



**Solihull
Sixth Form
College**
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

Welcome to College Day

**Student Guide
Friday 28 June 2024**



Welcome

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 of level 3 study. You also need to get to know the expectations of our college. You will be able to attend a lesson for each of the subjects you have an offer to study and attend a 4th subject in case as a backup option. 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 a strong pastoral 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 confident about reaching your targets and look forward to an exciting and productive two years with us.

Martin Sullivan
Principal

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.

The Student Council

Preparing Tomorrow's Professionals

Our Values

Success through Endeavour:

We work hard and develop resilience to ensure that we are able to collectively and positively overcome any barriers that we face.

Ambition through Challenge:

We are relentlessly ambitious for all our students and colleagues and challenge them to do their best, every lesson, every day.

Strength through Diversity:

We are truly inclusive, embrace each other's differences and backgrounds and respect each other's views and beliefs.

Our Expectations

BE HERE	Maximise your learning time. Attend and be punctual to your subject lessons and personal development, enrichment, and supervised study lessons. Excellent attendance leads to excellent results.
BE ASPIRATIONAL	Be ambitious and have high expectations of yourself – you can be what you want to be. Research shows that with commitment and good study habits there is no ceiling to what you can achieve.
BE PROFESSIONAL	Be professional in all that you do. Present yourself well and develop good academic language, numeracy, and IT skills. Stand out from the crowd in the modern-day workforce - make the most of the opportunities to find out about apprenticeships, direct employment, and careers beyond university.
BE PRODUCTIVE	Be ready for every lesson – bring all the things you need so you are ready to learn. Complete all independent study tasks in advance of lessons (minimum 5 hours per subject/unit per week). Take pride in the organisation and presentation of your work.
BE INVOLVED	Contribute to the life of the College and celebrate and enjoy the fantastic diversity of our College community. Meet others and broaden your interests by taking up an enrichment – join a specialist academy, play sport or music, or take part in a student society.
BE ENGAGED	Actively participate in your lessons and stay focussed. Ask questions, join in group work and discussions, seek help, and always be open and willing to learn. Develop resilience - we all learn from our mistakes.

Plan of the day

Time	Activity
8.30am onwards	Students arrive at College
9.00 – 10.30am	Lesson 1 & introduction the day
10.30 - 11.00am	Break *
11.00am - 12.00pm	Lesson 2
12.10 - 1.10pm	Lesson 3a * Some of you will have lunch at this time. Some of you will attend Lesson 3a. Enrichment Fair (in the Sports Hall).
1.10 - 2.10pm	Lesson 3b * If you had lunch in Lesson 3a, please attend lesson 3b. If you had a lesson in 3a, you should have lunch in Lesson 3b
2.10 - 3.30pm	Lesson 4 and Evaluation of the day

Instructions:

1. Look at your individual timetable and take note of the rooms you are in.
2. Triple award BTEC students - check that you are attending 3 lessons consecutively (one after the other) for your subject.
3. Double award BTEC students - check that you are attending 2 lessons consecutively (one after the other) for your subject.
4. Now look at the campus map in the middle of this booklet to find out where each room is. Highlight these places and work out your routes to get from one session to another. We have added in 10-minute breaks between lessons to ensure you will have time to make it to your classroom. Please ask if you want help finding where to go, but don't worry, because throughout the day there will be staff and students around the campus to give you directions.

* As well as getting yourself some refreshments, please use the morning break and lunch break to find out more about our exciting enrichments and student societies in the Sports Hall.

Please note that not all students will follow the same timetable for the day - you booked your lessons, and your timetable was emailed to you. You must keep to the times specified on your individual timetable. You are expected to remain on site throughout the day.

Helpdesk

There will be a Help Desk in the Refectory. At the Help Desk, you will be able to speak to staff about any queries you may have about all aspects of college life.

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. The aims of the summer homework is 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 lessons. You can also download it from the College website at:

www.solihullsfc.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, apprenticeships 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

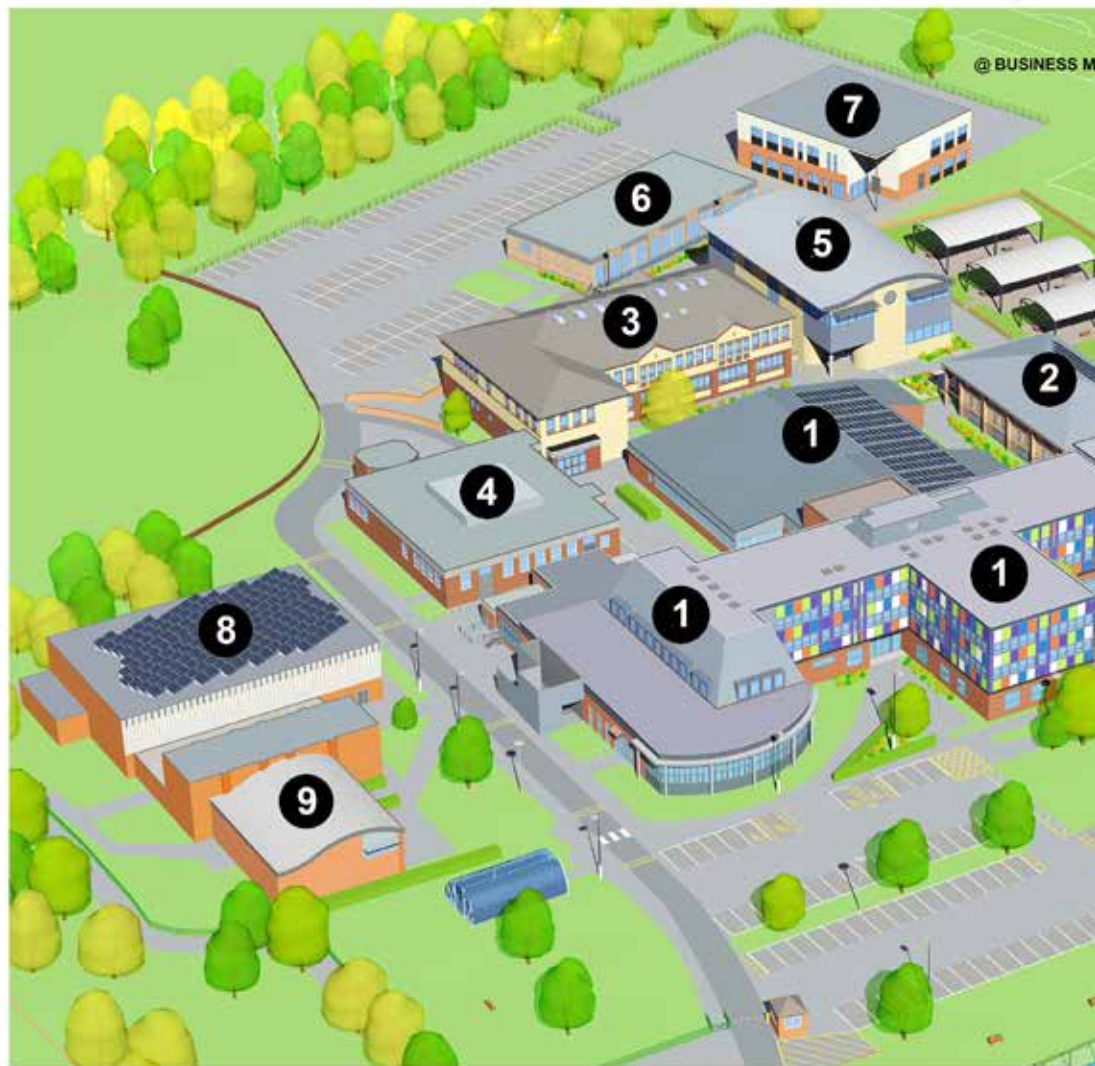


All our enrichment options are listed on page 6, showing which of these five themes apply to each.

During Welcome to College Day, you will be able to find out more about many of the enrichments we offer. 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. Find out more about the opportunities by visiting our information stands in the sports hall. You can actually sign up to enrichment when you enrol in August.

Enrichment					
Archaeology Academy	✓		✓		
Basketball	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Beginners Spanish	✓		✓		
Computer Programming	✓		✓		
Core Maths	✓		✓		
Creative Writing	✓		✓		
Cricket	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CSI Solihull	✓		✓		
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze & Silver Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
English Academy	✓		✓		
Extended Project Qualification	✓		✓		
Football	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Health Ambassadors	✓		✓		✓
Humanities Academy	✓		✓		
Kick Start to Drive	✓		✓		
Kitson Award	✓		✓		✓
Model UN & Delivering Carbon Zero Strategies	✓		✓	✓	✓
Musical Activities	✓		✓	✓	
National Cipher Challenge	✓		✓		
Netball	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Practical Science & Forensic Investigation	✓		✓		
Pre-Medical School	✓		✓		
Psychology Academy	✓		✓		
Road Map to Employment	✓		✓		
Rugby	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sport for Leisure	✓	✓	✓	✓	
STEM Programme	✓		✓		
Stretch & Challenge	✓		✓		
Student Council	✓		✓		✓
Student Magazine	✓		✓		
Student Societies	✓		✓	✓	✓
Teaching Academy	✓		✓		✓
Team Gambia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Theatre-in-Education Company	✓		✓	✓	
Ultimate Frisbee	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Visual Arts Academy	✓		✓	✓	
Volunteering	✓		✓	✓	✓

