



Head of Art and Design, Chantelle Shekyls puts the final touches to the department's impressive new gallery space.

Looking to the future

Welcome to the 'Apprenticeship and Alumni Special Edition' of our newsletter On Route.

The College's excellent reputation has largely been built on helping a huge number of students gain places at the UK's most prestigious universities and on the most sought-after courses. This edition seeks to highlight what the College is doing to help raise the profile of apprenticeships, as a fantastic alternative to university (see pages 8 to 9).

Our emphasis on Career Pathways is already paying dividends (see more on page 5), as is the importance we place on Enrichment (see page 14). Seven of our Maths students have so far been invited for Oxbridge interviews (out of a total of 34 - at the time of going to print). It's no coincidence that our Maths students have not only excelled in national Maths competitions this year but have also had the opportunity to take part in an extremely active, lunchtime Maths Club.

Our Art and Design Department is undergoing a dramatic face lift, with a brilliant new gallery space now available

on the first floor of the Visual Arts building and other exciting plans scheduled for the next few months.

We're once again running a series of 18 Applicants' Events this year (both virtual and face-to-face), aimed at helping to prepare students for starting at the College in September 2024 (see www.reigate.ac.uk/applicant-events). Details of these (including two Summer Schools) are released as the academic year progresses and invitations will be sent to anyone fulfilling the relevant criteria.

Just before Christmas we received over 60 messages from 'Alumni Advent Angels' – past students who wrote to us with heartfelt messages of thanks, to share with their former teachers.

With thanks in mind, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone in the College community for all you do to make Reigate College such a great place to study and work. All the best for 2024.

Nick Clark

Nick Clark, Principal

Apprenticeship and Alumni Special Edition



Page 8 – 9

**Apprenticeship & Employment
Careers Pathway Launch Event**



Page 11

Making Work Experience Count



Page 12

Growing Alumni Connections



Page 14

Enrichment Opportunities

Out and About

Brighton Creativity Day

During November and December, groups of Upper Sixth students on the BTEC Creative Digital Media Production course went on a 'Creativity Day' to Brighton, as part of the course's Sound Design Unit. Armed with a brief to create a radio documentary or Spotify advert to promote the culture of Brighton, students visited the amazing film studios of the BIMM Institute and took part in a Foley Design Workshop (creating sound effects and ambient noise in post-production).



Their practical tasks on Brighton Pier involved creating vox pops of people talking about visiting and living in Brighton and a sound scavenger hunt for collecting sounds to add to the Reigate Media Sound Library - from the sound of footsteps on pebbles on the beach, to seagulls squawking, crowds jostling and waves crashing.

The day was an exciting opportunity to learn more about the world of sound design, while getting to grips with using sound equipment for real.

Hayward and Tate Modern trips

Upper and Lower Sixth A Level Photography students visited two exhibitions in November:

The Hayward Gallery's: Hiroshi Sugimoto - an artist renowned for creating alluringly enigmatic photographs.

The Tate Modern's: A World in Common Contemporary African Photography.

For the Upper Sixth the trip formed an essential element of research for their Personal Investigation coursework project, and for the Lower Sixth the focus of the gallery visits was linked to the ideas of technical shutter speed and identity.



Sports students soak up the atmosphere at Wimbledon (AELTC)

Lower Sixth students doing BTEC Sport headed to Wimbledon's All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (AELTC) in October. The trip included a tour of the grounds, an educational talk about the business of Wimbledon and a visit to the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum.

As well as providing students with the opportunity to visit an unique world-famous sporting venue, the trip also gave them the chance to find out about some of the job opportunities available there.



Travel & Tourism students visit the Olympic Park and Madame Tussauds

Upper Sixth Travel & Tourism students visited London's Olympic Park as part of the 'Events, Conferences and Exhibitions' unit of their course. Their day involved a guided tour of the site of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, with a focus on finding out how sustainability and the environment are still very much a driving force, with respect to on-going developments.



The Lower Sixth's visit to Madame Tussauds was geared to seeing first-hand how technology is transforming the visitor experience. As well as exploring three floors of lifelike, hand-built celebrity figures, they were also able to experience the Marvel Universe 4D Cinema with its wind-chilling, water-soaking and face-flinching special effects!

Our thanks to the College's Trip Coordinators Theresa Jarvis and Louisa Farrant for organising the College's amazing annual programme of around 85 day trips and 6 residentials - from visits to the British Film Institute, West End theatre trips and The Royal Observatory to International trips to Iceland (Geography), Berlin and Paris (History) and New York (Visual Arts and Film and Media).

Results Roundup 2023

As was widely reported in the summer, Ofqual, England's exams regulator, brought the 2023 A Level results back to pre-pandemic levels in England after a spike in 2020 and 2021 when grades were based on teachers' predictions. Despite this, the College once again bucked the trend and achieved results well above the national grade profiles for 2023 and 2019 (post and pre-Covid).

The combination of our students' hard work, dedication and commitment and the targeted support and development the College offers, resulted in most of our 2023 leavers gaining places at their first-choice universities. For this cohort, last summer's exams were the first public exams they had sat, which added a further level of challenge.

