



# The Richmond upon Thames School

Excellence Through Endeavour





**The core beliefs that drive the culture and ethos of our school are:**

- Aspirations matter
- There is no substitute for exceptional teaching
- Intelligence is not fixed
- Parents/Carers make a difference
- We need strong partnerships to succeed

## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

**It is a great honour to be the Head Teacher of The Richmond upon Thames School (RTS).**

RTS was established from a desire to do the ordinary differently and to serve its local community, two pillars which underpin our philosophy and vision.

**RTS is part of the Richmond upon Thames School Trust a multi-academy trust whose corporate members are Harlequins FC, Haymarket Media Group, the National Physical Laboratory and Richmond upon Thames College.**

Our core business is student achievement, and I believe that inspirational teaching, an engaging and challenging curriculum and a safe environment where children can take risks with their learning, result in all students thriving and realising their potential. Our curriculum is in many respects very traditional and focuses on the cornerstones of education, literacy and numeracy.

Each student uses iPad technology in lessons and working closely with our partners, we provide additional opportunities in digital technology and communication, enterprise and sport and healthy lifestyles.

Our extended school days ensures all students can participate in a broad and exciting assortment of creative, musical, sporting, linguistic and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) opportunities.

Our aim is for every child to leave RTS having achieved beyond what they ever thought was possible and ready to make a positive contribution to society. We have always prided ourselves on taking an innovative approach to education, serving our local community, and doing the ordinary differently. We are thrilled about a transformational partnership between ourselves, Richmond upon Thames College, and the wider HRUC group of colleges. With the introduction of RTS Sixth Form Plus, we will offer our students a seamless transition to post-16 education.

As Head Teacher, I focus on continually encouraging our dedicated and talented staff to develop their teaching, to feed their passion for education, to grow in responsibility, and like the students, strive for excellence.

We communicate our core beliefs as six guiding values:

- Community
- Participation
- Confidence
- Readiness
- Kindness
- The power of effort

We strive to ensure that all students are valued as individuals, who are recognised for their talents, fully included within the school community and provided with every opportunity to achieve 'excellence'.

We expect all students to emerge as confident, resilient individuals, who can build positive relationships and demonstrate commitment in everything they do.

# HISTORY OF RTS

**2013** - Richmond upon Thames College, Haymarket Media Group, Harlequins, Clarendon School, Waldegrave School, Richmond Council and Achieving for Children create an exciting Education and Enterprise Campus on the existing Richmond upon Thames College site on Egerton Road in Twickenham.

**2014** - The Department for Education approved the Richmond upon Thames School Trust to establish a new co-educational, non-selective and non-faith-based school for 11 to 16 year-olds.

**2016** - The RTS Trust achieved full planning permission for the school's permanent accommodation on Egerton Road



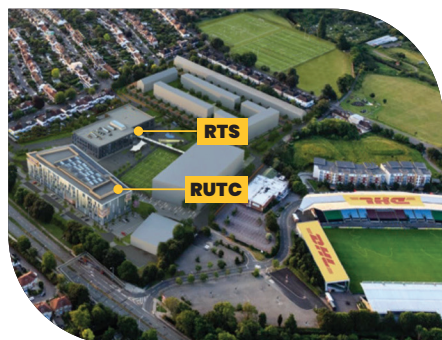
**2017** - The inaugural RTS Y7 student cohort

**2022** - The inaugural RTS Y11 student cohort

## THE CAMPUS

**The Campus aims to provide a new innovative cross-phase education campus bringing together mainstream and special secondary education and further and higher education working in partnership with Haymarket, their partners.**

The co-location of RTS with the Richmond upon Thames College naturally enables exciting possibilities for collaboration, integration, delivering Harlequins Education with developing skills for work experience and employment.



### Members

#### Harlequins

Harlequins Foundation brings together charitable activity delivered by Harlequins FC in order to give the next generation a better chance in life.

#### Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges

HRUC offer a broad and innovative curriculum for people aged 16+; courses include A Levels and an extensive range of vocational and technical qualifications (diplomas/certificates) and apprenticeships.

#### Haymarket Media

Haymarket Media Group is a global media and information company, based in Richmond upon Thames borough, managing over 70 multi-platform brands.

