



WELCOME TO OUR

VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

GUIDEBOOK

GROW WITH US

We plant a tree for every new pupil

NAVIGATING SUCCESS SINCE 1712

The Royal Hospital School (RHS) is set in two hundred acres of rolling Suffolk countryside overlooking the Stour Estuary and within an hour of London. It is a leading independent, co-educational boarding and day school providing a full and broad education that encourages children to discover a real passion for life.

Inspiring pupils to have the courage to be ambitious alongside a commitment to pursue whichever path they choose, RHS challenges pupils of all academic abilities, steering them to look beyond the classroom and to approach life with an open and receptive mind. It is through thinking creatively and taking initiative that they discover their influence, strengths and ambitions whilst establishing the skills they need to pursue purposeful and fulfilling lives.

It is this focus on personal challenge and individual guidance that enables RHS pupils to develop into self-reliant, socially responsible adults with enviable open-mindedness and resilience.





DEAR PARENTS,

Thank you for joining us today and I hope that you enjoy your virtual visit to the Royal Hospital School. These are extraordinary times and I have been enormously proud of pupils and staff at RHS as they have adapted and responded to our remote learning programme. Whilst we hope to give you a flavour of the wonderful facilities and opportunities available to pupils at RHS, I very much hope you will visit us in person, once school resumes, so that you are able to fully appreciate this remarkable school and our unique ethos. Please do contact the Admissions Office to make an appointment for a private visit or book a place on one of our Open Mornings in the autumn term.

I look forward to meeting you personally in the near future.



**SIMON LOCKYER,
HEADMASTER**

FRONT OF SCHOOL

The Royal Hospital School was founded in 1712 in Greenwich, London, to 'improve navigation through education' and many of its pupils went on to become explorers and pioneers of their time.

Since then, over 10,000 children have become part of our community in Holbrook. In front of the school, you can see the flagpole. Every morning and afternoon, pupils take turns to hoist or lower the flag accompanied by a bugle call. It is one of many of the traditions that we owe to our Naval heritage.



RECEPTION

Our reception is another area of the school that reflects our pride in our Naval heritage – the paintings and artefacts tell the story of a seafaring nation, but you'll also see artwork created by current pupils which changes regularly.

Our school's traditional values of loyalty, commitment and courage together with respect, service and integrity have underpinned the school's aims and philosophy from the very beginning, and they are as relevant to the education we provide today as they were when we were founded.



ASSEMBLY HALL

Our Assembly Hall is a wonderfully versatile space which we use for all sorts of different occasions - from the Headmaster's Assembly on Mondays to a theatre with tiered seating, a concert hall or a venue for events such as our annual Burns Night ceilidh. Our drama department also put on plays and the Assembly Hall is the perfect location for our house drama and singing competitions too.



THE SOUTH TERRACE

The South Terrace provides an amazing view of the River Stour estuary – a haven for wildlife and a recognised Site of Special Scientific Interest.

From here you can also see our classroom block, the parade ground and beyond that our 96 acres of sports fields which are used for rugby, cricket, athletics and football.

Our Year 13 pupils traditionally have breakfast on the terrace on their very last day at school and families and our wider community gather here to watch the events that take place on the Parade Ground seven times a year.



PARADE GROUND

Our full-sized Parade Ground is another reflection of our Naval heritage. Seven times a year on days such as Remembrance Sunday and Speech Day, the whole school, led by the Royal Hospital School's marching band, takes part in a parade known as Divisions.

These are always moving and awe-inspiring and whilst it may sound a little unusual, our pupils develop a great sense of pride in getting ready and turning out for their Houses on these occasions.

To the front of the Parade Ground is the prow of a ship complete with the RHS figurehead who is called Fame.



DINING HALL

Food is an important part of life at RHS and the whole school comes together for meals seven days a week throughout term time. We offer a huge choice including menus that reflect all tastes and diets to encompass both our international pupils and a range of dietary needs. We serve a three-course meal at lunchtime for all our pupils and our boarders enjoy a full breakfast and supper.

Christmas dinner is a highlight of the year when our band is present to play carols during the meal and Father Christmas appears on the Dining Hall balcony.

The spectacular paintings on the walls depict the Admirals after whom each of our Houses are named.



CHAPEL

Our impressive Chapel seats over 1200 people and is where everyone joins together two or three times a week. The school is renowned for its tradition of singing and when the whole school sings in unison, their voices raise the roof, known as the Holbrook Sound.