Ellen Walkinshaw, Director of Progression at the College shared the exciting news that:

- More than 100 students achieved at least 3 A or A* grades at A Level
- 18 students had offers confirmed to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry

She added, "It was encouraging to see that the College's specialist 'Career Pathways' tutorial programme is having an impact on the range of progression routes students are taking, including apprenticeships."

Here are just a few examples of some of the university destinations of last year's leavers:



Tasha Boghani

Previous School: Reigate

A Levels: Chemistry, Maths, Politics.

Destination: Chemical Engineering, Bath



Tobey Flynn

Previous School: Oasis Academy Coulsdon

A Levels: Economics, Geography.

BTEC: Business.

Destination: Business Management, Nottingham Trent



Jess Copeman

Previous School: Dunottar

A Levels: French, History, Maths.

Destination: French, Nottingham



Connor Lamb

Previous School: The Ashcombe

A Levels: Product Design (3D Design), Maths.

BTEC: Engineering.

Destination: Gap year then Structural Engineering



Amelia Oram

Previous School: The Beacon

A Levels: Biology, Chemistry, Sociology.

Destination: Biomedical Science, Liverpool



Jacob Kidd

Previous School: Overton Grange

A Levels: English Literature, Film Studies.

BTEC: Performing Arts (Acting).

Destination: Drama with Acting, Royal Holloway



Lilly Tay

Previous School: Oriel High

BTEC: Applied Human Biology, Sport (Double).

Destination: Sport & Exercise Therapy, Southampton Solent



Erin Cato

Previous School: Reigate

A Levels: English Language & Literature, Law, Psychology.

Destination: Law, Cardiff



Victoria Kapawa

Previous School: Harris Academy Purley

A Levels: Economics, Politics, Sociology.

Destination: Politics & International Studies, Warwick



Gabrielle Mubenga

Previous School: Warlingham

A Levels: Business, Media, Spanish, EPQ

Destination: Marketing, Southampton

Aspire Programme

Students who achieve an average GCSE score of around 6 or above are invited to join the College's Aspire Programme at the beginning of their Lower Sixth. This takes the form of a weekly Aspire tutorial, that's offered in addition to regular weekly tutorials, to help them with researching post-College options at the UK's most competitive universities and on the most prestigious courses.

Hear how three Lower Sixth students are benefitting from being part of the College's Aspire Programme.



George Hall

Previous School: The Ashcombe
Subjects: History, Politics, Maths
Future Plans: PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) at a Russell Group university
Through the Aspire Programme I'm given help and information about universities, including how to successfully apply to the more prestigious ones. We also spend time developing various skills such as researching and debating.



Sophie Milne

Previous School: Reigate
Subjects: English Lang & Lit, Economics, Maths
Future Plans: Economics at London School of Economics or Warwick
In our Aspire classes we learn to research and compare universities and courses that we may want to attend after College. The sessions are also used to give out information about degree apprenticeships and other relevant programmes such as insight courses at Oxbridge colleges.



Ellie Thomas

Previous School: Reigate Grammar
Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths
Future Plans: Medicine at Cambridge, Imperial, Bristol or UCL
I moved from RGS because I love that Reigate College caters specifically for A Level students and gives me the opportunity to be part of both MVD and Aspire. The Aspire Programme is helping me develop useful skills, such as researching and evaluating sources for my EPQ.

How can the Aspire Programme help students?

The Aspire tutorials in the Lower Sixth are geared up to help students:

- Identify the things they're passionate about – hobbies and interests and things they love doing.
- Research different career possibilities using Careers quizzes and a variety of Careers tools the College subscribes to.
- Explore the huge range of course options accessible via the UCAS (universities) website.

- Spend time looking into which universities offer the courses they're most interested in.
- Pin down the best combination of courses and universities to apply for, based around their predicted grades, and other personal criteria (such as distance from home).
- Begin writing their personal statements for their UCAS application.
- Develop their academic, "super-curricular" interests – often via an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Career Pathways

At the beginning of the Upper Sixth all Upper Sixth students join either a Generic or Specialist Career Pathway - see table right.

Students considering applying for Oxbridge, MVD or other 'Careers in Health,' join these specialist pathways at the beginning of their Lower Sixth, so that they are fully prepared to make stand-out applications as early as possible in their Upper Sixth.

