



**Solihull
Sixth Form
College**

SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

**Welcome to
College Day**

Student Guide



**Thursday 30
June 2022**

Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to an important day in your journey to becoming a Solihull Sixth Form College student, as you take the first steps on a path which can take you to an exciting university place or apprenticeship and a challenging, rewarding career. Welcome to College Day is designed to make sure that you get the best possible start on this journey. You need to make sure that you have really thought out your subject choices, and that you are ready for the demands advanced level study will bring. You also need to get to know the expectations of our College. You will be able to attend a session for each of the subjects you have an offer to study and attend other subject sessions if you are considering requesting a change. This is an important opportunity to discover what it will involve. You can also find out more



about our enrichment programme which is designed not only to help you develop as a learner but also develop those skills which will help you be successful once you leave us – or just do something different for fun!

We are not the same as school – more adult, but with still a strong tutorial system. You have to make the transition from being a “school pupil”, where most of your life is organised and structured for you, to being a young adult student, where you need to take responsibility for yourself and work in partnership with us to achieve your goals. If you are ready to do this, the track record of the College shows that you can be really confident about reaching your targets and look forward to an exciting and productive two years with us. I look forward to you joining the online Principal’s Talk at 1.00pm, where I can tell you more about why Solihull Sixth Form College is a fantastic place for you to continue your studies.

Martin Sullivan
Principal

Welcome from Student Council

The Student Council would like to welcome you to the College. We are here for you, the students, and we would love you to get involved with events that we organise during the forthcoming year, such as social events and charity fundraisers. In addition, we would also appreciate your input, and we are always open to any suggestions and ideas you may have about all aspects of the College. We look forward to seeing you around College in September – watch out for announcements regarding information events. See you soon :)

Welcome to College Day

Every subject will be holding online sessions, during which you can find out more about the subject. These sessions will run at multiple times to ensure you can attend sessions for all your courses, regardless of your combination of subjects. You will be able to hear the teachers presenting, but they will not be able to see or hear you (make sure you join with the camera off and microphone muted please). We recommend that you join the sessions by laptop to get the best experience. You can use the chat option to ask any questions during the session. Each session will last approximately 30 minutes. The full schedule is on the website at <https://www.solihull.ac.uk/welcome-to-college-day-2022/> or below and you can join as many sessions as you like. We will also be recording the sessions and these will go up on the website in the days after the event.

9.30am – 10.00am:

- Academic Coaching

10.00am – 11.00am:

- Accounting
- Art & Design – Graphics & 3D Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Intro to BTEC Applied Science
- Intro to BTEC Business
- Intro to BTEC Health & Social Care
- Intro to BTEC IT
- Intro to BTEC Sport

11.00am – 12.00pm:

- Accounting
- Art & Design – Photography
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama & Theatre
- Economics
- English Language
- Further Mathematics
- Geology
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Modern Languages
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- CACHE Childcare & Education
- BTEC Extended Diploma in Art & Design Practice Part 1
- BTEC Extended Diploma Sport Part 1
- Intro to BTEC Business
- Intro to BTEC IT

12.00pm – 1.00pm:

- Principal's Talk & Questions

1.00pm – 1.30pm:

- Enrichment
- Student Development Activities

1.30pm – 2.00pm

- Academic Coaching
- Enrichment
-

2.00pm – 3.00pm:

- Art & Design – Fine Art
- Biology
- Business

- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Statistics
- CACHE Childcare & Education
- Intro to BTEC Applied Science
- Intro to BTEC Business
- Intro to BTEC Health & Social Care
- Intro to BTEC IT
- BTEC Extended Diploma in Art & Design Practice Part 2
-

3.00pm – 4.00pm:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- Economics
- Film Studies
- Further Mathematics
- Geology
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- BTEC Extended Diploma Applied Science
- BTEC Extended Diploma Business
- BTEC Creative Digital Media Production
- BTEC Extended Diploma Health & Social Care
- BTEC Extended Diploma IT
- BTEC Extended Diploma Sport Part 2

4.00pm – 4.30pm:

- Student Development Activities

Please note, students with offers on BTEC courses should attend both the Intro session and the Extended Diploma sessions. The exceptions are Art & Design and Creative Digital Media Production, which are not running Intro sessions.

