



# SIXTH FORM & BOARDING PROSPECTUS 2017/18



**ROCHESTER**  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE  
Day & Boarding School | Year 7 to 6th Form



**ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE COMBINES ACADEMIC RIGOUR WITH A CREATIVE BUZZ. GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE AWARD WINNER FOR MATHEMATICS, ENGLISH LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND FILM STUDIES TEACHING.**



- A level results 2017: 60% A\*-B. Top results from a mixed ability intake
- University destinations 2016 and 2017: 10 students to Oxbridge, 12 to Medicine & Dentistry
- 15% International, 85% UK students
- 35 mins from London St Pancras by high speed rail link 55 mins from Gatwick, 90 mins from Heathrow,
- Full campus boarding, no exeat weekends. Single room accommodation, some en-suite
- Flexible one year and two year A level and GCSE courses
- 40+ subjects available at A level with no subject combination restrictions
- Outstanding Mathematics and Science teaching – Thai scholars winning places at Oxbridge each year
- Superb Art and Design, Film, Media, Music, Music Technology and Digital Arts teaching.
- Transfer for Year 13 or restart Year 12 as well as two year A level courses
- Intensive short and retake course specialists. September, January and April start dates
- Average Class Size 8      • No uniform      • ISA and ISC Member School, established 1984
- Medical School Admissions Programmes with Dukes Medical Applications

**“ We send our best students who have all been awarded Thai Government Scholarships to RIC with the expectation that they will all be taught to the highest standard and be well looked after. Many of them go on to Oxford, Cambridge, UCL and Imperial. Whenever we contact RIC they are very helpful, deal with any issues promptly and the students appreciate the excellent education they receive.”** OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS, THE ROYAL THAI EMBASSY, LONDON





High performing and non-selective

**“The top five university destinations are Leeds, Nottingham, Sussex, Cambridge and Imperial. Two RIC students have won places on the prestigious Fine Art degree course at UCL’s The Slade School.”** GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

At RIC an average class size of eight allows excellent teachers to create an enjoyable and supportive learning environment.

Students come to us from all over the UK and the world as well as the local area. We are small enough to get to know everyone really well. There is no uniform, no bells ring and everybody is on first name terms. Our only entrance qualification is an honest determination to work hard.

Students enjoy being here and are treated as young adults. We encourage them to search for their own answers, to voice their opinions, to think critically, creatively and independently. They leave not only with excellent examination results but with enthusiasm for the future and new confidence about themselves and their education.

As part of the Dukes Education Group, RIC students benefit from market leading university admissions expertise, including specialists in Oxbridge, Ivy League, Russell Group and competitive courses like Medicine and Law.

**“The teaching at Rochester is rigorous and tailored to the best possible exam results. It offers a broad education combining its original focus on getting students into competitive courses such as medicine and dentistry with a new emphasis on the creative arts.”** THE INDEPENDENT

[www.rochester-college.org](http://www.rochester-college.org)





**“I learnt self-discipline and to organise myself. I enjoyed the international feel of the College, experiencing other cultures, the intensive accumulation of knowledge, breakfast on the weekend and the lovely staff.”** TAL HENKE, NOW AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY STUDYING PHYSICS

Up to 90 of the 300 students at the College are boarders. Our Halls combine the informality of a university residence with the supervision and pastoral support appropriate for young adults.

Boarders at Rochester are predominately from the UK but include international students looking to gain entry to top UK universities. We welcome many British students from elsewhere in the UK or whose parents are in the armed forces or based overseas as expatriate workers.

All College accommodation is on site and students do not have to travel between teaching buildings and accommodation. Staff live in each of the College Halls to provide care, supervision and evening homework help. The College Nurse oversees student welfare.

All rooms are single and have a high speed wireless internet connection. Some have en-suite facilities. Within the Halls of Residence there are areas for socialising, watching TV, playing table tennis, board games, watching films on a cinema screen, working quietly in study rooms or on computers. Boarders enjoy the use of a gym and all weather sports pitch. Local leisure facilities include swimming pools and tennis courts. For students who choose to stay over the weekends there is a full activities programme. There are no exeat weekends and students are able to stay in boarding at half terms and over Easter.