Pathway	Generic or Specialist	When does it start?
The University Pathway	Generic	Beginning of Upper Sixth
The Apprenticeship & Employment Pathway (see pages 8 – 9)	Generic	Beginning of Upper Sixth
Law Pathway	Specialist	Beginning of Upper Sixth
Performing Arts Pathway	Specialist	Beginning of Upper Sixth
Visual Arts Pathway	Specialist	Beginning of Upper Sixth
Careers in Health Pathway	Specialist	Beginning of Lower Sixth
MVD Pathway	Specialist	Beginning of Lower Sixth
Oxbridge Pathway	Specialist	Beginning of Lower Sixth

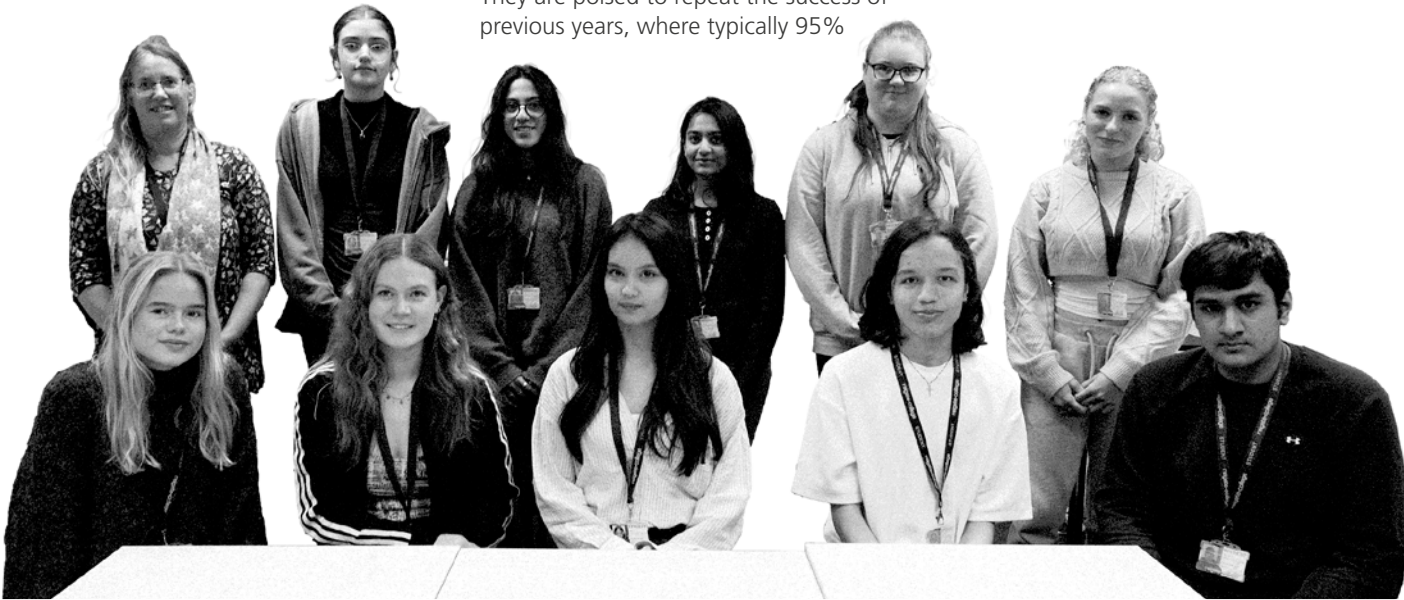
MVD Pathway

The College's MVD Pathway offers a comprehensive schedule of workshops and events designed to offer guidance and support to help students secure places on these most competitive of courses.

Thanks to this unparalleled programme of support, the majority of our 2023 applicants have already secured interviews for their prospective MVD courses.

They are poised to repeat the success of previous years, where typically 95%

of students on the College's MVD Programme successfully obtain places, in contrast to the national picture where only 50% of applicants are invited to interview and 30% are offered places.



This year's Upper Sixth MVD Pathway group. Bottom row left to right: Hattie Erwood, (Medicine), Michaela Summers (Medicine), Emily Long, (Medicine), Danny Graham, (Medicine), Rohan Patel (Medicine). Top row left to right: Liz Sanders (Head of MVD at the College and Associate Director (Pathways), Rose Pernet, (Veterinary), Leia Chan, (Veterinary), Kashish Patel, (Medicine), Rebecca Day, (Veterinary), Nyah Cartwright-Brown (Medicine). Elise Hollis (Not photographed - Veterinary)

Careers in Health

Belinda Jones, Head of Health & Social Care and a Careers in Health Tutor explains, "Having a tutorial period each week, from the beginning of the Lower Sixth, dedicated to students considering working in the broad area of healthcare (from Nursing, to Physiotherapy and Radiography) means they receive specialist, targeted support, which in turn helps them achieve their goals."

Student Susanna Hickman said, "The Careers in Health Pathway has helped me develop my interview skills. I've been able to practice example questions with the people around me who have similar interests to me."

"I'm hoping to do a Nursing Apprenticeship at East Surrey Hospital which will take four years. I'm keen on doing an Apprenticeship because I can start applying my knowledge immediately and this route will give me more experience on the wards with patients."



Five of the 53 students on the Upper Sixth Careers in Health Pathway. From left to right: Izzy Dodman (Paediatric Nursing), Maddie Walker (Midwifery), Charlize Berkoh (Paediatric Nursing), Amy Botting (Paediatric Nursing) and Susanna Hickman (Adult Nursing)

Extended Project Qualification

Students on the College's Aspire Programme are invited to do an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), as an additional qualification from the beginning of their Lower Sixth.

