



YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

@ SOLIHULL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS 2024

DISCOVER SOLIHULL

My name is Martin Sullivan and I'm the Principal at Solihull Sixth Form College, part of the Summit Learning Trust. This prospectus is your first step towards discovering more about life at a college that is celebrating 50 years of educational excellence.

As a sixth form college, we have a different learning culture to what you will have been used to at school. Our ethos is not just about helping you to achieve the best grades you are capable of; it is also about developing you into an independent learner, so you are ready to face the challenges of Higher Education, further training and employment.

We are specialists in post-16 education, with teachers who are experts in their fields. We boast a large selection of A level, BTEC and T level courses, and a wide range of extra-curricular enrichment options. Every student has an academic coach, who is there to guide you in your studies and support your progression. All this takes place in a friendly, multi-cultural environment with first-class facilities and resources.

While you can expect the very highest standards from us as a College, we also have high expectations of you. We expect you to take responsibility for your learning. The

greater commitment to your studies that you have, the greater your chance of success and the greater the sense of achievement when you reach your goals.

You will find signposts throughout the prospectus to further information on our website and social media platforms. Please take advantage of these resources and come and visit us to learn more. Dates for our open events can be found on the back cover and are the best way to see what we can offer to young people after GCSE.

This learning culture is best summed up by our mission statement:

Aspire

We **ASPIRE** to be outstanding: academically, professionally and personally.

Invest

We **INVEST** fully in all we do, knowing that the more effort we commit, the more benefits we can access.

Respect

We **RESPECT** each other, ourselves and our environment.

Martin Sullivan

Dr Martin Sullivan - Principal



WHY CHOOSE US?

- Diverse and exciting range of courses at A level, BTEC and T level to meet your interests and ambitions
- Excellent results and high levels of progression to university, employment and apprenticeships
- Superb academic support from expert and highly qualified teachers with a passion for their subjects
- Excellent pastoral provision, from our dedicated Academic Coaching team, including mental health and wellbeing support
- Outstanding facilities and resources
- An exciting and stimulating range of enrichment activities
- A culture of mutual respect, where diversity is celebrated and where everyone's opinion is respected

RESULTS 2023

- **1207 A*/A grades (A level, CACHE and EPQ) & Distinction*/Distinction (BTEC)**
- **98.2% pass rate at A level and 99.9% pass rate at BTEC**
- **27 courses with 100% pass rate**
- **76% A*- C grades at A level and 87% on the EPQ**
- **96% high grades in BTEC (Merit and above) and 100% on CACHE Childcare**
- **Outstanding progression to University, Apprenticeships and Employment**
- **100+ students have progressed to Oxbridge and Medical degrees in the last 10 years**



OUR COURSES



Scan to view courses

Your Time to Choose

We have almost 50 courses for students to choose from. The largest part of our provision is A levels, which are assessed by examinations at the end of two years of study. Our BTEC courses (offered as 1, 2 or 3 A level equivalent courses) involve more coursework than A levels, but also include some external assessment. We also have a brand new T level qualification.

All our courses are Level 3 qualifications and there are five routes you can choose from:

OPTION 1: 3 A level or A level equivalent subjects

OPTION 2: 4 A levels or A level equivalent subjects

OPTION 3: 1 BTEC National Diploma (equivalent to 2 A levels), plus 1 A level or A level equivalent course

OPTION 4: 1 BTEC Extended Diploma (equivalent to 3 A levels)

OPTION 5: 1 T (Technical) Level (equivalent to 3 A levels)

We offer a massive range of subjects to suit all ambitions.

A level & 1 A level equivalent Courses

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Accounting | Geology |
| Applied Science * | German |
| Art & Design – Fine Art Pathway | Health & Social Care * |
| Art & Design – Graphics & 3D Design Pathway | History |
| Art & Design – Photography Pathway | Information Technology * |
| Biology | Law |
| Business | Mathematics |
| Chemistry | Media Studies |
| Computer Science | Music |
| Criminology * | Philosophy |
| Drama | Physics |
| Economics | Politics |
| English Language | Psychology |
| English Literature | Religious Studies |
| Film Studies | Sociology |
| French | Spanish |
| Further Maths | Sport * |
| Geography | Statistics |

*These courses are BTEC Extended Certificate or 4-unit Diploma courses and are equivalent to one A level; as such they can be combined with A level subjects.

