

Making the move >>

reigate•college



Moving from school to College is a big step and so it's best to be prepared.

This booklet is designed to answer some of the questions you might have. If there's anything we've missed, please just ask.

You can email any questions to: enquiries@reigate.ac.uk



» The College Day

Will I have to be at College all day?

The College day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 4.15pm (3.45pm on Fridays), with a common morning and lunch break and all lessons are compulsory. Most students are at College most of the working week, but like university you can go off-site during free periods.

Lower Sixth students usually take three or four AS or BTEC equivalent courses, with each of these courses having four hours and twenty five minutes of contact time per week. As you're expected to participate in a range of other courses, tutorials and activities, you'll be pretty busy!

Will I have tutorial periods?

Every student is allocated a tutor. This will be someone who teaches you and who will therefore, get to know you very well. There is a dedicated tutorial period each week, which is used for disseminating information and undertaking tutorial activities. You will be expected to attend all your tutorial periods.

Will I have a morning and afternoon registration?

There is a computer based registration system, which means that you will be registered for every lesson you attend (not just AM and PM sessions). You will not have a daily tutor period as your tutor will see you most days in class, so any queries or issues you have can be raised after lessons.

What other classes will I have to attend?

Most students add an additional voluntary Aspire seminar to their Study Programme to help them to develop their university and job applications.

» Sports and Activities

Can I do extra-curricular activities and sport at College?

Extra-curricular activities, including competing in College sports teams, are a very important part of College life. All students are encouraged to take part in an assortment of activities via the College 'Activities Programme' and the College has fantastic resources to make this possible.

The College competes against other schools and colleges in a wide range of sports, including Football, Rugby, Basketball, Hockey and Netball. You can also take part in over 40 different recreational activities during one of the three extended lunch hours (from Film Club, Music Recitals to subject discussion sessions and Spinning).

Do I have to take part in a sport or activity?

No, all sports and activities are voluntary. We do however encourage you to get involved in some extra-curricular activities to help your university or job application stand out from the crowd.

Can I do the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

Yes! Reigate College continues to be one of the most successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centres in Surrey with over 100 students working on their award in July 2016. The Award is a challenging programme of activities, which encourages participants to learn a new skill, help others and experience adventure, as well as giving a great sense of personal achievement. Prospective employers and universities see it as evidence of a student's positive qualities in addition to their formal qualifications.

» Lessons and Subject Choice

Can I do any combination of subject I wish?

It is possible to 'mix and match' pretty much any combination of subjects or levels of qualification. This means that a student can do a variety of A Levels or mix coursework-oriented BTEC subjects with A Level subjects.

If you don't pass English Language or Maths GCSE at Grade 4 or above, you will also have these subjects on your timetable.

The 'mix and match' combinations are endless. This ensures your timetable is tailor-made for you, giving you the best possible chance of doing well.

Can I do 5 A Levels?

We like to stretch students and encourage the most academic students to do five subjects if we think they stand a good chance of doing well in them. A large number of students sign up for four subjects and also add an Aspire seminar to their programme. Other academically strong students do Further Maths, in addition to Mathematics and three other courses.

Increasingly, students who are applying for the most competitive universities and jobs sign up for the Extended Project Qualification in their Upper Sixth, which is equivalent to an additional AS Level qualification. This gives them the opportunity to research a specific area of interest in more detail.

Will my lessons be covered if a teacher is away?

Yes. All Lower Sixth and Intermediate classes will be covered in the unlikely event of a teacher not being at College. Classes are not cancelled due to teacher absence.

Do I have to attend all my lessons?

Attendance is compulsory at all lessons since good attendance has the biggest impact on ensuring your success. Registers are taken for each lesson and you will not be able to pass your 'year' if you fall below the minimum attendance requirement.

Parents will be notified of poor attendance in a prompt and efficient manner. The College expects to receive valid and timely reasons for any lack of attendance.

Is homework compulsory?

Yes. All students are given homework and the amount each teacher sets is closely monitored. If you do not complete homework to the best of your ability we will add extra classes to your timetable to ensure that the work is done. These extra classes will take place during free periods and will be closely supervised.

» Monitoring and Pastoral Care

How will my progress be monitored and reported?

You can expect to be formally assessed on a regular basis in each of your subjects to ensure that you are on course for the best grades possible. For this reason, it is vitally important that you're aware of how well you're doing and what you need to do to improve.

As well as having class and homework marked and returned promptly with feedback, you'll have regular key assessments and individual interviews with your teachers to set and monitor your individual learning plans.

In addition, you'll receive a formal interim report every six weeks. These are meant for you and your parents. For each subject, these show: attendance, punctuality and both a predicted and target grade. A number of area specific effort grades are also given to help you see exactly what you need to do to improve.

If your interim report suggests you need to develop your skills in a particular area, or that you're not working hard enough, we will invite your parents in with you to discuss the best way to improve your performance.

Will my parents/guardians be involved in my education?

We firmly believe in a triangular relationship between you, your parents and the College. Parents/guardians and teachers should do what they can to help you achieve the highest possible grades and help ensure you have a happy and enjoyable time at College.

