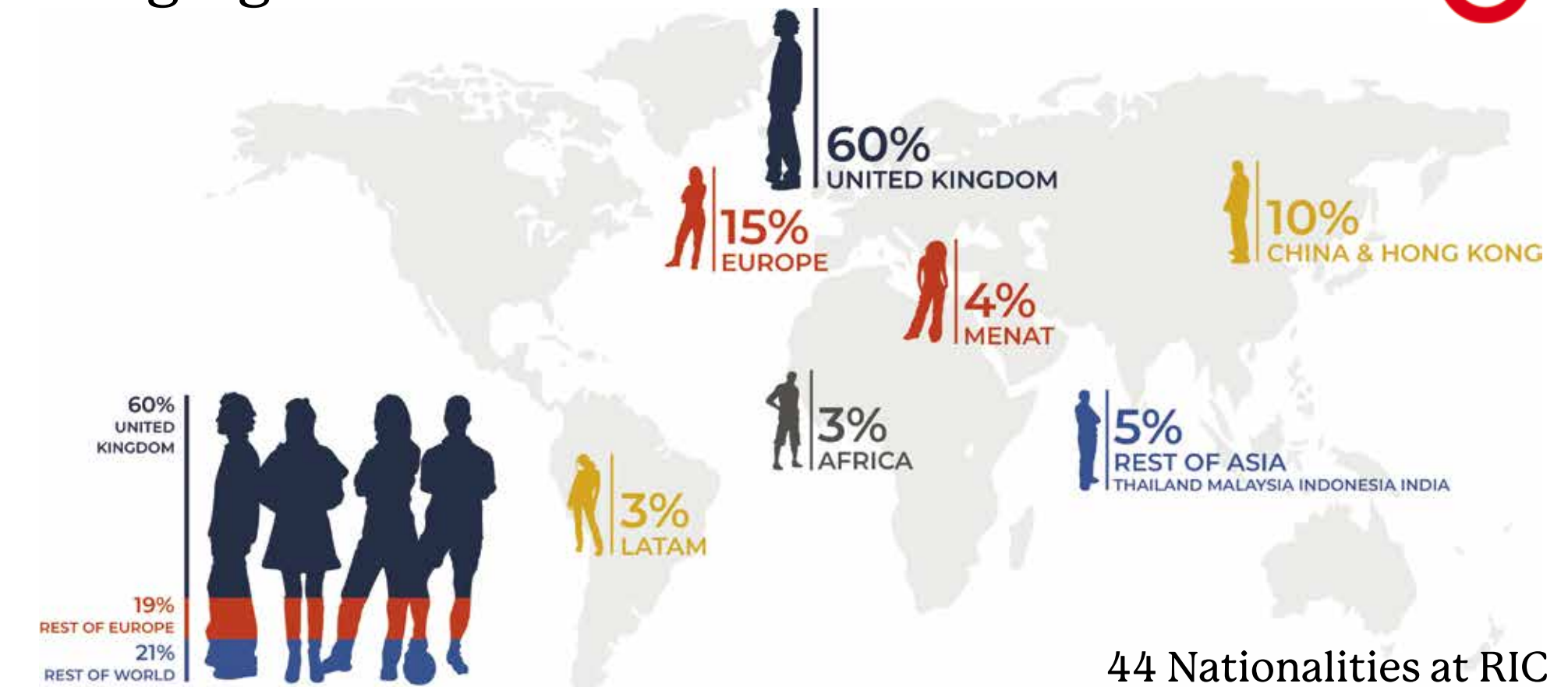
Hi, I'm Dan. I'm from Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine. I'm in year 12 and I have studied in the UK for three years so I'll be happy to answer all your questions. I study Economics, Psychology, Digital Media and Textiles (which is my favourite). So feel free to ask!



**ISI** Independent Schools Inspectorate  
"Pupils both **respect** and **value the diversity in the school community** and benefit from **opportunities to learn about and celebrate other cultures in response to the school's aim to foster respect, challenge prejudice and develop an imaginative and informed attitude.**"



## Bringing the world to Rochester



### 44 Nationalities at RIC



RIC is described by The Good Schools Guide 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." 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.

opinions of individual students count for a lot." His classmate Camilla from Biella adds: "Since I've been here, I've immediately found myself at ease with the teachers, they are very interested in the personal growth of the students."



