

# THE RIC TIMES



ROCHESTER  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

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



## School can be different **Successfully individual** **Consistently academic**

RIC is no conventional school: Students on first name basis with teachers, no uniform. Average class size 8. Urban campus at the heart of a conservation area. Non-selective entry from 11+. 380 students. 62% UK, 38% international from 44 different countries. Established with a focus on maths and science it now boasts award-winning creative

arts teaching. RIC forgoes formality but is still focussed on academic and creative achievement. World class universities are consistent destinations of RIC students as shown in our table from the last 5 years (p3). Top destinations are a pair of very different London institutions, both opening

new campuses in Stratford's Olympic Park, UCL (just named University of The Year) and UAL, ranked second in the world for Art and Design. RIC students have proceeded to all of the Russell



Group including the G5. This is testament to the hard work and flair of our diverse bunch of students, many of whom overcome big hurdles in their



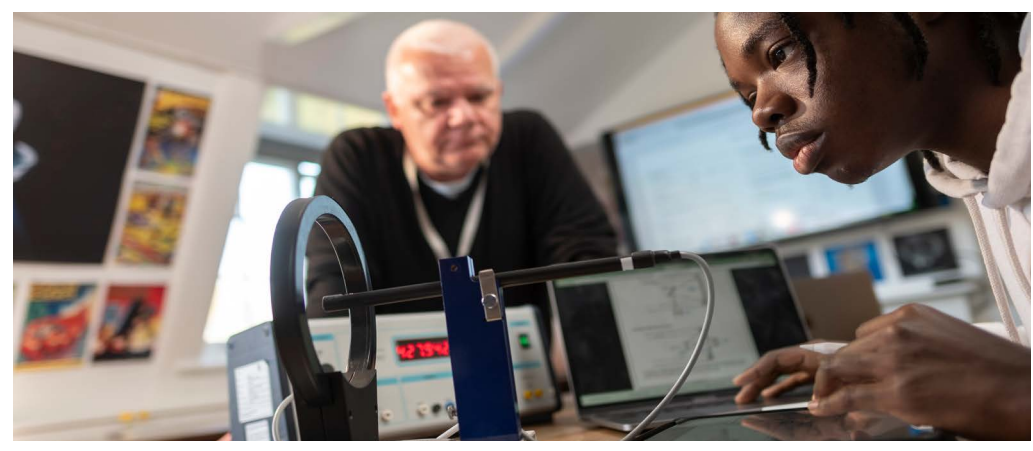
journey to academic and creative success.



Martina from Italy, switched from the IB Diploma at another independent school to A level at RIC and has won a place at UCL to read Physics. She says:

**“Rochester gave me hope and faith in myself. My personal tutor was great. The classes here are really supportive. You can always achieve your dreams, you just have to redefine your path, not your plan.”**

Will from Faversham came to RIC from his local grammar. He gained 3 A\*s in 3 new subjects from scratch in one year is off to read English at Cambridge.



RIC's Elsa is a world champion BMXer,



more news from the RIC Sports Desk p8

RIC is the official UK host of The Great British Economics Olympiad- p4



**GREAT BRITISH ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD**

RIC alumnus & Imperial student Suppaset receives prize at the House of Lords- p10



RIC launches new sustainability curriculum & scholarship - p9



# Come as you are. Reasons to come to RIC

1

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

It is always a shock not to receive the grades you want, but it need not be the end of high aspirations. Star scientist Brian Cox scored grade D in A level Maths but went on to complete a PhD in particle Physics after his band D:Ream reached number one (and recognition as New Labour anthem) with the aptly titled: "Things can only get better"



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. Mahinden from Maidstone Grammar retook two subjects and added Sociology, gaining AAA. He says: "My RIC journey has been amazing, my dream of studying Medicine at Sheffield is now a reality."

Also retaking for Medicine this year was Fatima from King's Canterbury who added one year A level English to her Science resits resulting in another A. One of Fatima's set poets was Keats who trained in Medicine at Guy's Hospital at the age of 14 and whose statue sits on the campus. Fatima will study at Newcastle University.



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 at RIC says: "The transition from primary to secondary school can be a daunting time for parents and children alike with the approach of September sometimes causing much anxiety and uncertainty. 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. We all perform better and work harder when we are happy, engaged and motivated. Not all schools suit all children. RIC adapts to its wide and varied intake, rather than trying to force

students to adapt to us. I have witnessed a number who feel like a weight has been lifted from their shoulders on joining: they can finally be themselves and concentrate on learning to love learning."



3

**RIC allows a lip-smackingly wide subject choice at GCSE and A level in classes that average 8 students.**

School timetables are often set in stone; but not here. At RIC, small classes and a 3:1 student to staff ratio allows far more flexibility. Any combination of subjects is possible from Economics to Textiles, Further Maths to Global Perspectives, Classical Civilisation to Photography and Physics to Music Technology. You'll struggle to find a school with a wider subject range than RIC.

4

**RIC helps you target top STEM related courses**

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



visited by former RIC 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 and is a member of Christ



Church College and the Junior Dean of Exeter College. Her background is in Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Global Health. Sandra also works at the WHO, supporting on the COVID response. Sandra spoke about her journey to Oxford and gave advice about the application process and college selection. She also shared memories of some happy times being taught in the RIC Maths shed!



Lower School students celebrated British Science Week exploring the idea of connections. Young scientists investigated reaction times, explored connections in nature, made conductive salt dough and took part in a scavenger hunt. They also made real life connections with women in STEM careers, speaking to Bryony Fearn an Electrical Engineer, and Serena Carter from Shell about how the company is trying to approach sustainability for the future.



# Leave as you want to be. University Entrance Specialists

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

Many selective schools will only allow students with As at GCSE to start A levels. Some even bar entry to year 13 or limit subject choices for students with disappointing Year 12 grades. Parents recognise the difference switching to RIC in year 12 or year 13 can make. One said: "RIC delivers what other schools can't. Its unique blend of expert tuition, student engagement, constant focus on the application of knowledge and feedback with continuous communication from tutors, all lead to a level of motivation to succeed that delivers results."



