



Times Like These

Welcome to the 'Alumni Special' edition of our termly newsletter On Route. With less extra-curricular news to report on than usual, we've decided to use this edition to share the brilliant achievements of some of our former students (see pages 9 - 15).

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the entire College community for the way everyone has come together to support one another during the pandemic.

It was a relief to us all to return to face-to-face lessons in September, and talking to students and staff around the campus, it's rewarding to hear first-hand how much they appreciate having 'in person' rather than 'virtual' lessons.

I would also like to pay tribute to the adaptability and resilience of both the staff and students. Hand sanitisation, mask wearing and one-way systems may now be a part of everyday life, but combined with other changes around the site and a reworked timetable, we are doing all we

can to keep everyone safe during these uncertain times.

With our usual programme of Christmas Performing Arts Shows and Music Concerts on hold, the run up to Christmas will certainly feel quite different this year, but the spirit of Christmas is very much alive at Reigate College – as seen by the expressions of help, good cheer and understanding I witness around College every single day.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and look forward to things returning to normal – be it a 'new normal', as soon as possible in 2021.

Nick Clark

Nick Clark, Principal



ALUMNI SPECIAL

ALUMNI

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Getting yourself work-ready



Sam Burnett, Work Experience-Coordinator and member of the Reigate College Careers team, talks to On Route about the different ways students can prepare themselves for the world of work, even during a pandemic!

On Route: What advice would you give to students trying to access work experience?

Sam Burnett: I'd make sure you have a good, up-to-date CV for applying for face-to-face experience for next summer. A guide to creating a CV (and all sorts of other useful resources) can be found on the Reigate College portal www.reigate.ac.uk/portal/careers

I'd also recommend you take a look at the Careers Bulletin every week. It's emailed to all students and is also available via the College website. We list any relevant, forthcoming virtual opportunities in that.

OR: Is there anything else students could be doing?

SB: They should familiarise themselves with the Careers pages of e-stream, as that's where they'll find all the useful recordings of talks and interviews with employers and alumni.

OR: How can the College help with workplace experiences?

SB: Many students are able to arrange their own experience, but the College

also works with local employers and third party providers to secure a range of opportunities. These are all advertised in the weekly Careers Bulletin.

For example, over half term our students had the opportunity to participate in virtual sessions in the following areas: Architecture (WS Planning & Architecture), Accountancy (Grant Thornton), STEM insight day (Thales), Investment Management (Investment 20/20) and Banking (HSBC).

OR: How can I find out about local job opportunities?

SB: In 'normal' times students would be invited to attend a variety of lunchtime talks given by representatives from local companies. As we aren't currently able to arrange these in person, we've been organising virtual Zoom interviews that are then recorded and shared with students via the Careers pages on e-stream.

We've recently uploaded interviews with Waterman Associates (Engineering Consultancy), relevant to anyone considering a STEM or Engineering related career and Investment 20/20 who provide access to 42 partner companies in the investment management industry. Our recent session with the latter involved hearing from apprentices and trainees at Schroders, Fidelity and Willis Towers Watson.

ALUMNI

Why is our Alumni important?

The College's network of former students provides a brilliant resource for current students, as it's a pool of knowledge and experiences that can be shared.

For example, we've arranged three separate talks with medical professionals, aimed at supporting our prospective Medics, Vets and Dentists, a session with a frontline NHS paramedic and an interview with an engineer from Laing O'Rourke.

We hope all former students will consider 'giving something back' by joining the College's Alumni. See back cover for details about how to join.

A Level results roundup



From left to right: *Natasha Smith (Reigate: 4 A*s), Amy Bartlett (Warwick: 3 A*s), Charlotte Borman (de Stafford: 2 A*s, 2 As) and Zac Carter (Oakwood: 3 As).*

The College's overall results were strong again this year (see website and BTEC story on page 5). 89 students stood out as being particularly outstanding at A Level, each receiving at least three A grades, with 17 of them receiving three or more A*s.

Reigate College Principal Nick Clark commented, "In line with previous years, the number of Reigate College students who achieved at least three A grades

at A Level, was higher than most other school sixth forms. We're proud to be a non-selective, inclusive sixth form College, and as these results indicate, our students continue to achieve at the highest possible level."

"The vast majority of our students gained places at their first choice universities, including places on the most competitive courses (such as Medicine and Law) and at the most prestigious universities including

Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities."

He added, "It was obviously a difficult year for our Upper Sixth and I know some of our students opted to defer their university places until next year. Whatever they decided, I hope this year's cohort will keep in touch via the Reigate Alumni, so we can follow their careers as they unfold."

Aspire Programme success

The Aspire Programme is designed to offer additional support to students applying for the most competitive courses and universities. Four students share their experiences.