At RIC, we celebrate our international community with food nights throughout the year ranging from Brazilian to Nigerian. Recently, our boarding students organised a Japanese movie marathon evening dedicated to Studio Ghibli animations. It was a great night for the students to enjoy a



popular part of Japanese culture with movies and pyjamas, sushi, and of course ramen. Students also enjoyed trips this year to see the RSC's stage version of My Neighbour Totoro and Spirited Away in the West End. Our Chinese students enjoyed taking their UK and international friends for hotpot at the London outpost of iconic restaurant Haidilou with origins in Sichuan province.



#### Arty triptych alumni return

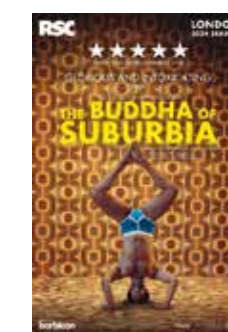
RIC A Level art students, Sarah, Hannah and Yilia from China, all now studying in London, popped in recently to reconnect with friends and their former tutors.

· Sarah is currently studying Textile Design at @uniofheartslondon

· Hannah is currently studying Advertising at @uniofheartslondon

· Yilia is currently studying Digital Media at @uniwestminster

## West End front row



RIC students revelled in the magic of live theatre with a trip to Emma Rice's adaptation of The Buddha of Suburbia. The 1970s South London setting was brought to life in vivid multicultural detail by Wise Children and Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican.

Another theatre highlight was an evening of Weimar decadence at The Kit Kat Club for the acclaimed production of Cabaret, featuring Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters and Rebecca Lucy Taylor of Self Esteem.



In 1999, a group of RIC students attended the original production of Mnemonic by Complicité at Hammersmith's Riverside Studios. This year, the Class of 2024 had the privilege of seeing its revival at the National Theatre. Described by The New York Times as "astonishing, transfixing, transcendent," the play weaves together themes of memory, identity, and the passage of time using video and physical theatre and Complicité's trademark chairs.

Also at the National, our A level English students enjoyed a stellar performance of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest, featuring Doctor Who and Sex



Education star Ncuti Gatwa alongside Sharon D. Clarke and Hugh Skinner. Wit, satire, and impeccable performances made this a theatre trip to remember and one that reinforced Wilde's message that being sensible can be excessively boring!







## Thai ties



Since 1991, RIC has welcomed exceptional scholars supported by the Royal Thai Government, guiding them from A Levels to top UK universities and beyond. Many of our graduates earn doctorates and step into senior roles in academia and government.

Our students consistently excel in STEM subjects and international Olympiads, while also showcasing talents in art, music, and chess. For instance, Jirayus (Gems), an International Maths Olympiad Gold Medalist, joined RIC in 2019 before Trinity College, Cambridge. He recalls, “With small classes and expert teachers, I got the support I needed to excel.”

Similarly, Jeans earned a distinction in the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad last year. Recently, we also celebrated Purin’s achievement- a First-Class AI degree from Imperial College London after achieving A\*AA on RIC’s one-year A Level course.

Purin, pictured here with his Computer Science teacher Peter Holl shared, “I would recommend RIC to other students. The campus is very friendly, cosy, and comfortable, and the teachers helped me get into Imperial on a competitive programme.”



## Third culture kids



Third Culture Kid by Addison

Globally grounded, cosmopolitan kids from all over the world find a home at RIC for their secondary education. British students whose parents are in the forces or based overseas as expat workers often join after taking their GCSEs at international schools. Joining in



year 7 was Addison whose picture ‘Third Culture Kid’ hung in the Young Artists’ Summer Show at the RA and features in the accompanying calendar. She says:

“I am mixed-race British Nigerian but have grown up in Tanzania, Kenya, Egypt and I now live in England. This picture is about everything that I experience and love in my life.”

Also pictured is artist Catri who came to RIC from Sibiu in Romania and is now off to study Fine Art at Holland’s Academie Minervain Groningen.



## High school term abroad



Our short courses give international students a true taste of life at RIC- immersed in British culture, improving their English, and studying alongside UK students. Unlike standalone international programmes, RIC fully integrates short-course visitors into lessons, activities, and day-to-day school life.