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

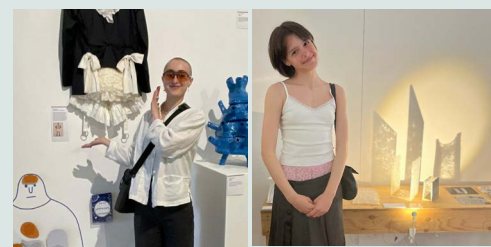
RIC prepares students for the university that will suit them, not just those at the top of league tables.



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 is off to study Fine Art at Goldsmiths, whose alumni include Damian Hirst, Sarah Lucas and Steve McQueen.



## RIC students shine at UAL



Congratulations to Lexi our former student on her Foundation Graduate Showcase at Central Saint Martins. Our fab Textiles teacher Fran visited the show to catch up with Lexi and, across the river, with Polina and Viviana who were showing their work at the Camberwell foundation show. All three have proceeded to UAL degrees, Lexi at CSM and Polina and Viviana at London College of Fashion.

Every year RIC hosts an exhibition of our own students' work as part of the summer festival garden party.



## RIC's Top University Destinations 2019-2023

Rank	University	No of RIC students placed
1	UAL	21
2	UCL Leeds	16
3	Manchester Bristol Kent Southampton	15
4	Loughborough	13
5	UEA Nottingham Trent	12
6	Edinburgh Reading	11
7	Newcastle Nottingham	10
8	Exeter York	9
9	CCCU Sheffield Cardiff	8
10	Liverpool Westminster Kingston	7



Alec joined RIC from India for a one year GCSE course followed by two year A levels. Alumni of Skidmore College where Alec will study

Psychology include filmmaker Jason Reitman, director of Ghostbusters: Afterlife and Juno and Evan Dando, of Lemonheads fame. Skidmore College is a liberal arts college often considered a "Hidden Ivy." Like RIC, these institutions often boast smaller class sizes, allowing for more individualised attention and 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.



Last year, Freddie from Christ's Hospital moved to RIC, secured three grade As and landed a place at The Courtauld Institute of Art to study History of Art. Freddie was a welcoming presence as gallery assistant at our end of year student art showcase at Pie Factory in Margate.



ISI states: "The school fulfils its aim to enable pupils who have not necessarily had a successful experience in their education previously to reach the course of their choice. The quality of pupils' personal development is excellent. They flourish as they become more confident because staff encourage them at all stages and provide high levels of pastoral care."



## 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! RIC offers a specialist medical preparation programme with input from our partners at The Medic Portal.

With specialised support at RIC your chances of winning a coveted place can increase significantly.



## Test driving dream careers



We're excited to announce another good reason to join RIC. From September 2023 we'll be partnering with Dukes Education's InvestIN, offering a range of immersive career experiences, and hands-on workshops alongside top

industry professionals. InvestIN will provide RIC students in Years 10 and 12 with a bespoke careers curriculum and a certificate of career-readiness. Students will choose a full day of interactive career simulations led in any one of nineteen careers ranging from Software Engineering to Investment Banking, Fashion to Forensics.

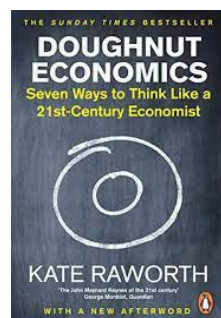
# RIC hosts the UK Economics Olympiad

One of our star sixth form students, Angelina from Moscow, was frustrated there wasn't an Olympiad style competition for her to compete in like her classmates in Maths and the sciences- there was no accredited host UK centre. Undeterred, she contacted the International Economics Olympiad Committee and worked to help accredit RIC. The Great British Economics Olympiad now serves as the national qualifier for the UK team.

students emerged as the representatives for the UK, hailing from Brighton College, King Edward VI Southampton, Uckfield College, Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, and Bromsgrove School.

The event was a great success, participants were welcomed with a live performance of an Economics themed playlist curated by RIC Music student Andrei and Maths teacher Rob Dimpleby. All finalists left with an RIC goody bag including a copy of ground-breaking economist Kate Raworth's paradigm busting 'Doughnut Economics' which proposes a new model for thinking about the subject, breaking our addiction to growth; redesigning money, finance, and business to be in service to people and their wellbeing; and creating economies that are regenerative and distributive by design.

At the international final in Greece the UK team secured two bronze medals, an outstanding accomplishment in a competition that saw the participation of 50 countries. Angelina, the RIC student who started it all, is off to study Economics education at KCL. We'll be publishing details of how to get involved in the 2024 competition shortly.



The Olympiad brings together talented Economics students from across the globe. It aims to promote interest in Economics and identify future leaders in the field. It's an opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and skills. Budding Economists develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in real-world situations.

3500 A level students from across the UK took part online in round one and, at the RIC hosted final, five exceptional

# Dukes Renaissance Scholars

The Renaissance was a period of radical cultural transformation, disruption and iconoclasm. We considered over a uniquely RIC two day event the question of whether there is value in challenging the mainstream through activism and protest. There was theatre, karaoke, local history tour flaneuring, Ukrainian synth pop and light shows. Speakers included Ed Fidoe from the London Interdisciplinary School and award winning film director and former RIC tutor Clio Barnard. Workshops included The London Gospel Choir, cybersaur arts and wet plate collodian

from Rikard Österlund. Highlight of the weekend was Icon Theatre's immersive theatre show The Ballad of St John's Car Park exploring how protest movements shaped the identities of individuals and the community, including: the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020; the closure of Chatham's Dockyard in 1984; the activism that led to the establishment of Medway's First Pride March in 2019 and local young people who took part in the Greta Thunberg climate protests in 2018.



# Education Otherwise @ RIC



Graphic Design teacher and illustrator Joe Becci initially joined RIC part-time after being home educated for GCSEs and then stayed for A levels before returning to us, post degree, to teach.