**“The campus is as unique as the school.”** GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



One and two year GCSE courses

**“This informal, diverse environment sits happily with academic achievement. GCSE and A level results are consistently impressive. Each year students gain entrance to many top universities, pursuing courses from veterinary science to criminology! RIC provides an ideal environment for the smooth transition to higher education – it really is a university for children.”** ME19 MAGAZINE

Rochester Independent College has the widest range of GCSE choices in Kent. We only offer IGCSE and GCSE courses as these qualifications are the best preparation for sixth form study and carry more weight with employers and universities. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught at International GCSE level for those aiming to study Sciences at A level. Many RIC students have become successful doctors and dentists.

Drawing on the considerable expertise and enthusiasm of RIC teachers, students also have the opportunity to study a range of creative subjects such as Film Studies, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design and Photography. Regular testing and examination practice ensures students and their parents can see rapid progress. Students can be accelerated and take GCSE and A level exams as and when they are ready to do so.

Students joining the College directly into Year 11 for a one year course from other schools are often doing so to enhance their GCSE grade prospects. One Year GCSE programmes are also suitable for international students new to the UK system, students who need to move schools due to family circumstances such as relocation and those needing to retake GCSEs after disappointing results first time round.

**“My wife and I left RIC after our visit convinced it was the right move for our daughter. In fact, it's the kind of school we both would have loved to have gone to ourselves.”** CURRENT PARENTS



**“The tutors teach imaginatively and energetically and give freely of their time; the students are challenged, stimulated, supported and guided towards examination success and university entrance. The enthusiastic response of our students - and their exam results - testifies to the success of our approach.”** DR TODD DEDMAN, HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Sixth form should be the most exciting years of secondary education and many switch schools to help prepare for university.

Rochester Independent College’s sixth form offers a distinctive alternative to a conventional school sixth form and a stepping stone between school and university. Small classes lead to a far more active involvement by students and almost inevitably to excellent results. The College has a uniquely flexible timetable and there are no restrictions on subject combinations.

The informality of the sixth form is underpinned by high quality pastoral care, an emphasis on hard work and examination practice and a supportive network of Personal Tutors.

The best grades at A level in core academic subjects remain an excellent passport to higher education. As a result our university destinations list is dominated each year by entries to the older and more prestigious universities. We are one of the largest private school sixth forms in Kent and our expertise in advising students and guiding them through their applications is unmatched.

**“Going to Rochester Independent College for A levels was like going to university before actually getting there.”** DAVID THORNTHWAITE, FORMER STUDENT AND CURRENT HEAD OF ENGLISH



**“This is just to say a very big ‘thank you’ to all of my son’s tutors for your superb guidance, expert management of the application for Law, unfailing kindness, patience and brilliant teaching. You taught him to think properly, to write clearly and fulfilled every promise you made to us.”**

FORMER PARENT

Classes are characterised by the enthusiastic engagement of both students and teachers in the learning process. Students sit around tables, tutorial style. There is no back of the class. Our teachers thoroughly prepare students for their exams but also inspire in them a thirst for learning for its own sake rather than just narrowly prescriptive examination specifications.

Students take regular formal tests, keeping them on target. Problems are dealt with immediately. Teaching and pastoral staff are proactive, identifying where students are having difficulties and offering practical help, solutions and encouragement.

Overseas students are carefully supported and well integrated. If required they receive intensive English language support.

Tutors file regular reports and these are emailed to parents giving constant feedback. The College operates an ‘open door’ policy and parents feel free to come and see or telephone Personal Tutors to discuss any issue concerning them.

**“Parents all speak highly of the pastoral care and the growth in confidence they have witnessed in their children.”** GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



**“The grounds and gardens, partly developed by the students, provide a valuable resource. Students appreciate the on-site college fitness suite and games court, which they use in non-contact time and after the end of the day.” ISI INSPECTION REPORT**

At the heart of a designated conservation area the College occupies a historically distinctive site. Mostly listed buildings linked by award winning wildlife gardens create a unique sense of place to explore and in which to study and work. Modern teaching accommodation is furnished to the highest possible standard while retaining many original Georgian features.

