

Contact information

Robertsbridge Community College

Knelle Road
Robertsbridge
East Sussex
TN32 5EA



Headteacher: Mr Simon Potten
Telephone: 01580 880360
Fax: 01580 882120
Email: admin@robertsbridge.org.uk
Website: www.robertsbridge.org.uk



"In lessons, students are keen to do well and apply themselves fully to the range of activities they are offered. This is supported by their good behaviour and positive relationships with staff."
Ofsted Report



We believe that the information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press - 9/2011.

© Robertsbridge Community College.

Thank you to all the children, staff and governors for their assistance in compiling this prospectus, and for allowing us to reproduce these photographs.

Designed and produced by redboots.co.uk 01580 881108



Welcome...

"A good school with outstanding features."

Contents

A welcome from the Headteacher	3
Chair of Governors' overview	4
Our Specialist Status	5
Some thoughts from our students	6-7
Our curriculum aims	8
The academic structure	9
Curriculum provision	10
Pastoral structure at the College	11
Care and discipline	12
Disabilities and Special Needs	13
Extra-curricular opportunities	14
Admissions information	15
School day timings	16
Uniform and PE kit requirements	17
School canteen and catering	18
College map	19

"I believe this school will help him fulfil his potential and realise his valuable contribution to society. He is aiming high and is always encouraged by his teachers."



Mr Simon Potten
HEADTEACHER

Robertsbridge Community College enjoys a justified reputation of being a happy, caring and successful Community School. As Headteacher, I am committed to ensuring that every student is provided with an education that equips them fully for the rigours of the 21st century and inspires life-long learning.

At Robertsbridge we recognise that all students have the right to experience high quality teaching to enable them to learn in a safe and orderly environment. We will ensure that the curriculum provides a breadth of opportunity and experience as well as offering a range of extra-curricular activities that allow students to develop their skills, talents and interests to the full.

Every successful school has an unrelenting focus on continual improvement and high expectations that are understood and shared by the school community as a whole. Robertsbridge Community College is no exception!

We strive for consistently high delivery of the curriculum from our teaching staff, the highest standards of conduct, organisation and motivation from our students and the highest level of support from the governors, support staff, parents and the wider community. At all times we strive to ensure that every student enjoys their education and reaches their goals.

The reputation of our College continues to go from strength to strength and it is now the first choice of many parents in the local and wider community in ensuring a high quality education for their children.

I am excited by the opportunity Robertsbridge Community College offers your child and I look forward to ensuring that it becomes, then remains, an outstanding school.





The Chair of Governors' overview



At Robertsbridge Community College, we are extremely fortunate in having a strong, dedicated and extremely capable Governing Body, with each Governor bringing to the role a wide range of abilities and experience in a demanding but extremely worthwhile job. These skills are needed in responding to the ever-changing demands on schools and governors.

One of our main roles as Governors' is to ensure quality learning and teaching and to ensure every student has the best possible experience at the College, encouraging them to achieve to the best of their abilities.

Our exam results have been improving year on year so that the College is now set to become one of the best performing small schools in East Sussex. Once again our Maths results have proved to be some of the best in the country and our other core subjects are also performing well.

We have an excellent leadership team who are strongly focussed on setting up the best conditions for pupils to concentrate on learning and addressing any weak areas of performance. Our aim for the future is to make all students independent learners so they are best placed to develop when they leave the College and move on into further education.

As most parents know, it is not only results which matter in our children's lives. Learning cannot take place in a hostile or uncaring environment. We have a strong supportive community and the College is recognised as having a caring and considerate ethos.

As a Governing Body we are striving to achieve outstanding status. We work closely with the Headteacher and Staff and are keen to work with you as parents. We have representatives working with the parents association and will always be happy to hear from you if you have any concerns.

We truly believe that success will come through partnership.

Mrs Cathy Burke
Chair of Governors



Specialist Status

Robertsbridge Community College is proud of its status as a Specialist Mathematics and Computing College. This means that we aim to be a Centre of Excellence for Mathematics and ICT teaching as well as embedding these subjects across the whole curriculum. All of our subjects have developed expertise in using ICT to enhance the learning in their areas, and we are developing our Virtual Learning Environment to allow students access to all courses at home via the internet.