If we, you or your parents feel that it is not going quite right, we believe in 'nipping things in the bud' and meeting with all parties as early as possible to resolve any concerns. Most parents and students feel that they are more closely monitored at Reigate College than they were at school.

Parents are invited to attend meetings connected with admissions and enrolment and are expected to attend parents evenings, just like at school.

Will I have someone who is responsible for my academic programme and overall welfare?

As well as your Personal Tutor (mentioned already), you will also have a Senior Tutor and a Pastoral Director who are like your Head of Year at school. You should talk to either of these contacts whenever you need to. Your parents or guardians will also be able to contact them directly if they would like to chat about your progress.

» Results and Achievements

Will I get the best grades possible?

The teachers at Reigate College are all specialists in delivering courses to 16 to 19 year olds as that is all they teach. This means they are fully qualified and prepared to ensure that you achieve the very best grades possible.

As well as grades, we monitor the success of each of our courses by reporting on the number of students who leave courses early. Many institutions improve their standing by not entering students for exams or by asking them to leave their courses. Reigate College is consistently amongst the very top colleges in the UK in terms of success rates. The success rate is the measure used by Ofsted as it is the only reliable figure that shows how many students actually complete a qualification and pass it.

At Reigate College we also measure "value added". Probably the best indicator of this is to compare the number of high grades (A* - B grades at A Level) achieved against the number predicted. Reigate College aims to ensure all students out-perform their nationally generated predicted grades. In practice, this means that students whose GCSE scores suggest they will achieve a particular grade in a subject invariably exceed this grade. During a recent visit to the College, Ofsted praised the College and referred to the College's "value added" achievement as "stratospheric".

» Careers and Help to Achieve My Aims

What help will I get with my university application?

With over two thirds of Reigate College students progressing to university each year, the College is able to employ its own team of dedicated Careers and University Advisors who can support students through the application process and help with important decisions along the way. Virtually every university in the country will have received an application from a Reigate College student, including Oxbridge, top Russell Group universities and leading Medical schools.

Will I get advice on what I need to make my application for a job/university competitive?

Planning for university or employment is seen as crucial for each student and the College aims to give individual advice to help each student develop their chosen career path.

Over four hundred students in the Lower Sixth opt to take part in our Aspire Programme, with a dedicated seminar every week. This programme helps prepare students for applications to the very best universities.

What else is offered in College to help me decide on a career?

An Activities Week is offered at the end of the Lower Sixth during which time students can undertake work experience or attend courses or activities designed to help them improve their CV.

Career events are staged throughout the year, including the Get Ahead Day event for Lower Sixth students, which involves talks on a range of career opportunities and a careers fair attended by over 100 universities, employers and Gap Year organisations.

The Careers team also runs an Alternatives to HE evening every year which involves local businesses coming in to talk about College Leaver Programmes, Sponsored Degrees and Apprenticeships.

A Guest Speaker Programme gives students the chance to get first-hand advice from professionals working in a range of careers, who come in to College to share their experiences. Recent talks have included insights into careers in Engineering, Medicine, Journalism, Law and applying to Oxbridge and motivational talks from local business people.

»» **The College Community**

Do students have an opportunity to participate in the running of the College?

The College has an active Students' Union which is represented at College Corporation meetings and consulted by College management on a regular basis. There's a range of around 25 positions on the Students' Union (from President, to Equality Officer and Events Officers) that encourage students to get involved in different aspects of College life.

The Students' Union (SU) is integral in creating the sense of community that students often single out as one of the great positives of the Reigate College experience.

What's the social life like?

The SU organises a range of social and fundraising events including a Freshers' Ball and Christmas and Leavers events. It also plays a lead role in the College's annual Equality and Community Day. These events, plus a range of competitive sports and activities offered through the College Activities Programme, along with the trips and visits programme, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, annual 'Hot Feet' Dance show, bi-annual concerts and cross-College drama productions ensure that you'll make new friends whilst having lots of fun.

Will I feel safe at College?

Reigate College is a totally safe and extremely friendly environment. The College fosters a relationship based on trust and mutual respect for all, and takes pride in a clean and good quality environment with plenty of study and recreational areas on the site. Students benefit from high quality education in a supportive community.

»» **Study and Support**

Will I get help if I have any additional needs?

The College has a large Supported Learning Centre which is designed to cater for the needs of all students. Sometimes even the most academic student needs a bit of help with organising their time, with basic grammar or study skills. Those who have a recognised need will get one-to-one support, including help in a classroom setting.

Is there a virtual learning environment?

The College operates an interactive web based learning environment called Moodle. All departments have a wide range of resources on the site which include lesson plans, interactive tests, quizzes, reading lists and homework tasks. The site can be accessed from any computer both on and off site. The system is akin to what a student will expect and experience when they move on to higher education.

Are there study facilities available for private study?

The College strongly recommends that students make full use of the Independent Learning Centre (ILC), where staff are always on hand to assist. The ILC houses a suite of over 150 computers and Macs, a silent study area and a library with a range of books, daily newspapers, magazines and specialist periodicals.

Free Wi-Fi is accessible across campus for students wishing to use their own personal devices.

Any questions?

If you have any questions that have not been answered in this brochure, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Either email us at enquiries@reigate.ac.uk or telephone us on 01737 221118 (9.00am to 5.00pm term time only).

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