Subject Changes

We urge students to think very carefully before requesting a change of subjects. Proper research is needed to ensure you are making the correct decision, as changes once lessons have started are difficult.

To help you make your decision, check out the detailed course information on the College website (there are individual pages for each of our courses) and watch our subject presentations from our online Open Evening in January on the College website:

<https://www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk/online-open-evening-24-january/>

If you are sure you want to change, you need to fill in the online subject change form located at <https://forms.office.com/r/Vzn03UqzBe>. We will not make any changes until your enrolment interview in September, but a record of your request to change will be noted. Whilst we make every effort to accommodate changes, we cannot make any guarantees to do so.

High Expectations - Get the most out of the day

“Be Prepared – Start as you mean to carry on”

- 1) **Be punctual** – log in to your session five minutes before start time.
- 2) **Be prepared** – have a pen and paper to hand in case you want to make some notes during the sessions and you need to be available for the whole session.
- 3) **Be involved** – make sure you have researched your choices fully beforehand. Check out our website www.solihullsf.ac.uk so you understand what the courses involve.
- 4) **Be inquisitive** – ask questions during the sessions. You are committing to your study programme for two full years so your choices need to be the right ones for you.
- 5) **Be focused** – if after attending the sessions you would like to change subjects from what you had originally planned, complete the summer homework so you are prepared for lessons in September (we cannot confirm any changes until enrolment).

Summer Homework

Students will have a piece of summer homework to complete for each of their courses, which needs to be handed in during the first lesson when the Autumn term begins in September. Don't worry! It should not take you too long, but it aims to get you off to a good start with your studies and is helpful for teachers to see what you know already! You will receive details about this during your subject sessions. You can also download it from the College website at:

www.solihullsf.ac.uk/student-zone/welcome-to-college-day/summer-homework.

Enrichment

Do you want to stand out from the crowd? Participating in our enrichment programme alongside your academic programme will help develop your skills, knowledge and experience giving you the edge when applying for further education courses or employment.

All our enrichment options fit into one or more themes, giving you an idea about what to expect. Each theme is represented by an icon, as follows:

Enrichments that help you connect with other people



Enrichments that help you to be physically active



Enrichments that help you learn new skills



Enrichments that help you pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness)



Enrichments that allow you to give to others



All our enrichment options are listed on the next page, showing which of these five themes apply to each.

During Welcome to College Day, you will be able to find out more about many of the enrichments we offer. Join one of the two sessions (at 1.00pm or 1.30pm) to hear about these opportunities. Further information about all these options is available in our Enrichment Guide, which will be made available to prospective students separately.

Enrichment					
ABRSM Music Theory			✓	✓	
Archaeology Academy	✓		✓		
Basketball	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Beginners Spanish	✓		✓		
Choir				✓	
Computer Programming	✓		✓		
Core Maths	✓		✓		
Creative Writing	✓		✓		
Cricket	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CSI Solihull	✓		✓		
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
English Academy	✓		✓		
Extended Project Qualification	✓		✓		
Football	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Health Ambassadors	✓		✓		✓
Healthcare Practitioners	✓		✓		✓
Humanities Research School	✓		✓		
Kitson Award	✓		✓		✓
Mentors in Violence Protection	✓		✓		✓
Musical Activities	✓		✓	✓	
Netball	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pre-Medical School	✓		✓		
Psychology Research School	✓		✓		
Road Map to Employment	✓		✓		
Rugby	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Social Sciences Academy	✓		✓		
Sport for Leisure	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sports Leadership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STEM programme	✓		✓		
Stretch & Challenge	✓		✓		
Student Council	✓		✓		✓
Student Magazine	✓		✓		
Student Societies	✓				✓
Teaching Academy	✓		✓		✓
Team Gambia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Theatre-in-Education Company	✓		✓	✓	
Urdu	✓		✓		
Visual Arts Academy	✓		✓	✓	
Volunteering	✓		✓	✓	✓
Young Enterprise	✓		✓		