#### National Physical Laboratory

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is the national measurement standards laboratory of the United Kingdom. It is one of the most extensive government laboratories in the UK and has a prestigious reputation for its role in setting and maintaining physical standards for British industry.



## CURRICULUM

**We are an inclusive school and all students are stretched and challenged to exceed their personal best. To secure every child's academic success and independence, they experience demanding teaching.**

Our approaches ensure that all teaching fosters students' critical thinking and engagement in sophisticated concepts. While our curriculum is in many ways very traditional, we aim to take an enterprising approach to its design, capitalising on innovative applications of digital technologies and partnership agreements.

Our extended day allows us to ensure students benefit from rich and varied learning experiences. All students study a broad range of subjects including Art, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, a Modern

Foreign Language, Music, PE, PSHE Education, RE and Science.

Homework activities are directed to students via their iPad Google Classroom and their student planners. Students who prefer to complete their homework tasks at school are offered a study space in the ILZ (independent learning zone) before school, break and lunchtime and at Homework Club.

### ENRICHMENT FOR ALL

At RTS, learning extends far beyond the walls of the classroom, from explorations of Kew Gardens for Science Week to trips to theatres, galleries, masterclasses with commercial industry leaders, projects with universities and weekend camping trips. As a technologically aware school, all of our students use their school iPads to access cloud-based



classrooms for each of their subjects where they make use of resources from lessons and work through independent extension activities.

Through our best endeavours, we strive to prepare our students for the next stages of their lives. We do this through a combination of methods, including PSHE Education, Academic Tutor-led Citizenship, through assemblies, presentations, employer visits, seminars, masterclasses, workshops, drop down days and 1:1 sessions.

Peripatetic teachers offer optional paid 1:1 and small group music tuition through the Richmond Music Trust. We also compete in sporting tournaments against other schools and hold an annual sports day which links to our house system.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring that the learning experience supports all of our students to develop to their full potential. We recognise that some students may have particular strengths, whether academic, musical, artistic or sporting and that others

require support with special educational needs or disabilities.

To support all students our dedicated staff work together to ensure no student is left behind and we do this by providing stimulating, engaging learning experiences delivered by excellent teachers.

### **CHALLENGE FOR ALL**

Students are given a variety of challenge tasks to access and are directed to the most appropriate one. Over time, students develop skills to help them to choose the most appropriate task depending on the stage of their learning journey. They are usually very good at choosing wisely and avoid picking the easy option, but the teacher is always there to guide them to the most appropriate option.

This strategy allows all students to access different levels of challenge and does not limit student potential by categorising or labelling students according to their prior attainment.





## WELLBEING

**RTS is fully inclusive and devoted to our students' success. Our pastoral care is structured to support the high levels of motivation and curiosity we aspire to for our students.**

A strong pastoral system underpins our core curriculum. From Year 7, our programme supports students to realise their ambitions. We nurture students to become confident, active and responsible adults who can and want to make a difference to wider society.

Students are placed in one of five form groups

and in a House. Each academic tutor group is led by an Academic Tutor who is the primary contact for parents/carers.

**The wider and pastoral curriculum consists of:**

- Assemblies
- Academic Tutor programme
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE Education)
- Preparation Time (Prep)
- Enrichment

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS' WELLBEING STEPS

#### **Academic tutor**

Students are placed in an academic tutor group and meet daily with their tutor.

#### **Attendance and Welfare Officer**

Student attendance is monitored daily by our attendance officer. Should a student's attendance drop beneath 96% then the school will begin to monitor the student closely sending letters home and working with the Education Welfare Service (EWS).

#### **Head of Year**

Each year group has a designated Head of Year who monitors student wellbeing, attendance, and behaviour for learning.

#### **Learning Mentor**

If a student requires further support to be able to engage with their learning the school is able to refer to our learning mentor programme.


#### **Children's Welfare Practitioner (CWP)**

The CWP programme provides further in school support from an NHS mental health nurse, targeting low mood and anxiety.

#### **SPA referral**

Should the school or parents/carers feel that more support is required then the school can complete a SPA referral form to Achieving for Children (AfC).





"Pupils enjoy their learning and they behave well in and out of their lessons"

**Ofsted**



# TRANSITION

**We work closely with our parents to ensure that every child achieves their very best, in a happy, caring, calm and purposeful learning environment.**

We have a comprehensive transition programme - with a variety of events planned over the coming months.

