

10 September 2025

Dear Parents and carers

This email explains the full process of how we will be supporting your young person's decision-making over the coming months and has a number of important dates for your diary.

We recommend that you save it for future reference, it is rather a long read!

This term of Year 11 is when your young person will be deciding what they would like to move on to, and here is all the information to help guide you and them through this.

It is now a requirement that all students either stay in education (go to a college or school sixth form) or take up employment and training (an apprenticeship), until they are aged 18.

Staying in Education

Carrington School is partnered with [East Surrey College](#) (a Further Education College) and [Reigate College](#) (a Sixth Form College). The majority of our Year 11s attended a Taster Day at both the colleges in July. On Thursday in assembly, both colleges will give a presentation to students on making an application. Reigate College will hand out a copy of their prospectus to students on this day and a link to the East Surrey College prospectus can be found [HERE](#). Although we are partnered with these colleges, it is not compulsory that students make an application to one of them, **Student(s) First Name** could decide that they want to apply to an alternative college because it offers a particular course, or a School Sixth Form because they prefer a school rather than a college environment. **There is no limit to the number of colleges or school sixth forms that they can apply to at this stage.** Once an application has been made and an offer obtained, **the final decision** on where your young person would like to study **only needs to be made after the GCSE results** are published in August 2026.

Apprenticeships

If your young person would like to apply for apprenticeship opportunities, vacancies do not tend to be advertised until the Spring and Summer Terms next year. I will be running workshops for those interested in the apprenticeship route after Christmas and can help with making applications. I urge all students who are interested in applying for apprenticeships to **also apply for a college place as a back-up**. This will ensure that they have something in place should the apprenticeship opportunity not work out.

Open Events

I strongly recommend that you attend **college and school sixth form open events**, as this is a really great way to gather information to make the best decisions. A full list of the dates and times of open events for a wide selection of colleges and sixth forms can be found [HERE](#).



Most Open Events require you to pre-register through links on the college/school websites.

- East Surrey College **Saturday 4 October** (10.00am – 1.00pm) pre-registration can be made through the following link [October 2025 Open Event - East Surrey College](#)
- Reigate College **Tuesday 30 September, Thursday 2 October and Monday 6 October** (5.30pm – 8.00pm). Places at these events are limited so it is really important to book your place through the following link **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** [Open Events - Reigate College](#). The booking link is now open and places will book up quickly.

If your young person would like further help and guidance deciding on what would be right for them, please encourage them to email me to book an appointment for a 1-2-1 careers chat. The careers chats will take place during the last week of September and first two weeks of October.

I will be working with students on their decision-making skills in Personal Development lessons over the coming weeks. **A Beyond Carrington School Self Help Guide** is available on the school website [HERE](#).

Making Applications

Applications to Reigate College and East Surrey College are made through online portals. Reigate College applications can be made from midday on 22 September through the admissions page of the college website [Application Form and Admissions Policy - Reigate College](#). East Surrey College applications are made through selecting the course on the [college website](#) and applying through the link on the web page. Whilst application portals are open from today, I would recommend that students take their time with their decision making and attend the open events first. The deadline for applications to Reigate College and East Surrey College is **Friday 17 October**. All applications will be considered equally, provided they are made by the stated deadline; there is no advantage to speedy completion! I will be taking students through how to make an application in their PD lesson over the next couple of weeks and will issue students and parents/carers with an application guide. Some colleges/school sixth forms ask students for their predicted grades. For us at Carrington this is the 'FFT20 expected goal' grade that can be found in the report section in the Year 10 Report, Summer 2025.

College Interviews

Every student who makes an application will be invited to attend an interview. The interviews at **Reigate College** will be on **Thursday 20 November** and at **East Surrey College** will be on a variety of dates through December dependent on which course your young person has applied for. **All interview times will be after school**. The colleges will send an interview invite to students and their parent/carers using the contact details that are provided on the online college application. This interview is an opportunity for the college to discuss the application. Parent/carers are encouraged to also attend the interview. To help with interview technique I will be providing hints and tips along with interview practice after half term.



Offers of Places

Offers of places at East Surrey College tend to be made on the evening of the interview itself, and for Reigate College by email over the Christmas holidays. All college offers are provisional on students meeting the entry requirements for the courses that they have applied for. A reference supplied by your Heads of Year, Mrs Lockhart/Miss Oakey, which includes information on behaviour, attendance and predicted grade information will also be used to determine whether college offers will be made.

As a final point – nothing is ‘set in stone’ at this point

When students make their college applications they are **starting** the application process – it is totally possible to change subject options at interview or even after GCSE results are published, provided that entry requirements for the course they would like to switch to are met.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this email to digest! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best wishes

Mrs J Pearce

Careers Lead

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