



**RSD Familiarisation Day – Saturday 12 October 2019**  
**Admission to RSD**

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 22, 23 & 24 JAN 2020.**

[Open Evening on 12 Feb 2020 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 125 (last year was 128).

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 2019 was 85 (2018 = 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, SC19, 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; 153 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 (2017 = 3 boarders; 2018 = 2 boarders; 2019 = 3 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 SC19 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         | <b>3</b>         | <b>2</b>         |
| 2    | CEA Scores in rank order           | Nos 1 - 90  | <b>90</b>        | <b>35</b>        |
| 3    | Total Admissions Number reached    |             | <b>93</b>        |                  |
| 4    | Total Admissions accepted/rejected |             | <b>93</b>        | <b>37</b>        |

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.