Just 37 minutes from London, students enjoy a safe, vibrant environment with easy access to one of the world’s most exciting cities. With small group sizes, we tailor each programme to academic, artistic, and cultural interests, including sports, group activities, and trips across Kent and the South East. Returning home? No problem. RIC has extensive experience co-validating courses, ensuring a seamless transition back to your school system. We’ve welcomed students from Italy, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, and beyond—helping them make the most of their time.



samiralcbr Valentina loved her experience with you all! Thank you very much @rochesterindcollege

### Thai Government Scholarship Students at RIC 10 Years of Top University Destinations

2024	Nartkamon Theerakhun Kanitin Krittin	Kent UCL Bristol Edinburgh	Mechanical Engineering Mechanical Engineering Maths and Computing Astrophysics
2022	Suppaset	Imperial, London	Physics
2021	Preeyaporn Suankularb Nutthanon Waritsara Monai	Manchester UCL UEA Manchester Southampton	Biomedical Sciences Physics Environmental Sciences Engineering Geology
2020	Jirayus	Cambridge	Mathematics
2019	Thanawitch	Oxford	Chemistry
2018	Warach	Cambridge	Mathematics
2017	Kiatmeta Varit Adisorn Pattaraporn Pinphong Rapee	Nottingham Cambridge Oxford Queen Mary, London Cambridge Southampton	Mathematical Physics Mathematics Physics Maths and Economics Natural Sciences Physics
2016	Chotipan Natthikan Nonpawith Rattana Chanathip Sompob Phattaraporn Vit Wipada Panawat	University of Edinburgh UCL UCL Oxford Brunel Cambridge Cambridge Cambridge Dundee Cambridge	Astrophysics Pharmacy Biomedical Engineering Mathematics Physiotherapy Natural Sciences Natural Sciences Mathematics Dentistry Natural Sciences
2015	Anantachok Jesada Maklai Adipol Bannawit Jiratheep	Imperial, London Lancaster Surrey Manchester Oxford	Computer Science Physics Physics Physics Chemistry
2014	Prekamon Methawi Peersak	Imperial, London Cambridge Cambridge	Physics Natural Sciences Natural Sciences
2013	Kla Parinya Pawita Poon Puthipong Saowalak Supanut	Cambridge Manchester Manchester Imperial, London Cambridge York Imperial, London	Natural Sciences Physics Physics Mathematics Natural Sciences Biology Physics



## RIC Steadman scholar shines at UAL



Former RIC student George Moore is making waves in the art world, recently named Made in Bed magazine’s January 2025 ‘Emerging Artist.’ Now studying Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art, his work spans painting, sculpture, patterns, and textiles—already establishing a unique voice in contemporary art.

George’s artistic journey took a pivotal turn at 16 when he was awarded the fully funded Ralph

Steadman Fine Art Scholarship to study at RIC. Looking back, he credits much of his growth to the creative freedom and support he found here. “Robin was truly brilliant,” he recalls of his teacher. “He just let me sit, think, draw, and work.” That space to explore and experiment helped him develop his artistic identity.

During his time at RIC, George’s paintings often depicted lone male figures interacting with urban

landscapes. He also developed a strong interest in Bauhaus principles, favouring geometric forms and clean lines over decorative excess. Growing up in Kent, where high-rise buildings were scarce, London’s towering skyline felt fresh and exhilarating, adding a new layer to his creative vision.

Now based in Peckham, George is surrounded by a dynamic mix of cultures. The area’s blend of Nigerian, Taiwanese, and Thai influences, layered over a deeply British identity, has shaped his perspective. This stark contrast from his Kent upbringing fuels his creative process, pushing him to explore themes of migration, reinvention, and belonging.



His first major university project was born from this shift in environment. Settling into London life, he became fascinated with the patterned market bags seen everywhere in Peckham.



A self-confessed textile enthusiast since his RIC days, he was drawn to their intricate designs, bold geometrics, and clashing colours. Some even featured the iconic Burberry check- a symbol of British heritage. By stripping the bags of their function and

wall-mounting them, he transformed them into sculptural forms. Their origins, as he later discovered, traced back to Hong Kong, adding another layer of meaning. Just like the people who carry them, these bags have travelled, settled, and found new purpose in London. The piece became a metaphor for George’s own experience—his first creative statement in a city where cultures, like materials, interweave.

From Rochester to Chelsea, George’s career is on a fast-moving trajectory.



## Biophilia in the RIC gardens



**Intelligent Tree Planting**  
Year 8 presented a regenerative tree-planting plan to Principal Alistair. Their vision included long-term maintenance, ensuring future Year 8s continue the project.



At RIC, sustainability is woven into our campus culture. Our gardens, awarded Silver by the Kent Wildlife Trust, support carbon sequestration and a

thriving ecosystem. Beyond ecology, the gardens nurture student well-being. The ISI noted: “Pupils demonstrate an excellent aesthetic appreciation of the visual arts and their natural surroundings. They appreciate the peace, greenery, and wildlife within an urban setting and enjoy the gardens for relaxation and personal reflection.”