This year Theodora from Sevenoaks completed one year A level courses in History, History of Art and English. Her brother Felix, RIC class of 2019, graduated from Cambridge with a first class degree in History and Politics. She says:

graduated from Cambridge with a first class degree in History and Politics. She says:  
**"After my brother's positive experience, I knew it was the place for me. Having been homeschooled my whole life, completing the one year intensive A level course has given me the opportunity and grades for studying History of Art at UCL."**

Flexi-schooling and home education is increasingly popular in the UK. The College's timetable allows for home-educated students to join GCSE or A level courses according to their ability rather than school year group age. Some students join RIC having been previously home-educated for different reasons, attracted by the flexibility and fresh approach.



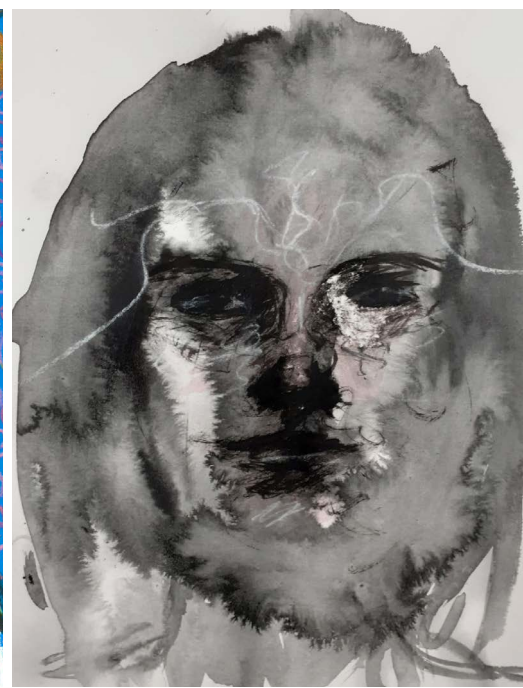
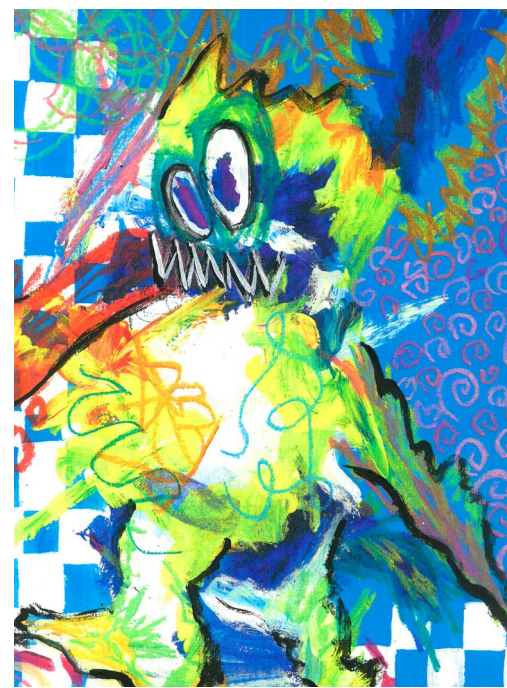
# University Destinations 2023