Achievement in all subject areas has increased since we have been a Specialist College. The Mathematics department has been rated in the top 3% of schools nationally in terms of the progress our students have made for the last three years. ICT results at the highest grades have doubled over the past three years. As well as this, take-up of ICT is higher than ever.

All students follow courses in Mathematics and ICT at both Key Stage 3 and 4 and leave school with nationally recognised qualifications. It is fair to say that engagement, achievement and enjoyment of these subjects is at an all time high.

The Specialism is also a vehicle for us to strengthen links with our partner schools and colleges through extra curricular links, transition projects and delivering training to other schools. We believe that being a Maths and Computing College adds an extra dimension to all learning at Robertsbridge and are proud of our Specialist Status.





Some thoughts from our students



We are the senior prefect team and we have just started our final year at Robertsbridge Community College.
"At my first senior prefect meeting, I learned more about each one of the seniors and how each individual contributed their own unique talents. We work as a team, allocating the jobs to the people who are best for them, not what classes they are in or their personal views. I always know I can ask for help, and that each of us will work as a team to create a supportive environment."

"We really like the new friends we have made, having to find our way to different classrooms is great and we really like the selection of food!"

"I was really nervous when I first started year 7 but when I got here I found that it was fun because the older kids look after us and the teachers are cool."

"This school is good because it has no bullying and few disruptions. Also, it caters for your individual level in each subject. For example in Maths you can ask for higher level work, and it is taught in a nice and friendly environment. In addition, the teachers respect the children and are helpful, friendly and not patronising. You can talk to them with ease and they can offer helpful suggestions."

"Robertsbridge is a good environment to learn and study for your GCSEs, with help from great teachers."

"I love the friendly feeling, secure atmosphere and cheery, helpful teachers."

"The school is great, I like how the older 'kids' help me and I really enjoy science because the teachers are cool."

"The College has a really vibrant atmosphere, plus everyone is really friendly and helpful towards other students and staff."

"The staff are really encouraging towards our futures and always push us to do our best."

"I like RCC because it's a small environment, I know most people so that makes it more enjoyable."

"Students in every year are friendly and the teachers are all really kind and helpful."

"I really like how the school feels like a community."

"The students are disciplined. It's a good school and the teachers are really friendly."



"There is always someone to talk to. If you are struggling, the teachers are always there to help."





College curriculum aims

We have a set of Curriculum Aims, which support the overall vision of the College. They enhance the stated educational aims of the East Sussex Education Department and comply with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

- Our curriculum is designed to enable all students to discover their strengths and make the most of their talents at Robertsbridge and beyond.
- We will provide a curriculum which extends all levels of ability and gives a high level of flexibility and continuity of progress for all students.
- One of the key priorities of our curriculum is to develop the independent learning skills of our students to equip them for lifelong learning.
- We believe that learning is most effective and enjoyable in a climate which promotes respect and self discipline. Our students are expected to value their own learning and the right of others to learn in an orderly environment.
- We will provide a wide range of opportunities within and beyond the classroom to raise the aspiration of students and to stimulate ambition.
- We are determined to provide an outstanding quality transition for children as they move from primary schools to the College and as they progress on to Further Education or a career at 16+.
- We will help all children in their personal development and we will work hard to involve parents in their child's learning.



The academic structure

Key Stage 3

Students joining the College in years 7 or 8 will follow a fast-paced curriculum. This means that students will complete their Key Stage 3 studies within a two year period. Students follow the same programmes of study as described in the National Curriculum, but the lesson content is adapted to provide students with more pace and challenge to their learning.

Key Stage 4

As students complete the accelerated Key Stage 3 curriculum, they will move into Key Stage 4 in year 9. They will begin studying accredited courses in both compulsory and option subjects but will, effectively, have three years to prepare themselves for final assessments, thus ensuring that the highest attainment levels can be achieved by all. An extended Key Stage 4 allows true, individualised learning programmes to be created, as students have the opportunity to complete courses in either one, two or three years, depending on their ability in a particular subject. As students complete their initial courses they will opt to either extend their knowledge and undertake Level 3 courses or embark on new Level 2 courses. The success of this has led to the first cohort of students ever to study AS Level at Robertsbridge in 2010-11.



"The curriculum, which is now good, has been substantially restructured and provides students with a broad, balanced and increasingly personalised experience."