**Hedgerow Planting**  
With help from the Woodland Trust we planted 35 native trees- dog rose, dogwood, hawthorn, and hazel- at New Court’s bank, with crab apples marking each end.

Students shifted rubble and compost to prepare the site, uncovering archaeological finds.

**Feed the Birds**  
Year 7 repurposed bottles into bird feeders, filling them with sunflower seeds to attract local birds, which help control pests and disperse seeds naturally.

**Sustainability Scholarship**  
We offer a bi-annual Sustainability Scholarship to a Year 7 student who demonstrates outstanding environmental knowledge or action.



**Sustainable Infrastructure**  
Our underground theatre features low-voltage electrical installations, and in 2024, we introduced a Geodesic Dome- an innovative teaching space inspired by Buckminster Fuller’s principles of sustainable architecture.



**Looking Ahead**  
A new waste management system will reduce landfill waste, with increased recycling and composting stations. We’re also launching a student-led Eco Council to tackle projects like eliminating single-use plastics and promoting green transport. Clare, mother of Lower School student Daisy, praises our approach: “The sustainability curriculum is what all schools should be doing. Daisy’s grandad joined the class on their River Stour trip- it was incredibly relevant. The knowledge they’re gaining is imperative for the future.”

The gardens also inspire student creativity. Year 13 student Polina is forging metalwork, transforming nails into rings and small daggers- a perfect blend of creativity, craftsmanship and a little fire magic.







## A world of difference- RIC Lower School



Since 2006, Rochester Independent College's Lower School has been an inspiring alternative to traditional grammar and independent schools. A place where students find their tribe, their voice, and their direction, it's a vibrant community where academics and wellbeing go hand in hand.

Education at RIC is dynamic, hands-on, and fun. Year 7s might be in the garden testing frogs for ranavirus while others jam on ukuleles. Year 8s could be crafting a Spotify podcast from a mix of soothing and chaotic sounds in the digital media lab. Over lunch, some get extra maths support, while others play football with staff and Oscar the RIC dog.



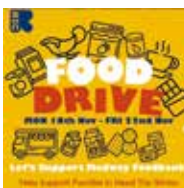
Artwork by May

Beyond the classroom, Lower School students take learning on the road. Year 10s brought Romeo and Juliet to life at Shakespeare's Globe, while Year 7s bonded over raft-building at Carrotty Wood. Drama students worked with GECKO, Frantic Assembly and Burnt



Cartoon by Vasilisa

### Community and giving back



RIC students exemplify the spirit of giving. The Student Council's recent Food Drive was a remarkable success, raising £1,601.70 for the Medway Foodbank. This initiative highlights the power of collective action and the compassion of our student body,

Orange. Aspiring artists visited the Turner Prize Exhibition while showcasing their own talent in the Dukes Plus Art Competition. Special mention to Year 11's May, whose winning piece was exhibited at the Royal Festival Hall!



Students immersed themselves in magical theatre trips- Stranger Things: The First Shadow, Ballet Shoes at the National Theatre, and Edward Scissorhands at Sadler's Wells.

Year 11 students engaged in PSHE drop-down afternoons, covering essential life skills such as financial literacy with My BNK and online safety with Childnet. Also visiting RIC was



Jude Guaitamacchi. A trained PSHE educator, they were the face of Harrods Beauty's campaign My Beauty is Being Myself. Showing that the RIC student voice extends to our alumni, Jude's visit was suggested by former student Jules who said: "I know an LGBTQ+ awareness consultant and speaker who goes to schools giving presentations to students. I know if we'd had someone like Jude come to our school when we were kids it could have made all the difference in the world."

reinforcing our commitment to making a positive impact in the wider community. One of the highlights of the year was Head of Lower School Ian Duxbury's 40 miles for 40 years run alongside students and staff on Jackson's Field, raising money for The Abbey Physic Garden, Faversham and Age Exchange.