Year	Previous School	University Course	University	RIC Course	Previous School	University Course	University
Year 14	Maidstone Girls Grammar	Biomedical Science	Aberdeen	2 Year A level	Maths School	Chemical Engineering	Nottingham
Year 13 Transfer	N9, Ekaterinburg, Russia	Architecture	Bath	2 Year A level	Trinity School	Philosophy	Nottingham
Year 13 Transfer	The Broxbourne School	Wildlife Conservation	Bath Spa	2 Year A level	St Columba's, Bexleyheath	Financial Economics	Nottingham Trent
2 Year A level	St Clare's College, Oxford	Psychology	Birmingham City	2 Year A level	Wilmington Academy	Business	Nottingham Trent
Year 14	Eastbourne College	Accounting & Finance	Bournemouth	Year 13 Transfer	Rainham School For Girls	Business Management	Oxford Brookes
2 Year A level	Bethany School	Television Production	Bournemouth	2 year A level	Gad's Hill	Environment & Sustainability	Plymouth
Year 13 Transfer	Waterford Kamhalaba UWC	Biomedical Science	Brighton	2 Year A level	Taunton School	Hispanic Studies & Linguistics	Queen Mary, London
2 Year A level	King's Rochester	Psychology	Brighton	2 year A level	King's Rochester	Computer Science	Queen's, Belfast
Year 14	QE Grammar Faversham	English	Cambridge	2 Year A level	NAIS Hong Kong	Animation	Ravensbourne
2 Year A level	Wilmington Academy	Biomedical Science	Canterbury Christ Church	Year 13 Transfer	Benenden	Fashion Design	Ravensbourne
2 Year A level	Home Educated	Philosophy & Ethics	Chichester	2 year A level	Emerson Park Academy	Digital Film Production	Ravensbourne, London
2 Year A level	Exupery Int School, Latvia	Politics & Sociology	City, London	2 Year A level	Fulston Manor	Computer Science	Reading
2 Year A level	Darrick Wood School	Finance with Investment	Coventry	2 Year A level	Colegio Positivo, Brazil	Acting for Stage & Screen	Regent's, London
2 Year A level	Dean Close Secondary	Sociology	Essex	2 Year A level	Salesiani Cibali, Catania, Italy	Acting for Stage & Screen	Regent's, London
2 year A level	Liceo Valdemaro Vecchi, Italy	Digital Business & Tech	EU Business Sch, Barcelona	2 Year A level	Maidstone Grammar School	Business & Management	Royal Holloway
Year 14	Stonyhurst College	Art History & History	Exeter	2 Year A level	Lycee Louis Audouin, France	Psychology & Neuroscience	Royal Holloway
Year 13 Transfer	Lifeforte Int School, Nigeria	Law	Exeter	Year 13 Transfer	Louisville Girls School, Nigeria	Structural Eng & Architecture	Sheffield
2 Year A level	Judd School	Business & Environment	Exeter	Year 14	Maidstone Girls Grammar	Medicine	Sheffield
Year 13 Transfer	Staples High School, US	Philosophy & Theology	Exeter	2 Year A level	Pathways World, Aravali, India	Psychology	Skidmore College (US)
Year 14	Colegiul National, Bucharest	Film	Falmouth	Year 14	Harris Westminister	Social Anthropology	SOAS
2 Year A level	Meopham School	Marketing & Communication	Fashion Retail Academy	2 Year A level	St Petersburg Montessori	Social Sci, Arts & Humanities	SOAS
2 year A level	Home educated	International Hospitality	Gilon, Switzerland	Year 14	Norton Knatchbull School	Criminology	Southampton
2 Year A level	Mount Kelly School	Fine Art	Goldsmiths	Year 14	St Lawrence School	Biomedical Sciences	Southampton
2 year A level	Sutton Valence	Psychology	Herriot Watt, Dubai	2 Year A level	Earlscliffe	Basketball	212 Sports Academy (US)
Year 14	The Howard School	Biomedical & Healthcare	Hertfordshire	Year 14	Dartford Girls Grammar	Computing Science	Sussex
2 Year A level	Supreme Education, Nigeria	Computer Science	Howard University (US)	2 year A level	Newstead Woods School	Social Sciences	Sussex
2 Year A level	Maidstone Grammar School	Creative Music Production	ICMP	2 year A level	Chrisland College, Nigeria	Applied Medical Sciences	Swansea
Year 14	Bayside School, Gibraltar	Law with Spanish	Kent	Year 14	St Gregory's	Global Design Engineering	TEDI
Year 14	Mayfield Grammar School	Drama & Theatre	Kent	2 Year A level	Liceo Tito Lucrezio Caro, Italy	Global Governance	Tor Vergata Uni, Rome
2 Year A level	Orchard's Academy	Economics	Kent	2 Year A level	Instituto Francesco Datini, Italy	Textile Design	UAL : Central St Martins
2 Year A level	Ravenswood	Biology	Kent	2 Year A level	Sherborne International	Advertising	UAL : LCC
2 Year A level	Broomhill Bank School	Management & MFL	King's College	2 Year A level	Stanwell School, Penarth	Film Practice	UAL : LCC
2 Year A level	Queen Ethelburga's	Economics & Management	King's College	2 Year A level	Miri Piri Academy, India	Photojournalism	UAL : LCC
2 year A level	207, St Petersburg, Russia	Business Management	Kingston	2 Year A level	Gad's Hill	Acting & Performance	UCA
Year 13 Transfer	Bellerby's College London	Business & Management	Lancaster	Year 14	Home Educated	History of Art	UCL
2 Year A level	No.2 School Of East China	Mathematics	Lancaster	Year 14	Oakham School	Physics	UCL
Year 13 Transfer	Int School, Abuja, Nigeria	Electronic & Electrical Eng	Leeds	2 Year A level	Collegio S Carlo, Italy	Media Communication	Cattolica, Milan
Year 13 Transfer	Cardiff Sixth Form College	Applied Psychology	Leicester	Year 13 Transfer	Catholic High, Sarawak, Malaysia	Dentistry	Universitas Indonesia
2 Year A level	Scuora Europa, Milan, Italy	Business & Hospitality Mgmt	Les Roches, Switzerland	Year 13 Transfer	UWC, Singapore	Sociology	Uni of Amsterdam
2 Year A level	Lycee Athenee, Luxembourg	Graphic Design	Loughborough	Year 13 Transfer	CATS Canterbury	First Year Generic	Uni of Barcelona
Year 13 Transfer	Siss Secondary, Germany	Criminology	Loughborough	2 Year A level	Bellerby's College London	Architecture	Westminster
Year 14	Hundred Of Hoo Academy	Neuroscience & Psychology	Manchester	2 Year A level	Gravesend Boys Grammar	Psychology	Westminster
2 Year A level	Licuel De Arta, Romania	Fine Art	Minerva, Holland	2 Year A level	Clifford Int School, China	Digital Media	Westminster
Year 14	King's Canterbury	Medicine & Surgery	Newcastle	2 Year A level	King's Rochester	Sociology & Criminology	York
2 Year A level	Canterbury Academy	Multimedia Journalism	Northampton	2 Year A level	Bede's School	Psychology	York



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

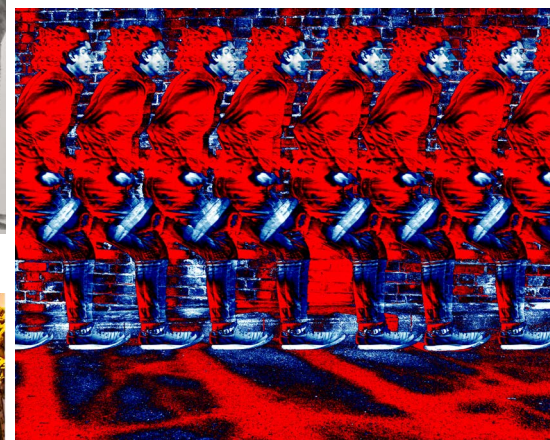


Vasilisa, A level Fine Art



Sarah, A level Fine Art

Polina, A level Fine Art



Zach, A level Photography



Filippo, A level Photography



Malachi, A level Fashion & Textiles

Andy, A level Fashion & Textiles

## RIC Film, Photography and Sports Stars



Congratulations to Andrei from Romania for winning first prize in the ISA Short Film competition for [Double Agent](#). Also to Vasilisa from Russia whose dance rotoscope animation Grilled Shark was highly commended in the Computer Arts category. Vasilisa also won first prize in the ISA Digital Arts competition.



Izu who is off to 212 Basketball Academy Florida is pictured here by his friend Malachi who for his ALevel personal project looked at HipHop fashion and culture and its lasting significance in today's society.