Enrichment Payment

The College asks you or your parents to pay a £50 Enrichment contribution. This allows us to offer you a range of opportunities in careers, work experience, voluntary service, higher education projects, sport, drama, music and many other areas at the College. It also funds student-led activities like health ambassadors and student reps and it funds prizes and awards to celebrate your success. You can pay this by cash or cheque (payable to 'Summit Learning Trust' with your name and date of birth on the back) at enrolment.

About the College

Support

Success on your course will depend largely on you. We encourage our students to take responsibility for their learning and to become independent thinkers! That does not mean you will be left on your own. Your teachers guide this learning and will both teach you and support you with your independent learning as well, pointing you in the right direction to access useful resources and answering your questions.

Online Resources

We have a virtual learning area online called Moodle, where many learning resources can be found. You can also see your teachers between lessons and contact them by email. We will take you through how Moodle works when you start in September.

Learning Resource Centre

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is the hub of the College's learning environment and contains over 180 computers for student use and a well-stocked Library with over 30,000 resources. It also offers a range of e-books and online databases through the LRC's pages on Moodle. The LRC staff are friendly, knowledgeable and ready to support you in your studies, so don't be afraid to ask for help. Your induction will take you through how you can use your College ID card to access resources and make use of the computers. Your ID card will double as your printer card.

Additional Support

The College is committed to ensuring that students with an additional need or disability are treated fairly, and all reasonable adjustments to provision are made to allow them to reach their full potential. Students with individual learning needs are offered specific support through our additional learning team.

Health & Wellbeing

Students have an Academic Coach who they can talk to about any concerns, including wellbeing. In addition, the College has a Mental Health Lead who offers drop-in sessions, one-to-ones and group sessions to give you support and advice in managing your mental health. Advice and support regarding sexual health, smoking cessation, drugs and alcohol, accommodation, funding for higher education and health promotion within the College is also available. The service is confidential. We also have trained First Aiders should you need their services. Finally, we have a Mental Health Lead, who can offer you support for your wellbeing.

Young Adult Carers

The College has a dedicated member of staff to support Young Adult Carers, who are those who help support someone in their family, or household who is disabled, mentally or physically ill, has a long term serious illness or has a substance misuse problem. The support we offer includes help from a dedicated support worker, one-to-one support, Young Adult Carers ID Card, help with student finance, help with attendance issues and drop-in and group support sessions.

Academic Coaching

All our students have a weekly Coaching session. You will have your own assigned Academic Coach who will be your point of contact for any support or advice you need. Weekly Group Coaching sessions in Year 12 cover a range of topics from developing Level 3 study skills to preparing for university or employment applications. You will also have one to one appointments over the year with your Academic Coach to review your progress and set targets to support your success at Sixth Form. Academic Coaching sessions are a compulsory and valuable part of your programme. Learn more about what Academic Coaching is by attending a live session at either 9.30am or 1.30pm on Welcome to College Day.

Students will also have Supervised Study on their timetable; dedicated time for you to focus on your studies. Every lesson on your timetable is compulsory and you should ensure that all appointments are booked outside of lesson time.

Campus Tours

All applicants who have applied for a place in September are invited to book a tour of the campus on Friday 1 July, to give you a chance to visit and see what the College is like. Tours will last approximately 30 minutes and will be conducted in groups between 9.00am and 4.00pm. Staff will be leading the tours and can answer any questions you may have. Students must be accompanied by a parent/carer and must have a pre-booked Eventbrite ticket to gain entry. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather! Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/321273717337> to book your place. We look forward to seeing you!