Natasha Smith, who was previously at **Reigate School** got four A*s and went to Bath to read Physics with Astrophysics. She commented, "Being part of the College's Aspire Programme meant I researched my universities early and received useful, targeted advice. I enjoyed sharing the journey with like-minded people in my Aspire tutorials."

Amy Bartlett, who was at **Warwick School** before Reigate College got

three A*s, said, "Being on the Aspire Programme meant I benefitted from some really good advice and got my personal statement done earlier. I'm looking forward to studying French and Russian at Edinburgh University, which was my first choice."

Charlotte Borman, who was previously at **de Stafford School** went to Queen Mary's University to study English and European Law added, "The Extended Project Qualification definitely helped me prepare for university and the smaller class sizes at College meant I got extra help." Charlotte did four A Levels, and was awarded two A*s and two A grades.

Zac Carter, who was at **Oakwood School** got three As and went to Southampton University to do Mechanical Engineering. He said, "Doing the EPQ on the Aspire Programme was good practice for uni essay writing. It was easy to make friends thanks to the small class sizes. I got to know everyone really well in my group."

Aspire

Music videos hit the spot



A cover of Stevie Wonder's *Sir Duke* was released on October 12th, as part of the Black History Month celebrations

Following the huge success of the Music Department's *Times Like These* music video (a cover of the Foo Fighter's hit), that's had over 80,000 views across YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, another collaboration, a cover of Stevie Wonder's *Sir Duke* was released on October 12th.

Professional musician Sean Boothe, who works as a Music

Technician at the College, commented, "We worked on *Times Like These* as an extra-curricular project during the first lockdown in May and June and didn't dream it was going to generate so much interest."

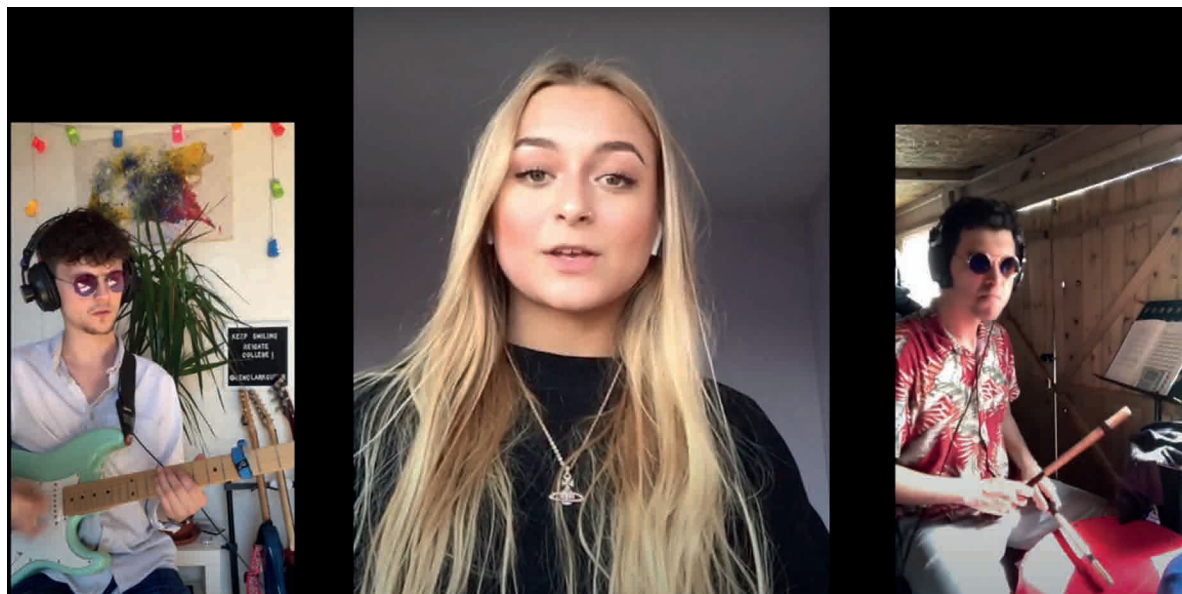
"We came up with the idea of doing a cover of Stevie Wonder's *Sir Duke*, in response to the College-wide celebration of Black History Month.

Wonder wrote this song as a tribute to music, specifically to Duke Ellington, a jazz bandleader and composer, who'd had a big influence on him."

"It seemed fitting to celebrate Black History Month via another 'virtual' music video collaboration, since it came at a time when so many people around the country were already in lock down again. Head of Music's Kate Swan did a brilliant job on the organisational front, and we all had a great time putting it together."

Reigate's Foo Fighter's cover has already had over 80,000 views

The adaptation of Dua Lipa's hit *Dont Start Now* was released during the first lockdown on 16 April. It was the first collaboration of current students and alumni. At the time of going to print, a Christmas music video was in production.