The 80-strong Chapel choir puts on incredible and varied performances of sacred and secular music and the school regularly host events here which members of the public are welcome to attend.

A Christian ethos has been sustained since the school's foundation and throughout its 300-year history. We welcome pupils from a range of faiths and provide our pupils with the chance to learn about these as part of our curriculum. The School Chaplain is also a teacher and lives on site as many of our teachers do.



CLASSROOM

Whilst the school may seem huge at first, the classrooms are laid out in a logical way so it's quite easy to find your way around. Many of the classrooms have been refurbished in the last few years and thanks to the Royal Hospital School's location, have stunning sea views and wonderful natural light.

All our pupils in Years 7 to 11 are provided with a school iPad for educational purposes through a lease scheme. The school was an early adopter of technology and teachers and pupils use their iPads to enhance their learning experience and help with work flows as well as sharing work.

As an EdTech 50 school, we are one of the top schools in the UK when it comes to incorporating technology in education.



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For more information contact the **Admissions Team**

THE READE MUSIC SCHOOL

Our state-of-the-art Music School offers pupils the chance to experience every genre of music from rock and pop to classical and jazz. Our own staff, together with outside music teachers, teach over 20 different instruments to more than 400 pupils each week and the school boasts a symphony orchestra, an 80-piece marching band, produces operas, holds Gig Nights for our home-grown rock and pop bands, jazz concerts and everything in between.



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BURNS RECITAL HALL

The acoustically primed Burns Recital Hall is a wonderful performance space which seats 250 people and is the perfect venue for our more intimate concerts. This is where our Band, chamber choir, Musical Theatre group and our other ensembles rehearse and perform. Visiting professional musicians often perform alongside our pupils, such as the Band of the Royal Marines. It's also the place where our Headmaster welcomes visitors on Open Days and where visiting speakers talk to our different year groups.



MUSIC PRACTISE ROOM

Every pupil who has individual music lessons will be given a slot each week to allow them time to practise after school in one of our numerous practise rooms. The Music School is open 7-days a week to allow pupils the opportunity to develop their skills.



SPORTS HALL

Our Sports Hall is an impressive and multi-functional space where many of our PE lessons take place. Here you will also find the Graham Napier Cricket Academy offering winter nets for pupils as well as individual lessons too.

Basketball, netball and five-a-side football are just some of the activities pupils can take part in and which our boarders can enjoy in the evenings. Down one end, you'll spot the climbing wall and our climbing club is popular with all our year groups. With expert training on hand, pupils can quickly gain certification.

On the mezzanine level at the other end, we have a martial arts centre for pupils, with kick boxing being another one of our popular clubs.



SWIMMING POOL

Our indoor heated swimming pool has a wonderful feel to it and provides RHS with a flexible resource.

In Year 7 and 8 everyone will take part in swimming as part of PE. All our year groups have access to swimming training and our teams compete against other schools on a regular basis. We also enter a large team into the annual Alton Water Open Water swim. Alton Water is the large man-made reservoir opposite the school that we also use as our base for sailing.

Our pool is also used for kayak training and each year we enter a team in the Devizes to Westminster canoe marathon which is renowned for being a tough event.



SPORTS FIELD

Sports are an important feature of RHS life. We offer rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, athletics and sailing as our main sports. Every pupil in Year 7 will learn to sail in a dedicated Sailing Week during their first term.

Pupils can also use the tennis and squash courts along with the indoor sports hall. A number of pupils enjoy horse riding and regularly visit the stables which are just a few minutes away.

All of our pupils are involved in sport at different levels and many take part in weekly fixtures against other schools. For those not in a team, we have a programme of sports on a Saturday and pupils can compete in House leagues which are fun and include girls football, rounders and rugby tournaments as well as cross- country running, badminton and even ultimate frisbee!



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ALL WEATHER PITCHES AND 9-HOLE GOLF COURSE

The floodlit netball, tennis and hockey pitches enable pupils to train and compete all year round, come rain or shine. We field many teams each week in all our major sports. Senior pupils can also enjoy a round of golf as one of their games options or in their spare time.



BOARDING AND DAY HOUSES

The House system is at the heart of school life at RHS. Each one is a thriving community with its own distinct identity where both day pupils and boarders are encouraged to participate fully in House life. Day pupils can take advantage of the opportunity to do their prep in school and take part in many of the co-curricular activities. Each House boasts a large social space and games room so pupils can spend their free time relaxing, socialising and making friends.



