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on route >>

reigate•college



Autumn roundup

Welcome to another edition of the College's On Route newsletter, designed for current and prospective students and their parents or guardians, to catch up on 'news and views' from across the College campus.

One of the most exciting developments in the last few months has been the opening of our new Dramatic Arts Centre, with its high-tech, flexible and fully-equipped performance and rehearsal spaces, designed to meet the needs of our increasingly popular BTEC Performing Arts courses – namely Musical Theatre, Acting and Dance, together with our A Level in Drama & Theatre Studies.

In addition, a superb extension to the Priory Building has transformed our accommodation for Computing, Geography and Politics. A new Physics lab capped off this ambitious project, which has provided more state-ofthe-art facilities to enable students to achieve at the highest possible level.

This term has also seen new developments such as our 'Lecture series' (which was kicked off with 'Why May Lost' given by Head of Politics at Caterham School, Toby Cooper), our involvement with the local charity Loveworks and the hosting of the Volunteers Fair (page 2). These initiatives all demonstrate our intent to increasingly support the broader, local community.

Good luck to any of our prospective students sitting mocks in January or February and Happy Christmas and a successful New Year to all.

Nick Clark, Principal



Performing Arts Box Office

To book tickets for all the College's shows, concerts and showcases see www.rcpaevents.co.uk

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George Mustchin

From microscope to work of art

Upper Sixth BTEC Level 3 Art & Design (Graphics) students kicked off the academic year with a trip to Wakehurst Place in September, to do research for this term's 'Wild England' project.

Examining seeds and plants under the microscope, they photographed some truly remarkable images.

Art & Design Course Leader Kristine Sinclair was full of praise: "The students produced some amazing results, which have served as excellent primary source inspiration for their projects."



Since the trip, students have been working hard both on their end-of-term projects and on a mixed-media exercise exploring different artistic techniques and methods.

They were able to use the images they captured at Wakehurst Place as a reference point, resulting in some really creative and dramatic works of art



Artwork by Jennifer Rowell (above) and Jasmine Morgan (right) - BTEC Art & Design (Graphics)



Time to give something back



On Wednesday 8th November, Reigate College hosted the 2017 Volunteers Fair, organised by Voluntary Action Reigate & Banstead.

College students, together with members of the public, were able to meet with representatives from local organisations to find out about their work and to learn about the range of volunteering

opportunities on offer locally.

Not only a great way to serve the community, volunteering enriches students' educational experiences and offers a chance to gain new skills and meet a wide range of people. It is also highly regarded by employers and university admissions teams.

Rachael has been a member of Dorking snorkelling club for nine years. Having worked her way through the different courses and qualifications, she now volunteers as a qualified BSAC snorkelling instructor. She finds this incredibly rewarding as it allows her to share her knowledge whilst helping others learn and develop new skills.



Rachael is studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths and has applied to study Medicine at university.



Errin has been part of Reigate First Girls' Brigade since she was six years old, when she was taken along by a friend. She made her way up through the different groups and is now a young leader, working with girls in Years 3 to 6. Through volunteering she has made new friends and has learnt more about herself and others, as well as learning the value of patience and perseverance!

Errin is studying A Levels in Product Design (3D Design), Film, and BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) and hopes to pursue acting as a career.

Another excellent

set of results



Left to right: Laura Zander, Sasha Munn and Maisie Chamberlain

Upper Sixth students from Reigate College received just rewards for all their hard work back in August, when they achieved another outstanding set of results.

At A Level the pass rate was up from last year to 99.2%, with the College's BTEC National results now officially among the top in the country with a 100% pass rate. An incredible 97.5% of the Diploma grades (two A Level equivalents) were high grades (Distinctions or Distinction*). In addition, 88.3% of Subsidiary Diploma grades (one A Level equivalent) were high grades.

Principal Nick Clark commented, "We're very proud of all of our students, who achieved tremendous results, despite the significant changes to the A Level exams. They've all been rewarded for their hard work, with the vast majority moving onto their first choice universities including Oxford and Cambridge."