The EPQ gives students the opportunity to explore an area of specific interest to them (as an extended essay, artefact or field study), that's maybe only loosely connected to their A Level (or equivalent) courses. The only requirement is that they select an area they are passionate about, as the qualification requires working independently, in much the same way as is expected at university.

216 students were entered for an EPQ in the academic year 2022-3 and through it, were able to deepen their knowledge of an area of personal interest and develop vital independent research skills.

For 2023 leavers, 95.8% achieved an A*- B for their EPQ, and by doing so, many received more favourable university offers.



Kashish Patel

Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths

Future Plans: Medicine at Queen Mary's, Birmingham, Leicester or Kent and Medway.

EPQ Title: To what extent should the treatment of illnesses associated with lifestyle be funded by the NHS?

My EPQ gave me the chance to gain further insight into the NHS and the medical workplace. It's helped me develop a better understanding of some of the issues facing the NHS, that I'll be able to discuss at interviews.

Doing an EPQ is a great way of getting you to learn to work independently - developing essential research, organisational, time-management and presentation skills.



Tina Kisto

Subjects: English Language & Literature, History, Sociology

Future Plans: English and Creative Writing at Surrey or Queen Mary's

EPQ Title: Should we be teaching Media Literacy in schools?

Picking my own EPQ topic created an opportunity to develop my understanding of an area I'm fascinated in. I also got to further develop the writing skills I'll need at university level.



Connor Davies

Subjects: Computer Science, Maths, Photography

Future Plans: Film and TV Production or Broadcast Engineering at Surrey or York

EPQ Title: To what extent has the birth of rainbow capitalism had a positive impact on the way we celebrate pride?

Completing the EPQ was a great opportunity to get a taste of university dissertation writing, while also undertaking an in-depth exploration of a topic I'm passionate about!



Gareth Cole

Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths

Future Plans: Natural Sciences (Biological) at Cambridge, or Plant Sciences at Bristol.

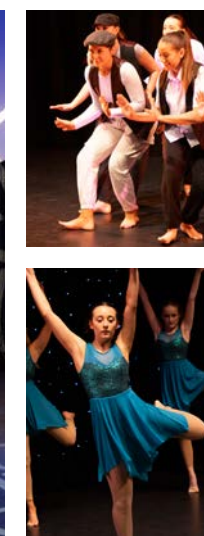
EPQ Title: To what extent should wild orchids be a priority for UK plant conservation efforts?

Doing the EPQ increased my understanding of an area of plant conservation I was already interested in and gave me valuable experience for biological essay writing at university; I would highly recommend it!

Hot Feet Dance Show

Dance students took to the stage on 5 and 6 December for the College's annual Hot Feet Dance Show.

Helen Patterson, Head of Dance at the College said, "I'm so proud of the quality of work performed. Our Upper Sixth dancers presented some outstanding choreographic works, and our Lower Sixth dancers excelled in their performances of professional repertoire. It was a joy for them to perform to sell out audiences. Congratulations and a huge thank you to everyone involved!"



Winter Concert



At the end of November our Music students revelled in a sold-out Winter Concert.

The audience enjoyed a diverse repertoire from McCartney to Metallica, Warlock to Winter Wonderland and much more in between! Upper Sixth BTEC band, Cellar Door, closed the show with a great mash-up of The Nativity's 'Sparkle and Shine' and Blondie's 'One Way, Or Another'.

Apprenticeship & Employment Pathway Launch Event

ALUMNI



Alumni Coordinator Kate Oake facilitates the panel discussion with former students

September saw the face-to-face evening launch event for students choosing the Apprenticeship & Employment Pathway in their Upper Sixth. Students on the UCAS pathway who are considering apprenticeships were also invited to attend.

Featuring a Q&A with six alumni; presentation; hands-on CV workshop plus an informal meet and greet with Careers and teaching staff, the event helped to inform and support over 320 students and their parents and carers to actively plan for their next steps after College.

Director of Progression Ellen Walkinshaw said, "There was such a fantastic buzz on the night. It was brilliant seeing our highly engaging panel answer questions about the ins and outs of applying for apprenticeships as well as their experiences of working life. They even gave up their break between the sessions joining our Careers team to speak to parents and carers. We are so grateful to all of them for making the evening such a success."

