

PARENTS' GUIDE 2023



IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE



JAGater

Janet Gater, Principal

We are delighted that your child has chosen to study at Carmel College and we are looking forward to working with you to support them throughout this exciting journey.

In this guide you will find out how you can get in touch with the right person at college and the ways we will communicate with you. There is also an overview of the wide range of guidance/support offered to your child during their time with us.

10:10

As a Catholic College, we have a great focus on nurturing the whole person and our 10:10 Programme ensures that students achieve personally as well as academically. The programme is the college's Pastoral and General RE programme, taking inspiration from the teaching of John 10:10 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'. Your child will attend one 10:10 lesson per week, split into two main sections: 10:10 Personal Achievement Tutor and 10:10 General RE.

The sessions are exam and homework free, focusing on careers, applications and personal wellbeing as well as ethical issues, moral debates and current events.

Settling into College Life

We understand that the move to Sixth Form College can be a little daunting for some students. At Carmel, we do everything we can to make the transition as smooth as possible to ensure students settle in quickly.

Please do let college know as soon as possible if you think that your child is feeling overwhelmed and we will do what we can to support them until they feel more settled.

The Future

As you would expect, we continuously monitor the progress of our students and encourage them to fulfil their potential. During the year, there will be a number of Higher Education and Apprenticeship talks/careers events to help guide students in taking the next steps after Carmel.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please feel free to contact us if you feel that you require further help.

WELCOME

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE...

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"STUDENTS EMBRACE THE
CULTURE OF TOLERANCE,
RESPECT AND OPPORTUNITY
THAT IS EMBEDDED ACROSS
THE COLLEGE."

OFSTED 2019

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Through the Enrichment Programme at Carmel, students have access to a wide range of opportunities to extend their overall college experience. Our extensive programme has over 45 activities to choose from, so your child will be spoilt for choice!

We offer three different categories of enrichment activities at Carmel.

These are Academic, Wellbeing and Competitive enrichment.

Enrichment Year Plan

STUDENTS CAN SELECT ONE OR MORE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES PER TERM
(SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

Term 1 - October to December

Our first enrichment sessions will run for 10 weeks following the Enrichment Fair in September where students will sign up for their chosen activities.

Term 2 - January to March

There will be a break for exam periods and coursework.

Term 3 - June to July

There is a specific focus on enrichment trips and inspirational visiting speakers and external programmes.

In addition to the sustained Enrichment Programme, there are over seventy subject trips and visits each year both in the UK and abroad. Students are also encouraged to participate in work experience or volunteering. They will receive support from our Work Experience Co-ordinator who has helped to arrange over 400 placements in the last 18 months.

Whatever your child's future plans may be, whether it's university, an apprenticeship or employment, these additional experiences will help them stand out from the crowd and be fully equipped for life after Sixth Form.

View our
Enrichment
Booklet



ACADEMIC

HA+ Chemistry Society
HA+ Future Architects
HA+ Future Engineers
HA+ Law Mock Trials
HA+ The Law Society
HA+ Maths Society
HA+ MDV Programme
HA+ Physics
HA+ STEM Society
HA+ The Brilliant Club
Allied Health Professionals
Art & Design Competitions
Creative Writing
Drama Club
ECO Society
Filmmaking
Insight into Business
Journalism
Law Podcast
Liverpool Confucius Institute, Mandarin
Psychology Debate Club
The Debating Society
The Literature Society
Women's History Society

WELLBEING

Anime Guild
Art for Wellbeing
Book Club
Call, Push, Rescue
Carmel Pride & Diversity
Chess Club
Dance Club
Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Music Club
Student Council
Sign Language
Singing Club
Sports Activities
5-a-side Football
Basketball
Fitness Suite
Table Tennis / Badminton
Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS)

COMPETITIVE

Basketball
Football
Netball
Rugby

Be sociable.



STUDENT SUPPORT



PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT TUTORS

At Carmel, we are extremely proud of the care and support given to all of our students.

Your child will have a Personal Achievement Tutor (PAT) to support them when they first arrive and throughout their time at college.

They are your first point of contact to turn to for help and advice. They will support your child in all aspects of college life including help with study skills as well as careers guidance and help with university, apprenticeship and job applications.

Students will have two compulsory one-to-one interviews with their PAT to check progress but they can also drop in should they ever need anything. There is also a fortnightly tutorial programme where students cover topics including: Prevent, British Values, Careers & Work Experience, UCAS, Mental Health and Drugs & Alcohol Awareness.