With so many students achieving at the highest possible level it's difficult to single out individuals.

Laura Zander (pictured left) achieved two A*s and an A grade and will be taking up a place at Exeter University to study Business and Management in September 2018. Sasha Munn (centre) also got two A*s and an A and will be heading to UCL to read Economics.

Maisie Chamberlain (right) got two As and a B and is also taking a year out, before going to study Politics & International Relations at Nottingham University.

The College is proud of its impressive record of getting students onto MVD courses (Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry), with a few examples from this year's cohort including Sandro Pietrunti (Medicine), Ailish Redmond (Dentistry) and Hannah Parker (Veterinary Science).

Reigate College's Oxbridge success stories included Amelia Hills (two A*s, and two A grades) who headed to Cambridge to study Classics, Elliot Scott (four A*s and an A) who is doing Natural Sciences at Cambridge and Jake Wren (A*, two A grades and a B) who is reading Anglo Saxon, Norse at Cambridge. Ben Elliott (three A*s and an A) earned an unconditional place at Oxford to study Maths and Philosophy.

Being able to select A Levels or BTECs or

a combination of both allows students to take the courses that give them the best possibility of success.

For example, Zara Munday, who came up through the College's Intermediate Level 2 Programme, achieved a Distinction* in BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care (one A Level equivalent) and a Distinction* in BTEC Level 3 Sport (two A Level equivalent). She is now studying for a degree in Sport & Exercise Therapy at university in Southampton.

Dylan Powell took up a place at Portsmouth University to study Civil Engineering having gained a very respectable A, C, C in Maths, Geography and Physics. He said, "I was very happy with my results. I got into my first choice uni and had a brilliant time at College."

Nick Clark explained, "Students are helped to choose the right combination of courses and are then taught by specialist subject teachers. As a result, they're able to thrive in the supportive, adult environment we create. It provides the perfect transition between school and university or employment."

Why Reigate was the right choice

for me





Above: Evie (left) and Alicia

Making the move from school to College can seem like a daunting step. Here four students share their experiences of joining Reigate College.

Evie is studying A Levels in Law, PE and Psychology and joined Reigate from The Priory C of E in Dorking.

"I was unsure about starting at College. I felt a bit out of my comfort zone. Before I started it seemed like a big College, but it doesn't feel big when you're here.

I'm really pleased I made the jump because everyone is in the same boat and so open to making friends. It makes a real difference being able to call teachers by their first name. It feels like you're more on a level with them, but they still have

I love my courses. They combine really well together and there's a surprising amount of overlap. College has been a great stepping stone and starting uni will seem a lot easier now." Alicia who was at St Bede's is taking A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and French and hopes to study Medicine at university.

"My biggest worry leaving school was having all new teachers that I wasn't used to. But I found within only a few weeks that you're with your teachers so much at College that you soon get to know them really well. There's a positive, happy atmosphere at College and people are so nice.

College is really helping me achieve my ambition of studying Medicine. I'm on the Aspire Programme which gives guidance on applying to university and I've joined the Medicine Club to improve my knowledge."

Joss a talented musician, studied at Dunottar before joining Reigate to take A Levels in Music, Music Technology and

"It's so easy to settle in and you find you know people from other things like gigging in my case. I chose Reigate College as I wanted to be part of a vibrant Music department, surrounded by lots of other Music students. There's lots going on musically - I've joined Jazz Ensemble and the Chamber Choir that both run as lunchtime clubs. I travel here from Dorking; it's so easy as the train service is quick and regular."

Luca who was previously at Warlingham School is doing A Levels in Music, Drama & Theatre Studies and a BTEC in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre).

"I'm really enjoying studying three subjects I'm passionate about. I struggle with exams so it's good having a mix of A Levels and a BTEC with coursework to take the pressure off. The facilities are specialised - a real step up from school and the teachers are fantastically supportive.

It can take me up to an hour and a half to travel to College on the bus, but it's definitely worth it, as coming to Reigate has broadened my options for the future."



