

What else is offered in College to help me decide on a career?

Career events are staged throughout the year, including the Get Ahead Day event for Lower Sixth students, which involves talks on a range of career opportunities and a careers fair attended by over 100 universities, employers and Gap Year organisations.

There is also a Progression Day in the Summer Term for the Lower Sixth, where students work in small groups to develop their personal statements for university or apprenticeship applications. Talks from industry professionals and subject specialists are also arranged to help provide additional guidance.

The Careers team also runs an Alternatives to HE evening every year which involves local businesses coming in to talk about College Leaver Programmes, Sponsored Degrees and Apprenticeships.

A Guest Speaker Programme gives students the chance to get first-hand advice from professionals working in a range of careers, who come in to College to share their experiences. Recent talks have included insights into careers in Engineering, Medicine, Journalism, Law and applying to Oxbridge and motivational talks from local business people.

» The College Community

Do students have an opportunity to participate in the running of the College?

The College has an active Students' Union which is represented at College Corporation meetings and consulted by College management on a regular basis. There's a range of around 20 positions on the Students' Union (from President, to Equality Officer and Events Officers) that encourage students to get involved in different aspects of College life.

The Students' Union (SU) is integral in creating the sense of community that students often single out as one of the great positives of the Reigate College experience.

What's the social life like?

The SU organises a range of social and fundraising events including a Freshers' Party and Christmas and Leavers' events. It also plays a lead role in the College's annual Equality and Community Day. These events, plus a range of competitive sports and activities offered through the College Enrichment programme, along with the trips and visits programme, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, annual 'Hot Feet' Dance show, bi-annual concerts and cross-College drama productions ensure that you'll make new friends whilst having lots of fun.

Will I feel safe at College?

Reigate College provides a safe and extremely supportive environment to study in. The College fosters a relationship based on trust and mutual respect for all, and takes pride in a clean and good quality environment with plenty of study and recreational areas on the site. Students benefit from high quality education in a supportive community.

» Study and Support

Will I get help if I have any additional needs?

The College has a large Student Support Hub which is designed to cater for the needs of all students. Sometimes even the most academic student needs a bit of help with organising their time, with basic grammar or study skills. Those who have a recognised need will get one-to-one support, including help in a classroom setting.

Is there a virtual learning environment?

The College uses both Teams and SharePoint (Office 365) to deliver an interactive learning environment that can be accessed from any computer, whether on or off site. All departments have a wide range of resources on the site which include lesson plans, interactive tests, quizzes, reading lists and homework tasks.

Are there study facilities available for private study?

The College has a brand new, state-of-the-art, two storey Independent Learning Centre (ILC) that provides supervised space for silent study. Students have the flexibility of working in this university style environment, on desk-top computers, day-loan laptops, or their own devices.

Free Wi-Fi is accessible across campus for students wishing to use their own personal devices.

Any questions?

If you have any questions that have not been answered in this brochure, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Either email us at enquiries@reigate.ac.uk or telephone us on 01737 221118 (9.00am to 4.00pm term time only).

Making the Move »

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Moving from school to College is an exciting, but big step and so it's best to be prepared.

This booklet is designed to answer some of the questions you might have. If there's anything we've missed, please just ask.

You can email any questions to: enquiries@reigate.ac.uk

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» The College Day

Will I have to be at College all day?

The College day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 4.15pm with a morning and lunch break and all lessons are compulsory. Most students are at College most of the working week, but like university you can go off-site during free periods.

Lower Sixth students usually take three A Level equivalent courses, with each of them having four hours of contact time, two hours of structured learning time and a minimum of two hours of homework per course. This gives a minimum of 24 hours of study per week.

Will I have tutorial periods?

Every student is allocated a tutor. This will be someone who teaches you and who will therefore get to know you very well. There is a dedicated tutorial period each week, which is used for disseminating information and undertaking tutorial activities. You will be expected to attend all your tutorial periods.

Will I have a morning and afternoon registration?

There is a computer based registration system, which means that you will be registered for every lesson you attend (not just AM and PM sessions). You will not have a daily tutor period as your tutor will see you most days in class, so any queries or issues you have can be raised after lessons.

What other classes will I have to attend?

Some students will be asked to attend 'Plus Classes'. These are additional subject-specific classes, designed to provide extra support, particularly in the Upper Sixth.

Students taking part in the Aspire Programme, will also have an additional, weekly tutorial added to their Study Programme.

» Enrichment Activities

Can I do enrichment activities and sport at College?

Enrichment activities, including competing in College sports teams, are a very important part of College life. All students are encouraged to take part in enrichment activities (including around 50 lunchtime and after College clubs) and the College has fantastic resources to make this possible.

The College competes against other schools and colleges in a wide range of sports, including Football, Rugby, Basketball and Netball.

Do I have to take part in a sport or activity?

No, all sports and activities are voluntary. We do however encourage you to get involved in some extra-curricular activities to help your university or job application stand out from the crowd.