BTEC National Diplomas (equivalent to 2 A levels)

- BTEC Applied Science
- BTEC Business
- BTEC Creative Digital Media Production
- BTEC Health & Social Care

BTEC Extended Diplomas (equivalent to 3 A levels)

- BTEC Applied Science
- BTEC Art & Design
- BTEC Business
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- BTEC IT
- BTEC Sport

T (Technical) Levels (equivalent to 3 A levels)

- Education & Early Years



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All our courses are Level 3 qualifications. As such, students must achieve a certain level of academic attainment in order to join the College. We have set our entry requirements at this level because we believe that if you have achieved these grades you are prepared for the challenge of advanced level study and should start your courses with us with confidence.

For entry in September 2024, there are five sets of criteria, depending on what programme of study you choose. Your choices are:

1 Standard 3 A level Programme:

The majority of our students will choose to study 3 A level subjects and will commit to these subjects for the full 2 years. Entry requirements for this programme are:

- At least two grade 6s at GCSE
- At least a further three grade 4s at GCSE
- You should have at least grade 4 in **BOTH** GCSE English Language **AND** Mathematics.

- Please note that there may be additional entry requirements specific to particular subjects – please check each subject listing on our website carefully to ensure you understand these entry requirements.

2 4 A level Programme:

Some very able students may choose to study 4 A level subjects. These students must commit to these 4 subjects for the full 2 years. This will include most students who choose to study A level Further Mathematics, who will pick Mathematics, Further Mathematics and two other subjects. Entry requirements for this programme are:

- At least five grade 7s at GCSE

- You should have at least grade 6 in GCSE English Language **AND** Mathematics.

- Check each subject listing on our website for any subject-specific grade requirements.



3 BTEC Level 3 National Diploma (2 A level equivalent) plus 1 A level/A level equivalent:

The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma courses are equivalent to studying 2 A levels and have similar requirements. The only difference is that other courses equivalent to GCSE (e.g. BTEC First Awards and OCR Nationals) count towards the entry requirements. To support your future aspirations, you must choose one from the wide selection of A level/A level equivalent courses we have on offer to complement your BTEC level 3 National Diploma. You will need:

- At least two grade 6s at GCSE or merits on an equivalent course

- At least a further three grade 4s at GCSE or equivalent
- You should have at least grade 4 in **BOTH** GCSE English Language **AND** Mathematics.
- Some BTEC Level 3 National Diplomas have specific entry requirements: e.g. Science requires a minimum of two grade 4s in GCSE Science.
- Check each subject listing on our website for any subject-specific grade requirements relating to the A level/A level equivalent you wish to study alongside the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma.

4 BTEC Extended Diploma (3 A level equivalent):

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma courses are equivalent to studying 3 A levels, so have similar entry requirements to A levels. The only differences are that other courses equivalent to GCSE (e.g. BTEC First Awards and OCR Nationals) count towards entry requirements for BTEC and on some courses students are accepted with either English Language **OR** Maths at grade 4 (see below). You will need:

- At least two grade 6s at GCSE or merits on an equivalent course
- At least a further three grade 4s at GCSE or equivalent, including at least grade 4 in

GCSE English Language **OR** Mathematics, with at least grade 3 in the other one. Students who have a grade 3 in one of these two key subjects will be required to retake this GCSE in addition to the BTEC Extended Diploma.

- Some BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma courses have specific entry requirements: Science requires a minimum grade 4 in Maths and two grade 4s in GCSE Science; IT requires a minimum grade 4 in Maths and IT/Computer Science; Art & Design requires a minimum grade 4 in an Arts-based GCSE.

5 T (Technical) Level (3 A level equivalent):

T levels are two-year technical courses, which are equivalent to three A levels and have a substantial industry placement alongside. You will need:

- At least two grade 6s at GCSE or merits on an equivalent course

- At least a further three grade 4s at GCSE or equivalent

- **BOTH** GCSE English Language **AND** Mathematics at grade 4 or above. Students wishing to move into teaching in the future also require at least a grade 4 in GCSE Science.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying to join the College could not be easier. Here is a step-by-step guide to the application process.