NELSON

Nelson House is where our Year 13 pupils come together again in their final year to enable them to have a university-style living experience. In Nelson pupils consolidate friendships and enjoy a range of social events together such as the Burns and Trafalgar Night dinners.

Whilst pupils in Year 12 will have held responsibilities in the Senior Houses, Nelson pupils have the opportunity to apply to be School Prefects.

All our sixth form pupils are engaged in our life skills programme, RHSPPlus and RHSXtra, which teaches them key skills such as financial management and cooking on a budget. Careers advice, visits from inspirational speakers, support with university applications and the development of strong links with our alumni also form part of this experience.



SINGLE ROOMS

In Year 12, most pupils will have their own single, en suite room although we have a few double en suites as well. When they move on to Nelson House, everyone has their own room and shares a bathroom with one other person.



TWIN BEDROOMS

Pupils in Year 11 will usually be sharing with one other person and have en suite facilities.



TRIPLE AND QUAD BEDROOMS

In Senior Houses, boarding pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 will usually share a three or four-bedded room. Boarders will do their homework at the desk in their room during evening prep time which is supervised by a member of staff.



CONFERENCE ROOM

Rooms like our Conference Room are primarily used by teachers and staff for meetings. However, they also provide the perfect spaces for smaller gatherings like our evening clubs of which there are over 80.

The conference room is also used by various pupil bodies such as the School Council, e-Council and Food Committee. Pupil voice is an important aspect of the school and there are lots of opportunities for the children to represent their views to the school's management.





THE RICHARDS LIBRARY

The Richards Library was opened at the end of 2019 and is at the heart of the school. Designed to feel like the interior of a ship, it is bathed in light and provides a meeting place for our pupils to study and also to host events.

The library has plenty of areas for groups or individuals to work and a dedicated sixth-form space upstairs where pupils are provided with study booths and break-out areas. There are two collaborative work spaces featuring floor-to-wall whiteboards plus a quiet room with sofas and chairs to allow pupils to escape into a book. Our sixth-form staff team are also located in the library.

As well as educational books and a wide range of fiction, the library subscribes to newspapers and magazines to allow pupils to keep up-to-date with the news.



ART DEPARTMENT & ATRIUM

The Art and Design Department is housed in the Jellicoe Design Centre, a purpose-built block with provision for fine art, Art, craft and design, ceramics, 3D design, textiles, fashion, photography and film, alongside product design, design & technology and graphics. The superb facilities in the design centre include the sixth form mezzanine with dedicated individual studio spaces for sixth form artists and designers; fully equipped studios for painting, ceramics, printmaking and textiles; and a photography studio, with a full computer suite and darkroom, for those working with lens-based media.

The Atrium gallery, our vaulted exhibition space in the centre of the building, provides the perfect backdrop for showcasing artworks by our pupils but is also a versatile space that allows us to host visiting artists and run a variety of workshops and experiences, to enhance and enrich the experiences of our young artists.



FITNESS SUITE

Pupils are taught how to use the equipment within their PE lessons in year 9 to enable them to enjoy the facility in their own time.

The fitness suite is open every day after school with a rotation of priority use by different year groups.

Facilities include spin bikes, treadmills, rowing machines, a multi-gym machine, a leg extension machine and dumbbells.

The room is also an aerobic work-out facility and is very popular with both boys and girls.





STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING ROOM

This facility is run by the school's Athletic Development Leader who provides expert instruction in the use of the weights, barbells, bench press, kettlebells, stability balls and more.

The key aim is to provide help to improve fitness, agility and strength to help avoid injury from sport and to help with recovery from injury.

Groups are selected for instruction from all the main team sports as well as sailing.

Senior pupils have the opportunity on a Tuesday and a Saturday to follow their work out programmes.



MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO

The studio sits above the Sports Hall and is set up for a variety of martial arts.

Its main use is for kickboxing which is a thriving activity for RHS pupils and we run five clubs a week in an effort to keep up with demand from boys and girls of all ages. Clubs are split into junior and senior times.

Headguards, gloves, pads, training mitts, punch bags and a kickboxing ring make up some of the equipment the pupils are taught how to use.

Other martial arts can be catered for depending upon demand.



DENTAL SURGERY/ HEALTH CENTRE

The school site has the feel of a village community and it even has its own health centre and dental surgery. Set away from the school in a quiet corner of the grounds, pupils are encouraged to visit the Health Centre for the treatment of minor injuries or if they just need to talk to someone about any worries they might have. It is staffed 24 hours a day by health professionals.