

Are you Ready for Reigate?

New Starters' Guide
2021



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Get Ready for Reigate

www.reigate.ac.uk/get-ready

Get Ready for Reigate
1 April

We've created some tasks and activities on our website (see link above), to help familiarise you with both the support you'll be able to access as a student and the skills you're going to need to be successful. You'll also be asked to consider your individual goals for the future.

Get Ready for Reigate	Release date	Target completion date
See www.reigate.ac.uk/get-ready		
Tasks and activities to help ease you into being a student at Reigate College	1 April	1 June (ideally)

You should aim to complete all the Get Ready for Reigate tasks and activities if you can, by 1 June. Don't worry if this sounds like added pressure. Once you've had a look at what you're being asked to do, you'll see that the combination of resources including videos, a quiz and interactive activities are actually quite fun and easy to complete.

The content is divided into four areas:

- Support
- Making Friends
- Skills
- Ambitions

Students seem to really enjoy completing the Skills section, as it's a good opportunity to start thinking about the skills you'll need to be a successful independent learner.

These skills are essential as you make the transition from studying GCSEs to A Levels (or equivalent courses), where you'll be expected to spend the same number of hours studying outside the classroom, as you have lesson time.

Welcome to our New Starters' Guide, created to help ease you into College life.

I appreciate just how much your year group has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. With two academic years of teaching disrupted, GCSE exams cancelled and the uncertainty of summer assessments still hanging over you, you may be feeling a little uncertain about starting your A Level (or equivalent) programme.

You don't need to worry. Everything is in place to help prepare you for starting with us in September.

So that you can glide seamlessly into your Level 3 Programme, we've lined up some **New Starters Tasks and Activities** to help familiarise you with the College and get a feel for your new courses (see pages 3 – 5).

We will also be running the following New Starter Days:

- **Introductory Day on 6 and 8 July** www.reigate.ac.uk/intro-day
- **Choices Day on 1 September** www.reigate.ac.uk/choices-day

These days are mandatory and give you the opportunity to try out your A Level (or equivalent) courses to help you firm up your study programme. You'll be invited to one morning or afternoon session on either 6 or 8 July, and one on 1 September. During each session you will have the opportunity to try out three of your possible courses.

We strongly recommend you focus on trying out subjects you're still not sure about.

Hopefully once you receive your GCSE results on 12 August and have been to Choices Day on 1 September, you'll be in a much better position to firm up your decisions.

If you know exactly what you want to study, then these two days are a great opportunity to start getting to know teachers and other new starters.

It's really important you're happy with your proposed Study Programme.