Step One

Apply online. You will be asked to create a new application first and then you can log back in at any time as a registered user. Please ensure you check your email regularly as this is how we will communicate with you.

Step Two

We will send you confirmation that your application has been received within two weeks.

Step Three

We will contact your school for a reference.

Step Four

Your application will be reviewed and if the information you have supplied indicates you are likely to meet our entry criteria, we will send you an invitation to attend an interview. We can only do this if you have supplied sufficient information in your application, so please take care to ensure we have all predicted or achieved grades and accurate personal information. If information is missing, the Admissions Office will contact you to ask for clarification.

Step Five

Keep an eye on your email inbox to make sure you don't miss any communications from us. Please note, we will process applications in the order we receive them, so there may be a short delay if you apply during a busy period.

Step Six

You will be invited to attend Welcome to College Day in the summer to get a taste of College life and attend taster sessions (see page 14 for more information).

Step Seven

We will write to you over the summer with details about enrolment, which will take place after GCSE results are known. You will be able to book an enrolment appointment on GCSE results day and when you attend you will need to bring evidence of all GCSE/level 2 results, including those qualifications taken early.

Step Eight

After enrolment, you will have a preparation for college day and then your studies can start. Attendance at the first week of lessons and evidence of achieving our entry criteria before the end of the first full week of teaching are both required in order for your enrolment to be complete.

Application Deadline is 31 March 2024.

Priority is given to students who apply before the deadline. Those who apply after the deadline may be put on a waiting list and enrolment will depend on whether there is space on the courses they wish to study.



Scan to apply online



Visit our website to find out more about applying:

solihullsfc.ac.uk/applying/step-by-step



STUDENT CASE STUDY



Louise Alcock

- Former Ninestiles Academy student
- Achieved A* grades in A level English Literature, History and Psychology
- Progressed to the University of Warwick to study a Psychology degree

The best thing about my time at College was the opportunities I had to make friends and take part in the enrichment programmes, such as music and the choir. Academically, I also enjoyed the freedom to research my subjects in more detail than I could at GCSE and read around my topics if I wanted. The more professional adult relationship with my teachers was another good thing.

PREPARING FOR INTERVIEW

Your Time to Excel

Every student who looks likely to meet our entry requirements will be invited into College for an interview. We conduct interviews because we want to give you the best advice we can. That means finding out a bit about you, what your interests are, what career ambitions you might have, and what level you are currently working at.

Here is what to expect:

- We will invite you (by email) to come into College for an interview. Your interview will last around 15 minutes. You are welcome to bring a parent/guardian along, but most students sit their interview alone. Dress Code is smart casual and most students wear school uniform. You will be given a date and time to attend.
- Your interviewer will be a teacher or a member of support staff. You will find them to be friendly, easy to talk to and very knowledgeable. They will talk through your subject choices and your plans for the future.
- The interviewer will explain the entry requirements to you, including whether the courses you have chosen require additional subject-specific grades at GCSE.
- All being well, we hope to be able to make you an offer there and then and this will be emailed to you.
- Our interviewer will tell you about some of the other opportunities available to you at the College. For example, we run some specialist enrichments, geared towards specific courses and careers, which might boost your prospects after College (see page 19).
- You will have the chance to ask any questions you might have.

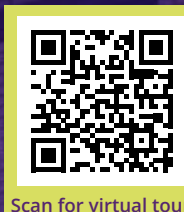


Questions?

Email: admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk

or call: 0121 709 7803

OUTSTANDING FACILITIES & RESOURCES



Scan for virtual tour

1 Hampton Building is the main building on campus and was built in 1974 when the College opened. This houses a variety of subjects including Maths, Modern Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences and some of our Science subjects. Our lecture theatres are also in this building.

2 The College refectory is also in Hampton building and students can purchase a range of hot and cold food in there, including Halal and Kosher options. There is a Starbucks coffee bar there too.