Campus Plan



**Solihull
Sixth Form
College**

SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

KEY

Rooms to the right start with a letter

H = Hampton Building

K = Kitson Building

B = Blythe/Brueton Buildings

A = Art & Design School

M = Malvern Building

J = J Hamilton Centre

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 The Studio**

h a letter:

gs

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

Online resources can be accessed through Microsoft Teams and each curriculum area has a Teams site. You can also see teachers between lessons and contact them by email. You will get more information about IT resources at Preparation for College Day 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 (available via the Student Portal). The LRC staff are friendly, knowledgeable and ready to support you in your studies, so don't be afraid to ask for help. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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.

Young Adult Carers

The College has a dedicated member of staff (Tracey Hayden) to support Young adult carers. Young adult carers are young people aged 16–25 who care, unpaid, for a family member or friend with an illness or disability. The support we offer includes, one-to-one meetings, drop-in and group support sessions, signposting to local services and help with student finance.

Timetable

Each lesson is 90 minutes and you will have three lessons per week per A Level or nine lessons for BTEC/T Level. 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. 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!

In addition to your subjects, all students have a Personal Development and Supervised Study lesson once a week. These are compulsory and will be on your timetable.

Personal Development Lessons

All our students have a weekly Personal Development lesson. You will have your own assigned Academic Coach who will be your point of contact for any support or advice you need. Weekly personal development lessons 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. Personal development lessons are a compulsory and valuable part of your programme.

Supervised study

As explained above Level 3 study is demanding. To support you with your independent work all students will be provided with 1 lesson per week in the Hamilton Building. This timetabled lesson is known as supervised study. It provides you with a calm purposeful space with supportive staff to help you get ahead with your independent work. Please look out for the supervised study lesson on your timetable.

Enrolment Interviews

Students are joining us from a wide variety of schools, and, as you can imagine, there is a great deal to do in enrolling them all and making them feel comfortable in our College. Read on to find out more.

What happens at enrolment?

We provide all students with another individual interview as part of enrolment, with guidance to ensure that everyone is embarking upon the most appropriate course. At the enrolment interview, you will be required to make a firm commitment to your subject(s) and the enrichment you choose. There is more information about enrichment on page 6 Please note that as part of the enrolment process, we shall be photographing all students so that we can issue everyone with an ID card. You will be required to show your ID card each morning at the entrance gate. You must wear your lanyard and ID card at all times; it helps us to keep the campus safe and secure.

Do I need to bring anything with me?

In order to enrol, you must bring evidence of your ID (passport or birth certificate) and **evidence of all your exam results (including any taken early). You will not be able to enrol without these.**

How do I book an enrolment interview?

As soon as you receive your GCSE results on 22 August, **you will need to upload your results onto your online application form to book an enrolment interview on either 28 or 29 August.** Please take care to input your grades accurately. It is important that you understand what life in Solihull Sixth Form College is like and our expectations of you. You will therefore be required to watch an introductory video about life at College before booking an enrolment appointment. Appointments cannot be booked by telephone. The actual date and time is different for each student, so make sure you record your appointment time when you book it. Where possible, please attend the appointment alone in order for us to manage numbers on site. If you are travelling by car, your parent/carer is welcome to wait in the car park.

What if I can't attend enrolment on 28 or 29 August?

If you are on holiday during this time and unable to attend the interview, please contact the Admissions Office immediately to arrange an alternative appointment - email admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk if you have not already done so. Please note that students who do not attend their enrolment interview will jeopardise their place at College unless they have informed us and arranged an alternative date. **If you are unable to attend enrolment we may not be able to hold your conditional offer subject combination beyond these dates.**

Preparation for College

The new students' programme starts with a half-day Preparation for College session in College, which takes place between on 5 and 6 September (we will let you which day/time you need to attend after you have enrolled by email). This includes sessions with Academic Coaches and the Principal to introduce you to college life and ensure you understand the expectations we have of our students. This will be followed by an opportunity to interact with other aspects of the College, such as your chosen subject areas, IT facilities, the Learning Resource Centre, sports facilities and Refectory. Our aim is to ensure that you are fully prepared to begin your studies on Monday 9 September. Please be aware that Preparation for College days are compulsory for all new students.

Start of Term

The start of full-time teaching will be on Monday 9 September. 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.