ATTENDANCE

We take attendance very seriously at Carmel. We expect all students to have at least 97% attendance.

Your child's Personal Achievement Tutor will contact you if attendance falls below this target. For every day of absence, parents/guardians must contact the college via Parent Login or phone.

You will also receive a text message to notify you of any absences. We do not permit students to self-certify their own absence. Some absences can be authorised, such as hospital, orthodontist and funerals. Other medical appointments should be arranged outside of their class time.

STUDENT ID BADGE

The health and safety of our students and staff is our number one priority at Carmel.

Wearing an ID Badge is mandatory for everyone who is on site. All students must come to college everyday wearing their lanyard. If they do not have it, they will be asked to get temporary identification from the main reception for that day, even if this means leaving a lesson to do so. Any student who requires temporary ID three times in one year may be issued with an initial warning.

CHAPLAINCY

We are proud of our Catholic tradition whilst also welcoming students and staff of all faiths and none.

As a Catholic college, the Spirit of the Gospel is at the centre of our way of life, relationships and community. We want to accompany each student on their journey through college, offering support and opportunities to develop spiritually and morally, as well as intellectually. The Chaplaincy provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and spiritual growth for everyone and our Chaplain is available for support each day in college.

PARENT LOGIN

Cedar, the college intranet site, allows you to log in using your child's reference number and personal details.

With Parent Login you can access information such as attendance, timetable, student notes, student subject reviews and exam information.

STUDENT TRANSPORT

There are public transport options as well as college buses.

Students may also be eligible for a FREE bus pass subject to meeting financial criteria or for specific bus routes.

Find out
more



PARENTMAIL

Parentmail is a simple online payment service that can be used to pay for trips, visits, exam resits and stationery.

There is also the facility to add money to your child's account so they can buy food and refreshments from the restaurant and coffee bar.

Central college communications will be sent via Parentmail. Once your child is enrolled, you will receive an instruction email to set up your account. Please speak to our Finance Team if you experience any difficulties.

Please note: Parentmail and Parent Login are different.

You can access them both from the college's website – www.carmel.ac.uk

BURSARY FUNDS

The General Bursary is available to full-time students who meet the necessary criteria.

If your annual household income is £31,500 or below, you may be entitled to financial support of up to £1,050 per year.*

The Targeted Bursary offers financial assistance for students who are in care, are care leavers, are in receipt of Income Support/ Universal Credits or disabled and in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance/ Universal Credits and Disability Living Allowance/ Personal Independence Payments.

Details of how to apply can be found on the college website – www.carmel.ac.uk

Transport Bursary – if you live outside a 2 mile radius of college, we will contribute towards transport costs for eligible students who qualify for the General Bursary.

*Bursary awards remain subject to availability of funds and the number of eligible applicants.

CHILD BENEFITS

This continues to be paid whilst all students are at college and under the age of 19 – www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19

PARKING

We have student parking on West Park Rugby Club, next door to the college. This is **FREE** for Carmel students.

NHS

Students under 19 are entitled to free medical prescriptions and free dental and optical treatment whilst in full time education.

SARAH COWLEY AWARD

To qualify for this award, students need to be a St Helens resident. This award could be used to purchase essential college equipment. For more information please visit www.sthelens.gov.uk

STUDY SUPPORT

Study support is available for any student who feels they need some assistance in the following areas:

- Organisation and time-management
- Effective revision strategies
- Stress management
- Exam technique
- Writing presentations
- Improving essay writing skills
- Report writing
- Proof reading and coursework

Students can make an appointment with an Additional Learning Support Tutor by dropping into the Library or by speaking to their Subject Tutor who will refer the student for support.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

We encourage all of our students to prioritise their physical and mental health.

Doing so helps them to make the most of their potential and take a fulfilling role in all aspects of their life; with family, local community, college, workplace and among friends. At Carmel, we hold numerous events throughout the year across the college to promote health and wellbeing. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing whilst they are studying at Carmel, please do not hesitate to get in touch with their Personal Achievement Tutor.

SAFEGUARDING & CONFIDENTIALITY

We provide a safe environment for all of our students and we take our legal safeguarding requirements very seriously.

All safeguarding concerns are dealt with by our team of Safeguarding Officers in a sensitive manner and where appropriate, will involve parents/guardians.



CAREERS

Students can make appointments with our Careers Team. Drop-in sessions are also available daily for students wanting advice on their options after college or for support with applying for jobs, apprenticeships and the process for applying to university. Other support can include help with writing a CV, completing application forms and preparing for interviews.

