Spring Term
Welcome to the Spring 2020 edition of On Route, Reigate College’s termly newsletter.
It’s been a turbulent few weeks for all of us.
As you will be aware, due to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, student learning is now taking place remotely, this summer’s public examinations have been cancelled and we must now all stay at home in order to keep our communities safe and to protect the NHS.
At times like this, the strength of the Reigate College community becomes overwhelmingly apparent to me, and I know that all of us – students, staff and parents alike – are working together to ensure our students continue to receive the best possible education.
All students have been fully briefed on how the College is delivering remote learning and we have every confidence that we will be able to continue to prepare students well for the next stages of their educational journey.
I will carry on sending regular emails to current students and parents, to update you on the situation as it unfolds and as we receive further clarification, including information for students in the Upper Sixth regarding the awarding of grades for this year’s A Levels and the implications for university places. We will also be in touch with prospective students and their parents in due course.
On a more positive note, please take a look through the following newsletter to catch up on some of the great success stories from the last few months, that I know will continue in the months ahead.

Nick Clark, Principal
25th March 2020

Open Evenings for 2021 entry
Thursday 1st, Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th October, 6pm to 8.30pm
Senior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 16th January, Lower and Upper Sixth A Level Mathematics students were invited to a special presentation for those who had achieved either a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate in the 2019 Senior Maths Challenge.

The national competition, organised annually by the UK Mathematics Trust, was held back in November and all A Level Mathematics students at the College were invited to take part. Their standard was extremely high this year and between them they achieved three Gold certificates, 24 Silver and 21 Bronze.

Top offers

University offers have been streaming in for Upper Sixth students this term, including those on the College’s Aspire Programme.

Beginning in the Lower Sixth, the Aspire Programme is designed to support students wishing to apply to the top universities or to highly competitive courses, such as Medicine and Law. Through an additional weekly seminar, students are given targeted advice, support and guidance to help them aim high and then go to achieve their goals.

The Programme is again proving highly successful this year, with a number of Aspire students receiving four or more offers from Russell Group universities (the UK’s 24 leading world-class research-intensive universities), including (from left to right in photo above):
- Michael Hutton, first choice Chemistry with Molecular Physics at Imperial
- Joel Aston, first choice Biochemistry at St Hilda’s College, Oxford

The above students are among the many receiving offers from Russell Group universities.

Apprenticeship success

Offers are also coming in for students choosing to do a degree apprenticeship, which allows them to earn a salary and gain experience at the same time as studying. Places on such schemes are highly competitive and the application process can be lengthy, so congratulations go to the Wilcox who has been offered an Accountancy degree apprenticeship with the BBC and Hannah Morey who has a place to do a Chartered Manager degree apprenticeship with Nestlé.

Students looking to choose the Apprenticeship route are given targeted advice through a range of College-run and external events (read more on page 7) and through the Upper Sixth tutorial programme.

Operating Theatre Live

Such events are hugely beneficial and Upper Sixth students on the MVD pathway are already seeing offers come in, such as (clockwise):
- Ben Aldridge: Veterinary Science (Bristol, Surrey and Nottingham)
- Mukunth Kovsh: Medicine (Birmingham)
- Jacob Foulsham: Medicine (Newcastle)
- Manny Chaffe: Medicine (Sheffield)
- Cameron Fowler: Medicine (Leeds)
- Sapha Graham: Medicine (University of East Anglia)
- Holly Davies: Medicine (University of East Anglia)
- Ewan Young: Medicine with a Gateway Year (University of East Anglia)

MVD news

Aspire

The students achieving certificates are as follows:

Gold: Riana Islam, Emma Masters, Daniel Selwood
Silver: Isaac Alexander, Freddy Baker, Kit Barrad, Evan Bell, Ben Bradley, Max Calleider, Naresh Chavais, Rachaii Hawthorne, Paddy Henderson, Isabel Hurd, Toby Hooke, Dan John, Ias Jangi, Callum Moore, Jonas Wohlschaff, Rachel Perkins, Samudha Price, Alastair Pitchard, Hannah Reader, Ian Roberts, Benjamin Robertson, Owen Shadahan, Joshua Young, Sander Wynne
Bronze: Marcel Bui, James Barron-Harrison, Emran Biondi Acnaran, Adam Cammera, Daniel Chung, Charlotte Cooke, Haira Dahi, William Elphick, James Fod, Mike Fux, Charlie Harris-Davies, Adam Jarvis, Patricina Khan, Rebecca Oplon, Emma Parket, Grace Petting, Daniel Pohiman, Courtney Ross, Cam Sart, Lavina Telfer, Liza Teacher

Maths Inspiration

Insight into Cancer Research

Lower Sixth student Ben O’Shea on stage with Hannah Fry

Maths was taken out of the classroom and presented in exciting real-life situations when over 30 A Level students attended a Mathematics inspiration lecture at the Phoenix Theatre in London. The event featured three interactive talks and a lively Q&A session and was hosted by a number of speakers, including ‘stand-up Mathematician’ Matt Parker and BBC presenter Hannah Fry, who also delivered the 2019 Royal Institution Christmas lectures.

Maths is the most popular A Level choice for Reigate College students, and for good reason – it goes well with every subject and is incredibly highly valued by universities and employers alike.

Lower Sixth student Tally Rivens attended an interactive open evening at the Institute of Cancer Research’s Chelsea labs, where she met ICR researchers in their labs, heard about possible future careers in cancer research and gained some practical scientific skills.

Students on the MVD pathway who are looking to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry at university have had a busy term, with a number of external speakers coming into College to talk about their specialisms, including:
- Dr Jonathan Spongiett, from St George’s Hospital, discussing his work as an Anaesthetist
- Dr Anna Mustill sharing her experiences as a GP
- The team from Operating Theatre Live, offering a day-long immersive experience
**Film and Media news**

**BFI success**

Congratulations to Emma Ricketts, Amy Walk, Matthew Hoap and Amy Watt-Pringle who are the latest students to have been offered places on the British Film Institute’s Film Academy residential courses.

**In the media**

A career in the media industry is a popular choice for many students. Here’s what two of our former students are doing now.

Emma Paton was at Reigate College between 2005 and 2007 and studied A Level PE, Psychology and Sociology. She went on to do a degree in Sports Science at Loughborough University followed by a Masters in Sports Journalism. She is currently a presenter and reporter for Sky Sports News. As well as presenting in the studio, she can be seen out and about as a roving reporter at sporting events.

Former St Bede’s student Dan Noble left Reigate College in 2016 with A Levels in Media Studies, Maths and Music Technology. Having worked his way up through local radio, he is now a presenter with his own show on Absolute Radio.

**Film and Media are increasingly popular subject choices at the College.**

On Route caught up with Upper Sixth student Xia Gray about why she chose A Level Media Studies and her plans for the future.

**On Route:** How did you make your A Level choices?

**Xia:** I wanted to do subjects I’m genuinely interested in, and that work well together. I’ve always really enjoyed Economics and English Literature, and the Media Studies course sounded excellent. I’m really glad I chose it – it’s so well resourced and I’ve especially loved the creative elements.

**On Route:** How has the College supported you in your aspirations?

**Xia:** Being part of the Aspire Programme was incredibly beneficial, especially the tips for my UCAS personal statement, and the opportunity to do an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

**On Route:** What was your EPQ about?

**Xia:** My essay was entitled “In what ways is media involved in the rise of anti-abortion laws in America, with a particular focus on Ohio?” which overlapped with all three of my A Levels. Being able to talk about the issues in depth certainly helped in my Cambridge interview.

**On Route:** What are you planning on doing after College?

**Xia:** I’ve applied for university courses that join together lots of different subjects I’m interested in, and where I can learn more about the world around me.

**On Route:** What offers have you received?

**Xia:** I’ve been offered a place to study HSPS (Human Social and Political Science) at St Catherine’s College, Cambridge, which is my first choice, and I’ve also had offers from Exeter, Bristol and Swansea, and I’m still waiting to hear from St Andrew’s.

**Extended Project Qualification – the EPQ**

At the end of the Lower Sixth, students on the Aspire Programme are invited to do an EPQ as an additional qualification alongside their other subjects. Equivalent to an AS Level, it gives students the opportunity to develop all sorts of skills – most obviously in research and presentation – and so is highly valued by universities and employers.

An EPQ can be on just about anything – the only requirement is that it’s something the student is passionate about – and can take the form of a dissertation, field study, performance or artefact, for example. Typically, most students taking the EPQ achieve an A* or A. This year’s EPQ students have undertaken a huge range of different topics. For example, budding Software Engineer Dominic Terry designed, constructed and evaluated his own drone: “My project involved a lot of time management and self-motivation so I had to learn how to be organised and properly structure my research and note-taking. The idea of creating a piece of work from concept to final project seems quite daunting when you start but the satisfaction of completing it was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the project.”

For her EPQ, Amy Watt-Pringle wrote, directed and produced ‘Documenting Scarlet’, a documentary based on the experience and journey of a drag queen in modern society. “My brother is a young drag queen so this was a very personal topic which made it all the more worthwhile. The project taught me so much about camera work and editing, and I’ve learnt time management, idea development, organisation and most importantly self-motivation and confidence.”

As a result of producing ‘Documenting Scarlet’, Amy will be taking part in the BFI Film Academy at Pinewood Studios and has been accepted onto the National Film and Television School’s two-week residential film course for Cinematography. She also plans to apply for the BAFTA mentorship programme and a Netflix or Warner Bros Apprenticeship.

Many students choose to do an essay-based EPQ, such as future Media Cameron Fowler who investigated the question: “Should 3D printed organs be used for transplantation instead of the more traditional method of organ donation?”

He explains how he chose the topic: “During an Aspire lesson last year, we watched a TED talk about 3D printed organs. Having learnt about stem cells in Biology, I was fascinated by how organs could be created in this way. Also, having done work experience in hospitals, I saw patients in desperate need of an organ transplantation and I thought this technique could be a valid alternative to the current method.”

Other EPQ projects this year include the creation of an original children’s book (Mia Bleach) and a corset made using traditional sewing methods (Alex Davis).

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Iceland trip
A Level Geography students had the opportunity to see Iceland’s fascinating topography for themselves during their five-day trip over Half Term. The action-packed visit took in guided tours of Reyjafjörk, the Golden Circle and South Shore, giving students the opportunity to swim in the Blue Lagoon, see the hot springs and waterfalls, go on a glacier hike, spot seals along the seashore and go on a night-time tour to see the Northern Lights.

Lessons from Auschwitz
Each year, two of Reigate College’s Upper Sixth A Level History students are selected for the annual Lessons from Auschwitz project. Congratulations to Isabel Locke and Kit Barraud who were chosen for this year’s places.

Write here, write now

Building writers have plenty of opportunities to hone their craft through the College’s Activities Programme. For example, Creative Writing Club runs on a Wednesday lunchtime and this term students have covered a range of topics to develop skills in writing short stories, novels, plays, films and poetry, using assorted materials to act as a stimulus. Each student has built up a digital portfolio of writing, extracts from which will be used to produce a College anthology.

Lower Sixth student Stella Gold explains how it’s helped her: “Before I started going to Creative Writing I wasn’t a very confident writer, but now I’m enjoying branching out into different forms of writing.”

Over 20 students are also part of Newsquest’s Young Reporters’ Scheme, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in journalism and have their articles published in online newspapers. Here are just some of the recently published articles by College students:

Alyssa Gobin: ‘The Creature at Rose Theatre’, This is Local London
Louis Walsh: ‘City’s European Ban’, Sutton & Croydon Guardian
Dani Dodman: ‘Do We Care About Award Ceremonies Anymore?’, Surrey Comet
Izzy Hudson: ‘The reality of working in the big city’, This is Local London

Shakespeare inspiration
Students on the College’s two A Level English courses (English Literature and English Language & Literature) had a taste of university lectures when three lecturers from the University of Sussex’s English Faculty came in to College to speak about the contexts and language of Shakespeare’s plays on Monday 4th March. The lessons also included a brief presentation on English degrees and related careers.

Get Ahead Day

Lower Sixth students took a break from lessons on Tuesday 4th February to research their post-College options at the College’s annual progression-planning day.

A staggering 116 exhibitors took part in the day from a range of universities, including top Russell Group universities and other specialist providers, employers, local education providers and gap year organisations. As well as the Careers Fair, the College also ran talks by representatives from Portsmouth and Brighton universities and a masterclass with the Barcelona Institute of the Arts.

An additional Get Ahead Day was held on Tuesday 25th February specifically for students on the Intermediate Programme (those doing an extra year at College) to help them think about their next steps. The day included interactive sessions on CV writing, employability skills and social media profiles, other local education providers as well as a talk on Apprenticeships.

The College’s Careers team was on hand throughout both days to offer advice and guidance.

Beyond Reigate
The College held two information evenings for parents of Lower Sixth students on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January explaining how Reigate College supports students with their progression planning, the university application process and student finance, and an overview of apprenticeship options.
It’s been another busy term for the Students’ Union. Here’s a taste of what they’ve been involved with:

Fundraising
Lower Sixth students have been looking at the area of disability in their tutorial programme with a particular focus on raising money for the Guide Dogs. The Upper Sixth tutor groups have been focussing on raising awareness of mental health and fundraising for the Samaritans and the Lucy Rayner Foundation.

I Love Reigate College
During the week before Half Term, the SU hosted a series of I Love Reigate College pop-up events. Featuring candyfloss, the wall of hearts and a chocolate fountain – plus some unforgettable appearances from Larry the Lobster – this was the perfect alternative to Valentine’s Day.

Performing Arts
students have had plenty of opportunities to showcase their talents. Here’s a roundup of what’s been happening.

Battle of the Bands
College bands had the chance to battle it out on a professional stage at the annual Battle of the Bands at the Harlequin Theatre on Monday 2nd March. After a fantastic evening, Days Notice received the loudest cheer and so was crowned the winning band. Congratulations to band members: Jack Hughes, Drew Burridge, Marcus Atkins and Charlie De-Cari.

Winter Concert
Reigate College’s talented musicians put on a wonderful evening of seasonal entertainment with a selection of both classical and contemporary pieces and featuring soloists, duets, bands, the Chamber Choir and Chamber Ensemble.

Rebecca Pain

Winter Concert

Oliver Twist
On Wednesday 11th March, students from across the College performed to a captivated audience in this year’s sell-out production of Oliver Twist.

Urban Dance workshop
Former student Grace Herman returned to College to lead an Urban Dance workshop for Upper Sixth BTEC Level 3 Dance students on Wednesday 29th January. Grace has competed internationally and is now studying Dance at the University of East London on the BA (Hons) Dance: Urban Practice course.

Volunteering
Students have been getting involved with a range of local volunteering opportunities this year through the College’s links with VARB (Voluntary Action Reigate & Banstead), including roles with local charities LoveWorks, Include and Active Prospects.

Our thanks to Alexi Lower from Include who came into College on Wednesday 26th February to run a signing workshop.

Wellbeing
2020 kicked off in College with New Year New You lunchtime pop-up events in the Refectory. College staff were on hand to chat with students and raise awareness of this term’s activities and events.