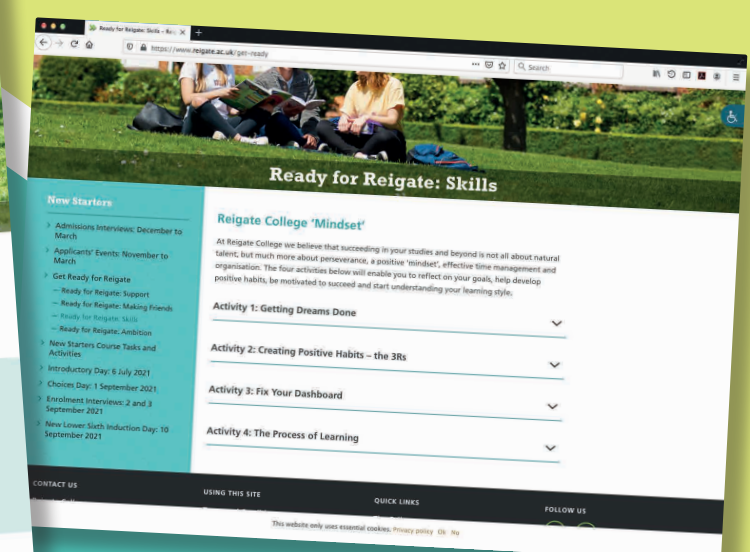
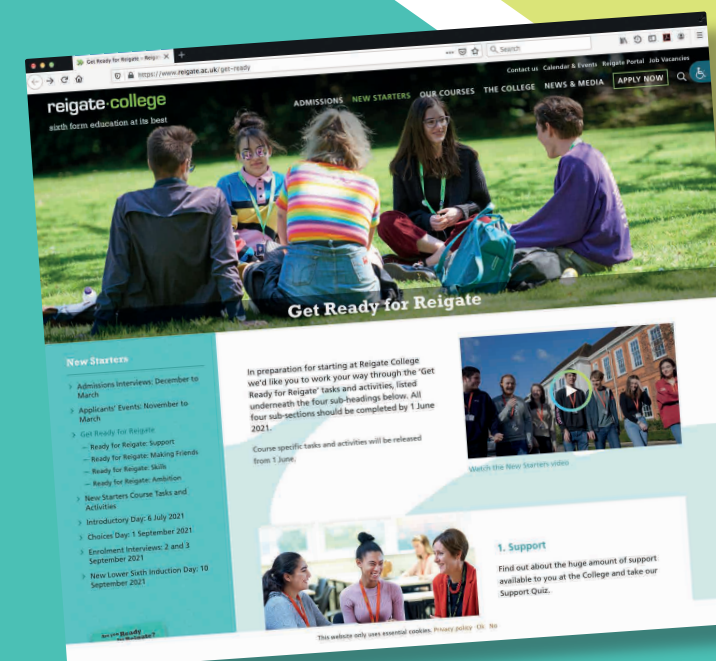
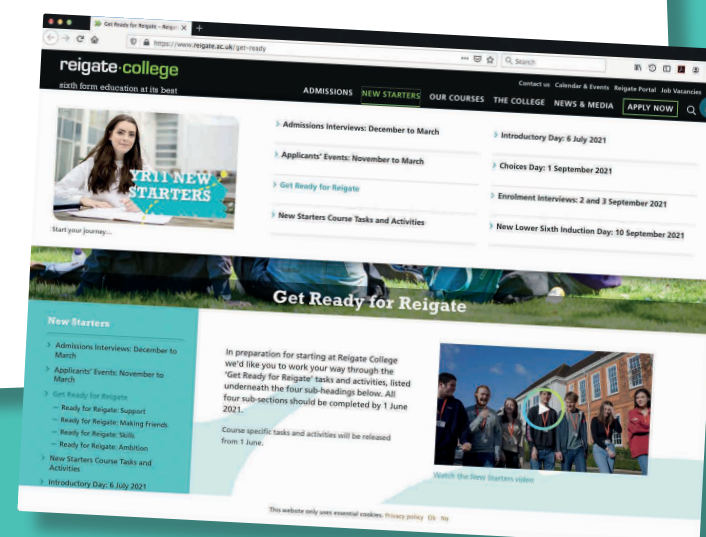
If in doubt about your Study Programme, please let us know. The best time to raise any queries or concerns is at your enrolment interview on 2 or 3 September. This is when you'll have a 20-30 minute interview with a specialist member of staff, to pin down your final course choices.

Please take the time to read the next few pages, particularly the Countdown to Starting at Reigate College timetable on the back cover.

I look forward to welcoming you to Reigate College on Introductory Day on either 6 or 8 July.

Nick Clark

Nick Clark, Principal



To keep up to date with all the latest information please, check out the New Starters pages on our website