Everyone in the College Community from Teachers to Personal Tutors and members of the Students' Union make it their responsibility to ease new students into College life as quickly as possible. Here's a breakdown of the transition programme:

Personal Tutor

Every student gets allocated a Personal Tutor, who is someone who teaches them, so students get to know them really well, and they become the first point of contact for any issues or concerns.

College Community AfternoonThis is a fun afternoon of activities which

takes place in the first few weeks of term and gives Lower Sixth and Intermediate students the chance to get to know their classmates and Tutors.

Student Mentoring Scheme

Upper Sixth students are trained to support and advise younger students and help them settle into College life.

Freshers' Party

Organised by the Students' Union in early October, the Freshers' party is a great opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old ones.



Above: Joss (left) and Luca

Community Afternoon

Reigate College is renowned for its strong community spirit with students reporting a genuine sense of belonging and togetherness. An important part of this is the College's Annual Community Afternoon, held in September each year.

This year's Community Afternoon took place on Tuesday 19th September and was a chance for students to work together, as each tutor group was tasked with creating its own College Community Charter and coat of arms.

A barbeque and a series of fun challenges followed, before students took full advantage of the giant colourful inflatables provided for the occasion.

The afternoon was a great opportunity for new students to make new friends and feel part of College life early on in the academic year.



Stephanie Whitelock, Community Events Manager at the College said, "There was a real buzz in the College during the afternoon, and everyone seemed to be having a great time!"



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Activities

Programme

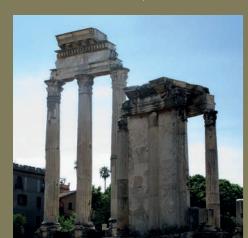




Reigate College offers a fantastic range Spring Activities Programmes.

With activities ranging from sewing machine skills to Ancient Greek, clay modelling to fencing, and dodgeball to Jazz Ensemble, there really is something

Students have the chance to find out about the programme and meet Activity Leaders at the College Activities Fair (this term held on 12th September).



Details about the Spring Programme, January at www.reigate.ac.uk/activities-

Stephen Tippen, Director of Student Development says, "Getting involved with the programme is an excellent way to enhance university and career prospects. Students with extra-curricular interests stand out as being able to demonstrate high levels of commitment, participation and dedication beyond their studies."

He added, "Recent educational research conducted by groups such as The Sutton

The College's varied Activities programme and the Volunteering Fair hosted here in November are key examples of our commitment to the enrichment of each student's educational experience.

Spotlight on 'Students for **High-Impact** Charity Club'

This varied programme – focussing on issues as diverse as global poverty, animal suffering, international catastrophes and the threat from artificial intelligence

 gives students the opportunity to consider whether charities are responding in the most effective to organise some fundraising activities for a charity of their

The Club meets on Tuesdays at 1.15pm in Room P111, and all are



STUDENTS FOR HIGH IMPACT CHARITY

Apprenticeship successes





Clockwise from left: Scarlett, Emily and



The government commitment to delivering three million apprenticeships by 2020 is good news for sixth formers, as it means there are a wealth of school leaver opportunities available.

Here three former students talk to On Route about their different apprenticeship schemes.

Scarlett Meakings

Previous school: The Ashcombe

Subjects studied at Reigate: A Levels in French, English Literature and Psychology

Apprenticeship: Human Resources with global high-tech company Thales.

"I liked the idea of working in HR as I think it really suits my skills and the more I found an Apprenticeship with them.

I got a place on the Level 3 HR Apprenticeship Rotational Programme with work across various areas of HR during the two-year prgramme, gaining a breadth of knowledge before deciding which area I'd like to pursue as a full-time career.

At the moment I'm working in the project management side of HR, organising and managing events that we run with schools both on and off site. Later I'll move in to shared services and then resourcing, which includes the recruitment of new staff."

Emily Vivian

Previous school: Oxted

Subjects at Reigate: BTECs in Business and Travel & Tourism

Apprenticeship: Business Administration with global consumer goods company

supportive and helped me prepare for the interviews we did definitely helped boost my confidence.

Unilever is a really friendly and exciting company to work for. I was amazed that within only a couple of weeks of starting, I was already working on my first task – organising an ice-cream sampling event. This immediately helped me settle in and made me feel part of the team.