### Hanging up the phone



Jack White and Alicia Keys recently found a solution to the problem of phones disrupting shows- a lockable pouch into which guests at gigs are required to place their mobile devices. The pouches are made by San Francisco startup Yondr to allow music venues, schools and businesses to create phone-free zones. Yondr is now coming from the Bay Area to the Medway towns as RIC is rolling out the system, tackling one of the biggest challenges in education

today - managing mobile phone use. While phones keep us connected, they can also pull attention away from what truly matters: learning, growing, and connecting with others. This digital detox isn't about punishment; it's about minimising distractions, maximising learning potential and creating a space where everyone can thrive. With phones tucked away snugly in Yondr pouches, students can refocus on what matters most - learning and connecting.



christopoole1401 It's a great move. Nothing but positive feedback from my son and his friends 🥰

### Sporting success, RIC style



#### FAST FACTS:

- 100% KS3 students represented RIC in sports
- 119 students competed for RIC
- 8 competition medals won
- 21 different sports offered
- School Games Mark Bronze Award, two years running
- 33 new sports leaders, bringing the total to 50

### Leading the way



There's a new Duke in town—well, a new Duke of Edinburgh, anyway- and RIC's leadership game is stronger than ever. Last year, 19 students smashed their DoFE Bronze awards, 10 levelled up to Silver, and now, 8 intrepid adventurers are going for Gold! In true RIC fashion, the Silver expedition delivered some legendary moments.

But leadership at RIC isn't just about trekking through the wilderness. 13 students also bagged the Dukes Young Leaders Award, part of a programme designed to equip young people with the skills to thrive in an unpredictable world.



And then there's Zak, Year 11, who's just taken things to the next level. He's joined The Dukes Foundation Advisory Board—a group shaping the future of youth leadership. Glen Fendley, Director of the Foundation, had nothing but praise for Zak:

"Your passion for community engagement, fresh perspective, and exceptional leadership potential were truly outstanding. Your insights will help drive our mission to empower and inspire young people."

The Dukes Foundation is on a mission to change lives, connect communities, and, in an ambitious new campaign, become the largest provider of transformational bursaries in the UK. It's about giving young people opportunities that truly make a difference.



## What the Good Schools Guide says



Say goodbye to stiff blazers, imposing facades and hymns echoing around the corridors and hello to a school with a more informal feel of home. You'll find no uniform here, no stuffy traditions and no Latin motto (instead there's a flying pig emblem, a riposte to nay-sayers in the early days) – and as such, the vibe is notably informal.

#### Teaching and learning

'Liberal but ordered,' says head. So, it's yes to registers, homework and regular testing but no to uniform, desks in rows and intrusive school bells. Oh, and everyone goes by their first name. Parents praise the tutorial type teaching ('teachers talk with them not to them') and the time they dedicate to each pupil ('they never give the impression they're in a rush'). Lots of enrichment, with pupils keen to tell us of their 'passion projects', eg 3D printer Star Wars characters displayed in the foyer.



#### The arts and extra curricular

Visual arts stand out - 'another league,' said a pupil. Teachers are all practising artists and exceptionally well-qualified eg master's from Central St Martins. School believes the college ethos helps 'by producing artistically literate, interesting and talented young people'. We dipped into sustainable textiles (complete with its natural dye garden), where year 11s were crafting sustainable corsets. Sixth form fine art students were equally industrious in the art studio – easily as good as final year university students. Fine art, graphic communication, photography, and textiles and fashion all on offer, some students take three of these at A level, giving them a competitive edge when applying for coveted places at prestigious institutions



Drama, housed in the black-box studio, is taken seriously – from small ensemble and character studies to razzle dazzle musicals. Around 50 pupils take guitar, bass, ukulele, piano and vocal lessons. Pupils rave about music technology, and there's a recording studio where, in addition to producing original tracks, students learn how to successfully market on Spotify or Apple Music. DoFE for younger years. Clubs mainly student led and covering niche interests not covered in the curriculum eg creative writing and astronomy.

#### Pastoral care, inclusivity & discipline

The school talks of expectations rather than discipline – and by and large, it works. 'It's simple, it's just respect, being a decent human being,' felt one pupil. Parents appreciate the 'refreshing honesty' and 'avoidance of victimisation or demonisation' when things do go wrong. Detentions for more minor misdemeanours, mostly recurrent failure to complete homework or lack of punctuality or attendance. This isn't a 'free for all', says school, and pupils accept that following an 'agreed consensus' is necessary to maintain their freedoms.

Pastoral care is exemplary, agrees everyone - and remember, many have a variety of contexts to compare it with. Tutors play a pivotal role - pupils say they're always available, and parents are impressed with

## STEM in action



RIC Year 12 Industrial Cadets are taking their first dive into innovation with a workshop at CCCU. They designed and modelled their very first prototype of a submersible drone, kicking off an exciting project in collaboration with BAE Systems overseen by Physics teacher Oliver.