Timetable

Each lesson is 90 minutes and you will have three lessons per week per A Level or nine lessons for BTEC. Lessons start at 9:00 so you need to plan how long your journey to College will take in rush hour traffic. The last lesson finishes at 16:05 but you need to be available until 16:30 should your teachers need to see you. There are also intervention slots on your timetable and these will operate on a two-week schedule, with intervention for lessons in columns A, E and F in Week 1, while interventions for lessons in columns B, C and D in Week 2. Your teachers will let you know when intervention sessions are running.

When you do not have a lesson, you should be completing independent study for your subjects; around 15 hours a week. Some of this will be homework but successful sixth form students do extra reading, research and create revision materials over the year; not just before exams!

Provisional Timetable

MONDAY	Week 1	A 9.00 – 10.30	A Int * 10.30 – 11.00	Break	C 11.15 – 12.15	B 12.20 – 13.50	Lunch	D 14.35 – 16.05
	Week 2	A 9.00 – 10.30	Break	C Int * 10.45 – 11.15	C 11.15 – 12.15	B 12.20 – 13.50		D 14.35 – 16.05
TUESDAY	Week 1	E 9.00 – 10.30	Break	F 10.45 – 12.15		A 12.20 – 13.50	Lunch	B 14.35 – 16.05
	Week 2	E 9.00 – 10.30	Break	F 10.45 – 12.15		A 12.20 – 13.50		B 14.35 – 16.05
WEDNESDAY	Week 1	F 9.00 – 10.30	F Int * 10.30 – 11.00	Break	B 11.15 – 12.45		Enrichment (For 1 hour at 12.50 or 13.30) Lunch	A 14.35 – 16.05
	Week 2	F 9.00 – 10.30	Break	B Int * 10.45 – 11.15	B 11.15 – 12.45		Lunch (For 40 minutes at 12.50 or 13.50)	A 14.35 – 16.05
THURSDAY	Week 1	E 9.00 – 10.30	E Int * 10.30 – 11.00	Break	D 11.15 – 12.45		Lunch	
	Week 2	E 9.00 – 10.30	Break	D Int * 10.45 – 11.15	D 11.15 – 12.45		C 13.30 – 15.30	
FRIDAY	Week 1	C 9.00 – 10.30	Break	D 10.45 – 12.15		E 12.20 – 13.50	Lunch	F 14.35 – 16.05
	Week 2	C 9.00 – 10.30	Break	D 10.45 – 12.15		E 12.20 – 13.50		F 14.35 – 16.05

* Intervention sessions – there are three in Week 1 and three in Week 2, depending on which columns your courses are in.

Enrolment Interviews

As soon as you receive your GCSE results, you will need to upload your results onto your online application to book an enrolment interview on either 31 August or 1 September; appointments cannot be booked by telephone. Further information will be sent out in the Enrolment Guide over the summer.

During the enrolment, we will check your results and that you meet the subject entrance criteria (some subjects have entrance requirements different to the College standard entrance requirements; you can check what they are on the website in the courses area). You will be required to be at the College for approximately one to two hours in order to agree your programme of study, complete any other administration and have an introductory presentation to life at College.

The photograph for your ID card will be taken electronically on the day. Your ID card is very important and you must carry it with you at all times. You will need it to gain access to the campus and to use the Learning Resource Centre and you must show your card if requested to do so by a member of staff. If you lose your card you will be charged £10 for a replacement.

