

18 December 2025

Dear parents and carers

As we reach the end of term, I would like to revisit some key messages about 'The Carrington Way' and to outline our expectations for students as we move into the New Year. Working together, and guided by our values of Aspire, Innovate and Respect, we can ensure that every student continues to thrive and make the most of the opportunities ahead.

Our core purpose is to provide a strong and ambitious curriculum that equips every young person to progress confidently into their GCSE studies. As competition for college places continues to grow, and with Reigate College raising their entry requirements, it is more important than ever that students secure a solid set of results; typically Grade 5 and above, with a Grade 6 or 7 in subjects they wish to study at A-level. To achieve this, students must build excellent foundations at Key Stage 3. This can only happen when they are in lessons, on time, and fully engaged in learning. From January, we will be placing an increased emphasis on punctuality and on students remaining in lessons unless there is an essential reason to leave.

Maintaining high standards of uniform is also an important part of 'The Carrington Way'. *Uniform gives students a strong sense of belonging and removes pressures linked to fashion and trends.* Our non-negotiables remain clear: blazers must be worn at all times; shoes or trainers must be leather or able to be polished; skirts should be worn at an appropriate length (four dark stripes); trousers should be worn at the waist; and facial piercings are not permitted. Students who do not meet these expectations will be recorded on the system so we can track regular offenders and support as appropriate. Coats may continue to be worn over blazers around the school site until March.

As part of our uniform standards, we require that all students wear a coloured lanyard and an ID badge at all times. The colour of the lanyard signifies what year they are in. The ID badges help staff to know who they are talking to. Students can also use their badge to print documents anywhere around the school, to purchase food at all the canteen pay-points instead of using their fingerprint if they want to, and we can also create opportunities to allow them to leave and enter the main gate when appropriate, for example when our 11s have Study Leave around their exam times. If a student loses their ID badge or lanyard, you will need to purchase a replacement from the School Shop online.



Finally, as you know, we are continuing to address the wider concerns around the use of mobile phones in school, such as distraction, anxiety and stress, exposure to harmful content and educational impact through impairment of cognitive functions and long-term retention. ***From January, our updated Mobile Phone Policy will apply to all students in Years 7–10. Which means that phones and headphones (unless for medical reasons) should not be used between 08:30 and 15:10 (14:20 on a Friday).*** If seen, they will be confiscated until the end of the day. Year 11s may continue to use their phones at lunchtime, but only within the Year 11 Study Area in the entrance of Vega building.

Thank you, as always, for your support. **Over the weekend we will be sending out our Headlines** to share the highlights of this past half term with you, so please do look out for that and enjoy having a read of what we've been up to.

Wishing you all a restful break and a positive start to the New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Oakley
Headteacher NPQEL