New Starters Course Tasks and Activities

www.reigate.ac.uk/new-starters/courses

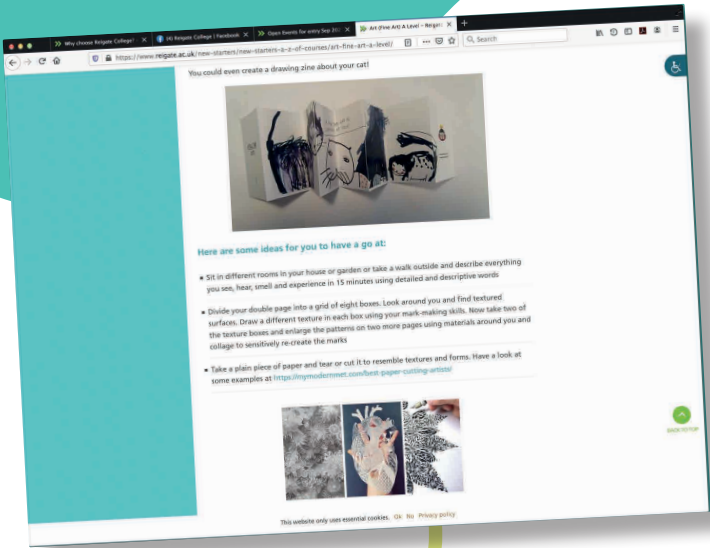
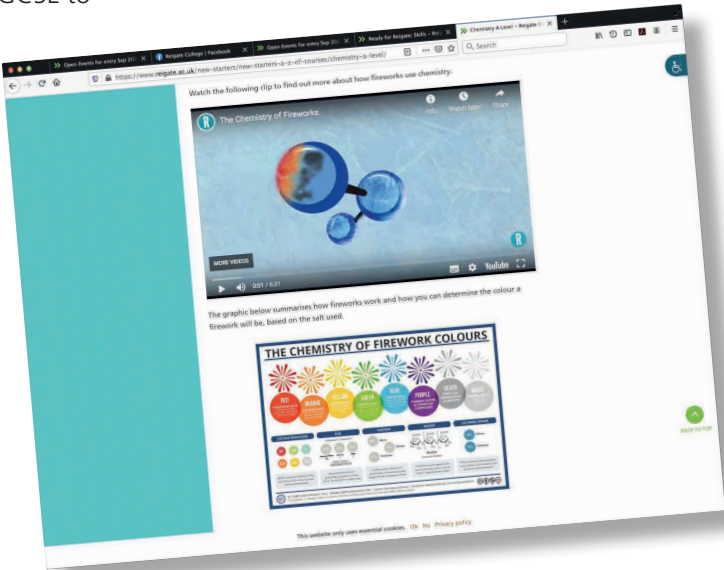
Explore your Subjects
1 June

One of the biggest attractions of coming to Reigate College for lots of students, is the range of courses to choose from (around 50 in fact), and the freedom of being able to pick the combination of courses that suits you best, as long as you meet the specific entry requirements for each course.

Many of the courses we offer include subjects you probably won't have studied before for example **Classics, Economics, Law, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Philosophy, Film, Media, Travel & Tourism, Public Services, Fashion & Textiles** and **Graphics** to name but a few!

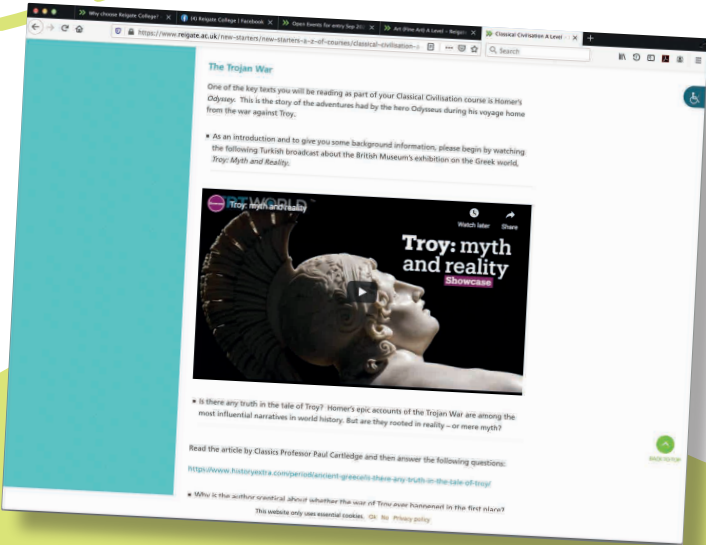
It's quite normal to find the jump from GCSE to A Level (or equivalent) courses a bit of shock, but what comes as more of a shock to some students, is that one or more of the courses they've chosen isn't quite what they were expecting!

So, it's important you put in some effort now, to make sure you know what you're letting yourself in for. To help you start your Programme with confidence, we've put together some course specific tasks and activities for you to complete over the summer.



Get Going
1 July

Aim High
1 August



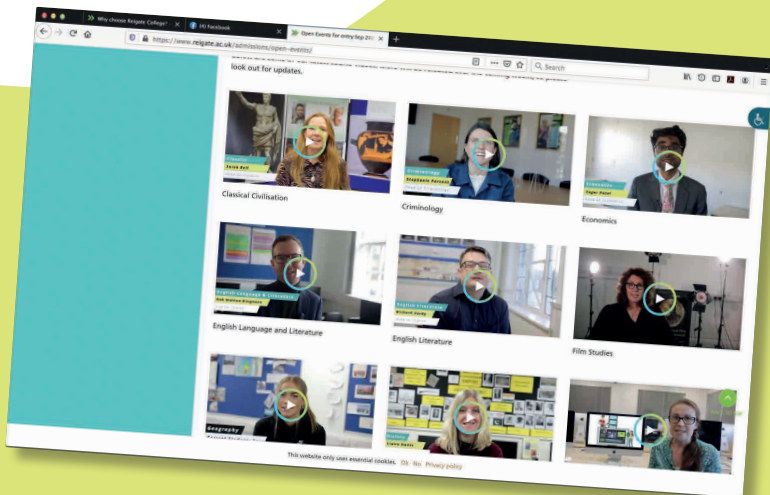
The table below shows which activities will be released when, and when ideally we would like you to complete them by, for each of your three or four chosen subjects.

New Starters Course Tasks and Activities	Release date	Target completion date
See www.reigate.ac.uk/new-starters/courses		
Explore your Subjects	1 June	1 July
Get Going	1 July	1 August
Aim High	1 August	1 September

Please note, you will not need to formally submit your work (unless being used as part of an audition). Teaching staff will go through the New Starters Course Tasks and Activities in class, from Lower Sixth Induction Day (10 September).

Other things you can do to help make the right course choices:

- Re-read the course content on the website, paying particular attention to any specific entry requirements for each subject. See www.reigate.ac.uk/courses
- Watch the 'Subject Choices' video and individual course videos (if available for the courses you want to study). See www.reigate.ac.uk/open-events
- Check the entry requirements for subjects you may be interested in studying at university, on the UCAS website. See www.ucas.com



You have no idea how relieved and pleased I am that my daughter chose to study at Reigate College.

Parents probably never say it enough but thank you so much for the tutoring, pastoral support and guidance you have given her.

Katharine, 21 February 2021

Parental Feedback

We've been delighted by the complimentary emails sent by so many parents, in response to the College's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully things will be returning to 'normal' in September.

We wanted to say how incredible and impressive all our daughter's teachers have been throughout the pandemic and lockdown. Due to their online teaching, we feel she's been given the best chance to reach her potential in the current circumstances.

Rachel and Jeremy, 03 March 2021

I cannot tell you how much my husband and I appreciate the quality of education and support our son is getting at Reigate College. Even more so during this pandemic. His teachers have been flawless.

Lisiane, 19 February 2021

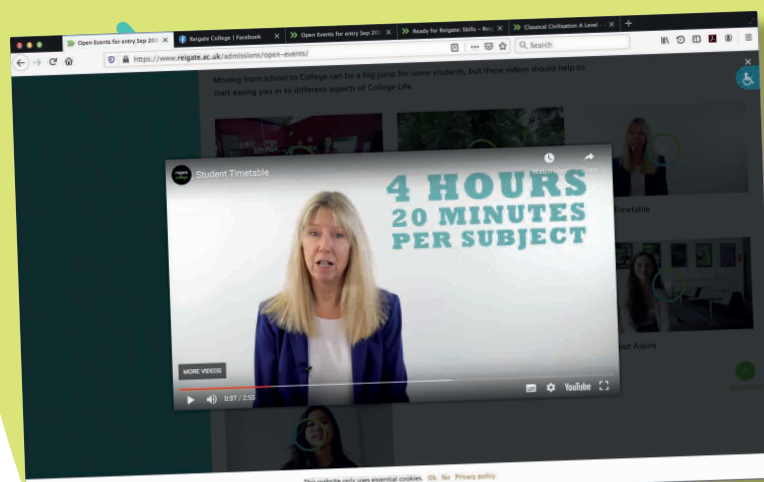
Many thanks to all the wonderful staff at Reigate College for all the fantastic work you have done with our son and for your support in encouraging him to continue to show high levels of commitment.

Helen, 19 February 2021

In these uncertain and stressful times, you have given us much confidence and reassurance that our daughter's continued education and well-being is in good hands. Thank you for all the hard work that has been put in so far.

Natalie, 01 February 2021

Timetables, Registration and Reporting



One of the things lots of students often ask about during their Admissions Interview, is how their timetable might look.

There's a great 'Student Timetable' video, that we produced for our Virtual Open Events back in the Autumn (see www.reigate.ac.uk/open-events). The film describes how your timetable we be made up, and what you can expect to be doing during your free lessons.

Some important things you need to know:

- You'll be registered for every lesson (not just morning or afternoon sessions).
- You'll be allocated to a Personal Tutor and Tutor Group and will be expected to attend a weekly timetabled tutorial lesson.
- You need to have at least 95% attendance for the year, to be able to progress to the next year.
- You don't need to stay on site if you don't have lessons, though lots of students use their free periods to catch up on their work, by studying in one of the College's silent study areas, such as the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) - located above Reception.
- Reports are sent home every six weeks and parents will be notified if your attendance or grades start slipping.

A new world of exiting opportunities awaits

Everything is lined up for you to do extremely well at Reigate College. For many students, starting at College is an opportunity to explore your passions and take the next step towards university, an apprenticeship or employment. How successful you are is down to you, and we expect YOU to take responsibility for your own learning.

What that means in practice, is that if you need extra help, it is available for you, but you should ask for it and not wait for things to become a problem. There are additional 'Plus Classes' and a whole army of people to help support you, so that you can achieve your full potential.

But College life isn't all about studying. You should also aim to make the most of all the extra-curricular activities that you'll have the opportunity to get involved with, from the 50 or so clubs and activities offered as part of the College's Activities and Wellbeing Programme, to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, competitive sports teams, Cross-College Show, annual Battle of the Bands competition and huge range of trips and visits.



New Starters

Countdown to starting at Reigate College in September 2021

What	Details	When
Applicants' Events	For recordings of these live virtual events see www.reigate.ac.uk/applicant-events2021	November to April
Auditions for: Music A Level, Music Tech A Level, Performing Arts (3 A Level equivalent) Dance (1 A Level equivalent)	Specific details of audition requirements will be emailed to the students concerned via the Admissions Department.	March to May
Introductory Day	You will be invited into College (for one morning or afternoon session on one of these two days) and will have the opportunity to try out three of your possible course choices.	6 and 8 July
GCSE Results Day	College staff will be on hand to answer individual queries.	12 August
Choices Day	Following GCSE Results Day, you will be invited to an additional half day session at College, to try out and firm up your course choices, knowing which courses you are eligible for.	1 September
Enrolment	You will be invited to attend a 20-30 minute , face-to-face enrolment interview, before formally enrolling at the College.	2 and 3 September
Invitation to join the College's Aspire Programme	During enrolment, students with an average GCSE score of 6 – 6.5 or higher (depending on the cohort) will be invited to join the College's Aspire Programme.	2 and 3 September
Trials for College Sports Teams	Details to be given during enrolment.	8 September
Lower Sixth Induction Day	You will be expected to attend this compulsory day at College.	10 September
First day of term for all students		13 September
Launch of Activities and Wellbeing Programme	You'll have the opportunity to sign up to a choice of around 50 clubs and activities, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme.	From 14 September
Community Afternoon	An afternoon when you will spend the afternoon in your Tutor Group getting to know everyone	21 September
Freshers' Party	A chance to let your hair down and have some fun. Organised by the Students' Union. Details to be announced.	14 October

* All dates and details correct at the time of going to print, but could change in the light of new Covid-19 government guidelines. 17/03/21

reigate.college

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