The college subscribes to Unifrog, an online destinations platform. It provides a one-stop-shop for finding and comparing opportunities at universities (both in the UK and abroad) as well as for apprenticeships and much more! Not only will students have their own login for Unifrog, but parents can have a login too enabling you to browse all the opportunities available and help your child find the best options for their future.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Our Work Experience Co-ordinator can help students find bespoke placements throughout the year. Work experience is becoming more important as all employers and many university courses expect candidates to have some form of practical experience. Last year over 400 Carmel students benefitted from a work experience placement.

HIGHER EDUCATION

We strongly recommend that students attend university open days during the summer term in their first year. All students will be expected to complete the first draft of their personal statement before finishing for the summer. Personal Achievement Tutors offer support and guidance on this.

HIGH ACHIEVERS+ PROGRAMME

This Programme will support, challenge and inspire your child to be the best they can be academically, helping them to succeed beyond Carmel.

To be invited to participate in the HA+ Programme, your child will need an average GCSE points score of 7 or above, or be identified by their subject teachers as Gifted or Talented.

Support and challenge are at the heart of this Programme that is delivered by the Academic Team, the Pastoral Team and supported by the HA+ Co-ordinators. Every student on the Programme is also part of a High Achievers+ tutor group.

HIGH ACHIEVERS+ PATHWAYS

Our Programme offers bespoke pathways for students including:

- Oxbridge pathway (Oxford and Cambridge universities)
- Russell Group and Sutton 30 universities pathway
- Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science (MDV) pathway
- Talent pathway (Art, Design including Architecture, Performance and PE)
- Vocational career access pathway (High calibre apprenticeships and opportunities)
- Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) pathway (Helping our elite student athletes successfully combine academic studies with their sporting ambitions)

SUPER CURRICULUM

Carmel's bespoke HA+ Super Curriculum will be offered to all High Achievers and will support your child to achieve A and A* grades in their A Levels.

The HA+ Super Curriculum includes:

- How to achieve a subject specific A* through additional learning materials, seminars and alumni support
- Critical / lateral thinking challenges and workshops
- Visiting HE lectures and seminar programmes
- HE focused wider reading lists (subject specific)
- Soft skills interview preparation sessions
- Public speaking support sessions
- Industry masterclasses and mentoring



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

There is more to life at Carmel than exams! We encourage everyone to take advantage of the extracurricular activities on offer so that they leave with a range of qualifications and skills.

TRIPS & VISITS - SAFETY ADVICE

A number of educational visits take place throughout the year, both at home and abroad. These have included trips to China, New York and Iceland, as well as trips to universities and businesses. Each trip requires parental consent and in some cases attendance at a parent meeting if the trip is residential. Most trips require payment, please see the Bursary section for more information.

Whilst we carry out extensive risk assessments and satisfy ourselves that there are no health and safety risks to our students, we do rely on common sense and good behaviour from our students, especially as some trips include the students being unsupervised at times. Students may also travel alone to work placements and university open days. On occasions, this may involve making their own travel arrangements. The college cannot take any responsibility for trips and visits that we have not organised or supervised. If you are in any doubt, please contact the college.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Carmel's Student Council is an elected body that represents the students at the college. It is elected every year by students at the end of their Lower Sixth year and those elected serve in the Upper Sixth year.

The Student Council's main job is to seek and listen to student opinion and reflect this back to the college's Senior Leadership Team. The Student Council also runs awareness campaigns regarding sensitive social issues and also fund raises for notable causes, both globally and locally.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

As a Catholic College for the Community, we believe every individual is important and has the right to be valued and treated with respect.

Our E&D Committee is made up of representatives from the Senior Leadership Team, teaching staff, support staff, students and the Governing Body. The group meets twice every term to discuss E&D issues that may be affecting the college, and to find ways to promote E&D across the college.

GOVERNANCE

Information about the college's governance can be found on our website – www.carmel.ac.uk

If you wish to enquire about any vacancies or have any general governance queries, please email Ruth Potter, the Clerk to the Governors – clerk@carmel.ac.uk



IMPORTANT DATES 2023/24

9TH-13TH OCT 23

Progress Test

29TH JAN – 1ST FEB 24

Internal Exams

26TH FEB 24

Consultation Evening



Prescot Road, St Helens,
Merseyside, WA10 3AG

Tel: 01744 452200 (Reception)

01744 452214 (Admissions)

Email: info@carmel.ac.uk

carmel
college

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE