



Monday 17 January 2022

## Happy New Year

I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. This term is full of activities, events, and assessments, please take time to read the diary dates at the end of the bulletin to ensure you know what is coming up. Can I draw your attention to the item on Protecting Student Choice and ask you to consider signing the petition.

*Nick Clark, Principal*

## Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Students should 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. Recent changes to the guidelines state that should a student receive a positive LFD from one of their twice weekly tests, they do not need to get a confirmatory PCR test to confirm and should begin their period of self-isolation immediately. Students in close contact with a positive case should test daily, recording results on the NHS website and Student Portal. For full details see Stuart Wilcox's letter sent to parents and students on 10 January.

From Monday 17 January, students self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature. Students should email [attendance@reigate.ac.uk](mailto:attendance@reigate.ac.uk) if they have a positive result for further advice.

## Support for Students

If your son/daughter/young person is struggling please encourage them to speak to their Tutors and don't forget we have a wealth of other support they can access at the College. The College has internal support in the form of Wellbeing Mentors, Student Mentors and in house counselling. Externally the College works with many outside agencies such as Reaching Out Team, Dorking Health Care Talking Therapies, the Samaritans and many others.

Due to the growing concerns with mental health, the NHS have developed a new mental health crisis line that can be used 24/7 the number is 0800 9154644. Please use this number if you are worried about a young person.

# 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.

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>.

## ILC closures

The students have been made aware that due to a number of assessments the ILC Forum will be closed on Tuesday 18 January.

## Exams

All GCSE students will be doing mock exams from Monday 21 to Friday 25 February. Students can view their exam timetable on the college portal. GCSE lessons will not take place this week, however students are expected to attend their other lessons. The only exception would be if they have an exam in the afternoon and would therefore be granted exam leave in the morning.

## Exam contingencies

All students were sent an email on Friday 7 January regarding the contingency plans in the event of GCSE exams being cancelled this summer, this included the schedule for the three assessments they will complete in their subjects. Please be aware the Assessment contingency schedule has been amended in order to provide departments with the flexibility they require for these assessments we have extended the March assessment window by one additional day. The dates are now 14 March to 25 March 22.

Please pay particular attention to the detail on Special Consideration. If the student has a claim for special consideration, this must be logged on the College Portal at the time of the assessment, this cannot be applied retrospectively.

## Review Meetings

The Review Meetings were held via SchoolCloud just prior to the Christmas break. The purpose of these meetings was to provide students and their parents with an opportunity to discuss targets with their teachers. Hopefully, you found the meetings useful and both you and your son/daughter/young person are clear how each target will be achieved. To support this work, your son/daughter/young person has been provided with all the resources required for each subject.

We are aware parents cannot always attend these meetings, but it was made clear to students that they were expected to make an appointment to speak to their teachers. Unfortunately, some students did not attend their meetings and therefore, missed the opportunity to agree an action plan for success. If your son/daughter/young person missed their meetings, we would appreciate your support in encouraging them to utilise the resources available to give them the best chance of achieving the highest possible grades.

## 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.

## The Careers Bulletin

The Careers Bulletin contains important information to support students in planning for what they want to do once they leave Reigate College. It includes details of:

- Experiences of the workplace
- Workshops
- Talks by outside speakers
- Information about applying for apprenticeships
- Part-time and volunteering work opportunities

It is e mailed to all students at the start of every week. The most recent [Careers Bulletin](#) can also be viewed on the College Portal. We encourage parents to bookmark this page and make a point of reading the bulletin each week so that they are aware of the opportunities and support on offer for students.

# Diary dates

What	When	Details
Structured Learning Day 2	Thursday 20 January	Students study independently at home
Get Ahead Day for Lower Sixth (Structured Learning Day for Intermediates)	Tuesday 1 February	Intermediates study independently at home
Half Term	Monday 14 – Friday 18 February	
GCSE Mock Exams	Monday 21 – Friday 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	