

May 2017

Dear Parents

## **Progression Day 26 June 2017 & Alternative to Higher Education Evening 3 July 2017**

On Monday 26 June Lower Sixth students will be attending an off-timetable day called 'Progression Day', which will build upon the information given to them during Get Ahead Day in February. The aim is to help them make informed choices about their future and life beyond Reigate College.

Students who are interested in applying to higher education will receive a talk from a university on writing their personal statement and attend a workshop to get them underway with the process. In the afternoon, students will attend subject-based sessions, where they can receive specific advice on the subject area(s) they are thinking of applying for. The aim of the day is to ensure that all students are well informed about the university application process (UCAS) and feel equipped to draft their personal statement over the summer holidays.

Students who do not wish to go to university, will attend a talk on Employability Skills and be invited to attend workshops covering interview techniques and on-line assessments. In the afternoon, there will be industry focused sessions, where students can explore opportunities within different employment sectors. Students who are not planning on going to university when they leave College will be offered a place on the Aspire Employability Tutorial in the Autumn term. This is a separate seminar that runs for 11 weeks and supports students in applying for work and/or apprenticeships.

Following on from the Higher Education Information Evening for parents in March, to help you support your son/daughter, we have organised an Information Evening on **Alternatives to Higher Education** on **Monday 3 July** from **6.30pm – 8.00pm**. During the evening, you will have the chance to visit the **Careers Fair**, where employers will be available to talk to you and your son/daughter, about apprenticeship and employment opportunities within their organisations. You will also be able to attend a talk given by Reigate College Careers staff, which will give you an overview of Apprenticeships, Sponsored Degrees and College Leaver Schemes. The talk will take place in the Rispoli Theatre at **6.45pm** and will be repeated at **7.30pm**. If you would like to attend the information evening, please RSVP to [careers@reigate.ac.uk](mailto:careers@reigate.ac.uk).

It is perfectly natural for students to be undecided about the right pathway for them after College at this stage in the year and we actively encourage them to explore all of the options available. If your son/daughter has yet to make a decision, we would recommend that they attend the 'University Pathway' on Progression Day (26 June), attend the 'Alternative to Higher Education Evening' and sign up to the Aspire Employability Sessions in the Autumn term. This should fully equip them to make an informed decision.

We look forward to welcoming you to the College on 3 July, but if in the meantime you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Careers department on 01737 221 118.

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Tippen**  
**Director of Student Development**



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