A landmark pair of steel sculptural gates forms a unique on campus musical instrument. The centres of the College are the two busy refectories, ‘Piglet’s Pantry’ for the Lower School in New Road House and ‘Chesters’ in Star Hill for sixth form day and boarding students. All food is freshly prepared on the premises by our own team of chefs. 90 boarders are accommodated on site and some rooms have en-suite facilities.

Underhill Hall is home for RIC Drama with seating for 100 people. The copper canopied roof transforms into an open-air auditorium with productions from visiting theatre companies and students.

The College has first class ICT facilities for student use. The network is primarily PC based but there are Apple Mac suites for Music Technology and Media. There are subject specific academic libraries and a fully equipped photographic studio and dark room.

The College has two cinema rooms equipped with state of the art digital projection facilities and surround sound, student common rooms, fully equipped science laboratories, a drama studio and a large examination and performance hall. In the grounds is our fitness gym and an all weather sports pitch.



**“It’s a place for individuals. The students are a strikingly nice bunch and there’s a lovely air of tolerance and warmth.”** GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

The College is a busy and lively community and there is always lots going on outside of lesson times. Both residential and day students enjoy a range of weekend and evening extra curricular activities.

The world famous galleries, theatres and cinemas in London are a short train journey away and provide many an enjoyable day or evening.

Opportunities are provided at the College for students to develop self reliance, show initiative and take responsibility, for example as student representatives, organising music, entertainment, dance and sporting events.

Resident students organise national days when they provide samples of their home cuisine for everyone to try. Regular parties, barbecues, garden festivals and entertainment evenings give students and staff a chance to get to know each other outside the classroom.

Students have the opportunity to participate in schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and World Challenge and there is a College rugby team. There is a gardening club using the onsite allotments, a film club and an expedition and navigation club. Students also have the opportunity to crew the College’s Thames Sailing Barge, the Lady of the Lea.

**“The programme of activities and trips after the college day is excellent, including academic workshops and visits to theatres and art exhibitions. These opportunities enrich students’ experiences and are greatly valued by them.”** ISC INSPECTION REPORT



**“In the money section of the Sunday Times a celebrity is asked each week a series of questions about his finances. One question is 'what would you say was your best ever investment?' If my wife and I were asked that question we would say sending both our kids to Rochester Independent College.” FORMER PARENTS**

**Tuition Fees** (UK and EEA)

Years 7-9	£12,300 per year (including lunch)
Years 10-11	£16,400 per year (including lunch)
Years 12-13	£17,500 per year
Entry into years 11 or 13	£18,400
GCSE retake courses	£18,400
A level retake courses	£18,400