To watch, see @Reigate College on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

BTEC Level 3s help students secure top university places

Georgia Pitts did BTEC Law and A Levels in Geography and English Literature and is now doing a Degree in Law at the University of Law.

Students once again achieved outstanding BTEC Level 3 results this summer, with 88.43% of all entries being graded Distinction or Distinction*. Looking at the university destinations of this year's Reigate College leavers presents a convincing argument for incorporating one or more BTECs into sixth form study programmes.

The table below gives some specific examples of the degree courses and universities some of this year's leavers went on to and the courses they took while at the College.

For privacy reasons, the names of students have been left out.



Student	A Levels + Grade	BTEC + Grade DS* = Distinction* D = Distinction	University and Course
1	Sociology (A), Politics (B)	Public Services (DS*)	Bath University, Criminology
2	Maths (B), Chemistry (B)	Applied Human Biology (DS*)	University of Birmingham, Accounting & Finance
3	History (B)	Performing Arts - Musical Theatre (DS*), Applied Human Biology (DS*)	University of Bristol, Theatre & Film
4	Classical Civilisation (B), English Language & Literature (A)	Travel & Tourism (DS*)	Cardiff University, Ancient History
5	Psychology (B), Criminology (C)	Applied Human Biology (DS*)	Cardiff University, Radiotherapy & Oncology
6	Politics (C), Psychology (C)	Applied Human Biology (DS*)	University of Exeter, History and Politics
7	Art - Fine Art (A), English Language & Literature (B)	Performing Arts - Musical Theatre (DS*)	University of Exeter, Art History & Visual Culture
8	Sociology (B)	Health & Social Care (DS*), Applied Human Biology (DS*)	Nursing, King's College University of London
9		Business (DS*, DS*), Law (DS*)	University of Exeter, Law
10	History (A*), Sociology (A*)	Performing Arts - Musical Theatre (D*)	University of Leeds, History and Sociology
11	Geography (A), Maths (B)	Applied Human Biology (DS*)	University of Leicester , Geography
12		Business (DS*), Law (D*), Sport (M)	University of Liverpool, Law
13	English Literature (A), Psychology (B)	Applied Human Biology (DS*)	University of Liverpool, Psychology
14	History (C), Law (B)	Business (DS*)	Queen Mary University of London, History
15	Product Design - 3D Design (A)	Applied Science (DS*), Engineering (DS*)	Loughborough University, Product Design & Technology
16	English Language & Literature (A*), Sociology (A*)	Law (DS*)	Loughborough University, English
17	Geography (A), Law (A*)	Applied Human Biology (DS*)	University of Manchester, Geography
18	English Language & Literature (A), Psychology (A*)	Health & Social Care (DS*)	University of Nottingham, Psychology

So what are the benefits of taking one or more BTEC Levels 3s as part of a Level 3 Programme?

- **Less pressure:** BTEC courses are assessed via a combination of coursework and exams, and so you can pass them as you go along, without the pressure of sitting exams for every subject at the end of the Upper Sixth.
- **Outstanding results:** The College achieves outstanding results for BTEC Level 3s, and as long as students commit to keeping up-to-date with coursework and completing it at a high level, they have a really good chance of achieving a high grade (Distinction (D) or Distinction*(DS*)).

- **UCAS points:** A DS* at BTEC Level 3 carries the same number of UCAS points as an A* at A Level. The majority of universities accept BTEC Level 3s as can be seen in the table above.
- **Practical and vocational:** BTECs tend to be more vocational in nature and so are suited to students who like to apply their studies to the 'real world.' For example, the College offers BTECs in Applied Human Biology, Business, Digital Media Production, Engineering, Law, Music (Performance), Health & Social Care, Performing Arts, Public Services, Sport and Travel & Tourism.

Sporting elite

The College attracts a broad range of sports people from a variety of sports. Here's an introduction to just a few of them. The pandemic may have put an end to competitive sports fixtures at the College, but all our sports people are poised to compete again, just as soon as they're able to.



Drew Burridge: 400m Hurdles. Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC and National



Ellena Lobley: Taekwondo. International



Jamie Rodd: Football. East Grinstead Town FC and Surrey



Lily Cain-Jones: Javelin. Reigate Priory AC



Jake Venter: Motorbike Racing. Gold in 'Sea to Sky' Enduro motorcycle event



Charlie Hand: Motorsports. National



Morgan Musgrove: Trampolining. Max Force, 3rd in English Championship



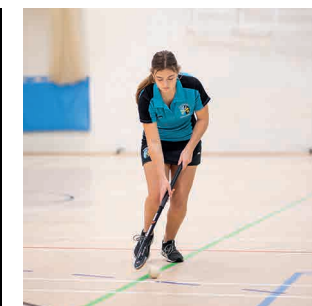
Alessio Anah: 100m, 200m, 110m Hurdles. Crawley AC and National



