

RSD Familiarisation Day – Saturday 13th October 2018

SITTING THE CEA AT RSD

Arrival

Candidates are advised to arrive in school from 9.15 am and all candidates should be in their places no later than 9.45am.

Please use both car parks (Ranfurly Road and Northland Row entrances).

What to bring

Candidates need to bring: AQE Admission card
 Two pencils and a rubber

- No food or drink will be permitted in the examination room.
- No mobile phones, iPods, MP3/4 players.
- No products with an electronic communication/storage device or digital facility.
- In particular, no candidate must have in their possession a mobile phone, whether switched on or not.

Completing the Test

- The papers are to be completed in pencil.
- During the examination candidates will be informed when 15, 30 and 45 minutes have passed.
- The questions should be answered as quickly and as carefully as possible, starting at the beginning of the paper and continuing right through.
- If a candidate comes to a question that he/she is not able to answer, leave it and go on to the next question and return to this question later.
- Rough work may be done on the separate sheet provided or at the side of the assessment paper.
- Candidates should make their normal writing as neat as possible and if they are making any changes to answers they should try to do so as neatly as possible.
- Candidates should make sure that they do not turn over two pages at once.
- Candidates must not talk during the assessment.
- During the assessment no candidate must give help to another candidate or copy from another candidate.
- If a candidate needs to attract the attention of the invigilator they should raise their hand.

Other Key Points

- No additional time will be added on for toilet breaks (unless specific Special Arrangements apply).
- If a candidate arrives late, he or she will not be given extra time at the end of the session.
- If a candidate finishes early he or she must not leave the room before the end of the time but should look over their work and make sure that he/she has not missed any pages.

Candidates with Special Arrangements are to bring relevant items as arranged e.g. a coloured overlay, a timer, food or drink if permitted.

We hope that all pupils using RSD as a test centre for the CEA will apply to RSD when it comes to filling in the Transfer Form.

P7 PUPILS AND PARENTS OPEN MORNINGS IN RSD ON 23, 24 & 25 JAN 2019.

[Open Evening on 13 Feb 2019 at 7.15 pm for **P6 only**]

RSD has an Admissions Committee of governors and senior teaching staff, including the Headmaster, who supervise the entire process on behalf of the Board of Governors.

It does not matter where you place RSD on your Transfer form – we shall consider any pupil who puts RSD down as one of his or her preferences. But remember, if you put another school as 1st preference they are very likely to take you!

Please write the CEA score on the green Transfer form and attach the original score sheet provided by AQE. You will receive your score sheet from AQE at the end of January.

Across the last five years the **average** figure for the highest score in the CEA for a pupil admitted to RSD has been 124 (last year was 121).

Typical parental concern is about lower scores - “will s/he get in with a score of X?” RSD’s lowest score fluctuates depending upon numbers of applicants and how tough or easy the test has been. Have had a low score of 92, have had a low score of 72. The **average** figure for the lowest score hovers around mid to high 80s. Low score in 2018 was 82 (2017 = 81; 2016 = 91; 2015 = 92). Most important piece of advice – APPLY! Always people with good scores who don’t apply and say “I didn’t think s/he would get in with that score.”

AQE information to parents explains that 100 is the mid-point score for all pupils sitting the CEA. Given that around the top 30% of pupils are admitted to grammar schools through the CEA this means in effect that a pupil with a score of 100+ is in the top 15% and pupils with scores around 80-100 are in the next 15% (or the top 30% overall). A CEA score of 80-100 is **not** a ‘low score’. All those sitting the test are encouraged to apply to RSD - no matter your score.

If something goes wrong during the CEA then: collect evidence **from the time of the event** (e.g. doctor’s letter); and **submit all evidence** with Transfer form as an appeal for Special Circumstances (either use AQE’s form, SC17, or your own letter). **All** such evidence will be considered by the Admissions Committee but no guarantee of an increase in CEA score. Please consult the RSD Admissions Criteria as published on RSD and EA websites for full details.

We are a boarding and voluntary grammar school and our Admissions Criteria reflects such – we have a mechanism for accepting both boarding and day pupils.

In total, we are permitted to admit 93 pupils into Year 8. A number of boarding applications have been received and will be considered by the Admissions Committee; 138 pupils are sitting the CEA at RSD; and pupils sitting the test in other schools will also apply. We anticipate being oversubscribed.

The full version of our Admissions Criteria will be available on the RSD and Education Authority websites (no ‘Transfer Guidance’ booklet). Parents should consult the full Admissions Criteria when applying to RSD.

In general, outline terms, our Admissions Criteria will operate as follows:

- Up to 8 boarders will be admitted to Year 8 (Sept 2016 = 0 boarders; 2017 = 3 boarders; 2018 = 2 boarders).
- The remaining places will be awarded to pupils according to their score in the CEA until we fill all 93 places.
- In the event of a tie-break being required to fill our final place then we shall apply our **Additional Considerations**.

In broad, outline terms, our **Additional Considerations** shall be, in the following order:

- ‘Child of the family’ attends or attended RSD; or eldest child (tick box on form)
- Free School Meals Entitlement (FSME) (tick box on form)
- Parent/guardian was a former pupil - write in section C of green Transfer Form
- Random order by: surname; forename; age
- Final tie-breaker – distance between home and RSD

Receiving the CEA result from AQE (end of January)

- Happy with score; certain I will apply to RSD – unlikely to hear from you
 - Happy with score; a bit uncertain about applying to RSD. Please ring and speak to us. Need to come in? Find out about something (e.g. support for dyslexia; bus route; playing rugby)
 - Uncertain about score and want to go to RSD – typically ring to ask 2 questions:
1. May I speak to the Headmaster to explain a problem which led to my child underperforming in the AQE test?
Could do but won’t help you. The Admissions Committee decide admissions using the information provided by parents on the green Transfer Form and in SC18 or other evidence. Must put it in writing for the Committee – Headmaster cannot do it for you.
 2. Can you tell me the lowest score?
The lowest score is not known until the complete process has been finalised. This takes several months and can change on a regular basis depending upon who actually applies to RSD.

Filling in the Transfer Form (Feb/Mar)

Record the CEA score on the green Transfer Form and attach CEA score sheet (sent to parents by AQE).

Worked example

If 130 pupils apply to RSD, 5 of whom wish to enter as boarders and 125 of whom sit the CEA then we might have the following outcome:

STEP		CEA RANKING	130 APPLICATIONS	130 APPLICATIONS
			Accepted	Rejected
1	Up to 8 Boarding places	n/a	3	2
2	CEA Scores in rank order	Nos 1 - 90	90	35
3	Total Admissions Number reached		93	
4	Total Admissions accepted/rejected		93	37

The information stated here is indicative of RSD Admissions Criteria but should not be relied upon when making an application to the School. The full Admissions Criteria are published on the RSD and Education Authority websites.