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Coming up
● The SU is busy making plans for this year’s Leavers’ Fest, one of the highlights of the College’s social calendar, to be held after College on Friday 15th May. More details to follow.
● The annual Equality and Community Day will be taking place in College on Thursday 25th June.
● After a highly successful launch last summer, Ride Reigate – the town’s official road cycling race – will again be using Reigate College as its base. This year’s event will be on Sunday 12th July. To find out how to get involved, go to www.ridereigate.com.

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Meet England Football hopeful Libby Bance

Like former England player Faye White, MBE, Libby Bance went to Oakwood before coming to Reigate College, and is passionate about Football. She is in the Lower Sixth and plays for Brighton & Hove Albion.

Why did you choose Reigate College? It has a great reputation and coming here meant I could combine the courses I’m most interested in.

Which subjects are you doing? I’m studying A Level PE and History along with BTEC Applied Science. I’m really enjoying all three.

What drives you? I love being on the pitch and being part of a supportive friendly team. I play in centre midfield so there’s always plenty going on.

How do you fit in training/playing with your College work? I’m planning on carrying on with Football and will hopefully get a full-time contract, I’m working in my free periods. It has a great reputation and coming here meant I could combine the courses I’m most interested in.

How have you found settling in? The workload is definitely a step up from GCSE so that took a bit of getting used to, but I’m very settled and have loads of friends here.

How did you first get involved with Football? I joined an after school club when I was in Reception aged four which I carried on with in Junior School. When I was old enough I got involved with Surrey Schools Training, which led on to playing for Surrey County and from there I was scouted by Brighton & Hove Albion. With them I’ve been through the U13s, U14s and U16s and now I’m in the Development U21s squad.

What do you most enjoy about the sport? I love being on the pitch and being part of a supportive friendly team. I play in centre midfield so there’s always plenty going on.

How do you fit in training/playing with your College work? I’m planning on carrying on with Football and will hopefully get a full-time contract, I’m working in my free periods.

What’s been your highlight so far? Playing for Brighton & Hove Albion’s First Team has been such an amazing experience – the game we won 5-0 against the London Bees was a definite highlight!

What are your plans for the future? I’m planning on carrying on with Football and will hopefully get a full-time contract, and maybe even compete for England!
Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award news

Congratulations to the 48 students who’ve completed the Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award since enrolling in September 2018. This spring 19 students, past and present, will be going to Buckingham Palace to receive their award.

Ski trip

Forty-six students accompanied by six members of staff travelled to Austria over half-term for the College’s annual ski trip. See more photos from the trip at www.reigate.ac.uk/photo-galleries/college-ski-trip-to-austria/

Reigate College Instagram

Keen-eyed students will have spotted Reigate College’s photographer and multimedia expert Raluca Babos taking snapshots of College life for the College’s new Instagram account, @ReigateCollege. Raluca was a student at the College and has just graduated with a first class degree in Photography from Southbank University. We are delighted to have her now working at the College part-time.

Parent feedback

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed the New Parents’ Survey in January. Here’s a selection of the comments received:

"Reigate College has helped increase my daughter’s confidence so much. The pupils are treated with respect and as individuals which enhances their self-worth. Thank you.

I am extremely impressed with the quality of education and support my daughter is receiving.

We are very happy with how our son has settled at Reigate, and with the level of communication and engagement from the College.

My daughter has made a great start in her three subjects – her teachers are hugely supportive and we couldn’t really ask for more.

I have been blown away by all the support the College has given.

Applying to Reigate College was the best decision we ever made – our daughter is flourishing in all her subjects and as an individual.

At Reigate College my son has found motivation and meaning in study.

The pastoral care in particular has so far been very helpful and supportive.

Our daughter is incredibly happy at College and is absolutely certain that she made the right decision to come.

I have never seen my son as happy in education as he has been since joining Reigate. I couldn’t fault the College on anything – we are delighted to be part of the institution.

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/reigate-college

Join our group on LinkedIn Search ‘Alumni Reigate College’ Or email Laura Troop, Alumni Officer, via alumni@reigate.ac.uk

ALUMNI

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