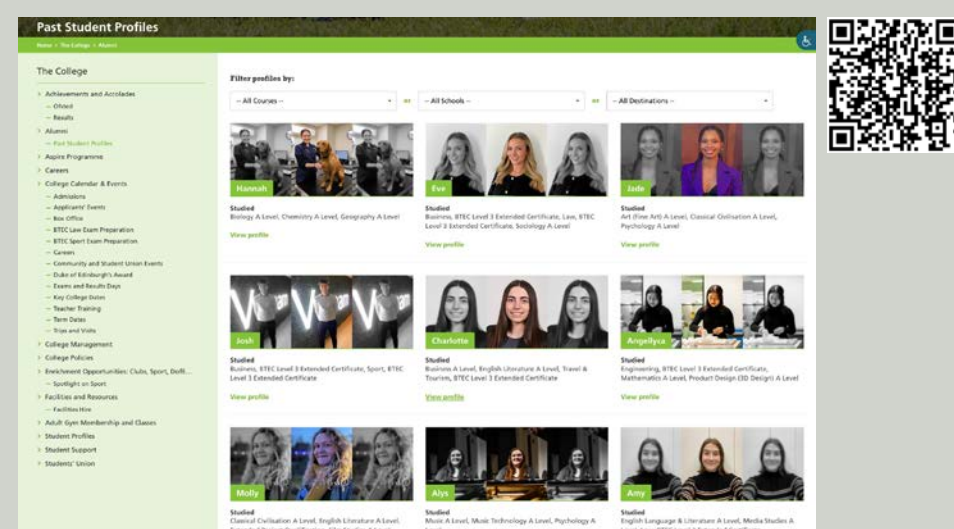
"I've known I wanted to do an apprenticeship since joining College and have made great use of the Careers Department throughout the Lower Sixth. I found the launch event highly motivating and now feel ready to apply for finance apprenticeships as they open."

Josh, Upper Sixth

"Following the event, I felt motivated to get my application to JP Morgan in and have since successfully passed the first phone interview stage. Luke from the panel has given me some useful advice to prepare for the next stage, which will be helpful for any other apprenticeships I apply for."

Ben, Upper Sixth

See our improved Past Student Gallery
www.reigate.ac.uk/past-student-gallery



Meet the panel

Hear what our former students have to say about their different apprenticeship journeys:

Josh took a year out to decide the best route



Josh Alder, 2021 leaver, Level 6 (Digital & Technology Solutions), Vodafone

"Because of my GCSE results, I only just qualified for the College's Level 3 programme - I knew this was a chance to sort myself out and take control of my future. I wanted to apply to uni and apprenticeships with my real results and took a year out after College to work. While I got a good uni offer, in my heart I knew that apprenticeships were right for me. I applied for many roles before hitting on success, and each time I learnt from the experience to improve my next application or interview. Persistence pays off: the more you put in, the more you get out!"

Tilly deferred uni and found an apprenticeship



Tilly Newton, 2019 leaver, Level 6 (Environmental Health), Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

"I was always one to put my head down and get on with the work, without asking questions. I'm now a serial questioner, with far more knowledge, understanding, and confidence than before. Don't be afraid to ask questions about career choices and their feasibility; do ask that question in a lesson; and be open to asking for others' opinions - it's all part of learning and development."

Jack stayed adaptable and followed his interests



Jack Nelson, 2022 leaver, Level 4 (Mechanical Engineering), UTAC Special Vehicles

"I knew uni wasn't for me. When the pandemic impacted my plans to be a fighter pilot, I explored another passion - fast cars - and targeted my search accordingly. Unusually, I applied for and was offered the first apprenticeship that I saw that felt like a great fit. People sometimes ask me if I've missed out on uni life, but I don't feel I have: I moved away from home to do my apprenticeship, I've made friends with my work colleagues and I'm not too far away from friends at uni in Nottingham when I fancy a bit of social."

Charlotte's favourite topic helped her search



Charlotte Budgen, 2022 leaver, Level 4 (Data Analysis and Market Research), Walt Disney

"Market research was a tiny part of Business A Level but I loved it, and that's where I focused my search. I applied for some big-name companies, and they had extensive recruitment processes. Although it's daunting, remember they aren't expecting a massive CV when you're only 18, but do spend time on a well-written and researched covering letter. Joining LinkedIn at College was a great way to keep my CV up-to-date and follow companies I was interested in working for, to find opportunities."

Luke worked hard on time management



Luke Jetten, 2022 leaver, Level 6 (Digital & Technology Solutions), JP Morgan

"I had university applications in but, after talking to friends, I considered apprenticeships. Being on the ball early in the Upper Sixth for some of the larger companies is important if you want to line up a job for when you leave - JP Morgan's recruitment window opens in September and closes in December. Do write decent CV over the summer to save time, and contact the Careers team for interview tips. Make sure you can keep on track and organise your time for what can be a long recruitment process: it's a skill in itself to juggle recruitment while keeping up with College work and mocks!"

Jamie negotiated how best to balance work and study



Jamie, 2017 leaver, Level 3 (Digital Marketing), Dentsu Intl

"For me, the biggest adjustment when I started was balancing the need to study with working. After discussing this with my Manager, we agreed that rather than trying to attempt a bit each day, I should study one full day a week at home - or in a quiet space away from my desk - to better manage my time between work and studying. This made the experience a lot easier and enabled me to keep on track with my studies and my responsibilities at work."

Careers Focus



It's another packed year for the Careers Department. While offering individual support and guidance, the team plans and oversees an engaging schedule of events and activities.

Parents' Information Meetings:

The new College year kicked off with a mix of virtual and in-person information evenings, covering topics like progression planning and making applications to university and apprenticeships.