## Tardis of wonder

Dr Matthew McFall is an education consultant and practitioner with an interest in puzzles, games, mazes, labyrinths and escape rooms. He says: "Two words sum up what schools should do more of to raise achievement- cultivate wonderment." Inspired by this, and the idea of the cabinet of curiosity, we are transforming our garden Tardis into a wonder box of extraordinary things. Think weird artefacts from nature, the arts, science and history which will hopefully provoke some why what where when and how questions and a few wows. We'll be inviting prospective year 7 students to discover it when they visit for campus

tours. It might even be a fitting home for RIC's very own witch's bottle, dating we suspect from the 17th century. Witch bottles were countermagical 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's hard to imagine better provision for the artistically inclined." Good Schools Guide



Catri, A level Fine Art



Zander, A level Photography



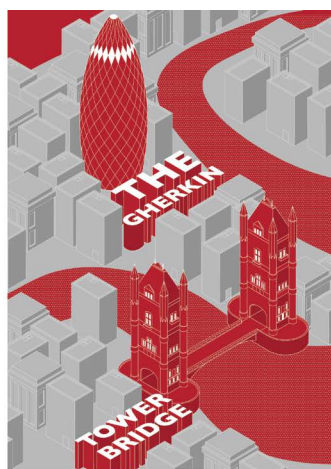
Jasmine, A level Fashion & Textiles



London's Landmarks

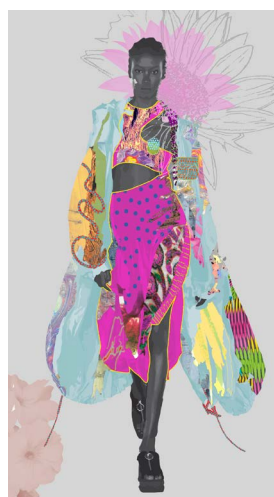


London's Landmarks



London's Landmarks

Jack, A level Graphic Design

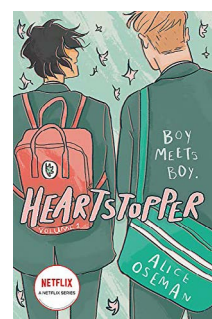


Aysa, A level Graphic Design



Oliver, A level Graphic Design

## From Heartstopper to Maus



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. Books suggested by

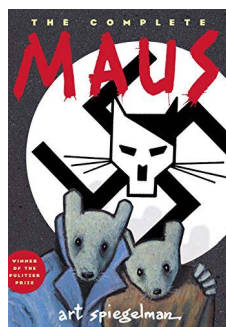
members of staff include His Dark Materials Trilogy from Danielle, Life of Pi from Yvonne, Jeanine Cummins's American Dirt from Carmel, One of Us Is Lying by Karen M McManus from Vici, Camus's

The Stranger from Kamila, The Virginian by Oscar Wister from Michael Daks and Varjak Paw by S F Said from Maeva.

With a policy of shopping locally RIC



books are sourced where possible from Rochester's Store 104 run by former student Libby. The High Street shop offers quality yarns, fine books and speciality coffee.



## Vee and Jude on Star Hill



RIC was pleased to welcome Vee Kativhu, the inspiring YouTube visionary, education activist and founder of the initiative, Empowered by Vee. She uses her platform to share tips and advice to help underprivileged and underrepresented people from across the world recognise their own talent and potential. An Oxford and Harvard graduate, Vee has been named a Rare Rising Star, Future Leader, Diversity Champion and LinkedIn Changemaker. She spoke to our students about her story and setting goals for 2023 and beyond.



Also visiting RIC was Jude Guaitamacchi. A trained PHSE educator, they were the face of Harrods H 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."

# Going places with RIC

## Lost in Translation



In Japan our sixth formers caught a Shinkansen or bullet train between Tokyo and Kyoto.

Ewan and Ivan measured 241 and 282 km/h respectively on their phones. We hung out with the Tiktokers of Harajuku, spotted the famous Shibuya cat and visited TeamLab Planets - a museum where you can walk through water and be in a garden becoming one with the flowers. We had a sunny walk to the Hokusai Museum admiring dramatic architecture, world famous woodcuts and gaining a fascinating insight into the life and works of Japanese ukiyo-e artist and a visit to OTO gallery for the 'How is Life' exhibition. It posed the question: How can architecture change society? Other highlights included Ueno Park, Asakusa Senso-ji Temple and seeing the northern lights from the plane window while reading Murakami on our return journey.



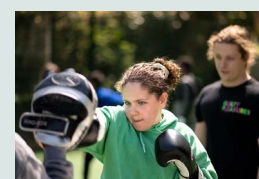
## Lost in France



After last year's trip to Cornwall, seventy two Lower School students and seven members of staff successfully arrived in France for the annual residential. Activities included a visit to The Musée de La Coupole and The Planetarium, exploring the Desvres Market and visiting Boulangerie d'Escoeuilles and L'Escargotiere du Choquel. Plus a bit of beach life in Boulogne where, in 1905, the world's first Esperanto congress was held. Esperanto is one of the few MFLs that are not taught here at RIC.

## Team RIC's Adventures in Sport

Occupying a small urban campus, RIC lacks the rolling playing fields and world class sports infrastructure characteristic of many independent schools. We show though how with a bit of imagination a school without Olympian facilities can offer outstanding sporting experiences, focussing on innovation and inclusion.



young, hungry and scrappy Flying Pigs football team is set to be resurrected this academic year! Our sports

leaders did an excellent job planning and leading at RIC's first ever Sports Festival. Congratulations to Harri, medallist in the British Fencing Open Championships 2023!



### Highlights this year included:

- 100% Year 7 & 8 students represented the college at a sports event.
- 91% KS3 students have competed for RIC.
- 111 students across the whole school have competed for the college.
- RIC students accessed 20 different sports through curriculum and extracurricular offer.
- We entered six Medway School Games competitions.
- Two National competitions entered.
- We've secured the School Games Mark Bronze Award.



We were shortlisted for the British Dodgeball Secondary School Awards 2023. We have links with local sports clubs - Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball club, Kent Crusaders Basketball, Olympia Boxing, Tornadoes Korfbal, Medway Rugby Club and Medway Sport which allows students to access sports coaching in and out of college. Our

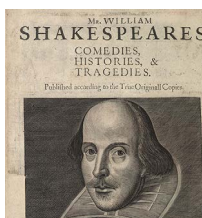
We reflect the international nature of RIC in our sports offer. During the year we've experienced a version of Danish Longball and Wing Chun Kung FU- a concept-based version of Southern Chinese kung fu and a close-quarters system of self-defence. Aesthetes rather than athletes or just the non-sporty refuseniks needn't worry though, there's also a lot on offer at RIC from chess to yoga, to life drawing, pottery to debating, as well as our film club and student led philosophy society.