Aryan Patel: Cricket. Horley Cricket Club



Jason Cole: Rugby. Old Reigatian RFC and Surrey



Emily Taylor: Hockey. Reigate Priory HC and Surrey



Lenny Avison: Football. Nigel James Academy and Surrey



Pippa Roessler: 3,000m. Aldershot, Farnham and District AC and International



Harrison Chart: Horseriding. National



Jack Lugton: Windsurfing. Queen Mary Sailing Club



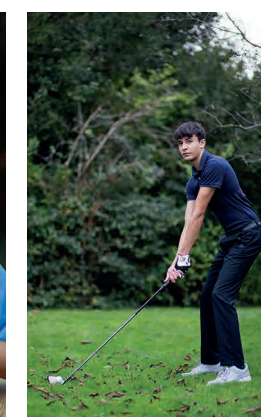
Cam Cridge: Golf. Addington Palace GC and Surrey



Laila Hassan: Rugby. Old Reigatian RFC and Surrey



Ava Karanth: Outdoor and Indoor Bowls. Bletchingley Bowling Club



Reece Ramnanansingh, Golf. Reigate Hill Golf Club

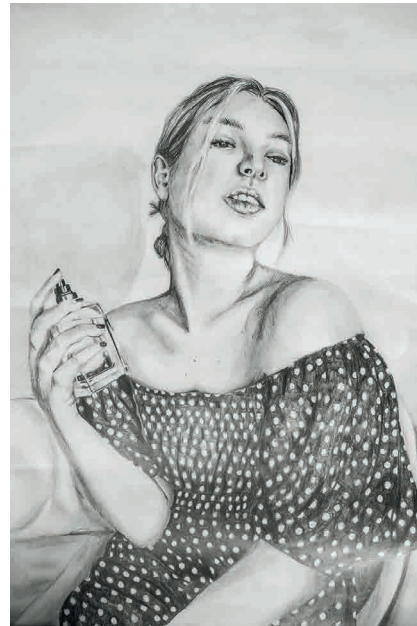
Upper Sixth Fine Art students hone their drawing skills

With limited opportunities to meet and chat with friends during lockdown, many of us have turned towards more creative ways of expressing ourselves.

Here are just a few examples of some of the inspirational work produced by Upper Sixth Fine Art students. What a talented bunch.



Naomi Webb



Leah Taylor



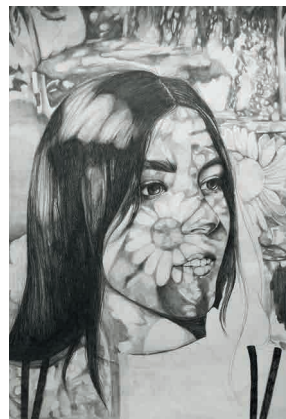
Adam Carmona



Hannah Fitch



Jenni Stern



Holly Smith



Briony Webber



Lukas Mayo



Emily Fry

Alumni apprenticeship success

The Government's focus on apprenticeships has seen the creation of thousands of schemes across the UK in more than 1,500 job roles. On Route catches up with former students who've chosen apprenticeships and discovers the benefits of taking this route. "Apprenticeships are a great way of getting on the job ladder and

earning a wage while you train", says Ellen Walkinshaw, Associate Director of Progression at Reigate College. For more information on apprenticeships check the College's weekly Careers Bulletin available on the College website. You may also want to take a look at www.apprenticeships.gov.uk



Hannah More

Previous school: Ashcombe
Reigate College: 2018-2020 Geography, Biology, Psychology
Apprenticeship: Chartered Manager Degree Apprentice, Nestlé

"Choosing between university and an apprenticeship was really hard. I'm very academic and love studying, but I was put off by the thought of more exams and the burden of debt. I'm really enjoying having real responsibilities and seeing progress on projects I've been involved with is really satisfying. I'm still unsure of my career plans, but this apprenticeship is a great start."



Jade Francis

Previous school: Riddlesdown
Reigate College: 2017-2019 Art (Fine Art), Classical Civilisation, Psychology
Apprenticeship: Broadcasting Technology Apprentice, Sky Broadcasting

"I'm on a Level 3 apprenticeship based at Sky Studios and my two-year programme includes the main areas of broadcast technology. I'm enjoying learning from experienced professionals and am getting exposure to many aspects of television and entertainment, experiencing the behind the scenes action, from live news, to sporting events such as the Premier League."



Antony Vundi

Previous school: Thomas More
Reigate College: 2017-2019 Politics, Geography, History
Apprenticeship: Solicitor Apprentice, Charles Russell Speechlys LLP

"I'm currently on a Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship that will last six years. I decided an apprenticeship was right for me after completing a variety of work experiences that the College helped me organise. The College's focus on independent learning helped me develop skills that have enabled a smooth transition into my apprenticeship."