At the end of your interview you will be enrolled as a student of the College and given information about the time and day at which you will be required to attend for Induction and the start of term. Your first day in College after enrolment will be for induction, which takes place as follows:

Induction

Week of 5 September

(You will be told which day you need to attend at enrolment)

**Timetables published on Arbor
Lessons Start**

**By 6.00pm on Sunday 11 September
Monday 12 September**

Term dates are as follows:

Autumn Term 2022

24 – 28 October 2022 – Half-Term

Friday 16 December 2022 – End of Term

Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 3 January 2023 – Start of Term

20 – 24 February 2023 – Half-Term

Friday 31 March 2023 – End of Term

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17 April 2023 – Start of Term

29 May – 2 June 2023 – Half-Term

Monday 17 July 2023 – End of Term

Your questions answered

What should I do if I don't get the grades I need for my course?

Every year we have students who achieve better than they expected and, unfortunately, some who don't do quite as well as they had hoped at GCSE. If you find yourself in the latter situation - don't panic! There may still be a course that is suitable for you at College. So, firstly, look again at the College Prospectus/website. We offer A Level courses and BTEC Extended Diploma courses in a range of subjects. Is there anything that interests you and/or is suitable in terms of your qualifications/career intentions? If your results qualify you for an alternative course at the College, when you upload your GCSE results you will be invited to come in to College with your results for an interview to discuss any suitable courses and the best options for you.

Can I change my courses before or after I have enrolled?

We suggest you think very carefully about your choices. During Welcome to College Day, we need you to attend the online sessions for subjects you have an offer for. After you have had a taster of your courses, if you still want to change subjects, we suggest you attend other subject sessions to find out more about the course you are interested in. If you still would like to make a change to your offer, email Admissions. We will note your request but cannot confirm if a change is possible until enrolment so please do not expect a reply to your email. However, provided you meet any subject-specific entry requirements, and there is space on the course, we will try to make that change at enrolment. After you have started your studies, it is very difficult to make changes. If you do change a subject at enrolment, you will need to complete the summer homework before lessons start.

Is there somewhere to leave my books and equipment?

When term starts, there are lockers available – on a first-come-first-served basis, although there are usually sufficient to satisfy all requests. Please pay your £15 refundable deposit for a locker key at www.parentpay.com and then come along to Student Reception in Hampton at the start of term.

Can I apply for a bus pass?

Yes. Network West Midlands provide bus travel for students at a reduced rate. 16-18 Photocards are available from the Network West Midlands website at <https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/child/16-18-photocard/>. It is free to get a card, which is Swift enabled so you can load season tickets onto them.

Is car parking available?

Car parking space is tight at the College, but a limited number of parking permits are available to purchase. If you have a current blue disability badge, parking will be free of charge. Otherwise, parking will cost £2 per day (payable termly) and permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Charges are made for the whole term based on the number of teaching days per term with the exception of the summer term where a reduced cost is applied to reflect the exam period. Students can choose to pay £324 to guarantee a space for three terms or choose to pay termly (Autumn Term: £138; Spring Term: £138; Summer Term: £50). Payment can be made by Parentpay, cash or cheque. Please contact Student Reception in Hampton for further details.

Can I bring my bike into College?

Yes. The College has invested in a bike shed (in front of the Sports Centre and Dance Studio), where students can secure their bikes. Given the restrictions on the number of car parking spaces available, this is a good alternative for students.

Is there any financial support available?