Our Year 10 students enjoyed a trip to Stratford Upon Avon, learning about Shakespeare's legacy. Students also played the role of cryptographers at Bletchley Park, centre of Allied code breaking during WWII under Alan Turing.

Our Business Studies students went to Munich for the Globe Business School's Golden Ticket Weekend. RIC students took part in world class business simulations run by some of Germany's leading CEOs. Students also visited BMW and the stunning 1972 Olympic Park.



With London's theatreland on our doorstep we have some inspiring trips planned for our students this year including James Graham's Dear England, a state of the nation footballing hit, and a bit of Weimar decadence at the Kit Kat Club.





# Biophilia in the RIC gardens and beyond



home to Maths, Art and Yoga lessons. As part of her Central Saint Martins MA in Regenerative Design, Fran Baur, our Textiles teacher, has planted the seedlings for her dye garden from which natural dyes can be harvested. As this plot matures, it will become a learning resource for generations of textiles students to understand how to make fashion less fast and more sustainable.



introduction of Iron Age Pigs. This project gained international media attention when Leonardo di Caprio took to social media to share updates on the bison now roaming local woods. As part of the College's Sustainable Careers Month our Year 12 students attended a sustainable technology event at The Engineering and Design Institute, London. Students were introduced to innovative practices and designed and built their own wind turbines, looking at how they can reduce costs and promote sustainability.

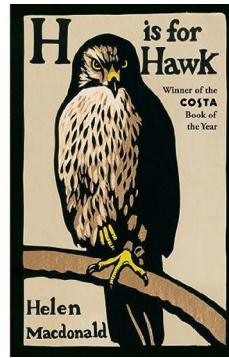
In 2024 we will launch the RIC Expedition, charting wildlife on the creeks, rivers and coastline of Kent as Darwin did in the Galapagos Islands. This will be undertaken



RIC's gardens won a Kent Wildlife Trust award in 2023 and are central to our sustainability vision. Leaving spaces for nature and wildness is crucial for carbon sequestration, and the gardens are our own contribution to that. They support a range of wildlife from bees to foxes. Frogs proliferate in our pond and dragonfly larvae pupate. We have a tall tree canopy, shorter mature fruit trees, including medlar, and are letting some hedgerow plants such as hawthorn and hazel flourish.



RIC won the Dukes Education Sustainability Award. Ellen Crozier, Vice Principal for Academics and Sustainability is pictured receiving the award with Chairman Aatif Hassan and Dara Ó Briain, the awards ceremony host at the Wembley Stadium Dukes Education Conference.



the climate emergency. We focus on fostering a love for the Kent countryside, maximising fieldwork opportunities to provide students with an understanding of, and the skills to protect, their local environment. Year 10 students visited Howletts Wildlife Park to connect our study of Romanticism and texts such as 'H is for Hawk' to natural life.

in an environmentally sustainable way, harnessing wind in a Thames Sailing barge for travel and learning the skills of the conservationist.



DofE is also flourishing at RIC thanks to Claire, Nadine and Nick. 182 hours of volunteering were completed by RIC DofE students with a societal value of £875. In the students' own words, highlights from the silver expedition were:

**"My navigation was on point."**  
**"Dieko is the MVP!"**  
**"I COMPLETED IT!"**  
**"It's home time now."**

**ISI** The contribution made by the garden to student welfare was recognised by the ISI: "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." Year 9 Ecology students spent time in the College gardens studying its ecosystems, mapping the sectors that affect the growth, health and diversity of species.



When we have built on the site we've always done so in a responsible way: our underground theatre benefited from low voltage electrical installation and modern construction techniques, combining to give the unique space a minimal carbon footprint. We're always thinking about innovative, environmentally conscious teaching spaces to inspire our community. New last year was a Geodesic Dome, the iconic structure imagined by polymath, sustainability and design pioneer Buckminster Fuller. Fuller perfected the mathematical ideas behind domes and hoped that their greater strength and space for minimum weight might be the future of housing. Our RIC Eden Project style garden dome is now



Students undertook the RIC Amphibian Conservation project on frog conservation in the school pond. Jack in Year 11 led the project, he works for the National Centre for Reptile Welfare. We tested 30 frogs for ranavirus as part of a study tracking the spread of the disease in UK amphibians. We volunteered monitoring the Nashenden Down site weekly to assess the biodiversity of vegetation prior to the

Applications are now open for the **RIC Sustainability Scholarship** 100% of tuition fees for students joining Year 7 in September 2024. This scholarship is for students who show a passion for nature, outstanding knowledge and understanding of the natural world and/or have taken action to help environmental sustainability.



# RIC Thai Ties



taught by teachers who are excellent in the subject. With the small class size, teachers were able to answer all questions and give constructive feedback. There was a weekly practice test to make us familiar with the exam style."

Former RIC and Thai scholar Suppaset, now studying Physics at Imperial, was chosen this year to receive a CIFE College award at the House of Lords. Lord Lexden presented students with their certificates and prizes over afternoon tea. While at Rochester Suppaset took part in the British Physics Olympiad and won a gold medal which placed him in the top 7% of 2,300 students.

Some of our Thai students combine in true RIC style academic and creative interests. Alongside her Science A levels Pawita also studied Fine Art and one of her paintings completed at RIC is pictured below. Another was presented to the Thai embassy in London.



Pawita was at RIC from 2011-13 and after her degree in Physics completed a PhD in Laser Cleaning of Artworks at Manchester. She is now a lecturer at Prince of Songkla University in Phuket and we are thrilled to see is still a practising artist.