Our Sixth Form medical applicants visited the Royal College of Surgeons, soaking in the knowledge and inspiration for their



future careers. They also visited the fascinating world of medical history at the Hunterian Museum, where every artifact tells a story of science and discovery.

A level Science students had an exciting trip to Chemistry in Action. From exploring the use of tree bark in treating malaria, to tackling a



their ability in 'finding outstanding solutions'.

Inclusivity another strength of the school, according to pupils. No cliques and no 'casual racism', they told us – helped by the diversity of cultures, they reckon - and the LGBTQ+ community is well represented, with preferred pronouns used at all times. The social justice club draws an earnest crowd with impressive pro-action eg attending the Amnesty International Youth Conference, making and selling sweets for Medway



Street Angels and selling popcorn to 'Stop Hate'.

#### Ethos and heritage

The school started as an A level college in 1984, expanding down to year 7 by 2007. 'Have you seen the Tardis?' our guides asked on our tour, pointing to an original police box in the grounds – a cheeky nod, we're told, to the fact that practically every visitor uses the word to describe the school site. The time machine metaphor doesn't go amiss either as a key aim of the school is to heal past results or experiences and whiz them into the future to support their aspirations.







# RIC unveils Northbank

Rochester Independent College is marking its 40th anniversary in true RIC style with the launch of the Northbank campus- a vibrant fusion of boarding, learning, and artistic inspiration.

Directly opposite the main college site, Northbank offers 47 en-suite single study bedrooms, boosting our total boarding capacity to 180.

Rochester, adding a characteristically quirky RIC touch to the town's historic skyline.

Northbank is designed for both work and wellbeing. A beautifully landscaped courtyard garden provides a green oasis where students can relax and connect, reinforcing RIC's commitment to creativity, community, and sustainability.



But this is more than just a place to stay- it's a creative powerhouse. At its heart is The Gowers Visual Arts Centre, named in honour of a beloved RIC art teacher, where students can immerse themselves in Fine Art, Textiles, Photography, and Graphic Design in purpose-built studios,



darkrooms, and design labs. The building itself is packed with character. Architecture and design nerds will spot nods to design classics as they enter- an Isokon Penguin Donkey and Eames House bird subtly setting the tone for the creativity within. And topping it all off? A flying pig weathervane, completing a series of historic weathervanes that weave through

**"We're thrilled to open Northbank in our milestone year,"** says Principal Alistair Brownlow. **"Our international and British boarders love the new en-suite rooms, and uniquely, they have an art college right beneath their feet- a perfect stepping stone between school and university."**

The expansion brings RIC's total student population to 425, with 40% of students from 45 countries. Summer students enrolled with Summer Boarding Courses will also get to experience Northbank's dynamic new spaces. With its striking blend of heritage and modernity, Northbank isn't



just enhancing RIC- it's helping to shape the regeneration of Rochester as a thriving conservation and artistic hub.



## 40 years of flying pigs



RIC celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday, 29th June and invited former students, friends and fans of the College to join us in celebrating this milestone event.

We hosted a Star Hill garden party with live music, great food throughout

the day including a hog roast, an art show, an RIC through the years exhibition, lots of 80s stuff, flying pigs, fireworks, a children's zone, a chocolate fountain, a quiet zone, a pimms tent and lots of fun and memories. It ended with a spectacular birthday firework display that the garden foxes seemed to enjoy.



## Rochester - where history meets hipster haven



Rochester is 37 minutes away from the capital by train. Kent, known as the garden of England is home to great beaches and historic cathedral cities, a tourist hotspot with Lonely Planet listing it as one of Europe's best holiday destinations. Rochester is a small town with a rich heritage, flourishing contemporary arts scene, a vibrant student buzz and an eclectic blend of old-world elegance and trendy vibes. It's famous for Dickens connections with a magnificent Norman cathedral and a striking castle that can be viewed from some RIC classrooms. It offers a range of quirky vintage shops, museums, second hand bookstores and great restaurants and coffee houses. Whether you're in the market for vintage threads or craving a flat



Photo by Kimmy

white with a side of avocado toast, Rochester has you covered. Our students- and staff- benefit from a discount scheme offering money off many of the High Street's hot-spots.

**"Every time I go to Rochester it surprises me. I forget how ravishingly beautiful it is."**

Tom Dyckhoff, The Guardian



Photo by Lorenzo