

PARENTS' GUIDE 2024



IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE



Janet Gater, Principal

JA Gater

A WARM WELCOME

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE...

We are delighted that your young person 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 young person during their time with us.

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 young person is feeling overwhelmed and we will do what we can to support them until they feel more settled.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

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 their 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.

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

OFSTED 2019

PROVIDING SUPPORT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

At Carmel we are extremely proud of the care and support given to all our students. Your young person will be supported by our dedicated academic and pastoral teams to enable them to reach their potential and progress successfully.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT TUTORS

Your young person will be assigned a Personal Achievement Tutor (PAT) who, from their first day at college, will look after their wellbeing as well as monitoring their academic progress.

Personal Achievement Tutors provide:

- progress monitoring to make sure students are on track with their studies
- help with study skills
- help with applications for university, apprenticeships and employment
- help with Personal Statement writing
- referrals for any extra help or support they may need

Personal Achievement Tutors are the first point of contact for parents/carers and can be contacted via the main college number - 01744 452200 or email through Parent Login on the CEDAR App available on our website.

Click
here to
access
CEDAR



ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND TUTORIALS

Throughout the year our subject teachers provide additional tutorial sessions, particularly leading up to exams. These usually take place at lunch times and are a great chance for students to receive additional support and guidance.

SAFEGUARDING

Carmel College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. In college we have a designated safeguarding team who, where appropriate, will involve parents/carers with any safeguarding concerns.

More information is detailed in our safeguarding policy on our website.



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 a temporary ID sticker from our security reception for that day.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

At Carmel we prioritise student health and wellbeing to facilitate learning and positive outcomes.

Students are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle and are provided with:

- Access to library resources
 - Wellbeing events in college
 - Enrichment opportunities
 - Guidance and support through 10:10 Ethics and Values sessions
 - Our Student Assistance Programme 24/7 helpline and app
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ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

Our Additional Learning Support team offers support for a range of learning difficulties and disabilities as well as individual study skills advice, support and equipment.

We will treat your young person as an individual and will help to identify what support and/or equipment may be appropriate to their individual needs. Individual support recommendations and actions will be agreed to make their life at Carmel as accessible and independent as possible.

Find out more about the full range of support available on our website.

Click
here to
find out
more





10:10 ETHICS AND VALUES PROGRAMME

As a Catholic College, we have a great focus on nurturing the whole person, allowing our students to develop personally as well as academically. Our 10:10 Ethics and Values Programme takes inspiration from the teaching of John 10:10 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'.

Your young person will attend one 10:10 Ethics and Values lesson per week. These sessions are exam and homework free, focusing on topics such as progression, health and lifestyle, study support and skills development as well as ethical issues, moral debates, and current events.

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.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Carmel's rich tapestry celebrates everyone. We believe we can all learn from each other and when we work together, we thrive together!

Our ED&I Committee is made up of representatives from the Senior Leadership Team, teaching staff, support staff, students and the Governing Body. The group meets regularly to discuss issues and plan events and activities to promote ED&I across the college.

There are also a range of societies that students can join.

#carmelunitedwestand

FINANCIAL MATTERS



BURSARY SUPPORT

At Carmel College we offer a number of bursaries to full-time students who meet the criteria for financial support.

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.

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. More information can be found on our website.

Click here to find out more



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

NHS COSTS

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

STUDENT TRANSPORT

Travelling to Carmel couldn't be easier, even if you don't live on our doorstep.

The college is on main public bus routes from the Knowsley, St Helens, Liverpool, Golborne and Leigh areas.

As well as paid services, there are also a number of **FREE** bus options for students depending on where you live. These include:

- A free Merseytravel bus pass if you reside in St Helens and live more than 2 miles away from college
- A free contracted bus service from Widnes
- A free contracted bus service from Westbrook, Warrington

Your young person may also be eligible for a FREE bus pass subject to meeting financial criteria. Visit our Student Finance page on the website to find out more about bursary funding.

Detailed information about bus routes and timetables can be found on our website.



PARKING

We have student parking on West Park Rugby Club, next door to the college. This is **FREE** for Carmel students. There are also areas for moped and bicycle parking on campus.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The transition from school to college is just the start of a new and exciting journey in your young person's education. During their time at college they will gain confidence and independence, but we know it is still important to keep parents informed.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE PROCEDURE

We have high standards at Carmel and expect all students to have at least 97% attendance. Your young person's Personal Achievement Tutor will contact you if attendance falls below this target.

Parents/carers must notify the college of any student absences by telephoning 01744 452220 or emailing info@carmel.ac.uk. We do not permit students to self-certify their own absence. You will also receive a text message to notify you of any absences.

Some absences can be authorised, such as hospital, orthodontist appointments and funerals. Other medical appointments should be arranged outside of their class time.



PARENT LOGIN

Parent Login allows you to access information such as attendance, timetable, student notes, student subject reviews and exam information. You will log in using your young person's college reference number and personal details on the CEDAR App.

A link to CEDAR can be found on our website footer - www.carmel.ac.uk

PARENTMAIL

Central college emails are sent to parents/carers via ParentMail. Once your young person is enrolled, you will receive an instruction email to set up your account.

ParentMail is also our online payment service that can be used to pay for trips, visits, exam resits and stationery. In addition, you can add payments to your young person's account to allow them to purchase refreshments from our restaurant and coffee bar using their college ID badge.

Please speak to our Finance Team if you experience any difficulties. A link to ParentMail can be found on our website footer - www.carmel.ac.uk

PROGRESS REVIEWS

Parent consultation evenings take place once a year in Spring for Lower Sixth students and twice a year in Autumn and Spring for Upper Sixth students. These are online via School Cloud and will be an opportunity for you to discuss your young person's progress with subject tutors.



GETTING READY FOR THE FUTURE

At Carmel we place great emphasis on preparing our young people for the future to ensure they have the opportunity to progress onto whatever future they dream of, whether that is university, an apprenticeship or employment.

We provide support and a range of Carmel+ programmes and activities to enhance our students' college experience, helping them stand out from the crowd and be fully equipped for life after Sixth Form.

CAREERS GUIDANCE

Carmel students have access to expert careers advice and guidance from our experienced careers team who can help your young person make an informed choice about their future.

The team provides:

- Personalised information and support
- Resources and activities to develop skills for the future
- Help with university and course choices, apprenticeships and employment
- An annual careers fair
- Talks from visiting speakers from universities and industry
- University Open Day visits

The college also 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 young person find the best options for their future.

WORK EXPERIENCE

We encourage our students to participate in work experience or volunteering as it's a great way to build confidence and key employability skills. Our experienced Work Experience Co-ordinator is available in our careers hub to provide personalised support and guidance.





HIGH ACHIEVERS+ PROGRAMME



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

To be invited to participate in the HA+ Programme, your young person 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)
- Elite Athlete Support Programme 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 young person 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





ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Enrichment is a great way for students to enhance academic ability, develop skills for the future, make new friends and compete in sports activities.

Students can find out more and sign up at our Enrichment Fair in September.

ACADEMIC	
High Achievers+	Other Academic Activities
Chemistry Society Future Architects Future Engineers Maths Society MDV Programme Physics The Law Society	Art & Design Competitions #Code Club Creative Writing Digital and Creative Digital Skills Filmmaking Journalism Law Mock Trials Law Podcast Mandarin, Liverpool Confucius Institute Paranormal Psychology Royal Institute of Philosophy Programme Student Marketing Team True Crime Club Women's History Society
Public Speaking	
Articulation European Parliament Ambassador School Programme (EPAS) Debating Society Talk like a... (developing confidence in conversation)	



WELLBEING

Social Enrichment	Awards and Certification
<p>Amnesty International Youth Group</p> <p>Anime Guild</p> <p>Book Club</p> <p>Carmel African Caribbean Society</p> <p>Carmel Choir</p> <p>Carmel Meadow Project</p> <p>Carmel Pride & Diversity</p> <p>Carmel South Asian Society</p> <p>Chess Club</p> <p>Clay Club</p> <p>Dance Club</p> <p>Drama Club</p> <p>Music Club</p> <p>Photography Darkroom Club</p> <p>Student Council</p>	<p>CPR and Basic First Aid</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh's Award</p> <p>Sign Language & Deaf Awareness</p>
	Sports and Physical Activities
	<p>Badminton</p> <p>Basketball</p> <p>Elite Athlete Support Programme</p> <p>Fitness Suite</p> <p>Football</p> <p>Hockey</p> <p>Netball</p> <p>Pilates</p>
	Chaplaincy
	<p>Alpha Course</p> <p>CAFOD Young Leaders</p> <p>Lourdes Pilgrimage</p>

COMPETITIVE

<p>Basketball</p> <p>Football</p> <p>Netball</p> <p>Rugby</p>



TRIPS AND VISITS

Carmel students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of subject trips and visits both in the UK and abroad. These are a great way to extend learning beyond the classroom, bringing academic study to life.

Each trip requires parental consent and information will be shared with you before the trip takes place. We carry out extensive risk assessments prior to trips taking place. If you would like any further information please contact the college.

Visit the news section of our website or follow our social media channels to find out more about these exciting opportunities.





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Tel: 01744 452200 (Reception)

01744 452214 (Admissions)

Email: info@carmel.ac.uk

www.carmel.ac.uk



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