Rowville Institute of the Arts

Information Pack

Includes an Application Form
Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to RIA- Rowville Institute of the Arts. We hope that this marks the beginning of a productive partnership between your family and ours. Research tells us that student learning, achievement and wellbeing are brought together when school communities fully support and engage their members.

At Rowville Secondary College we strive to make success the norm. We work towards ensuring that every aspect of the teaching and learning program is designed around students’ needs. Indeed the very reason for the existence of Rowville Institute of the Arts is to provide growth opportunities for students with artistic talents and passions.

We value and respect each student for the talents and skills they have. Each student admitted into the Institute is provided with an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to ensure a balance between academic and artistic growth and development. Our student support and guidance program is key to ensuring that students make choices that are well considered and in their long-term interests.

The success of our students and rapid development of our facilities proves RIA be a College of achievement; one where goals are set, achieved and surpassed.

Some of our recent successes include:

- **Miranda Millen**- Class of 2012- Studying Bachelor of Fine Arts- Production Design at the Victorian College of the Arts
- **Cassie Hartwich**- VCE Dance 2012- Received top marks and a place in Top Class
- **Adam Ladell**– Past Music Specialism student- Principal Singer Victorian State School
- Spectacular 2013
- **Skye Ladell**- Current Dance Specialism student- Ensemble Dancer Victorian State School
- Spectacular
- **Connor Buchanan**- Current Media Specialism student- Student film Cheese 10,000 screened as part of Knox Film Festival 2013
- **Callum Mason, Emily Bruckner and Tea Dale**- Current Visual Arts Specialism students- Winners of Best Conveying of a theme, Best Use of Recycled and/or Found Objects, Encouragement Award, respectively, for the Knox Festival Secondary School Sk8 Program 2013.

RIA is an arts program of excellence and we seek to be recognised by the broad range of arts organisations as the best school based arts program for talented and aspiring performing and visual art students throughout the southern and eastern regions of Melbourne. To achieve this, RIA is distinguished by its genuine commitment to:

- Creativity
- Individual Pathways and individual learning programs
- Curriculum balance and integration
- 21st Century Learning

These words are the basis of our promise to you as parents and to your children as our students. They form the basis of our program delivery and support our School Council’s desire to develop arts, sports and learning precincts at our Eastern Campus as hubs within the Rowville-Lysterfield community.

The Rowville Institute of the Arts is the place where we “Offer Unique Opportunities in the Arts”. We look forward to a long and successful partnership with you.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Kennedy
*Acting Principal*
Established in 2008, the Rowville Institute of the Arts (RIA) is a full-time academic and Arts program that caters for talented aspiring artists.

This unique program increases student engagement and improves student outcomes.

The curriculum is grounded in world’s best practice and caters for 5 specialist arts practices - dance, drama, media, music and visual arts.

As well as engaging in a broad Arts program, RIA students also study a range of core subjects that include Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities and Italian.

RIA is distinguished by its use of Individual Pathways, Individual Learning Programs, 21st Century Learning and the creation and maintenance of individual digital portfolio.

Students’ Arts experiences are enriched in a variety of ways including Artists in Residence, workshops led by industry professionals, excursions and incursions.

This focus ensures that every student in RIA has a rich, varied and meaningful experience that excites and motivates them to explore and extend their creative passions and talents. The school continues to build a culture of student performance and exhibition within the school, local and wider communities.

The Institute is based at the College’s Eastern Campus situated in the south-east of Melbourne.

Facilities include a media studio, studio arts rooms, music practice suites, a black box drama studio and the College’s 500 seat Performing Arts Centre which also houses our professional dance studios.
RIA Mission

RIA is an Arts program of excellence and we seek to be recognised by the broad range of arts organisations as the best school based arts program for talented and aspiring performing and visual art students throughout the southern and eastern regions of Melbourne.

RIA Vision

RIA aims to:

- Nourish imagination and creativity in its students.
- Increase student achievement in both specialism subjects and targeted subjects across the broader curriculum.
- Increase student motivation to learn.
- Support and develop the skills of teachers to work collaboratively and creatively.
- Encourage links between different learning areas.
- Explore the efficacy of the visual and performing arts as a delivery mechanism across the curriculum.
- Provide Individual Pathways and Individual Learning.
- Programs Support 21st Century Learning through the utilisation of technology and flexible learning spaces.
- Promote peer mentoring.
- Improve the ethos of the school.
RIA Values

RIA Students:

- Work to improve their skills and understanding of identified subject areas
- Display a greater engagement and motivation to learn
- Develop higher order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, evaluation and critical judgment
- Show flexibility in their thinking and an appreciation for diversity
- Are self-directed, independent learners
- Display increased interest in school through improved school attendance.

