

7 September 2026

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. ***I recommend that you save it for future reference, it is rather a long read!*** I'd like to draw your attention please to the highlighted sentence in the Open Events section, as this requires a time-sensitive response.

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. 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.

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 2026. Next week in Year 11 assembly, both colleges will give a presentation to students on making an application. Details of the courses available at both colleges can be found through [Post 16 - East Surrey College Our Courses \(A to Z\) - Reigate College](#). Although we are partnered with these colleges, it is not compulsory that students make an application to one of them, 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 2027.

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 will be issued next week when the dates for other colleges/school sixth forms have been finalised.

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



- East Surrey College **Saturday 26 September** (09.30am – 1.00pm) pre-registration can be made through the following link [Open Event – Saturday 26 September - East Surrey College](#)
- Reigate College **Tuesday 29 September, Thursday 1 October and Monday 5 October** (5.30pm – 8.00pm). [Open Events - Reigate College](#). The booking link opens at **midday on Tuesday 8 September** it is really important to book your place through the link **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** as places are limited and 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.

During this half term Tutors will also be working with students to help them with their decision making. **A Beyond Carrington School Self Help Guide** is attached.

Making Applications

Applications to Reigate College and East Surrey College are made through online portals. Reigate College applications can be made from midday on **Monday 21 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 for applications at this time, 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 16 October**. All applications will be considered equally, provided they are made by the stated deadline; there is no advantage to speedy completion! Tutors will be taking students through how to make an application in Tutor Time and I will be running 'application clinics' in the last couple of weeks of this half term. Application guides will be uploaded to the Carrington School website when these have been issued by the colleges. Some colleges/school sixth forms ask students for their predicted grades. For us at Carrington this is the 'Carrington Expected Grade' that can be found in the report section in the Year 10 Report, Summer 2026.

College Interviews

Every student who makes an application will be invited to attend an 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 Miss Adam, 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

Tuesdays | Wednesdays | Thursdays

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