



Friday 3 December 2021

## The festive season

*As we enter the final week of term, I am sure that your son/daughter/young person is working diligently, but also looking forward to the holidays. The booking for the Review Meetings is now live and you can find details of how to organise sessions below.*

*Our termly newsletter, On Route, will be emailed out to you next week. This edition is full of great student success stories and an update on all the activities we have been up to this term. I hope that you and your family have a wonderful Christmas break.*

*Nick Clark, Principal*

## Review meetings – Mon 13/Tue 14 December

Students have been emailed out details of how to book Review Meetings. Students must book the slots themselves, so parents should discuss with them availability, as it is important that both parents and students attend these sessions, which will be held virtually on SchoolCloud. The Review Meetings provide an opportunity for parents and students to discuss progress with each teacher and agree targets for improvement and development.

## Coronavirus (Covid-19)

You will be aware of the reintroduction of face coverings in College. This will continue to be a requirement (unless exempt) until the end of this term. We do not yet know if this will continue into January, but students should keep a close eye on their emails before returning for updated guidance.

Regular testing remains a crucial tool in keeping everyone as safe as possible. The new Government guidance requires students to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test prior to returning to College in January (unless they have had Covid-19 in the past 90 days). Students should then continue to test twice a week, recording the results on both the NHS website and the Student Portal. Students can collect LFD test kits from Reception. Any student who has had Covid-19 should recommence testing after 90 days.

# Protecting student choice campaign

Young people in England can currently choose between three types of Level 3 qualification at the age of 16: academic qualifications such as A Levels, Technical qualifications that lead to a specific occupation, and Applied General Qualifications (AGOs) such as BTECs that combine the development of practical skills with academic learning.

In July 2021, the Department for Education confirmed plans to replace this three-route model with a two-route model of A Levels and T Levels (a new suite of technical qualifications), where most young people pursue one of these qualifications at the age of 16. As a result, funding for the majority of BTEC qualifications will be removed.

The #ProtectStudentChoice campaign coalition of 25 organisations that represent and support staff and students in schools, colleges and universities is deeply concerned about this plan, as it is far too simplistic. Many young people will continue to be better served studying a BTEC rather than an A Level or T Level-only study programme.

Recently, the new Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, has agreed to push back the defunding by one year and has indicated that he feels the qualifications have a role to play in the future. In order to continue to impress upon the Government just how valuable these qualifications are, the coalition has set up a petition to secure a full debate in Parliament. The College would be grateful if you would consider signing the petition to help protect student choice for future generations: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/592642>.

## Exam contingencies

The Department for Education (DfE) have announced part of the contingencies in case examinations have to be cancelled next year due to Covid-19. Students and parents will receive a letter at the end of next week explaining the key points. More information will be released by the DfE in early 2022.

## Adverse weather

The College has well established procedures for dealing with disruptive weather such as heavy snow. In the event of adverse weather, students should check their mobile phone, College Portal, email, College website and social media for messages from the College. If your son/daughter/young person has changed his/her/their mobile phone number during this term and has not informed the College, they should update their details at Reception.

## Relate Counsellor

A Relate Counsellor is available to students both in College and at the local office in Reigate. If students wish to make an appointment, they can do so by emailing [relate@reigate.ac.uk](mailto:relate@reigate.ac.uk).

# Careers

## UCAS

The deadline for UCAS applications to be received by Careers was last Friday (26 November). Correctly completed applications received by this date will be submitted by the national UCAS deadline of 26 January 2022.

Please encourage your son/daughter/young person to regularly check emails for any corrections needed. We encourage students to come to the Careers Department with any queries rather than submitting incomplete UCAS applications. Alternatively, students can access the [UCAS Student Guide](#) on the College Portal. Students need to submit any outstanding applications as soon as they are able to. The [UCAS website](#) has lots of information for parents/guardians about replying to offers, student finance and what to do on results day.

## Applying for Employment or Apprenticeships

Students on the Apprenticeship and Employment pathway should have registered with [Find an Apprenticeship](#) and be reading the Careers Bulletin each week. Parents with students looking for apprenticeships or other employment will have an opportunity next term to book an appointment with the Careers Department to discuss the next steps for their son/daughter/young person. Further details will be sent out in January.

Careers offer drop-in appointments and workshops on Monday and Friday lunchtimes to support students with apprenticeship and job applications. There are also useful resources on the College Portal under the Careers and Progression section.

## The Careers Bulletin

The Department encourage all parents, as well as students, to look at the weekly bulletin. It is emailed directly to students every Monday and can be viewed on our website here: <https://www.reigate.ac.uk/latest-careers-bulletin>.

# Student gratitude week

Next week, the College is putting on a series of activities to help get the students in the festive mood including festive cards, crafts, food, prizes and the staff band. Upper Sixth students, who have been collecting for Loveworks and The Gambia Project, will also bring their donations so that they can be delivered.

# Diary dates

What	When	Details
Review Day 1	Monday 13 December	Staff available for consultation
Review Day 2	Tuesday 14 December	Staff available for consultation
Start of Christmas Holidays for students	Wednesday 15 December	
Last day for staff	Friday 17 December	
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 4 January	
Structured Learning Day 2	Thursday 20 January	Students study independently at home
Get Ahead Day (Structured Learning Day for Upper Sixth)	Tuesday 1 February	Upper Sixth students study independently at home
Half Term	Monday 14 – Friday 18 February	
Upper Sixth Mock Examinations	Monday 21 – Thursday 24 February	
Structured Learning Day 3	Friday 25 February	Students study independently at home
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 1 April	
Start of Summer Term	Wednesday 20 April	