- **14 September 2023:** UCAS Parents' Information Webinar (Upper Sixth)
- **27 September 2023:** Apprenticeship & Employment Pathway Launch Event (Upper Sixth). *See pages 8 – 9 for a report on the evening.*
- **12 October 2023:** Welcome to Careers Parents' Information Webinar (Lower Sixth)

Get Ahead Days

- **1 February 2024:** Intermediate Next Steps Careers Fair - designed for students who spend a year at College re-sitting GCSEs and doing BTEC Level 2s. Students hear about Level 3 study at the College, options at other Further Education Colleges plus an introduction to apprenticeships and an opportunity to talk to local employers about their vacancies.
- **19 March 2024:** Lower Sixth, HE and Next Steps Careers Fair with over 100 exhibitors from universities and employers, plus an Apprenticeship Zone with big-name companies. Includes one-to-one sessions with tutors; talks on applying to university and apprenticeships; and a review of work experience learning.

National Apprenticeship Week

- **5 – 9 February 2024:** Raising awareness and understanding of apprenticeship options.

Progression Events

- **7 May 2024:** Evening Employer and Apprenticeship Event - for Upper Sixth students who are looking for College Leaver roles and apprenticeships locally.
- **18 June 2024:** Progression Day – a concentrated day of talks and activities for Lower Sixth students. Talks cover progression routes for different subject areas; writing a personal statement; how to apply for apprenticeships and UCAS; plus information on taking a gap year.

Work Experience Week

- **8 – 12 July 2024:** All students are required to complete work experience in the Lower Sixth. This dedicated week is a chance for students who haven't yet completed work experience to organise their own. *See pages 10 – 11 for more on the value of work experience.*

Don't forget to look out for the College's weekly Careers Bulletin. It's full of information about applying to university, apprenticeship/school leaver/volunteering/part-time job opportunities and work experience ideas.

See www.reigate.ac.uk/news

Making Work Experience Count



Work experience has focused George's career goals

Upper Sixth student George Evered, who was previously at Reigate School, is studying A Levels in Graphics and Photography and a BTEC Level 3 in Creative Digital Media Production.

On Route caught up with him to find out about his recent work experience and how it's helped him set his sights on working in the Film Industry.

OR: How did you kick start your work experience?

GE: The first project came about through Film Teacher Yvonne McCoach, who was looking for students to be part of a production team for a short film she was working on with former BBC presenter Nicholas Owen. The film was first shown during the Reigate Tunnel Bicentenary Celebrations in the summer.

OR: That sounds great. Was it hard finding more?

GE: With the help of the College, I was put in touch with former student Guy Taylor,

who runs his own production company Gattin Films. This led to four days at the London Film Studios in Enfield working as a Production Assistant on a short film. During my time there I got a brilliant insight into how a film studio works... and got involved with rigging, running and catering. I made some great industry connections.

OR: How else has your work experience helped you?

GE: Through the College's Film and Media Department, I heard about the short film courses run by the British Film Institute. I applied for three and got offers on two of them. I think my practical work experience helped give me the edge, as hundreds of people apply for them. I chose the one that ran as an intensive week over October half-term.

OR: What are your plans now?

GE: Thanks to my experiences, I know now I really want to work with cameras after College and I plan on working towards becoming an Assistant Director. I'm hoping to find a production apprenticeship rather than studying film at uni.

Shanice Ali offers insights to 16 students



AtkinsRéalis gave access to their innovative Lava Lab

Alumna Shanice Ali played host to 16 of our Computing and Business students in November. Designed to offer a taste of life as an apprentice at AtkinsRéalis, they headed into the company's offices in London for a full day's work experience. As well as a presentation on the company and its opportunities, our students took part in group activities and tried out the new 'Lava Lab' – a room that uses the latest technology to help clients fully immerse themselves in the company's projects.

Shanice said, "We try to demystify apprenticeships, give students the chance to learn more about the application process and pass on useful tips. I'm having a brilliant time here as a Degree Apprentice and it's great to be able to support and welcome in potential applicants for next year's roles!"

Previous School: Woodcote

Reigate College: 2014-2016 Applied Science, Health & Social Care, and Sociology

Higher Education: Degree Apprentice Consultant at AtkinsRéalis while studying for BSc in Project Management, Northumbria University

Visit the Work Experience Pop-Up Desk

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12.45-1.45, First Floor Independent Learning Centre Foyer

Support available for:

- Work experience searches
- CV writing
- Apprenticeship applications

Log your Work Experience by 19 March

- When you complete work experience, remember to log it on the student portal under: Careers > Work Experience > Add New Work Experience > Pre Work Experience Form > Submit for approval



Sarah-Louise Ford, Work Experience Coordinator

“Work experience insight visits develop our students' understanding of the range of roles out there and provide close-up encounters of the world of work. It's great to see our alumni actively supporting our current students.”

Growing Alumni Connections

Every year, we encourage our past students to sign up to our Alumni Network. But what is it and how does it work?

On Route speaks to Kate Oake about life as the College's Alumni Network Coordinator

OR: What is the Reigate College Alumni Network?

KO: It enables our past students to stay in touch with us in a meaningful way that suits them. Many students feel positive about their time at College so they are often keen to help others considering a similar path. Plus we love to celebrate all sorts of alumni success.