Working in Unilever's Customer **Development Shopper Marketing** Refreshments Team we focus on products such as tea and ice-cream. My job is so varied. As well as working on events, I'm involved in magazine photoshoots in London, store visits and attend a variety of

Jamie Smith

Previous School: Oakwood

Subjects at Reigate: BTECs in Art & Design (Graphics) and IT, A Level Media

Apprenticeship: Digital Marketing with media group Dentsu Aegis.

"I was drawn to doing an apprenticeship as I liked the idea of on-the-job training, whilst being paid.

Based near Regent's Park, my apprenticeship will last 18 months and I'll spend six months in each of the three main Visual Buying and Digital.

I have to complete a series of online training courses including Google Analytics and an online Marketing Fundamentals qualification. The end result will be a Level 3 Diploma in Digital Marketing and a fulltime, permanent role with Dentsu Aegis."

Diary Dates

National Apprenticeship Show, Sandown Park 5th & 6th March 2018.

See the weekly Careers Bulletin for apprenticeship opportunities. Available on Facebook @ReigateCollege

Why it's good to

'Mix and Match'

A Levels with BTECs



National surveys of thousands of Advanced Level students show that there is a pattern between their GCSE scores and the results they achieve on A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses.

Many students find that doing all BTEC Level 3 or Technical Level courses, rather than all A Levels, or a 'Mix and Match' of these with A Levels, gives them the best chance of attaining the UCAS points they need to progress to university. It comes as a surprise to lots of students (and parents) to learn how many UCAS points BTECs can count for (see table below).

For example, it's preferable for students to do a combination of two BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma/Certificate and one A Level and achieve a Distinction or Distinction* in the BTECs, than it is for them to do three A Levels and achieve lower grades in them.

Most students who keep up with the demands of BTEC/Technical Level coursework and are committed to doing well, are capable of achieving Distinctions on BTEC Level 3 courses.

As BTEC Level 3/Technical Level course are predominantly coursework based, doing a combination of these courses with traditional A Levels can take the pressure off around exam time, with students being able to focus their revision efforts on fewer courses.

Here are some examples of different kinds of programmes former students have taken and what they've led to.





From above left: Simran, Polly and Cale

Simran Sharma

Previous School: Reigate School

BTEC Law, A Level Sociology and A Level English Literature

Queen Mary University of London, Law, 2016

Polly Saines

Previous School: Dunottar

BTEC Sport, BTEC Business and BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)

University of Bath, Sport & Social Sciences, 2017

Cale Mitchell

Previous School: St Andrew's CE High School, Croydon

Intermediate Programme, followed by BTEC Law and BTEC Business

University of Kent, Marketing, 2017

Comparison of A Level and BTEC UCAS Points 2017

Points	GCE A Level	GCE AS Level	BTEC Diploma	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC Certificate
112			D*D*		
104			D*D		
96			DD		
80			DM		
64			MM		
56	A*			D*	
48	А		MP	D	
40	В				
32	С		PP	М	
28					D*
24	D				D
20		А			
16	E	В		Р	M
12		С			
10		D			
8					Р
6		Е			

Union matters >>

The Students' Union has made an excellent start to the year. Thank you for all your efforts – from organising the Freshers' Party to charity drives and assisting at College events. To see photos of past events, 'like' www.facebook.com/ReigateCollege.



Freshers' Party

The College Refectory was transformed with UV paintings, neon palm trees, balloons and lights to create a fantastic setting for the sell-out neon-themed Freshers' Party on Thursday 5th October.

Students danced the night away with



the live DJ. They also enjoyed the free photo booth and glow-sticks in bountiful supply, the evening got the term off to a cracking start

Organised by the College's Students' Union, the Freshers' Party is one of the highlights of the social calendar.



Freshers' Party photos by Isobel Townsend

AGE

Age Concern Christmas Appeal

The SU is serving the elderly in Redhill, Reigate and Merstham by co-ordinating the College's involvement with Age Concern's Christmas Appeal.