RIA Teachers:

- Are committed to the mission, values and teaching philosophy of RIA
- Have an understanding of the arts and creative processes and an ability to weave the creative process through the curriculum
- Have a proven ability to build strategies that engage students
- Have high expectations of students and provide an environment in which students excel
- Are knowledgeable about best practice in teaching and learning
- Are emotionally intelligent and forge positive relationships with students
- Work collaboratively with students and staff and have good interpersonal skills
- Embed reflective practices in their teaching
- Make use of national and local Arts resources
- Embrace challenge, innovation and change
The Performing Arts component of the program includes learning about the practical, theoretical and contextual aspects of the following:

- Drama
- Dance
- Music

**Drama**
The drama specialism at RIA takes a holistic approach to education that intentionally links artistic and individual growth. Students build artistic skills while participating directly in a process of decision making and risk taking that helps them meet critical adolescent developmental needs.

The immersion program exposes students to a broad range of theatrical experiences, conventions and performance styles. Students explore theatre across time and culture and develop skills in characterisation, improvisation, expression, performance, interpretation of texts and script writing.

**Music**
RIA music specialism develops expressive skills and the ability to convey feelings and thoughts artistically. An active contribution in curricular and extra-curricular ensembles, bands and choir promotes passion, creativity, self-discipline and confidence.

Students participate in rigorous aural and theory classes using Kodály methodology as well as individual and small group lessons on their principal instrument. 21st century technology provides an exciting, stimulating environment where students engage in composing, performing, transcribing and arranging music. Music Specialism students are required to be an active and prominent part of the music department at Rowville Secondary College. To ensure that they are developing their skills and working towards set goals on their instrument, it is compulsory for them to receive tuition/lessons on their specified instrument. As this is an additional lesson with a specialised teacher, it will happen at an extra cost on top of their RIA fees. Additionally they will be required to participate in the relevant ensemble for their instrument and attend before school rehearsals on the relevant day from 7:45am. This may happen at the Eastern or Western campus and information regarding days and times are outlined to students and parents at the start of each year.

**Dance**
Dance is a communicative, expressive and dynamic art form. Dance specialism students are exposed to meaningful and sustainable learning experiences that challenge the mind and body and develop sensory awareness, kinaesthetic empathy and transcultural appreciation. Students use and explore dance styles, dance elements and practices designed to develop technical skills, theoretical knowledge and an understanding of dance in context. This includes choreography of their own dance sequences, rehearsal and performance of a variety of dance styles, evaluation of their own work and the work of others, research and building a vocabulary of dance terminology.
The Visual Arts component of the program includes learning about the practical, theoretical and contextual aspects of the following:

- Visual Art
- Media Studies

**Visual Art**
The visual arts specialism provides the opportunity for students to explore a variety of materials and art forms, the principles of design and the significance of art styles and artists over time. We encourage a spirit of experimentation and risk-taking that promotes creativity, innovation and independence. Students express ideas, feelings and beliefs and challenge definitions of art. They reflect upon their own artworks and those of others, discussing, analysing, interpreting and evaluating visual art from past and present contexts.

**Media Studies**
RIA Media specialism enables students to develop critical and creative abilities and mastery of media tools. The students develop audiovisual literacy through the exploration of radio production, mastery of photoshop, the display of images, digital and analogue photography, animation and video production. Students are encouraged to follow their passions and to explore new technologies.

Extensive training, state of the art equipment, unique experiences and workshops with media experts enables RIA students to critically analyse expressive media and communication technologies but also to use them as a means of expression and artistic creation.

**Broad Arts**
In addition to their core curriculum and specialism studies, all students from Years 7-10 undertake general studies in Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts as part of the Broad Arts component of the RIA program.