"...there is a tangible sense of belonging to a community in which all are valued and accepted. Staff and students work together with pride so that everyone can flourish."

Curriculum provision

Key Stage 3 is covered in two academic years and for 2011 – 2013 will look like this for Years 7 and 8:

Maths	8 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
English	9 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Science	9 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Modern Foreign Languages	6 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Physical Education	5 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Technology	4 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Art, Geography, Music and History	3 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Drama, ICT, and RE	2 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Personal Social Health & Economic Education	1 period of 50 minutes each per fortnight

During Year 8, students make their GCSE option choices and Key Stage 4 begins at the start of Year 9. Most GCSE courses will be completed over three years, and some in two years with extension courses to follow. The compression of Key Stage 3 allows a much richer curriculum to be offered to our students in Key Stage 4.

We are committed to offering a balanced and broad curriculum. Students are able to choose three of their subjects in Key Stage 4 as well as being given the time to succeed in core subject areas. The current Key Stage 4 curriculum is illustrated below.

Current Year 10 allocations

Maths	10 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
English	12 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Science	12 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
PE	4 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
ICT	2 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
RE	2 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight
Three Option Subjects	6 periods of 50 minutes each per fortnight

Examples of the choices offered to Year 9 for their option subjects are:

- French
- Textiles
- Dual Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- ICT
- Drama
- Resistant Materials
- Spanish
- History
- Art
- Food Technology
- Geography
- Graphics



Our pastoral structure

We have a successful vertical mentoring system which enhances the community spirit within the College and provides opportunities for our older pupils to be involved in supporting younger pupils.

Our mentoring programme involves teaching staff as Learning Mentors and selected and trained Year 11 prefects in co-operating and promoting:-

- Personal Organisation
- Setting and reviewing targets
- Positive responses to the rewards system
- Safe and secure relationships
- An overall sense of community identity.

Students have meetings with their Learning Mentor/Mentor on a termly basis after each report card is sent home. These mentor sessions focus on raising pupil achievement. Students decide with staff if there are any barriers to learning, set targets and agree interventions. Learning Mentors subsequently monitor future progress. The emphasis is on the student to be pro-active in setting and revising targets so that they can achieve the highest personal success.

At Robertsbridge Community College we take great care to help new students and the College has been recognised as a model of good practice in the transition from

primary to secondary education. This year, 60% of Year 7 enjoyed a wealth of different activities at our transition week.

We have three House groups. The Heads of House work in close collaboration with Learning Mentors in overseeing the academic and pastoral needs of each individual. Where the need arises, students are given a programme of support in consultation with parents/guardians/carers. Heads of House and our Assistant Headteacher in charge of Inclusions have regular contact with appropriate outside agencies to support and benefit students in consultation with parents/guardians/carers.

Parents are kept informed by termly reviews made in all curriculum areas and are encouraged to contact their child's Learning Mentor should a concern arise.



2011-2013

2011-2013

CURRENT



Care and discipline

Robertsbridge Community College is known for its dedication to the wellbeing and progress of each individual within the community. This is founded on mutual respect and a staff body that takes seriously their responsibility to ensure a safe and positive learning environment for every pupil.

Strong and secure systems support this ethos and provide appropriate boundaries for all pupils.

Rewarding achievement and effort is the key to ensuring success. We believe that taking the opportunity to praise and reward a pupil, where appropriate, is undeniably the most powerful action a teacher/adult can have and positively encourages pupils to take the next steps for greater success. The College Rewards Policy, and the House system, both reflect our commitment to promoting a positive learning experience for all.

Whilst we recognise that pupils respond better to praise, there are instances where sanctions do need to be applied. Our Behaviour Management Policy (available on request from the College) specifically focuses on pupils being prepared for learning. Daily checks on equipment and uniform promote personal organisation, personal responsibility and focus pupils on the purpose of attending school - to learn and progress!

Encouraging mutual respect, respect of the environment and being a good citizen are also our objectives. Procedures and sanctions to deal with pupils that don't respond to these values are consistent and supportive, but if necessary punitive.

We enjoy positive parental support in partnership to maintain and reinforce our high standards.



Disabilities and Special Needs

Responsibility for the admission of students to the College rests with the Local Authority (LA). The authority operates a rigorous antidiscrimination policy and students with disabilities will be encouraged to enrol at the College if it is believed that this College can accommodate a specific disability.