A student choose the centre on December to the festivities.

Each tutor group, together with some College departments, is putting together a gift bag for an elderly resident known to Age Concern, as well as raising £7.50 to cover the cost of their Christmas dinner. This will enable 90 local elderly residents to attend the Age Concern Daycare Christmas meal.

A student choir will also be visiting the centre on Tuesday 19th December to sing carols as part of the festivities



Students' Union representatives 17/18

President:	Kit Giroux
Vice President:	Dan Edmunds
Administrator:	Jack Crouch
Treasurer:	Kacper Zygmunt
Equality Officer:	Emily Cheeseman
Disabilities Officer:	Ferdie Gould
LGBTQ+ Officer:	Ellie Graham
Unity Officer:	Jackie Nando
Women's Officer:	Jemina Edwards
Charity Officer:	Enya Webster-Salter
Events Officer:	Nikita Osborne
Community & Welfare Officer:	Megan Beard
Student Governors:	Dan Edmunds & Ellie Graham
Environmental Officer:	Maisie Bayliss

Student welfare

Fancy a chat? Megan Beard, Community & Welfare Officer, and Emily Cheeseman, Equality Officer help with the running of the College's student drop ins.

Led by staff member Ella Mansfield, the sessions take place on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes in P107. All are welcome.

Loveworks 'Wear it Red'

The College annual Christmas Charity Day is on Tuesday 19th December. The SU will be encouraging all staff and students to wear red (the brighter the better!) and bring in donations for Reigate-based charity Loveworks.



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George Mustchin was at Box Hill School before joining Reigate College. He's currently in the Upper Sixth studying A Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths.

Here he talks to On Route about his passion for hockey and his ambitions for the future.

On Route: What made you choose Reigate College?

George Mustchin: I was attracted by the College's excellent reputation and the amazing facilities.

OR: When did you start playing hockey and what do you enjoy about the game?

GM: I first played hockey in Year 4 when I was eight years old and I've been playing ever since. As a striker I enjoy the speed of the game and the team spirit.

OR: Who do you currently play for?

GM: I train and play for East Grinstead men's. It's one of the oldest and most respected clubs in the UK. I get to train alongside the men's first team so I'm learning from British Olympic players such as Liam Ansell and Chris Griffiths. I've just taken part in a selection day for a place in the GB colleges hockey squad. We had to play a number of matches

and demonstrate hockey-related drills and skills throughout the day in front of the GB selectors. It was pretty full on but I've just heard that I've got through to the final selection camp.

OR: How many times a week do you play?

GM: I train twice a week for East Grinstead as well as playing at the weekend and for the College's mixed hockey team. In total I'm usually on a hockey pitch five days a week.

OR: What are your plans for the future?

GM: I'm not sure yet about going to university but if I do decide to go, I'd like to study Quantity or Building Surveying. I definitely want to keep playing hockey and one day I'd like to get into the Great Britain squad.

DofE Gold Award goes from strength-tostrength

Recognised throughout the world, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the leading youth achievement scheme for 14-25 year-olds. Comprising five complementary sections – volunteering, skills, physical, expedition and residential – it gives participants the opportunity to develop their own interests and skills, and is highly regarded by employers and universities alike.



Reigate College students on the 2017 expedition to Snowdonia

Fifty-seven Lower Sixth students have already signed up to the Gold programme, which is open to all new students, regardless of whether they've achieved the Bronze or Silver Awards.

Being a Direct Licensed Centre, the College is able to offer a wide range of in-house training sessions. Many of these focus on the expedition to Snowdonia, which is undoubtedly the most challenging, and rewarding, element of the programme.

Next year's practice hike will take place in the Brecon Beacons from 28th to 31st March 2018, with the final qualifying hike from 6th to 10th July 2018. Students will be assessed on all aspects of the trek, including camp craft, teamwork, navigation/map reading, cooking, food selection and route planning.

Sports Roundup



Mens' 1st Team Football
Good start to the season with some

very positive performances. There is a very talented squad this year and a fantastic team atmosphere. Stand out performances so far have come from O'Neill Anderson in midfield and, as always, Ramin Rashidi up front who has scored some priceless goals.