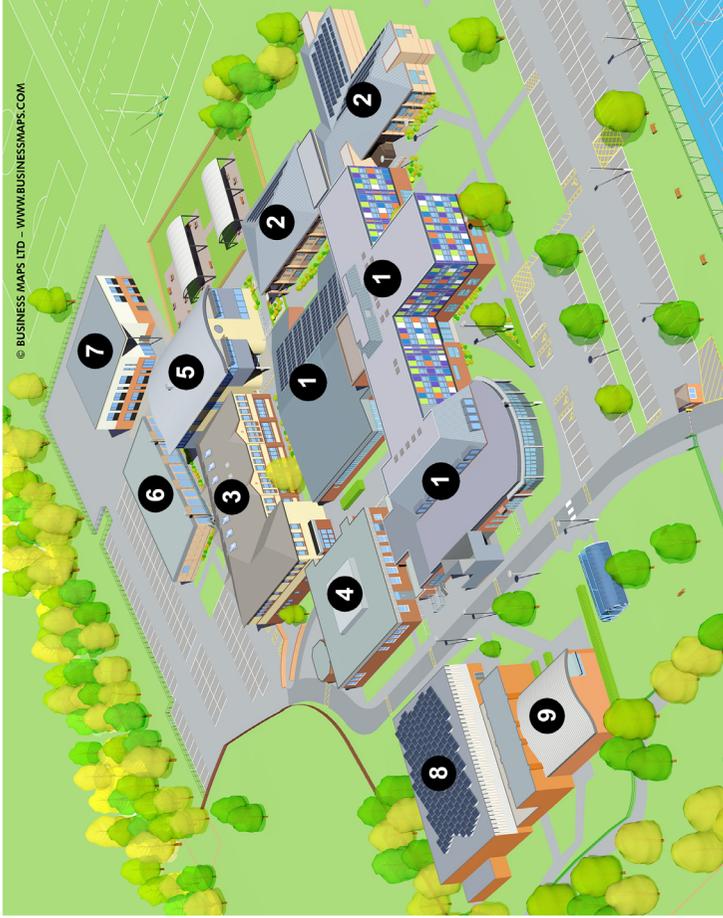
The College operates a Bursary Fund, which is a discretionary, means-tested award administered by the College to assist students in hardship so that they may continue with their studies. Bursary provides a contribution towards the costs associated with studying. You may be eligible for a laptop loan, travel pass or equipment. Applications will open after you enrol.

Included in the Bursary application is an assessment for eligibility for Free Meals. The criteria for this are slightly different to the Bursary but students will be assessed for both on one application. If successful, students would be entitled to a meal per day when they attend college. Further information, including the criteria students must meet to apply for a Bursary and for Free Meals, will be sent to you in your Enrolment Guide over the summer.

How will I find my way around College when I start my studies?

Don't worry if you're not sure where things are when you start at College - we were all new to College once! We will have lots of signage around the campus and staff will always be happy to help you find wherever you need to go. On the next page is a map of the campus, with room numbers and the floor these rooms are located on.

Campus Plan



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Buildings & Room Numbers:

- 1** Hampton Building:
Lower Ground Floor: H111, H112, H113, H120, H121, H122, H123 & H124
Ground Floor: H201, Refectory, & Internet Cafe
1st Floor: H301, H303, H305, H306, H307, H313, H314, H315, H316, H317, H320, H321, H322, H323, H324, H325, H326
2nd Floor: H401, H404, H406, H407, H414, H415, H417, H418, H421, H423, H424, H428, H430 & H432
- 2** Kitson Building:
Lower Ground Floor: - K101, K102, K103, K104 & K105 (access from lower door)
Ground Floor: Library & Learning Centre
1st Floor: K303, K304, K305, K306, K307, K308, K309, K310, K311, K312, K313, K315, K318, K319, K321 & K322
- 3** Blythe Building:
Lower Ground Floor: B552, B553, B554 & B555
Ground Floor: B503, B504, B505, B508, B509, B510, B511, B512 & B513
1st Floor: B704, B710, B711, B712, B714, B718 & B721
- 4** Brueton Building:
Ground Floor: B601, B602, B604, B605 & B610
- 5** Art & Design School:
Lower Ground Floor: A101, A102, A103, A104, A105, A106 & A107
Ground Floor: A202, A203, A204, A205, A206 & A207
1st Floor: - A301, A303, A305, A308, A309 & A311
- 6** Malvern Building:
Ground Floor: M201, M202, M204, M205, M206, M210, M211, M212 & M213
- 7** J Hamilton Centre:
Ground Floor: J102, J104, J108, J109
1st Floor: J203, J204, J206
- 8** Sport Centre
- 9** Dance Studio