



Gabriel '24

South Africa

Coming from South Africa it was, honestly, a drastic change. I remember vividly how Mr. Filman came rushing out the door to help me get my bag and set up and settle it. He welcomed me with open arms and told me, if I ever need anything, I should always let him know. Covid was not yet resolved, and with social distancing, it took a lot of time for me to meet new people and just know my way around the school. This was also my first time boarding, my first time having roommates.

So when I started getting into the groove of things, and started seeing more students returning, I really realised that RLC was smaller than I thought, which was so different to what I had previously experienced. Because my old school was massive. This is when it hit me, knowing that I was in a new school with a new environment, with new people.

Believe it or not, I was a really bad kid at my old school. There was never a month when I wasn't ever sitting in the office waiting for the principal to come lecture me about me being loud, or my behaviour, or just being a total nuisance.

But at RLC it's like a completely different world. ... the small community at RLC allowed me to reach a level of maturity where I was still able to have fun, and laugh, and be loud, but to also know when the time was appropriate. So, it took me some time to really get to where I am and to know there's a time and place to express myself that way.

RLC is definitely one for the books, and I've gathered so many memories from it. Playing soccer with Ayo and the boys, and having fun during the soccer season. Performing and sharing musical talents and growing as a musical artist myself. Playing in the string ensemble, the outtrips in the crazy weather, and meeting new people from so many different cultures and backgrounds from around the world.

RLC has taught me a lot about myself and how important it is to always be positive, build independence, and never forget who I am. To believe in myself, never change for anyone, and always stick to my values.

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Gabriel joined RLC in 2022 for his Grade 10 year. From the start, his passion for the arts was evident. Gabriel has been a member of the jam band, songwriting club and string ensemble and has performed in numerous concerts. During his time at RLC, he has enjoyed the annual outtrips, performing with the string ensemble, the Indigenous studies class camping trip, the music class trip to the Record Shoppe, spending time with friends, and DJing at the formal this year. Gabriel has been a member of the basketball, soccer, and rugby teams. During his time as a boarding student, he has made many lasting relationships and has been a valued member of each house he has lived in. Gabriel would like to become a creative director and plans to study fashion design and creative industries.