Mens' 3rd Team Football

It's been a mixed bag of results so far, with two early victories followed by two defeats. The highlight of the season so far came in mid-November beating Reigate College's 2nd Team 4-2 in the Surrey Colleges Cup.

Mixed Hockey

The Hockey team has performed exceptionally well this season winning the inaugural Mixed Hockey Hurtwood House Cup with a superb 1-0 victory against Esher in the final. The team has progressed to the next round of the AoC Mixed competition where they will play favourites Peter Symonds.

Ladies' Football

The Ladies' Football Team has made a fantastic start to the season, scoring 28 goals across 5 games with Imogen Burns



being the current top scorer with 18 of these. Seven of these goals for Imogen came against Collyers, after the ladies were 3-1 down at half time, but turned the game around to win 9-3.

Rugby

The rugby squad is strong this year, with the College fielding two teams. Lewis Crouch has been excellent as captain, Barney Davies has marshalled the backs superbly and there have been outstanding performances from Owen Hulme, Max McAuliffe, Jacob Burgess, Rob Cousins, Reuben Galvau and Robin English.

Golf

Olivia Hunt took part in the 2017 Sky Sports Junior European Golf Open in November. With five rounds on two of Spain's most prestigious courses, the event is seen as Europe's most challenging test in junior golf.



Basketball

The team has made a good start to the season, securing wins in a third of its games. Coaching will focus on improving confidence, tactics and team performance.

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Starting at Reigate College in September 2018?

Look out for invitations to our evening Applicants' Events - designed to help firm up subject choices and weigh up possible career choices.

To include Medical Sciences, Engineering, Law, Classics, Film & Media, Fashion & Textiles, Modern Languages and many more!

Events are by invitation only as places are limited.



For all the latest careers advice and opportunities, don't miss the Careers Bulletin which gets emailed weekly to every student.



Also available via the College Facebook page.

Simply 'Like' @ReigateCollege on Facebook and receive it, on a weekly basis, alongside other College news.

Also see www.reigate.ac.uk/new-careers-bulletin

Shakespeare School Festival

BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts (Acting) students gave an outstanding performance at the Shakespeare School Festival at Leatherhead Theatre in November. Sharing the stage with three other schools, the students gave an expressive and creative rendition of *Macbeth* to create a performance worthy of a professional theatre group. Their captivating and engaging approach made them the stand-out performance of the evening.



BTEC Acting teacher Zoe-Ann Dunkley praised everyone involved, saying, "The students were a real credit to the College and the evening was a great success. We hope to return next year with an equally masterful production."

Diary dates >>>

From December 2017 Tickets available from www.rcpaevents.co.uk

What	When	Where
Hot Feet Dance show An exciting range of dances, all choreographed and performed by students. Tickets cost £6 (students & concessions £3)	Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December 7 - 9pm	Rispoli Theatre, Reigate College
Christmas Cross-College Show An Alternative Nativity. Over 18's only. Tickets cost £2.50	Tuesday 12th December 5 - 7pm	Rispoli Theatre, Reigate College
Winter Concert A magical evening of musical performance by the College's top musicians. Tickets £3 (students £1.50)	Thursday 14th December 7.30 - 9pm	Rispoli Theatre, Reigate College
End of Autumn Term	Wednesday 20th December	
Start of Spring Term	Thursday 4th January	
Battle of the Bands Suitable for over 16's. Tickets in advance £6 (concessions £5). All tickets £7 on the door.	Thursday 1st March 2018 7pm	Harlequin Theatre, Redhill



Reigate College's Alumni is a professional network of over 1,000 former students who are studying or working in a wide range of areas.

Help us grow the network, so that together we can help inspire and support current students.

- Sign up via the future first website: www.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/ reigatecollege
- Join our new group on Linked in Search 'Alumni Reigate College'
- Or email Laura Troop via alumni@reigate.ac.uk

Photography page eight – Michael Little. All other photography by former student Raluca Babos.

National Teaching School designated by



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