Can I do the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

Yes! Reigate College continues to be one of the most successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centres in Surrey with typically over 100 students working towards it. The Award is a challenging programme of activities, which encourages participants to learn a new skill, help others and experience adventure, as well as giving a great sense of personal achievement.

» Lessons and Subject Choice

Can I do any combination of subject I wish?

It is possible to 'mix and match' pretty much any combination of subjects or levels of qualification. This means that a student can do a variety of A Levels or mix coursework-oriented BTEC subjects with A Level subjects.

If you don't pass English Language or Maths GCSE at Grade 4 or above, you will also have these subjects on your timetable.

The 'mix and match' combinations are endless. This ensures your timetable is tailor-made for you, giving you the best possible chance of doing well.

Can I do 4 A Levels?

We like to stretch students and encourage the most academic students to do four subjects if we think they stand a good chance of doing well in them. This is particularly the case for students doing Maths and Further Maths as two of their four subjects. However, the vast majority of able students stick to doing three subjects, together with the Extended Project Qualification.

Increasingly, students who are applying for the most competitive universities and jobs sign up for the Extended Project Qualification which is equivalent to an additional AS Level qualification. This gives them the opportunity to research a specific area of interest in more detail.

Do I have to attend all my lessons?

Attendance is compulsory at all lessons since good attendance has the biggest impact on ensuring your success. Registers are taken for each lesson and you will not be able to pass your 'year' if you fall below the minimum attendance requirement.

Parents will be notified of poor attendance in a prompt and efficient manner. The College expects to receive valid and timely reasons for any lack of attendance.

Is homework compulsory?

Yes. All students are given homework and the amount each teacher sets is closely monitored. If you do not complete homework to the best of your ability we will add extra classes to your timetable to ensure that the work is done. These extra classes will take place during free periods and will be closely supervised.

» Monitoring and Pastoral Care

How will my progress be monitored and reported?

You can expect to be formally assessed on a regular basis in each of your subjects to ensure that you are on course for the best grades possible. For this reason, it is vitally important that you're aware of how well you're doing and what you need to do to improve.

As well as having class and homework marked and returned promptly with feedback, you'll have regular key assessments and individual interviews with your teachers to set and monitor your individual learning plans.

In addition, you'll receive a formal interim report every six weeks. These are meant for you and your parents. For each subject, these show: attendance, punctuality and both a predicted and target grade. A number of area specific effort grades are also given to help you see exactly what you need to do to improve.

If your interim report suggests you need to develop your skills in a particular area, or that you're not working hard enough, we will invite your parents in with you to discuss the best way to improve your performance.

Will my parents/guardians be involved in my education?

We firmly believe in a triangular relationship between you, your parents and the College. Parents/guardians and teachers should do what they can to help you achieve the highest possible grades and help ensure you have a happy and enjoyable time at College.

If we, you or your parents feel that it is not going quite right, we believe in 'nipping things in the bud' and meeting with all parties as early as possible to resolve any concerns. Most parents and students feel that they are more closely monitored at Reigate College than they were at school.

Parents are invited to attend meetings connected with admissions and enrolment and are expected to attend parents evenings, just like at school.

There is also a parent portal where parents can view information on attendance, progress and correspondence sent home.

Will I have someone who is responsible for my academic programme and overall welfare?

As well as your Personal Tutor (mentioned already), you will also have a Senior Tutor and a Pastoral Director who are like your Head of Year at school. You should talk to either of these contacts whenever you need to. Your parents or guardians will also be able to contact them directly if they would like to chat about your progress.

» Results and Achievements

Will I get the best grades possible?

The teachers at Reigate College are all specialists in delivering courses to 16 to 19 year olds as that is all they teach. This means they are fully qualified and prepared to ensure that you achieve the very best grades possible.

At Reigate College we are extremely proud of our achievements in the area of 'value added.' Probably the best indicator of this is to compare the number of high grades (A*- B grades at A Level) achieved against the number predicted. Reigate College aims to ensure all students out-perform their nationally generated predicted grades. In practice, this means that students whose GCSE scores suggest they will achieve a particular grade in a subject invariably exceed this grade.

» Careers and Help to Achieve My Aims

Will I get advice on what I need to make my application for a job/university competitive?

Planning for university or employment is seen as crucial for each student and the College aims to give advice to help each student develop their chosen career path.

What help will I get with my university application?

With over two thirds of Reigate College students progressing to university each year, the College is able to employ its own team of dedicated Careers Advisors who can support students through the application process and help with important decisions along the way. Virtually every university in the country will have received an application from a Reigate College student, including Oxbridge, top Russell Group universities and leading Medical schools.

The College currently offers distinct 'Career Pathways' for Oxbridge, MVD, (Medics, Vets and Dentists), App & Emp (Apprenticeships and Employment), Careers in Health, Law, Performing Arts and Visual Arts. The first two pathways listed start in the Lower Sixth with the last five starting early on in the Upper Sixth.