Amber Holland

Previous school: Priory C of E
Reigate College: 2016-2018 Business, Maths, Economics
Apprenticeship: Actuarial Technician Apprentice, Willis Towers Watson

"I chose a Level 4 apprenticeship as I loved the idea of earning whilst learning on the job. My role involves calculating and valuing pension funds. I've always loved Maths and in my apprenticeship I work with numbers every day in lots of different ways. In the future I hope to become a qualified Actuarial Analyst."



Adam Kerwood

Previous school: The Beacon
Reigate College: 2015-2017 Business, IT, Travel & Tourism
Apprenticeship: KPMG360°

"I chose an apprenticeship at KPMG as I felt it provided a clear path into gaining a recognised professional qualification. I'm now specialising in Corporate Tax which involves studying towards a Level 7 qualification (ATT CTA) whilst gaining varied practical experience from client liaison to high level tax consultancy projects."



Eve Wilcox

Previous school: Warwick
Reigate College: 2018-2020 Business, Law, Sociology
Apprenticeship: Business Management, BBC

"I chose an apprenticeship as I wanted to study for a degree but gain valuable work experience at the same time. I loved the idea of working for this iconic institution and was really impressed with their recruitment programme."



Mia Hardiman

Previous school: Warlingham
Reigate College: 2017-2019 Law, Psychology, Applied Science
Apprenticeship: Paralegal Apprentice, Cripps Pemberton Greenish

"As a Paralegal Level 3 Apprentice, I move around departments every three months so I gain an insight into different areas of Law. My role involves supporting solicitors by doing research and administration tasks such as drafting legal documents."



Elliott West

Previous school: Riddlesdown
Reigate College: 2014-2016 Business, IT, Media Studies
Apprenticeship: Construction Management, Mace Construction

"By taking the apprenticeship route I've been able to get more on the job experience and achieve all the qualifications I need to become a site manager, without getting myself into any university debt."

Alumni NHS heroes

With the world gripped by the pandemic there has never been a more important time to consider a career in the health sector. As we've witnessed over the last few months, working in the NHS demands skill, compassion and commitment.

The NHS is the biggest employer in Europe and the world's largest employer of highly skilled professionals. 1.3 million people across the health service in England devote their working lives to caring for others.

On route speaks to some of our Alumni NHS heroes.

To find out more about careers in the NHS visit: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

Emily Verdon

Previous School: Reigate

Reigate College: 2013-2015 French, Maths, Physics, Spanish

Higher Education: Therapeutic Radiography, London South Bank University

Currently: Senior Radiotherapist at University College London Hospitals NHS Trust

“I decided to study Radiotherapy as I wanted to work in a medical area but not as a nurse or doctor. I studied Physics and Maths at College and I get to use these skills every day in what I do.

It's really rewarding as I get to see the same patients every day and follow them through their cancer treatment pathway.



Ross Holcombe-Law

Previous School: de Stafford

Reigate College: 2004-2006 Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, PE

Higher Education: Pharmacology, Southampton University. Medicine (MBBS), Durham University and Newcastle Medical School

Currently: Training to be a Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthetics

“I always look back on my time at Reigate College fondly, as some of the happiest years of my teens. The immensely friendly atmosphere with lots of sociable areas and team sports allowed me to make many friends from other schools and areas (some of whom are still my very best friends today).

Medicine is such a remarkable vocation that will set you up for a lifetime of fascinating work. The scope of practice is



vast with multiple specialities to choose from to suit every personality. Whilst the hours can be long and the work physically and emotionally tough at times, there is never a boring day. Being a Doctor and helping people when they are at their weakest is a responsible but highly rewarding job. I could never imagine doing anything else!

Anastasia Cawkwell

Previous School: Reigate

Reigate College: 2014-2016 Biology, Psychology, Geography

Higher Education: Paramedic Practice, University of Surrey

Currently: Paramedic, South-East Coast Ambulance Service.

“I absolutely love my job. It's diverse, exciting and challenging. Every day is different. You never know what your shift will bring and where you'll end up going. You can make a difference to every patient you see, but that moment when you know you have truly saved someone's life is incomparable, it's the best feeling in the world.



Annabel Richardson

Previous School: de Stafford

Reigate College: 2013-2015 Health & Social Care, Law

Higher Education: Nursing, Kingston University

Currently: Paediatric Nurse, Great Ormond Street Hospital

“I'm currently specialising in Oncology and Haematology in the International and Private sector. I love caring for patients and knowing that when I start my shift, every day is different and I'll learn something new. Each day brings a new challenge, a new highlight and some lows, but above everything the reward is being able to make a connection to a sick child and their families and to make a difference. If you can show care, compassion, commitment, courage, competency and good communication skills then nursing may be for you.