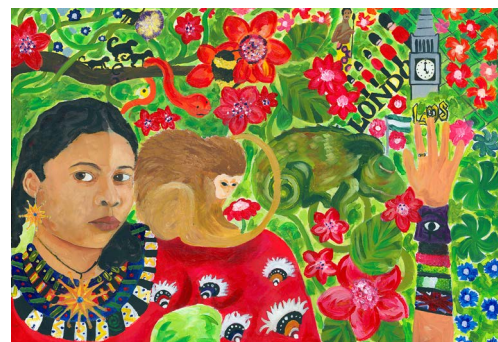
Since 1991 RIC has welcomed many outstanding young Thai academics who win prestigious places on a scholarship programme.

The Royal Thai government support the students through their A levels at RIC and then through top UK universities. The scholars return home, often after completing doctorates and work in senior positions for the Thai government or in academia. Four new scholars join us in 2023. Our scholars are also often accomplished artists, musicians and chess players.



Jiryayus (Gems), a Gold Medal winner in the International Mathematics Olympiad joined RIC in 2019 for a one year A level course and studied Maths at Trinity College, Cambridge. Gems says: "At RIC I was

## Third Culture Kids



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 is 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."

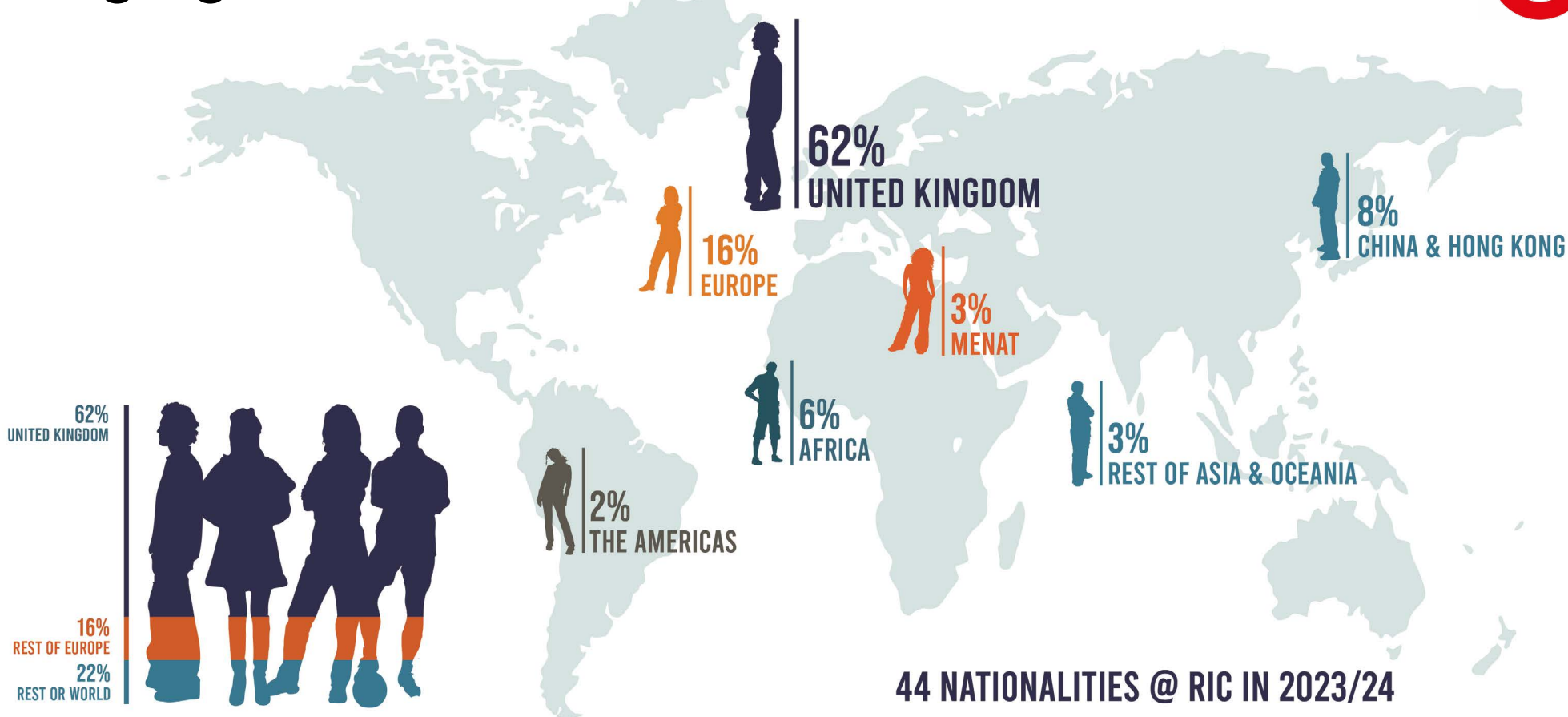
Also pictured is artist Catri who came to RIC from Sibiu in Romania and is now off to study Fine Art at Holland's Academie Minervain Groningen.

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

2022	Suppaset	Imperial College London	Physics
2021	Preeyaporn	University of Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
	Suankularb	University College London	Physics
	Nutthanon	University of East Anglia	Environmental Sciences
	Waritsara	University of Manchester	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
	Monai	University of Southampton	Geology
2020	Jiryayus	University of Cambridge	Mathematics
2019	Thanawitch	University of Oxford	Chemistry
2018	Warach	University of Cambridge	Mathematics
2017	Kiatmeta	University of Nottingham	Mathematical Physics
	Varit	University of Cambridge	Mathematics
	Adisorn	University of Oxford	Physics
	Pattaraporn	Queen Mary, London	Mathematics & Economics
	Pinphong	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
	Rapee	University of Southampton	Physics
	2016	Chotipan	University of Edinburgh
Natthikan		University College London	Pharmacy
Nonpawith		University College London	Biomedical Engineering
Rattana		University of Oxford	Mathematics
Chanathip		Brunel University	Physiotherapy
Sompob		University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Phattaraporn		University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Vit		University of Cambridge	Mathematics
Wipada		University of Dundee	Dentistry
Panawat		University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
2015	Anantachok	Imperial College London	Computer Science
	Jesada Maklai	University of Lancaster	Physics
	Adipol	University of Surrey	Physics
	Bannawit	University of Manchester	Physics
	Jiratheep	University of Oxford	Chemistry
2014	Prekamon	Imperial College London	Physics
	Methawi	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
	Peersak	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
2013	Kla	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
	Parinya	University of Manchester	Physics
	Pawita	University of Manchester	Physics
	Poon	Imperial College London	Mathematics
	Puthipong	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
	Saowalak	University of York	Biology
	Supanut	Imperial College London	Physics



# Bringing the world to Rochester



## 44 NATIONALITIES @ RIC IN 2023/24

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.

of subjects is very wide. During this school year I saw the kids always enthusiastic, motivated, I saw them mature quickly and develop interest in new subjects...a real success! As parents we felt an integral part of the school, always aware of everything,



always supported at any time... what else to ask?"

