



ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

A SAFE RETURN TO A SECURE CAMPUS

A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO
INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS



Given the situation, it's natural you will have questions or concerns that you might like advice on.

We're here to give you the certainty you need to take your next steps at Rochester with confidence.

We'll manage the arrival of international boarders in a proactive, caring and safe manner.



"Pupils feel very secure within the school and boarding environment and know how to stay safe."



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Coming to the College

Our welcome pack, including guidance about international travel and staying safe, will be issued to all students and families.

Arriving at the college – according to an agreed, staggered schedule. Students will arrive on campus before the start of term, from August 21st. Boarding staff will liaise with individual students about arrival dates. Collection from the airport and private car transfer will be arranged by the College, using one designated company who will be following safety guidelines.

We will offer our usual warm RIC welcome including a medical meeting with our College Nurse, Ammy Bjerkan.

A commercial swab test or swab and antigen test for Covid-19 will be taken. All our staff will have already been tested before any student arrives with us.

Results of Covid-19 test: once a negative test is confirmed students will be able to move between college buildings and meet friends whilst observing social distancing guidelines. Students will be advised to spend free time within the College's self-contained campus for the first two weeks of the new term. Should there be any positive Covid-19 test we will be fully prepared for it at any point throughout the academic year, by providing appropriate medical care for students whilst in supervised, self-isolation.



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Studying and living in the College

The College buildings will be 'deep cleaned' prior to the term starting.

Our cleaning team are being trained following the British Institute of Cleaning guidelines.



All classrooms, common areas and entry/exit doors etc will be cleaned regularly throughout the working day.

Students will be asked to keep their own personal spaces, eg desk, wardrobe, bookshelves etc in their bedrooms tidy so that our staff can clean all surfaces.

All our boarding students live in single rooms, some of which have private bathrooms.



“Boarders say that they are well cared for if they are unwell. Standards of cleanliness are good and the houses are well maintained. Rooms are cleaned daily.”



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Staff may wear perspex visors and disposable gloves if they wish when in any situation which puts them in closer contact with students and colleagues.

Where possible RIC will be sourcing eco-friendly PPE equipment.

Staff will be tested for Covid-19 before the start of term.

Students and staff may wear face coverings when in group situations.

Students and staff are expected to follow all guidance on social distancing and the college is introducing a number of circulation routes including one-way systems in order to facilitate this.

Students and staff are expected to follow all hygiene guidance with specific regard to regular handwashing. Sanitiser gel is widely available throughout the College.

Students and staff will be asked to be mindful of their temperature and anybody with any concern should report to the college nurse.

Students should report any symptoms of cough and/or fever to their house staff or college Nurse immediately.

Students are registered with the local GP shortly after arrival.



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Our boarding houses will remain open for international students over the October 2020, February and May 2021 half-terms as always. Should the need arise, due to travel restrictions, we we will remain open over the Christmas holidays.

Keeping fit and staying healthy is encouraged and students will have the use of our campus gym. The College will not organise or authorise student participation in contact sports until a relevant national body and/or UK government states that it is safe to do so.

College class/group trips will not take place until further notice. When they do resume all travel will be carefully risk assessed and public transport avoided where possible.

Students should follow all social distancing and infection mitigation guidelines when in the local community.

The College must be notified in advance (at least 24hrs) of potential visits by family, friends, guests and prospective students for these to be managed in a way which follows all necessary guidance and presents minimum risk to the college community. The College reserves the right to postpone a visit request.



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Private medical insurance - you cannot take out private healthcare insurance as an alternative to paying the health immigration surcharge (as a Tier 4 visa national) as this is a mandatory fee included as part of your visa application. It is a personal decision whether you also have private healthcare insurance. You may wish to consider this to cover the following potential health-related costs:

- Loss of fees if you are unable to complete your course
- Costs incurred returning to your home country for treatment
- Private medical treatment

If you already have medical insurance in your home country, you may wish to check whether this can be extended to cover your stay in the UK.

Our commitment is based on both the current and projected situations and may well change before September 2020 accordingly.



“The health and safety of students and staff are taken very seriously.”



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Potential delayed start to the first term (Sept 2020)

It is our strong intention to open the College at the start of term in September 2020. The gradual re-opening of national economies around the world is a positive sign, as is of course the re-opening of schools in England from 1 June 2020 through a staged process.

If the College was not authorised to re-open its boarding provision in September 2020, or we felt it too much of a risk to do so after seeking guidance from the relevant authorities and agencies, we would then offer RIC Without Walls from the start of the first term until a later physical start date, eg October/November 2020 or January 2021 which would see the physical resumption and delivery of a full A-level or GCSE course.

Application, acceptance and payment

We have always offered a very quick and straightforward admissions process for all applications to RIC. The admissions of international students is overseen personally by the Principal, Alistair Brownlow, who is always happy to talk to our consultant partners and individual students about their application. From the moment we receive a completed application form, all relevant supporting documentation, and the completed English test, we guarantee a decision within 2 working days. During which time we will mark tests, conduct an online interview via Skype or Zoom and review the whole application. We will then expedite a visa process where applicable using Newland Chase, a law firm specialising in student visa applications.

<https://www.education.newlandchase.com/>



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Invoicing

The invoice for registration fee and deposit is payable immediately after a place is accepted by the student's family.

The invoice for the first term is payable by 30/06/20 or no more than ten days after receiving the first term's invoice if registering after 30/06/20.

Start of the first term

Our published boarding induction and start date is 8 September 2020 (please see above ref a possible delayed start).

Flexible refund structure

1. If the College is physically open but a student cannot travel to the UK to start the term by 8 October due to one or more of the following circumstances:

- A student's own country bans or advises against international travel or travel to the UK specifically
- It becomes impossible to receive a visa (which allows at least up to six months' study) to arrive in the UK before 8 October 2020
- The UK closes its borders to international travellers

they can withdraw and receive a refund of the first term's fees and deposit or join the 'Intensive Course' in January 2021 (see below).



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2 . If the College cannot physically open then we will deliver RIC Without Walls. If a family pays the first term's invoice (which includes boarding and tuition) but that term is delivered online as the College cannot open, the difference in fees (the reduction for no boarding) will be credited to the second and third terms' invoices equally. If we deliver the first term online, the standard fee will be the tuition fee for the term minus 25%.

January 2021 start for Year 10 and Year 12 students

If a student elects to delay the start of their GCSE or A level course until January 2021 having previously registered to start in September 2020 and does not want to participate in RIC Without Walls from September-December 2020 (or part thereof) or they were unable to join the College by 8 October due to one or more of the circumstances listed above, they may delay their course start until the second term in January 2021.

They would then become an 'Intensive Course' student and as such would join additional subject lessons during the normal week throughout the following two terms and over the February, April and May school holiday periods (in residence at the College) in order to catch up on the work missed during the first term. They would then be charged 'Intensive Course' fees as published for the second and third terms (January – March 2021 and April - June 2021).

In the student's second year of study fees will revert to our standard Year 11 or Year 13 fees.



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BSA Covid Safe Charter

Rochester Independent College is adopting the Boarding Schools' Association ['Covid Safe Charter.'](#) The Charter confirms that we will be following all government guidance and rules as well as the additional requirements of the Charter with regard to student safety and welfare.





We look forward to meeting you online and welcoming you onto campus.

Until then please don't hesitate to get in touch.



TOGETHER WE'RE
EXTRAORDINARY



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