Clementine Snelling

Previous School: Reigate

Reigate College: 2012-2014 Biology, Economics, English Literature

Higher Education: Paediatric Nursing, King's College London

Currently: Children's Healthcare Nurse, Surrey and Borders NHS Partnership

“I work in the community, triaging children for services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and the Developmental Paediatric Service. I enjoy working with both the children themselves, but also their families, schools and other health professionals, to ensure they receive effective, streamlined care for their long-term health needs. Nursing children and families at their most vulnerable is both extremely humbling and immensely rewarding. Feeling trusted by a family to care for their sick child is emotionally intense, but knowing that you've made a difference is very fulfilling.



Jessica Pinson

Previous School: Oakwood

Reigate College: 2010-2012 Psychology, Film Studies, English Language & Literature

Higher Education: Psychology, Goldsmiths University of London, Occupational Therapy, London South Bank University

Currently: Mental Health Occupational Therapist

“I'm very proud of the NHS and the service it provides and I love being part of it. Everyone who works in the NHS is so caring and hardworking. I love the variety of my role and the

amazing colleagues I get to work with. I really wouldn't want to work anywhere else.

I enjoy working with my patients, meeting them at the beginning of their mental health journey and working with them collaboratively on their goals and seeing such a difference in the end.



Ella Beagley

Previous School: Reigate

Reigate College: 2011-2013 Public Services, PE, Sociology

Higher Education: Paramedic Science, St George's Hospital University of London

Currently: Paramedic, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

“I chose the Ambulance Service as I have a keen interest in science and medicine. I love my job, it's really practical which suits me, and I enjoy the communication and the rapport with patients. It's demanding but I enjoy the challenge of problem solving and finding solutions to help deliver the best care.

Becoming a paramedic has definitely changed me; I've gained confidence and am more independent, plus it's opened my eyes to the world and made me appreciate how important life is.

James Milner

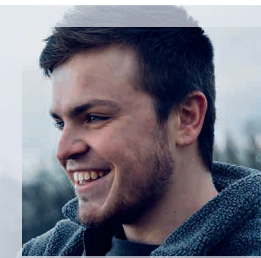
Previous School: Ashcombe

Reigate College: 2014-2016 Psychology, Geography, Graphics, History

Higher Education: Occupational Therapy, Cardiff University

Currently: Occupational Therapist (OT), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Wales

“I currently work in a team which supports adults with learning disabilities, helping them grow in independence and achieve their occupational goals, whether that be playing football or washing themselves. It's immensely rewarding, I love my job as I get to work with people which is something I've always enjoyed. Being able to help people and know I've genuinely made a difference gives me real satisfaction. I love the creativity of being an OT, half the job is being able to think outside the box when helping people overcome the barriers in their lives.



Emma Brockwell

Previous School: Reigate

Reigate College: 2012-2014 Biology, Geography, History

Higher Education: Paramedic Science, St George's University

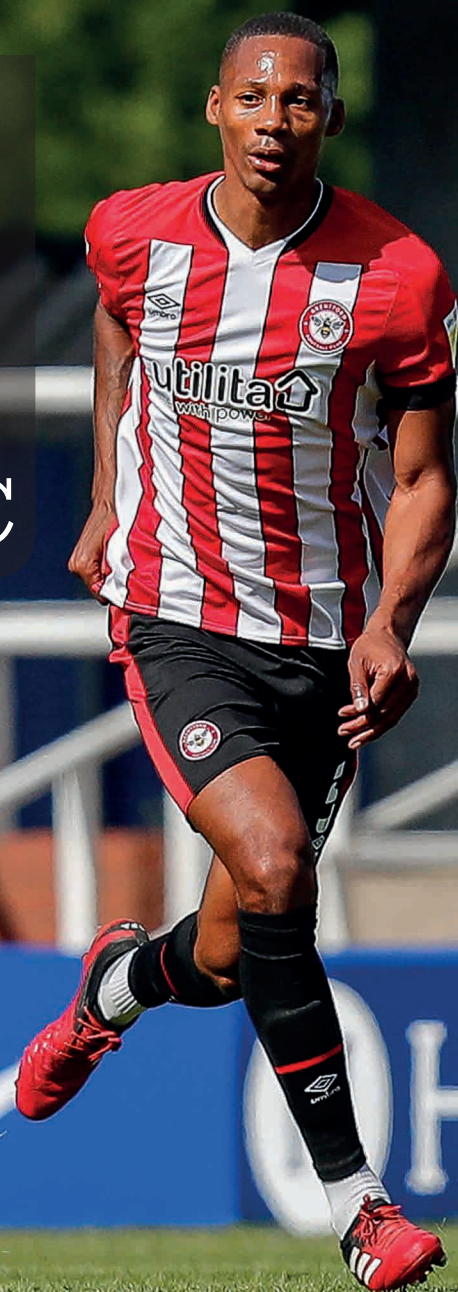
Currently: Paramedic, London Ambulance Service

“I love my job and wouldn't trade it for anything else. It's fast-paced and sometimes really challenging, but it's worth it for the help we can give people. I've made some fantastic friends and I've met the most amazing people from all over the world. It's a brilliant feeling knowing that when you go to work, you are truly making a difference to other people's lives.