Our aim, as with all students in the College, is to ensure that pupils become confident and independent learners.

All students are given access to the full curriculum regardless of specific disabilities. A nominated governor is linked to 'Special Needs' and monitors the way all students are assessed and cared for.

The aim of the SEN staff working in close liaison with teachers is to provide opportunity for access to a broad and balanced curriculum. As a Comprehensive College, we are concerned with the individual needs of every child. The Learning Support Department exists to address the needs of any student who may be experiencing difficulties in accessing the full curriculum for whatever reason. Difficulties are assessed and support provided according to the students' needs through a range of approaches. Wherever possible, students remain with and are supported in their classes but if necessary, we do have the facility to withdraw students for small group or individual lessons. The College's approach is flexible and interventions may

change to suit the changing needs of the students and the curriculum.

As for all students in the College, progress is carefully monitored termly, reviewed regularly, with appropriate provision being made to ensure success.

The College is built on a sloping site and during the original construction in the 1950s little regard seems to have been paid to the difficulties encountered by anyone with a disability. All are welcome to use the facilities the College offers but we are aware that access is limited in many areas. We have sought LA support in gaining improvement. The new extension offers major improvement for access, including a sloped entrance to one of the front elevation doors and a lift to the upper floor. The most recent English classrooms have wheelchair access also.

There are now designated parking spaces for drivers with disabilities and we have toilet facilities to aid those with mobility problems.





Extra-curricular opportunities

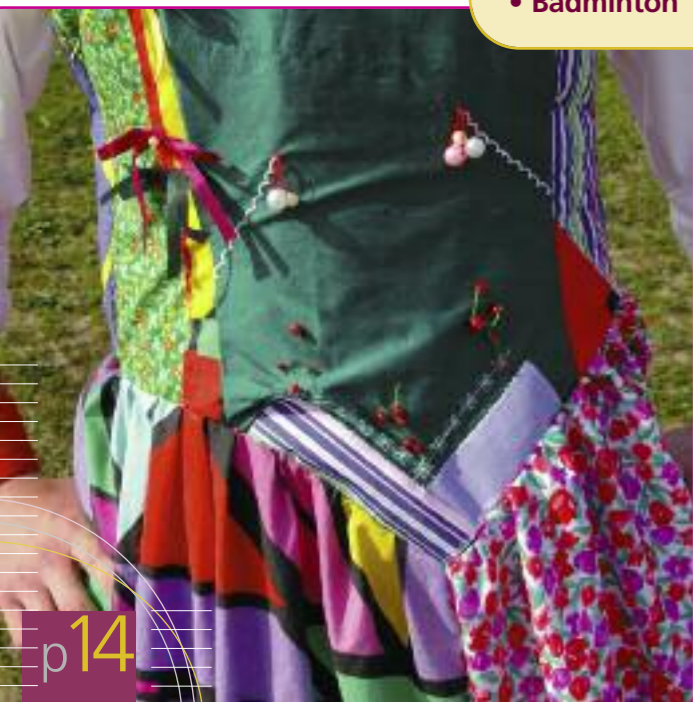
There are many opportunities for students to get involved with extra-curricular activities at Robertsbridge Community College as we believe them to be an integral part of their development.

We offer all students a wide variety of clubs and activities to enrich the curriculum and provide opportunity and experience. Students are encouraged to attend these clubs not only to enhance their progress in lessons but more importantly to widen their social network and interact with young people outside of their established friendship group. The Physical Education

department encourages students with particular strengths and talents to become involved with the organisation of these clubs and is committed to providing every young person with an opportunity to participate in a range of roles including performer, coach, official and organiser.

Activities offered to all students include:

- Football
- Dance
- Maths
- Information Technology
- Rugby
- Gymnastics
- Cookery
- Art and Design
- Netball
- Chess
- Drama
- ...and more!
- Basketball
- Cricket
- French
- Choir
- Table Tennis
- Rounders
- Flamenco
- Badminton
- Stoolball



"Students understand the importance of good health and the majority are committed to adopting healthy lifestyles. Many participate in and enjoy the range of sporting opportunities that are on offer."