Students still on holiday, or who return back from holiday at this point, will not be able to start College. Please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk or phone 0121 709 7803 if any of our enrolment or induction dates pose a serious problem. Term dates for the 2024-25 academic year are listed on the back cover.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I go at Break and Lunch Time?

Food is available to purchase from our Refectory on the ground floor of Hampton Building and from various food trucks that will be located at the front of the building. We also have The Studio, where you can sit with friends, so there are plenty of areas for you to go to when you are not in taster sessions. There will be student guides in these locations to talk to if you are here without anybody else you know. If you are bringing in a packed lunch with you, please feel free to eat in either of these locations or any of our outdoor spaces. We have lots of benches around campus and a canopy area with picnic tables located next to the Art & Design School (see the map in the centre pages of the guide).

Is there somewhere to leave my books and equipment?

At Welcome to College Day, we need you to be responsible for your belongings. However, when term starts, there are lockers available on a first-come-first-served basis. The cost is £20 for two years payable on www.parentpay.com. Once payment is made, please go to Student Reception to be allocated a locker. You will be given a lock and key. Student Reception hold one spare key, but if both keys are lost you will have to purchase a new lock and key.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply for a bus pass?

Yes. Transport for West Midlands provide bus travel for students at a reduced rate. 16-18 Photocards are available from the TfWM 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. 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 £326 to guarantee a space for three terms or choose to pay termly (Autumn Term: £146; Spring Term: £138; Summer Term: £42). Payment can be made by Parentpay, cash or cheque. Please contact the Student Reception in Hampton Building for further details.

Can I bring my bike into College?

Yes. The College has a bike shed (in front of the Sports Centre), 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. The fund is primarily for vulnerable students in care, care leavers, those in receipt of Income Support and disabled students in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

Students can apply for different options to support their learning, including bus passes, free meals, learning equipment and funding to help pay for trips.

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.

Provisional Timetable

MONDAY	Week A	A 9.00 – 10.30	A Int * 10.30 – 11.00	Break 11.15 – 12.15	C 11.15 – 12.15	B 12.20 – 13.50	Lunch	D 14.35 – 16.05
	Week B	A 9.00 – 10.30	Break 10.45 – 11.45	C Int * 11.45 – 12.15	B 12.20 – 13.50	D 14.35 – 16.05		
TUESDAY	Week A	E 9.00 – 10.30	Break 10.45 – 12.15	A 12.20 – 13.50	Lunch	B 14.35 – 16.05		
	Week B	E 9.00 – 10.30	F 10.45 – 12.15	A 12.20 – 13.50	B 14.35 – 16.05			
WEDNESDAY	Week A	F 9.00 – 10.30	F Int * 10.30 – 11.00	Break 11.15 – 12.45	B 11.15 – 12.45	Enrichment (For 1 hour at 12.50 or 13.30) Lunch		A 14.35 – 16.05
	Week B	F 9.00 – 10.30	Break 10.45 – 12.15	B Int * 12.15 – 12.45	A 14.35 – 16.05			
THURSDAY	Week A	D 9.00 – 10.30	D Int * 10.30 – 11.00	Break 11.15 – 12.45	E 11.15 – 12.45	Lunch	C 13.30 – 15.30	CPD 15.30 – 16.05
	Week B	D 9.00 – 10.30	Break 10.45 – 12.15	E Int * 12.15 – 12.45	C 13.30 – 15.30	CPD 15.30 – 16.05		
FRIDAY	Week A	C 9.00 – 10.30	Break 10.45 – 12.15	E 12.20 – 13.50	Lunch	F 14.35 – 16.05		
	Week B	C 9.00 – 10.30	D 10.45 – 12.15	E 12.20 – 13.50	F 14.35 – 16.05			

2024-2025 Term Dates

GCSE results published – 22 August 2024
Year 12 Enrolment – 28/29 August 2024
Year 12 Preparation for College – 5/6 September 2024
Timetables Published - 8 September 2024

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 9 September 2024 - Teaching Starts
28 October – 1 November 2024 – Half-Term
Friday 20 December 2024 – End of Term

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 January 2025 – Start of Term
17 – 21 February 2025 – Half-Term
Friday 11 April 2025 – End of Term

Summer Term 2025

Monday 28 April 2025 – Start of Term
Monday 6 May 2025 – May Day holiday – College Closed
26 – 30 June 2025 – Half-Term
Monday 14 July 2025 – End of Term

Sign up for updates on social media!

Over the summer, we'll have updates on your enrichment options and details about enrolment on social media - follow us to stay in the know!

www.solihullsfca.ac.uk

 @sfcsapply  @sfcsolihull  solihullsixthform