3 Kitson building overlooks the College playing fields and the countryside beyond. Housing Psychology, Media and IT, the ground floor also boasts an extensive library and learning resource centre to aid students' independent study.

4 Blythe building lies behind the main building and houses English, Accounting, Business, Law and BTEC Business in recently refurbished classrooms.

5 Brueton building is where our Performing Arts courses live and we have specialist facilities to support Drama and Music studies, including a recording studio and theatre.

6 The Art & Design School has two floors dedicated to Art & Design students, including specialist photographic and ceramic facilities. The lower ground floor is the home of Health & Social Care and Education & Early Years.

7 Malvern Building is the College's dedicated Additional Learning Support area. Students with additional needs are supported in this area and there is quiet study space for those that would benefit from an area away from the main library and learning resource centre. Sport and Health courses are also found here.

8 The Hamilton Centre is the newest of our facilities and was built from 100% recycled materials in 2020. It houses Chemistry and Applied Science and boasts an additional IT study centre, where students take part in supervised study each week.

9 The Claire Hicks Sports Centre includes a large sports hall for basketball, netball and other recreational activities, a fitness suite (which students are able to use free of charge during college hours) and changing rooms.

10 Our Studio is used for presentations, quiet study and Friday prayers. We have a nearby multi-faith and no-faith room for students to use as well.

11 The College has a rear car park for students, who can apply for termly parking permits at a cost. We also have a covered bike shed at the front of the campus for those that opt to cycle to College.

12 The Terrace boasts a catering outlet and covered seating, with magnificent views of the College green belt site.



WELCOME TO COLLEGE DAY

Every student with an offer to study at the College in September 2024 will be invited to attend an event in the summer term called Welcome to College Day. This event takes place after GCSE exams have finished and offers you the chance to learn more about what to expect from College life. It includes taster sessions for all the subjects you hold an offer in, as well as tours of our campus.

The dates for these are as follows:

**Thursday 27 & Friday
28 June 2024**

The event is only open to students with offers.

Invitations will be sent in Summer term 2024.

Make sure you
have picked the
right courses
for you



STUDENT CASE STUDY



Dipesh Chouhan

- Former Lode Heath School student
- Achieved A* grades in A level History, Mathematics and Physics and an A in his Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Progressed to Imperial College London to study a Mechanical Engineering degree

My best advice to future students is: Don't stress, put your head down and work hard. It's not as hard as you think it is if you use your time wisely, making sure you take advantage of practice questions and do some independent work.

ENROLMENT

All the offers we make are conditional on students getting the required grades. As such, enrolment takes place after you have got your GCSE results and this is what you can expect:

- We will write to you over the summer. The letter will tell you how to complete your enrolment and the enclosed Enrolment Guide should answer any questions you may have.
- GCSE results are published at the end of August. On the same day, you should upload your exam results and book your enrolment appointment online. Enrolment takes place in person at the end of August or beginning of September and you will be able to choose your appointment time.
- You should not book holidays at the end of August or beginning of September. Students who do not attend their enrolment interview will jeopardise their place at College unless they have informed us and arranged an alternative date.
- Make sure you have all the paperwork you will need to enrol. This includes evidence of your ID (passport or birth certificate) and evidence of all your exam results (including any taken early.) Bring those into College at your appointed date and time. These must be original documents and not photocopies.
- At your enrolment appointment, you will have a short interview to make sure your choice of subjects are still appropriate and that you meet the grade requirements. You will be given an enrolment confirmation letter, detailing your programme of study and the date of your Preparation for College Day in September.

- Preparation for College Day is a compulsory part of your enrolment and takes place on campus in the week of 2 September 2024.
- The start of full-time teaching will be on Monday 9 September 2024. It is absolutely vital that you start lessons on this date and we cannot accept absence for any reasons other than serious ill-health or an emergency.



Visit our website to find out more about applying:

solihullsf.ac.uk/applying/step-by-step

ENRICHING YOUR EXPERIENCE

Our enrichments not only give you the chance to do something completely different but also help you broaden your skills, knowledge and experience, giving you the edge when applying for higher education courses, apprenticeships or employment.

Our programme is designed to enrich your studies with options suited to your interests and aspirations, whilst helping you get the most out of your time with us.