Admissions information

The usual September admission procedures for 11-year-old students are administered by East Sussex County Council. There are a number of criteria which are applied to such admissions to prevent the College from becoming over-crowded:-

- The majority of children who put this College as their first choice will be readily accepted, especially if they live within the traditional catchment area: *Robertsbridge, Hurst Green, Etchingam, Burwash, Staplecross, Bodiam and Mountfield.*
- We are also usually able to accept first choice preferences from well outside this area. In particular children who live in Broad Oak/Brede, Northiam and

Beckley will expect to gain entry and, currently, many children also come to the College from Sedlescombe, Westfield and Battle. It is possible that we may be able to admit a few children from Hastings and Bexhill but parents of children in these urban areas are advised to discuss the latest situation with the Headteacher.

- In most circumstances children who already have an older brother or sister in the College will be offered a place here.





Timings of the school day

8.50 am	Registration
9.20 am	Lesson 1
10.10 am	Lesson 2
11.00 am	Break
11.20 am	Lesson 3
12.10 pm	Lesson 4
1.00 pm	Lunch
1.40 pm	Lesson 5
2.30 pm	Lesson 6
3.20 pm	End of day

Main uniform

Girls

- Black knee length skirt/tailored trousers
- White shirt/College polo shirt
- College sweater
- Black or white socks/tights
- Sensible, formal shoes (black)
- Tie (only with white shirt)

Boys

- Black tailored trousers
- White shirt/College polo shirt
- College sweater
- Black or white socks
- Sensible, formal shoes (black)
- Tie (only with white shirt)

No visible T shirts or vests under shirts or polo shirts

PE Kit for Girls and Boys

- Black polo shirt with "house" colour detail and logo
- Black sweatshirt with "house" colour logo
- Black football/hockey socks
- White ankle socks
- Black PE skirt, shorts or black tracksuit bottoms
- Football or hockey boots
- Trainers/plimsolls





School plan map

Robertsbridge Community College and WilsonJones

WilsonJones have been providing the catering services to the students and staff at the College over the past two years.

We have been serving fresh home-cooked, healthy, nutritious and, above all, delicious food to the students of Robertsbridge, that represents real value for money.

All our food is freshly prepared on-site each day, using good quality, freshly sourced ingredients.

The new services include a recent new oven for the kitchen and a new clearing station for the dining hall. Our new exciting menu offers both hot and cold, and a 'Friday Breakfast Club' which is proving very popular.

We welcome your feedback and very much hope that you will try our service, and let us have your views. We can be contacted at the school, or why not email Carol Thompson, your Local Operations Manager at; carol@wjcatering.co.uk

Carol and the Team



"We have a great relationship with the school, and the students enjoy the varied meals that the staff create freshly everyday"

Managing Director of WilsonJones



Sample menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish Of The Day	Butchers Choice Sausages with Red Onion Gravy	Chicken and Tomato Spicy Balti	Honey Roast Shoulder of Lamb with Roast Onion Gravy	Mexican Chilli Bean Con Carne	Freshly Battered Fillet of Fish with Lemon Tartar Sauce
Vegetarian Dish Of The Day	Creamy Vegetable Curry & Rice	North African Tagine with Cous-Cous	Risotto Stuffed Aubergine	Macaroni Cheese and Tomato	Cheese And Potato Cake with Sweet Chilli Dressing
Meal In A Bowl Choice	Jerked Pork Ribs with Rice	Potato Wedge Bolognese	B.B.Q Chicken Wings	Mini Tortilla Lasagne	Chicken Drum Stick with Spicy Rice
Vegetable Choice	Mashed Potatoes Peas and Sweet Corn B.B.Q Baked Beans	Garlic Herb Potato Wedges Black Bean Green Beans Peas and Rice	Rosemary Roast Potatoes Glazed Carrots Peppered Swede	Sliced Layered Potatoes Cut Green Beans Cauliflower Florets	Chipped Potatoes Mushy Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Of The Day	Peach and Chocolate Bake with Custard	Chocomocka Pie Fresh Fruit Salad	Iced Bakewell Sponge with Chocolate Sauce	Apple Pie with Custard	Baked Egg Custard and Custard
Jacket Potato Bar (available all week)	Jacket Potato with a selection of fillings, including: Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Tuna and Cheese.				
Special Salad Bar (available all week)	Please see board for details				
Cold Selection (available all week)	A selection of: Baguettes, Sandwiches, Filled Salad Boxes, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt Pots and Fresh Fruit Pots				