**Entry points**
The RIA program accommodates entry from all year levels, with selection based on folios, interviews, essays and auditions.
RIA Students:

- Draw inspiration from a broad range of sources, including artworks from different cultures, styles and historical contexts.
- Are provided with opportunities to reflect on and communicate abstract ideas from various experiences.
- Learn to transfer skills, knowledge and understanding from the classroom into the workplace and the broader community.
- Regularly use self and peer evaluations allowing them to review and amend their work.
- Explore and develop knowledge of local and global values and cultures.
- Work in diverse teams within and beyond the school.
- Complete challenging tasks that allow them to create, justify and reflect on their learning.
- Are guided and supported to become independent.

Acceleration

“…. there is a problem with the education of gifted children. These children have special needs in the education system; for many their needs are not being met; and many suffer underachievement, boredom, frustration and psychological stress as a result” (Senate References Committee, 2001, p.xiii)

RIA prides itself on an ability to cater for individual student needs. In the case of gifted and talented students, acceleration may be appropriate. Students who accelerate are encouraged to do a three year VCE that offers opportunities for greater breadth and depth and more flexibility in their final year of VCE.

Parents wishing to explore the suitability of acceleration for their child are invited to make an appointment with the RIA director to discuss this option.
## Student Timetables

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<th>NUMBER OF PERIODS per fortnight</th>
<th>RIA YEAR 7</th>
<th>RIA YEAR 8</th>
<th>RIA YEAR 9</th>
<th>RIA YEAR 10</th>
<th>RIA YEAR 11</th>
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<td><strong>Visual Arts</strong> (including art and media)</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 in 1st semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 in 1st semester</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Performing Arts</strong> (including dance, drama and music)</td>
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<td>TOTAL (Core)</td>
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<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>51</strong></td>
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### Elective 1
- 9 periods
- 13 unit 1/2 students receive 4 extra periods per cycle in the VCE subject that relates to their specialization. They work with a specialist teacher in small tutorial groups on their folio or performance pieces.

### Elective 2
- 9 periods

### Elective 3
- 9 periods

### Elective 4
- 9 periods

| TOTAL (Electives) | 9 | 18 | 55 | 55 |
Application and Selection

Applying to RIA
Applications are made to RIA in writing and should contain the following:

- The completed Student Application Form (included in info pack)
- Passport sized photo
- The student’s last report card
- Details of competitions, awards or productions the students have participated in/received
- A 150 word report written by the student detailing why they would like to be accepted into the program.
- Birth Certificate
- Visual Arts Application
  - 2 example of original work (photographs acceptable if impractical)
- Media Application
  - Minimum of 2 original media pieces

Applications should be marked ATT: RIA APPLICATION and should be mailed to

RIA Administrator: Susan Thompson
Rowville Secondary College
Eastern Campus
PO Box 2123
Rowville 3178

Selection Criteria

Admittance to Rowville Institute of the Arts is by audition and application. Interviews may be requested.

We encourage everyone who feels they can fulfill the selection criteria to apply. Please note that not all applicants will be accepted.

All candidates, regardless of specialism, are assessed against the following criteria RIA students demonstrate:

- A highly developed artistic ability in at least one field, either performing or visual arts.
- A positive attitude and commitment to academic study
- A positive attitude and commitment to the development of skills in their chosen artistic field
- A strong desire to pursue their passion for the arts
- A high level of commitment and motivation in pursuit of personal success
Student Application Form

Student’s Details
Surname ____________________________________________
First Name ___________________________ Middle Name _____________________________
Gender (please circle) M/F Date of Birth _______________________________________
Current year level in 2016 ___________ Year level to enrol in 2017 __________ or 2018__________
Current school (If RSC, please indicate which campus) _____________________________________

Parents'/Guardians’ Names
Mother/Guardian __________________________________________
Father/Guardian __________________________________________

Primary Family Home Address
Street Number & Street __________________________________________
Suburb __________________________________________ State ________ Postcode _________________
Parent Phone Numbers: H_________________ M_____________________ W __________________
Email address/es __________________________________________

Arts Preference
Please indicate, in order of preference, which art forms you are interested in pursuing. Please indicate only 2 by numbering them 1 and 2.
☐ Dance ☐ Visual Art ☐ Media ☐ Drama ☐ Music

How did you find out about RIA? (Please tick)
☐ Rowville Secondary College website__________________________________________________
☐ Rowville Secondary College employee (specify)________________________________________
☐ Current RIA family (specify)________________________________________________________
☐ Schools Guide/Publication (specify)__________________________________________________
☐ Media Release (specify)____________________________________________________________
☐ Other (specify)____________________________________________________________________