2026 MAIN AUDITION SESSIONS INFORMATION

How do I apply for RIA?

Rowville Secondary College welcomes all students who live in the Rowville school zone as stipulated by the Department of Education and Training Victoria. However, students from all areas (even if they are not zoned to Rowville) are welcome to request consideration for enrolment. To be considered for admittance to Rowville Institute of the Arts (RIA), students moving from Year 6 into Year 7 must be enrolled for Rowville Secondary College and applicants from all year levels must undertake an audition to assess their suitability for this program.

For students who are currently in Year 7 – 11, 2026:

Requests for audition must be made directly to the RIA Administrator by completing the audition form contained in the RIA Audition Pack which is available from the RIA Administrator or by clicking here. The form and supporting documents as outlined in the pack need to be submitted to Rowville Secondary College no later than **Friday, May 8th** as per instructions in the Audition Pack.

For students who are currently in Year 6, 2026:

The Department of Education provides government schools with a timeline for the Transition to Year 7 enrolment process.

1. When your child is in Year 6, your primary school will issue the Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Information Pack which will have an application form enclosed, late in Term 1 or at the start of Term 2 of the Grade 6 year.
2. Parents must complete this form, and then return it to your Primary School, by the due date. To enrol in our school, we must first receive the Department of Education (DE) application form as per the DE Placement Policy, then program placement is considered.
3. Government primary schools will then forward all applications to the relevant secondary school in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines.
4. If transitioning from an independent primary school and your school does not provide the Department of Education Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Placement Information pack 2026-2027 you can access this information here. Please complete the Application for Year 7 Placement 2027 form and return it directly to Rowville Secondary College for the attention of the Enrolment Officer either by post or email us by Friday, 8th May 2026.
5. On Wednesday, 24th June families will receive notification from their primary school advising what secondary school your child has been offered a place in the following year i.e., your letter will only confirm Rowville Secondary College.
6. From Thursday, 25th June our school will email a welcome letter with relevant information for enrolling into the school for 2027 and offering auditions/try-outs for our school programs, including Rowville Institute of the Arts.
7. Please be aware that if unsuccessful in your program application and we have received your Department of Education Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Application form, we will offer a place within our General Excellence Program, Paratea Drive location, Western Campus. Please be aware that our programs are campus specific. We do offer an internal shuttle bus to take student to the west campus in the morning and after school should families reside closest to the Eastern Campus, Humphreys Way location. Through the Department of Education placement policy, you are applying to the school and not the specific program.

The next part of the process takes place in July – please see details below.

When and where will the auditions be held?

Rowville Institute of the Arts is located at our Eastern Campus, Humphreys Way, Rowville, and all auditions will be held at the Eastern Campus in various spaces throughout the school.

For students who are currently in Year 7 – 11, 2026:

Students who are seeking to obtain new enrolment to **RIA for Semester 2, 2026 or for Year 8 – 12 in 2027,** will need to undergo an audition. This year, the auditions will be spread over the week commencing Tuesday 9th June. Auditions will take place during the day, no later than 5:30pm.

You will be notified of the exact day and time of your audition/s no later than 1st June. If, for some reason, you know you cannot make it during these times, please let us know so we can try to schedule your audition time/s to suit. We will do our best to accommodate requests but cannot guarantee your requested time.

For students who are currently in Year 6, 2026:

Students transitioning from Year 6 into Year 7 in 2027 will have auditions following the Department of Education state-wide placement process (which occurs on June 24th). These auditions will take place in various spaces around the school on Tuesday, July 21st from 4pm – 7pm. You will be notified of the exact time of your audition by July 17th.

What's involved in the audition?

RIA auditions are specifically designed for each arts specialism. All details regarding the auditions can be found in the Audition Pack which is available from the RIA Administrator or by downloading from here:

- 2026 Audition Pack (for students in Year 7 – 11 in 2026).
- Year 7, 2027 Audition Pack (for students in Year 6, 2026 going into Year 7, 2027, or students currently at Rowville Secondary College wishing to change program or specialism). This gives the students an idea of what happens in the audition should they be offered a place at Rowville Secondary College and request an audition.

When and how will I be notified whether my child has met the requirements for a place in RIA?

For students in Year 7 – 11, 2026, our aim is to advise all applicants of the outcome of their audition by email within three weeks of the audition. For students wishing to start in Semester 2, 2026, our goal is to let you know the outcome of your child's application within two weeks of the auditions. Please note that all successful applicants will be required to pay a $200 deposit/fees contribution upon receiving their offer.

For students who are currently in Year 6 (for enrolment in Year 7, 2027), Rowville SC is directed to comply with the standards of the Department of Education and Training Victoria. Students who are applying to start at RIA in Year 7, 2027 will be notified by their primary school on June 24th as to which school they have been accepted into. Following this, on June 25th all students who have been offered a place at Rowville Secondary School will be invited to try out for one of our specialist programs, including Rowville Institute of the Arts. The invitation is part of the "Welcome to Rowville Secondary College" email and will include a link to the audition sign-up form. Auditions need to be requested through this avenue only, by 2pm on June 26th to take part in the July audition. Outcome of these auditions will be communicated via email on August 4th. Please note that all successful applicants will be required to pay a $200 deposit/fees contribution upon receiving their offer.

Will the auditions be taken in groups or one-on-one?