Ethan Pinnock signed for £3 million at Brentford FC

Alumni sports star



Ethan practising ahead of a Reigate College match



Now at home in the Championship



Reigate Alumni Ethan Pinnock attended **Shirley High School** in Croydon before joining Reigate College in 2009 to study A Levels in PE, Psychology, Graphics and an AS in Maths.

Ethan has forged a career as a professional footballer, but firmly believes in the importance of education and having a Plan B.

Career History

Ethan played youth football for Millwall and Dulwich Hamlet FC, before progressing to the senior team at Dulwich Hamlet FC. During his seven years he made more than 200 appearances and received the Player of the Year Award in his final season at the club. In 2016 he made his England C team U23 international debut playing in a match versus Estonia. He played for a season at Forest Green Rovers FC helping secure the club a promotion to the EFL, before moving to Championship team Barnsley FC in 2017.

In 2019 Ethan secured a £3 million move to Premier League hopefuls Brentford FC, where his strength at centre-back has earned him a regular place in the team. This November he extended his contract to stay with the club for another five years.

What did you enjoy about College and what were your favourite subjects?

I had a really positive experience of studying at Reigate College. I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and appreciated all the support I got from my teachers. My favourite subject was probably Graphics. I loved developing my creative skills and it was a refreshing change from my academic courses.

What did you do after College?

I went on to study Physical Education and Sport at Greenwich University and graduated in 2015 with a 2:1. I'd intended to train as a PE teacher or go into Sports Coaching, but then I signed as a Professional for Forest Green Rovers FC and my Football career took off.

When did you start playing football and what do you enjoy about the game?

I've always loved playing football. I was nine years old when I started at Millwall FC's Academy. I love the competitive nature of the game, the team spirit and the great feeling of winning after a tough match.

What has been the highlight of your football career so far and what have you found challenging?

Gaining promotion from League 1 to the Championship with Barnsley was definitely a high point and coming to play at Brentford has been great. It's a young team and there's a wonderful team spirit.

Now I've got a family of my own, life has become challenging in a different way! It's more difficult to be adaptable and move around the country playing for different clubs.

“Ethan was a key member of the College's Men's 1st Team in 2009-2010. He showed exceptional skill as a player and his performances were instrumental in us winning two consecutive League Championships.”

Garry Holmes, Ethan's Reigate College Football Coach

What advice would you give to students considering a career in sport?

Believe in yourself and be positive. Put in the hard work but have a Plan B, so that if you succumb to injury you'll have something to fall back on.

What are your goals for the future?

I really hope to get promoted to the Premier League with Brentford. It was disappointing to lose to Fulham in the Championship play-off final last season after two extra-time goals, but I'm hoping we can improve our performance this year and break into the Premier League.



Alumni turnaround stories

On route talks to six former students who joined the College with low GCSE grades, but despite this, managed to turn things around and go on to follow their dreams.

Principal, Nick Clark explains, "As a College we have a reputation for achieving excellent results. What is often over-looked though is the low starting points of some of our students and just how much progress they make during their time with us".

"Some students, who don't qualify for Level 3 (A Level equivalent) courses are invited to join the College's Level 2 Intermediate Programme, spending an extra year at College before progressing to Level 3 courses. These six stories show what can be achieved with a combination of determination and the right support".



Cecilia Domingos came to College after being at **Priory School** in Dorking.

Level 3 Subjects (and results):
BTEC Double Business (Distinction*, Distinction*)
BTEC Law (Distinction*)

Cecilia is currently studying Law at Roehampton University and is keen to build a career in the Law sector.



Adna Adam who was previously at **Reigate School**, did a 'Mix and Match' combination of two BTEC Level 3s and an A Level.

Level 3 Subjects (and results):
BTEC Business (Distinction*)
BTEC Travel & Tourism (Distinction*)
A Level Media Studies (C)

Adna achieved the combined UCAS points she needed to study International Business Management at the University of Surrey.

"I loved my time at Reigate College. What made the difference were the facilities and my subject teachers - who were all so supportive and determined for me to succeed. The support I got through the Careers Department helped me enormously with my university applications.

Tip for success: Focus, be organised and work hard from the start. Take time to have breaks from studying and look after your mental health too.



Louis Middleditch who was previously at **St Bede's School** enrolled on the College's Level 2 Intermediate Programme.

He excelled in his Level 2 courses, including successfully re-sitting GCSE Maths, English and Biology. He then went on to gain outstanding results for his BTEC Level 3 courses.