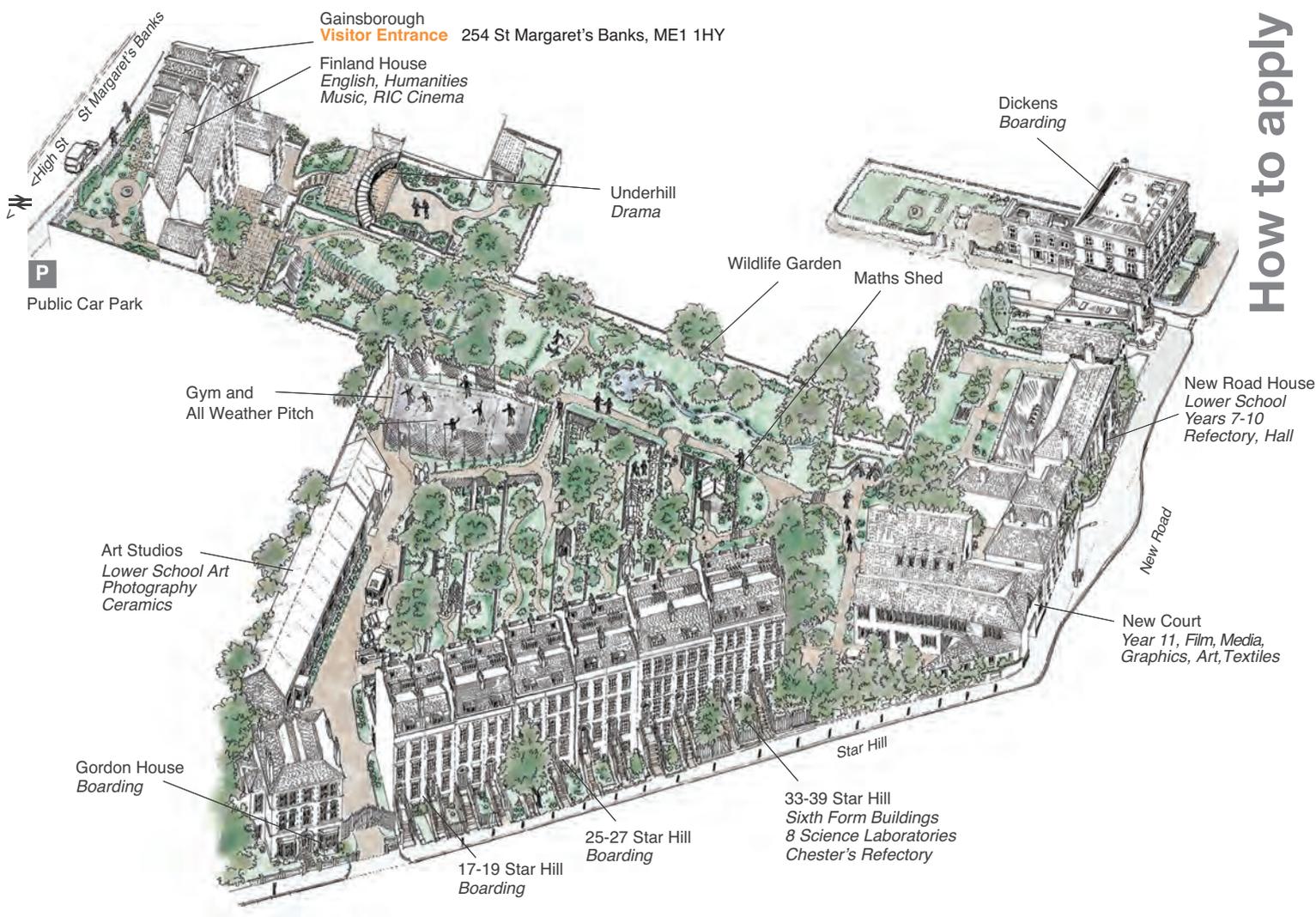
**Tuition Fees** (Non EEA)

2 year A level programme	£21,500
1 year A level programme	£22,500
1 year GCSE programme	£22,500
2 year GCSE programme	£18,500
Year 7-9 programme (non residential)	£15,000

**Boarding Fees**

Full boarding	£13,200 per year
Weekly boarding	£11,400 per year

*Please note: Tuition and boarding fees are required for boarding students.*



## How to apply

### UK students

Whenever possible, all students should visit the College for an informal interview together with a parent or guardian. Preferably this should be arranged in term time so there is an opportunity to meet teachers, see lessons in progress and get a real feel for how the College works. Reports and references are always requested from previous schools. We are flexible enough to be able to enrol students right through the academic year and so can often help when students are forced to change schools at short notice and in uniquely difficult educational situations. Direct entry into any year group at any point in the academic year is possible. Rochester Independent College is accredited by the ISC (Independent Schools Council) and a member of the ISA (Independent Schools Association).

### International students:

Please send the following

- Completed and signed application form
- 2 recent passport-size photographs of the student
- Photocopy of student's IELTS certificate or equivalent English language test result
- Photocopy of student's most recent academic transcripts/reports/results (officially translated)
- A letter of recommendation from the previous school(s) if possible
- A personal statement explaining why you would like to study in the UK (within 250 words)
- Photocopy of student's passport and all valid visas

Please e-mail scanned copies of the documents listed above with this completed application form to Maeva Elliott, Assistant Head of Boarding and Admissions. [admissions@rochester-college.org](mailto:admissions@rochester-college.org)

**"The focus at Rochester is on the best possible exam results."** THE INDEPENDENT