At RIC we welcome students from countries all over the world. Over the last few years



Brazil and Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Germany, Australia and the USA amongst many others. See our [Youtube channel](#) for our [boarding welcome video](#).



At RIC, we celebrate our international community with food nights throughout the year. 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 a trip this year to see the RSC’s stage version of My Neighbour Totoro. 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.

## Switch for Year 13 or One Year A levels



One of RIC’s top star students this year Kate had disappointing results at AS, switched to RIC, picked up a new subject from scratch and celebrated A\*A\*B in English Literature, Psychology and Biology as well as an extra A\* in Russian, her native language. Having won through to the Regional Final of the Schools’ Mace Debating Competition. Kate was one of a trio of RIC students who represented the College at Tonbridge School to argue in favour of 100% inheritance tax. Kate will study Psychology at her first choice, Leicester University.

A one-year A level programme saves time- and school fees-- over a two-year course and can lead to better university placements than foundation routes.



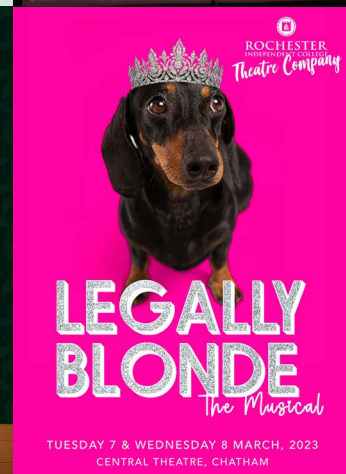
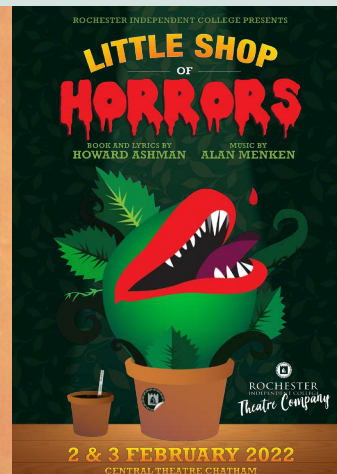
Angel joined RIC from Lifeforte International School in Oyo State, Nigeria for a one year A level course. She was one of our top performers of the year, securing AAB grades in Business Studies, Sociology and English Literature and a place to read Law at Exeter University. Students at RIC hail from some 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 one year A level programme with grades of A\*AA including Maths and Fine Art. She is now off to Bath to study Architecture. Pictured here with the RIC top dog Oscar.

## RIC’s got talent

Our international students are fully integrated in the life of the school. The lead in this year’s Legally Blonde show was Emma from Brazil who after a two year A level course with us is off to study Drama at Regent’s University, London. This year’s musical is, appropriately for Dickensian Rochester, Oliver.



# Thinking Differently Since 1984

## Kent's Non-Uniform Alternative is 40 Years Old


1984 was the year the first Apple computer went on sale, launched during the Super bowl by Ridley Scott's Orwell inspired advert. O levels and CSEs had yet to be scrapped and replaced by GCSEs. Students filled in UCCA and PCAS forms by hand rather than using UCAS online.

Being. Prince Philip visited Rochester to inspect the improved pedestrianised high street and Malcolm Morley won the first Turner Prize.

1984 was also the year that two inspiringly maverick Maths teachers, Brian Pain



The Smiths played at UKC. Martin Amis and Milan Kundera- who both died this year- published landmark novels in 1984- Money and The Unbearable Lightness of

and Simon de Belder, bought one terraced house on Rochester's Star Hill. Their small tuition centre, still known to many locally by its original name of Rochester Tutors, has grown into an ISC accredited independent day and boarding school with 380 students on roll from the age of 11. Now part of Dukes Education, the College mascot continues to be the ubiquitous Flying Pig. Discover more about RIC from our student, staff and parent ambassadors [here](#).  **The Ambassador Platform**



Find out more. Visit our virtual open house

# New RIC Northbank Campus for 2024

RIC is celebrating its 40th anniversary by opening its landmark Northbank campus, directly opposite the main College. It'll be home to The Gowers Visual Arts Centre, named after a much loved RIC Art teacher. The 48 en-suite student rooms will be clustered around a garden quadrangle. These carefully restored buildings will serve as a catalyst for urban regeneration and gateway to Chatham Intra: a cultural and creative quarter



studded with unique studios, galleries, restaurants and cafes hosting live music and comedy with a sprinkling of fashion and faith. Window galleries will feature changing art displays from students and the local community.



## Northbank



## Flier of the year



Jack joined from a local grammar school and is celebrating AAA in Maths, Computer Science and Physics. Jack took drone footage of "I Love RIC" cut into the crops with his combine harvester on his parents' farm. Jack says: "RIC has been such an incredible experience because of the way it values students and community." Jack will study Computer Science at Royal Holloway.

## RIC Radical Radio

Students have launched their own record label, 'Now That's What I Call RIC' and a Spotify podcast with sounds and captured voices from the soothing to the irritating and random. Meanwhile, student Luca's genre fluid film around the College features a range of teasing intertextual nods for cine-rat nerds and Indiana Jones's search for an elusive flying pig.



We will be opening our flying pig musical gates for a 40th anniversary garden party in July with former students, parents, staff and friends invited to return to the College and share memories.