Level 3 Subjects (and results):
BTEC Double Business (Distinction*, Distinction*)
BTEC Applied Science (Distinction)

"Before I came to Reigate College my future seemed very uncertain. I struggled with motivation at secondary school, I doubted myself and

lacked confidence. I think the combination of the learning support, the mature environment and encouragement I got from everyone helped me discover a passion for Business. I also discovered that learning could be enjoyable.

Louis is currently studying Business Management and Finance at Brighton University and hopes to pursue a career in the Finance sector.

Tip for success: Don't be afraid to ask for help.

"I'm very thankful and grateful to Reigate College. It was a lifeline to me and one of the best experiences, as I really matured and developed as a person. I'd set my heart on a career in Law but after my GCSE results I didn't think it would be possible. At Reigate it was empowering to be made to realise that I was responsible for my own success. My teachers and tutors were so supportive and encouraged me to believe I could do it.

Tip for success: Work hard and keep trying. All your efforts will pay off in the long run.



Zak Francis-Dyer went to **Riddlesdown School** before joining Reigate's Intermediate Programme. He successfully re-sat GCSE English and Maths in his first year and then progressed onto a Level 3 Programme.

Level 3 Subjects (and results):
BTEC Sport (Distinction*)
BTEC Public Services (Distinction)
BTEC Travel & Tourism (Merit)

"I didn't do very well in my GCSEs but coming to College gave me a fresh start and a chance to turn things around. Studying at Reigate was one of the best decisions I made.

Zak is currently in his second year at Portsmouth University studying for a degree in Sports Management and Development. He intends to make a career in the Sports sector.

Tip for Success: Ask lots of questions.

Christian Bright joined Reigate College from the **Royal Alexandra and Albert School**. He started at Reigate on the Level 2 Intermediate Programme, gaining Distinctions for his Level 2 BTECs and successfully re-taking GCSE Maths and English Language. Christian then progressed to a Level 3 (A Level equivalent) Programme, where his hard work secured him outstanding results.

Level 3 Subjects (and results):
BTEC Sport (Distinction*)
BTEC Double Business (Distinction*, Distinction*)

Christian is now studying Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Surrey and hopes to achieve his dream of becoming a Sports Physio.



"My extra year at College gave me a chance to get back on track and achieve the grades I needed for Level 3 study. The Intermediate Programme helped me rebuild my confidence after my disappointing GCSE results. During my time at secondary school I didn't ever dream of going to university, but College gave me the support I needed to make the right choices for my future.

Tip for success: Get organised, draft a timetable and structure your day to meet your deadlines.

Harry Nash enrolled on Reigate's Level 2 Intermediate Programme after being at **Woodcote School**. He made a remarkable turnaround, gaining all Distinction*s for his Level 3 courses and was also awarded the coveted Principal's Award for Law.

Level 3 Subjects (and results):
BTEC Double Business (Distinction*, Distinction*)
BTEC Law (Distinction*)

Harry is now studying Law at the University of Exeter and is hoping to become a Solicitor.

"Looking back I didn't work hard enough at my GCSEs but I'm proud of how focused I became and what I achieved at College. The academic environment and approach of the teachers encouraged me to work hard and achieve my potential.

Tip for success: Decide what you want for your future and challenge yourself to be successful.



Events for Applicants

The College is continuing to run a series of Applicants' Events designed to help Year 11 prospective students familiarise themselves with their subject choices and get to know some of their future course teachers.

Because of the pandemic, for the foreseeable future, these will be taking the form of live webinars or meetings hosted via Zoom.

For more information about the programme of applicants' events for the forthcoming academic year see www.reigate.ac.uk/applicant-events2021



Politics Event for Applicants

This year's programme of Events for Applicants was brilliantly kicked off, on Tuesday 24 November, with an insightful lecture by the College's Head of Politics Nick de Souza, on the subject of 'Is democracy about to die?'

The talk was then followed by an excellent live Zoom debate between four of the College's Upper Sixth A Level Politics students.

Everyone who took part was given the opportunity to vote on their stance at the end of the session. And the result? 51% of participants said they believed democracy is about to die. Time will tell!

Nick de Souza hosts the hugely successful A Level Politics Show see <https://anchor.fm/nick-de-souza>



Diary Dates

From December 2020

What	When	Where
Last day of term for students (unless directed otherwise)	Friday 11th December	
Review Days	Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December	Virtual Meetings via SchoolCloud
Structured Learning Day	Thursday 17th December	
Start of Spring Term	Monday 4th January	
Structured Learning Day	Thursday 21st January	
February Half Term Holiday	Monday 15th to Friday 19th February (back Monday 22nd)	



Support staff join forces with the Music Department to bring some Christmas cheer to their latest music video



ALUMNI

Reigate College's Alumni is a professional network of over 2,500 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/reigate-college

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

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