OR: Who can join?

KO: Any student who completes their studies at the College can join, either via our charity partner Future First or our closed group on LinkedIn. This is also a great way for past students to find other College alumni working in similar jobs or sectors and start building their professional network.

OR: Do you get in touch with alumni, or do they contact you?

KO: Both! Our alumni write in to share their passion, whether that's for their degree, job, or a gap year experience. I then think about different ways that our alumni can help, for example with progression planning and career goals. This means I work closely with a wide range of College staff to identify who might be able help with a particular activity or topic. I see my job as finding the crossover between what our students need and where we have alumni who are enthusiastic and willing to help.

OR: How do you decide who to work with?

KO: We work most with alumni who left between one and seven years ago, as they tend to be quite relatable and a bit less intimidating to students who are just starting out. Clearly careers such as Law, Medicine and Architecture take longer to establish, so those alumni tend to be older. Because the College is large and offers such a diverse range of courses, our past students head into all sorts of directions that we love to hear about.

OR: What do alumni do?

KO: It varies. One very simple thing is doing a web profile. By showing what our alumni have achieved with their subject choices since

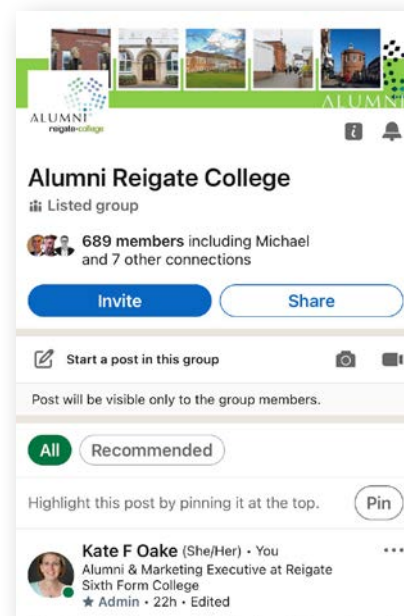


Kate matches alumni to College student needs

leaving us, our students can read about a range of different destinations and careers. Some of our alumni are also able to offer work experience and insight visits, which play a valuable role in helping our students develop their CV and employability. Other examples are careers talks, speaking at our events or being part of a panel.

OR: What do you like best about your job?

KO: Getting to talk to our past students about the direction their lives have taken since leaving us. Life is rarely lived in a straight line, so hearing how they've navigated challenges or found their passion in an unexpected place never fails to be uplifting.



The College's closed LinkedIn group



If you're a former student and have an apprenticeship story to share, we'd particularly like to hear from you.

Reigate College's Alumni are studying and/or working in a wide range of areas.

Join Today!

There are three main ways to stay in touch with us:

- Sign up to Future First



Future First is our charity partner that wants to see state school pupils supported by a thriving and engaged alumni community, to improve students' motivation, confidence and life chances.

- Join our Alumni Reigate College network on LinkedIn



- Or email alumni@reigate.ac.uk

Union Matters

The College's Students' Union has been hard at work organising a variety of College fundraising and social events. Here are some of the highlights of the year so far:

Freshers' Party

The College's new Lower Sixth danced the night away at this year's Freshers' Party on Thursday 12 October. A Live DJ, College bands, photo booth and face-painting added to the excitement.



Top row, left to right: Zaf Esprit, Amba Pandya, Alana Bailey, Tilly Walford, Amelia Rolt, Eva Da Silva, Freya Bellamy, Evie Baker, Mariana Fedchyshyn, Kenzo Kitazono, Jemima Philip, Jessica Goodsell, Chloe Fegan.
Bottom row, left to right: Michaela Summer, Mei Loader, Lara Holinghurst, Nia McManus, Clay Best, Poppy Robinson, Owen Latuszek.

SU Representatives 2023-2024:

Presidents	Eva Da Silva, Amelia Rolt
Equality Officers	Chloe Fegan, Clay Best
Events Officers	Mei Loader, Owen Latuszek, Zaf Esprit, Mariana Fedchyshyn, Michaela Summers
Charity Officers	Poppy Robinson, Jemima Philip
Environmental Officers	Alana Bailey, Evie Baker, Nia McManus, Tilly Walford
Wellbeing Ambassadors	Kenzo Kitazono, Amba Pandya, Lara Hollinghurst, Jessica Goodsell, Freya Bellamy

Gratitude Week

This term's community focus was Gratitude Week from 4 – 7 December.



This was a time for students to focus on what they were grateful for, and for the whole College community to come together to support a variety of charities.



Intermediate tutor groups collected for Stripey Stork, while the Lower Sixth tutor groups were asked to put together gift bags for elderly members of a local Age Concern centre. Upper Sixth students worked together to provide foodbank items for the local charity Loveworks, as well as gathering donations of stationery and learning equipment for the Wellingara Nursery in The Gambia.