With over 40 options to choose from, our range of opportunities will help you:

- Connect with others – enrichments are a great way to make new friends
- Be physically active – great for your mental health as well as physical health
- Learn new skills - get the confidence to try new things
- Give to others – acts of kindness and giving to others to give you a sense of purpose and feel good!
- Be mindful – enjoy what is happening right now

Our range of enrichments include:

- Archaeology Academy
- Basketball
- Beginners Spanish
- Codebreakers Society
- Core Maths
- Creative Writing
- Cricket
- CSI Solihull
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze & Silver Awards
- English Academy
- Extended Project Qualification
- Football
- Health Ambassadors
- Humanities Research School
- Musical Activities
- Netball
- Pre-Medical School
- Psychology Research School
- Road Map to Employment
- Rugby
- Social Science Academy
- South Asian Cultural, Heritage & Language
- Sport for Leisure
- Sports Leadership
- STEM Programme
- Stretch & Challenge
- Student Council
- Student Magazine
- Student Societies
- Teaching Academy
- Team Gambia
- Theatre-in-Education Company
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Visual Arts Academy
- Volunteering
- Young Enterprise

A TYPICAL COLLEGE WEEK

College life is different to school life. Students enjoy more freedom and are treated like adults, which means taking responsibility for your learning. Here's what you can expect from a typical week.

- The College day starts at 9.00am and goes on until 4.05pm (except for Thursdays when lessons finish at 3.30pm).
- Students undertake 4 1/2 hours of face-to-face teaching time each week for each subject they take. This equates to 13 1/2 hours for students on a 3 A level or BTEC equivalent programme or 18 hours for those studying 4 A levels.
- There is a 15-minute break in the morning and the lunch break is 40-45 minutes long. Lunch is staggered for Year 12 and Year 13 to ensure the refectory is not over-crowded.
- 30-minute intervention slots have been added to the timetable on set days to allow teachers to provide one-to-one support. You must make sure you are available at these times. Intervention exists to help students achieve their potential and is compulsory if you are directed to attend by your teachers.
- A dedicated 60-minute session for enrichments has been put into the timetable on Wednesday afternoons to ensure that all students can access a variety of enrichment options.

- Time is also allocated for academic coaching seminars and supervised study each week and students will have regular one-to-one meetings with their academic coach to discuss progress.
- You will inevitably have time each week without timetabled commitments. Taking responsibility for your learning means you decide what to do with this time. Many students make use of the Learning Resource Centre to complete independent study, as we expect students to complete as much time working outside of lessons as you do face-to-face with your teachers.



YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

The College is a stepping-stone for students to progress from school to the next phase of their education or career and we are proud to help our students achieve positive destinations. For most, that is university with an 85.9% acceptance rate being well above the UCAS national figures for all applicants.

Students progress to a variety of Higher Education providers. The percentage of students progressing onto Russell Group universities in 2022, including Oxford and Cambridge, was 19.7%, which is well above the national average of 16%. In 2022, three quarters of students attained places at their first-choice university.

Away from Higher Education, we assist students to progress onto other highly desirable destinations, including the very competitive higher apprenticeship and sponsored degree programmes and some go straight into employment. Statistics in 2022 were as follows:

Higher Education - 66.9%
Paid Employment - 5.0%
Gap Year before HE - 7.0%
Apprenticeship - 2.8%
Other - 3.0%
Not recorded - 15.3%

Among the apprenticeship destinations in 2022 were Mott MacDonald, Rolls-Royce Holdings, Deloitte, KPMG, National Grid, West Midlands Ambulance Service and Zurich Insurance.