Our transition programme ensures that our newest students already feel a part of the RTS community before officially joining us.

## ONE TO ONE DEVICE SCHEME

You will be contacted directly by the Finance Department regarding the iPad Scheme.

If your child is on Free School Meals, please contact our Finance Team via email to discuss sign up.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS' WELLBEING STEPS

Activity	Date
National Offers Day	01 March
New Intake Evening	March
SENDCo and Head of Year introductory sessions to Primary Schools	June and July
New Year 6-7 Transition Parent's Evening	June
Student CAT (assessments)	June
Student Transition Day	First Monday in July
Training Sessions (Netball/Rugby)	September



“Reading is a priority in this school. Leaders have given dedicated time for pupils to read with teachers and develop a lifelong love of reading. Teachers are role models and they all read with the pupils”

**Ofsted**





## ENRICHMENT

**In Years 7, 8 and 9, students elect two enrichment options, which they change termly.**

Enrichment takes place twice a week and students are given a range of options including cooking workshops, 3-D model making, musical and artistic opportunities including the RTS School Production, dissection, embroidery, and a range of sports including boxing, fitness and rugby.

In Year 10, students receive an Enrichment and Prep programme focusing on their future life skills, such as managing money, healthy living, preparing for Post-16 and exploring career paths.

**Students will have opportunities to:**

- Join and compete in science and linguistics societies
- Collaborate on real-life environmental problem-solving scenarios, and be advocates for a greener, more sustainable future.
- Build their resilience, creativity and intellectual curiosity through the application of maths and visual arts to respond to abstract ideas.
- Work in close collaboration with sporting partners to access the highest quality sports coaching.
- Participate in musical, dance and drama performance.
- Fully utilise opportunities personal development programmes such as The Duke of Edinburgh.
- Improve their well-being by participating in a range of sporting enrichment opportunities alongside fitness and mindfulness.





## RTS HOUSES

**Our House system creates a strong community ethos and belonging, where students come together to compete in inter-house competitions and celebrate their achievements and efforts.**

We want your child to be happy, participate and make a contribution in lessons and thrive in the wider life of the school.

The RTS House system will offer your child opportunities to take part in sporting, creative and academic challenges alongside developing their leadership skills. Your child will be placed in one of our five houses, named after inspirational figures that were chosen by the founding students; Anderson, Berners-Lee, Madiba, Shakespeare and Stoop. We are looking forward to working with the RTS student body to create a brand new house.

Every student in Years 7 – 11 wears a tie denoting the colour of their house and helps to generate a sense of house identity within the school community. Our House Systems provide enhanced opportunities for every student to access a full range of experiences which in doing so will enable them to develop into

responsible adults equipped to take their place in society.

**House Anderson** is named after Elizabeth Garrett Anderson who was the first woman to qualify in Britain as a physician and surgeon.



**House Berners Lee** is named after Sir Tim Berners-Lee who is the inventor of the World Wide Web.



**House Madiba** is named after Nelson Mandela who was elected the first black Head of State in South Africa.



**House Shakespeare** is named after William Shakespeare who is regarded as the greatest writer in the English language.



**House Stoop** is named after the home ground of Harlequins Rugby Club.





## SIXTH FORM PLUS

**Transitioning from secondary school to post-16 education can be a daunting experience. At RTS Sixth Form Plus, we eliminate this stress by providing a seamless educational pathway.**

A unique partnership between RTS and Richmond upon Thames College which offers the opportunity to continue your educational journey without switching institutions; ensuring a smooth transition

**RTS Sixth Form Plus will offer new learning, new challenges, new prospects**

- Bespoke Pastoral Care - each student is assigned a dedicated academic tutor who has known them since Y11
- Destination Post-18 - preparing you for your next steps : university, apprenticeship, employment, travel,
- Skills & Goodwill - training and opportunities to develop transferable skills and offer initiatives for community work and fundraising.



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### Admissions queries:

**Email:** [admissions@rts.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@rts.richmond.sch.uk)

### The School Office is open:

Monday-Thursday 08:15-16:30

Friday 08:15-15:00

**Email:** [info@rts.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@rts.richmond.sch.uk)

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### Members



HARLEQUINS



National Physical Laboratory



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