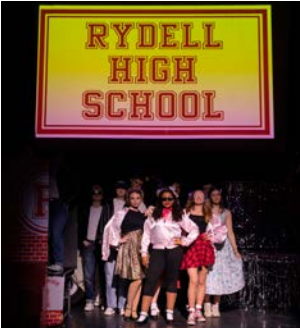
Throughout Gratitude Week activities were set up across the College to help ease students into the festive spirit – these included activities such as a concert by the Staff Band, Christmas card-making and the decoration of gingerbread biscuits.

Enrichment Opportunities

All students are expected to take part in one or more Enrichment activities while at the College. In practice, this means deciding which extra-curricular activities to get involved in and then making a commitment to participate on a regular basis. Enrichment is divided into the following areas at the College:

- Clubs and Activities Programme (see below)
- Competitive Sport (see Sports Team photos right)
- College Gym
- Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award
- Sports Ambassadors
- Student Mentors
- Students' Union

Our Clubs and Activities Programme is something the College is extremely proud of. The Programme continues to grow and adapt to the ever-changing needs and interests of our students.



A to Z of Clubs and Activities

These Clubs and Activities were offered from the beginning of the Autumn Term (in addition to the list of Enrichment activities above)			
Badminton	College Musical – Legally Blonde	International Society	Reigate Radio
Basketball (Social)	College Play – ‘321’	Italian For Beginners – Italian for holidays	Rock Band
BBC Reporter	College Play – Macbeth	Karate	Session Orchestra
Board Game Club	Cross Stich	Knitting	Sociology Enrichment
Book Club	Debating	Latin (for beginners and intermediates)	Sports Leadership Courses
Carbon Literacy Award	Embroidery	Lego Club	Street and Commercial Dance
Chamber Choir	Esports	Maths Club	String Ensemble
Chemistry Olympiad	Film Club	Model United Nations	Student Investor and Trading Hub
Chess Club	First Aid	Musical Theatre Dance	Table Tennis
Classic Album Club	Football 5-a-side	Netball (Social)	Technical Theatre Club
College Newspaper	Greek (for beginners and intermediates)	Origami	Trampolining
Colouring-Journaling space	Gym (inc. a women only session)	Playwrighting	Volleyball
Creative Writing	Gymnastics	Politics Society	Women in STEM
Crime Documentary Club	Harry Potter Club	Pop Choir	Yoga
Criminal Investigation	Indoor Hockey	Rainbow Club	

Sports Teams Gallery

Say cheese! Meet the College's Sports Teams in our Teams Gallery. For an update on how they're doing so far this season see www.reigate.ac.uk/news-teams



Basketball Team



Women's Football Team



Men's 1st Team Football



Men's 2nd Team Football



Men's 3rd Team Football



Women's 1st Team Netball



Women's 2nd Team Netball



Men's Rugby Team



Women's Rugby Team

Keira Grierson

Playwriting Success



Earlier this year, Lower Sixth student Keira Grierson's play 3-2-1 won the National Theatre's 'New Views,' playwriting competition (for 14-19 year olds), while she was only 15 and still at school. The first production of it was performed by professional actors at the NT's prestigious Olivier Theatre and was directed by Ian Rickson.

The play follows the trials of a group of teenagers navigating school crushes, beauty standards and peer pressure, with social media being ever-present in all areas of their lives.

Head of Performing Arts at the College Neil Hadley, said, "I'm excited to announce the College will be staging its own production of 3-2-1 in February. Its themes will certainly resonate with its College-age audiences."

The College will be staging '3-2-1' on: 6 February 12 – 1pm and 8 February 12 – 1pm and Twilight



Diary Dates From January 2024

What	When
February half term holiday	12 – 16 February
Staging of Keira Grierson's play 3-2-1	Tuesday 6 February (12 – 1pm) Thursday 8 February (12 – 1pm and Twilight), Rispoli Theatre
Battle of the Bands	Monday 4 March (7pm), Venue TBC
College Musical: Legally Blonde	Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 March (7pm), Rispoli Theatre
College Play: Macbeth	Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 March (7pm), Dramatic Arts Centre
Spring Concert	Thursday 21 March (7pm), Rispoli Theatre
Easter holidays	29 March – 12 April
Bank holiday	Monday 6 May
May half term holiday	27 – 31 May
End of term for students	12 July
End of term for staff	18 July

College Shows 2024

Rehearsals are already underway for this year's College shows.

Legally Blonde 'The Musical'

5, 6 and 7 March – 7pm



A fabulously fun, award-winning musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde 'The Musical' follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances - this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal!

This action-packed show is gearing up to be a brilliant showcase for the vast acting, singing and dancing talent at the College.

Macbeth

26 and 27 March – 7pm



Macbeth receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition, and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and takes the Scottish throne for himself.

Macbeth is a tale of loyalty, guilt, innocence and fate. Nothing is quite as it seems and appearances cannot be trusted.

Open to all students, this play is set to challenge our cast.

Tickets will go on sale in the New Year.
See www.reigate.ac.uk/box-office

reigate•college

Reigate Sixth Form College
Castlefield Road
Reigate
Surrey RH2 0SD
Tel 01737 221118
enquiries@reigate.ac.uk

www.reigate.ac.uk

Join us on Facebook  and Follow us on Instagram 