Auditions for Dance, Media and Visual Arts will be taken in groups that may contain students who are applying for Year 7 up to Year 12. Auditions for Music and Drama are closed, with just the student and the teacher/s in the room.

Is there an audition fee?

An administration fee of $15 needs to be made at https://www.trybooking.com/DJVMJ

What if my child is unable to make it to the allocated audition?

If you can't make the allocated time or day, please let us know ASAP. There will be a further opportunity to audition later in the year. After this, if further vacancies remain for 2027, individual auditions will be offered to potentially suitable applicants.

What will my child need to bring on the day of Auditions?

Students should be dressed smartly, comfortably, and suitably to the type of audition they will be undertaking. It would be advisable to bring a water bottle – nervousness can lead to a dry throat and impact on performance. Other than items listed in the Audition Pack, the following items are recommended in respect to each arts focus:

- Dancers will need to bring music for their solo performance (preferably on phone which has been switched to airplane mode, with music downloaded), foot thongs are a good idea, and students should wear dance attire but not baggy clothes (so clear lines are able to be distinguished). Please note, runners/sneakers should not be worn unless they have black soles.
- Drama students are not required to bring any special items but should be dressed smartly for their audition.
- Musicians will need to bring their instrument unless they are pianists or drummers, as these instruments are available at the college (as are amplifiers for electric instruments). Singers should bring digital backing music on phone (switched to airplane mode with music downloaded to the phone) or USB.
- Visual Artists and Media students are not required to bring any special items, other than what is indicated in the Audition Pack. All materials will be supplied.

Can my child audition for two specialisms/art focuses?

Students at RIA specialise in one chosen specialism area (Dance, Drama, Media, Music or Visual Arts). This should be the arts focus that they are most passionate about, as, if successful, this is the subject where they will spend most of their arts-allocated class time. Please note, students auditioning in 2026 will be offered an audition for their first preference specialism only, unless auditioning for their second preference has been recommended or agreed upon with the RIA Administrator.

My child is a bit nervous about auditioning. What would you suggest?

Nervousness is a part of life, and all children should be encouraged to pursue their dreams and not be put off by feeling uncomfortable. The best way of controlling nerves is to be confident, and this can be achieved through thorough preparation. Make sure you and your child have read through the Audition Pack so you know what will be required of them on the day.

Will parents be able to attend the audition?

Rowville SC is a family-friendly school and parents are welcome to come to the college on the day of auditions. The audition itself will be closed to anyone who is not auditioning during that session. The reason for this is that experience suggests that the students perform at their best in this environment when totally concentrated on the task at hand and free from all distractions. We ask that parents behave respectfully, don't directly approach teachers about how their child is performing and just

encourage their child to see the audition as another great opportunity to have fun and gain experience in a discipline that they love.

How will it be determined whether my child has met the required standards for gaining a place in RIA?

At the end of each session the teachers will review the notes that they have made while the audition was occurring. They will summarise the notes on a prepared rubric which provides advice to the RIA Director on each prospective student's performance. They will have considered the attributes which lead to the realisation of potential such as artistic and creative talent, learning capability, art specific intelligence, ability to follow instructions, team orientation and general attitude.

The RIA Director will also have received, read and analysed each student's most recent school report. Attitude and work effort represented by things like completion of set tasks, personal best achievements, consistent school attendance and seeking feedback to improve will be key requirements being considered.

What if my child is notified that they have not met the required standard for RIA?

It is always disappointing when we don't achieve things that we hoped we would. Our main goal is to make sure your child is entering a program where they are going to fit in well with the capabilities of the other students. We encourage students to come back and audition with us again later and can provide feedback on their auditions if requested. Auditioning for another arts focus within RIA is also another option.

Please be aware that if unsuccessful in your program application and we have received your Department of Education Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Application form, we will offer a place within our General Excellence program, Paratea Drive location, Western Campus. Please be aware that our programs are campus specific. We do offer an internal shuttle bus to take student to the West Campus in the morning and after school should families reside closest to the Eastern Campus, Humphreys Way location. Through the Department of Education placement policy, you are applying to the school and not the specific program.

If my child is successful in gaining a place in RIA, will they have to audition in the future to maintain their place?

Once students have been admitted into the RIA program, they are not required to audition again for the same arts focus. Their place is available to them throughout their school years, provided they meet all of the requirements of the program. This includes appropriate attitude to all aspects of their schoolwork, and payment of the required fees.

What if my child is not happy with their chosen arts specialism or develops a greater interest in a different focus?

It is possible to change specialism once allocated in RIA. However, to be granted a change, a successful audition would be required in the proposed new specialism and meetings to discuss the change with appropriate teachers and the Director of RIA. Each individual case is considered on its merits.

What if my child wanted to leave RIA? Could they remain at the school?

Yes, as is indicated above the school has a range of programs and all of these are available to interested students who fulfil the entry requirements. The school is split over two campuses: the Eastern Campus which houses RIA and the RSA, and the Western Campus which houses General Excellence and the MSA.

What is the fee structure at RIA?

Please click here for the 2026 Fees Schedule. 2027 schedule will be confirmed ASAP.

If you have further questions relating to RIA or the auditions, please don't hesitate to contact RIA Administrator, Jenn Walter at ria@rowvillesc.vic.edu.au