YOUR NEXT STEP

All students benefit from expert careers guidance. The Careers department has achieved the Career Mark Gold award, (accredited 2023). Every student can expect the following support

- 1-to-1 advice and guidance
- University application and CV-writing support
- Support for apprenticeship and direct employment applications
- In-person and virtual work placement support
- Access to an annual Careers Fair with more than 80 institutions represented

STRETCH & CHALLENGE

For those who harbour ambitions to apply to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, or who are aiming for the most competitive courses, the Stretch & Challenge Programme ensures they have the best chance of success. This programme includes:

- Preparation for university tests and interviews
- A Stretch & Challenge Summer School in June
- Access to a virtual learning area with resources, activities and aptitude tests to strengthen university applications
- A dedicated programme for Oxbridge hopefuls
- A parents' evening to guide parents/carers on the university application process

SUPPORTING YOUR LEARNING

Academic Coaching

Every student is allocated an academic coach. They will guide you in your studies, help you with university and job applications and be available for advice and support. You will have one-to-one appointments with your coach and attend compulsory weekly coaching seminars with other students to cover important issues like developing study skills, online safety, financial management and British Values. You will also be introduced to the VESPA mindset, which is a way of learning that encourages students to achieve their potential. VESPA stands for Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice and Attitude.

Additional Learning Support

The College is committed to ensuring that students with Specific Learning Difficulties, disabilities or other additional needs, including those in care and who are young carers themselves, are treated fairly and all reasonable adjustments to provision are made to allow them to reach their full potential. Should you benefit from this support, our Additional Learning Team will offer you flexible support tailored to your individual needs.

Financial Support

Financial support is available to students whose household income is below £30,000. Bursaries and tailored support are available based on a students' individual needs and this can include paying for bus/rail passes for students, providing equipment or giving students access to the Free Meals scheme.

If you think this applies to you, look out for information in the Enrolment Guide we send out to offer holders in the summer so you know how to apply.

Student Welfare

The College has a team of Student Development Officers, who support students' social activities and wellbeing. They support the work of the Student Council, student societies, the Student Health Ambassador Scheme and student events. The latter can include fundraising events and awareness campaigns. We have a dedicated member of staff to support your mental health while at College and we also offer a confidential counselling service.



CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS



Suweda Abdirahman

- Former Heartlands Academy student
- Achieved all A* grades at A level Mathematics, Further Maths and Computer Science
- Progressed to Imperial College to study Maths and Computer Science

“The best thing about my time at the College was definitely the people I met and the memories I made here with friends. I received excellent guidance from my academic coach and my teachers, as well as support from my friends, and this helped me to achieve my potential.



Sam Elliot

- Former Light Hall School student
- Achieved a Triple Distinction* grade in BTEC IT
- Progressed to Aston University to study Computer Science

“I enjoyed becoming more independent and having more responsibility for myself during my time at the College, starting with transport to and from college and handing in work on time. I was able to contact teachers when I needed help, and Moodle allowed me to upload work and download anything I needed.



Eva Astle

- Former Alderbrook School student
- Achieved a Triple Distinction grade in BTEC Business
- Progressed to Birmingham City University to study Law

“The teachers were the best thing about the College and they helped me to achieve the grades I got in my BTEC Extended Diploma course.



Louis Hall

- Former Ninestiles Academy student
- Achieved all A* and A grades at A level Mathematics, Physics, Further Maths and French
- Progressed to the University of Southampton to study Aeronautics and Astronautics

“My favourite thing about studying at the College has been the wealth of resources available for every subject, and the enthusiasm of my teachers.



The College is serviced by two nearby railway stations and many bus services, some of which stop directly outside the College and some of which terminate in Solihull town centre, which is a short walk from the College.

Visit the Network West Midlands website (www.networkwestmidlands.com/plan-your-journey) for information about public transport links from where you live. The Contact & Travel section of our website also provides directions by car.

**The best way to learn about the College is to visit us.
Book your place at one of our open days.**

Open Day - Saturday 21 October 2023 (9.30am - 3.30pm)

Open Evening - Wednesday 22 November 2023 (5.00pm - 8.00pm)

Open Evening - Monday 22 January 2024 (5.00pm - 8.00pm)

Spring Talks & Tours - Thursday 7 March 2024 (5.00 - 7.00pm)

Booking is essential for all our events. Scan the barcode to book.

www.solihullsfc.ac.uk

General Enquiries Tel: **0121 704 2581** Email: enquiries@solihullsfc.ac.uk

Admissions Enquiries Tel: **0121 709 7803** Email: admissions@solihullsfc.ac.uk

Solihull Sixth Form College - Part of the Summit Learning Trust - Widney Manor Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3WR



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