

Summerhill School Prospectus 2021





"I'm so excited to go back to Summerhill tomorrow. I can't believe I've already been there for 12 months. I had such an amazing year."

Welcome

I am privileged to lead Summerhill School. We have wonderful students, caring and supportive parents and a great team of staff, who will always go the extra mile to support our students' development. We have modern, well-equipped facilities and are located within beautiful countryside.

We believe that a true community school is both a 'place' and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on relationships, young people's growth, family support, social action and community development leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Our combined effort first and foremost, must be to help young people achieve their potential and go on to make a successful contribution to the world.

Our House system is absolutely central to school life. It provides nurturing, challenge, teamwork, and fun for all members of our school, building upon a foundation of supportive relationships, family and British values within a global society. Mature and mutually respectful relationships characterise our community and we strive for excellence in every way as we develop young people in partnership with parents and the wider community.

We have the highest of expectations in all aspects of school life, which are underpinned by honesty, integrity and transparency in the way we do things. Our Summerhill 'non-negotiables' are there to set the standards of behaviour and conduct for all students. We have a smart, fun and colourful school uniform which helps our students to look smart, feel proud and celebrate their house allegiances. We want Summerhill to be the first choice for prospective parents, a place where everyone wants to work, a place where students truly excel and most importantly, an institution which is truly the centre point of the community it serves.

I am very proud to be part of the Summerhill team and look forward to meeting you. Come and see us in action, the door is always open!



Tim Harris
Headteacher

Open Evening

Thursday 7 October - 6.30pm - 9pm.

Open Days

Monday 11 October - 9am

Wednesday 13 October - 9am

Friday 15 October - 9am

For the latest information, please visit
www.summerhill.dudley.sch.uk



Success Through Caring

Our ethos is “**Success through Caring**” and we aim to live this out in all aspects of school life. Relationships are key. We look after each other, we look out for each other and we are courteous in the way we interact with each other.

The ethos is underpinned by the following four attributes

- **Courage** – doing what is right; being truthful; trying new experiences; taking risks in the pursuit of personal development
- **Ambition** – having the highest aspirations and expectations of ourselves and others; being brilliant in all we do and having a belief that anything is possible with the right attitude and hard work
- **Respect** – thinking about the way we interact with others; being considerate to ourselves, others and the environment; responding to expectations and working together in teams
- **Effort** – investing time and energy to achieve success; always giving 100% in everything we do and demonstrating resilience when things are tough

Summerhill students achieve excellent examination results. Our attainment levels have been well above the national average for many years.





"Teachers have high expectations of their pupils."
Ofsted 2019

"I've loved my first week at Summerhill,
I love being in my House.
I am looking forward to the next 5 years."



The Importance of Community

Partnership is a word that is often used in education and rightly so. For each individual child to reach their potential we all need to work closely together. The relationships between the school and the parents, the teachers and the child and finally the child being supported by the family are key factors. To make this work communication is something that we strive to make as open and honest as possible.

The school operates an open door policy for the purposes of good communication between parents and staff. Parents are welcomed to the school at any time and appointments to discuss matters with a member of the teaching staff or the Headteacher will be arranged at the earliest available opportunity.

Summerhill is a caring, safe and friendly learning community that has mutual respect at the heart of all our relationships. Ofsted (April 2019) recognised that bullying is rare in the school and our students feel safe with confidence that staff will help to resolve any issues.

We have consistently high expectations of behaviour so that the focus in all of our classrooms is on high quality teaching and learning. Our students are keen to learn, polite, well-mannered and courteous. We want all of our students to have a love for learning whilst also being happy, positive, motivated, inspired and independent. Their school experience should be one to remember for all the right reasons.

Our students are encouraged to join in community groups and we are pleased to support many charities through fundraising. Each House has a nominated House Charity.



Creating a Sense of Belonging – Our House System

Our House system is absolutely central to school life. It provides nurturing, challenge, teamwork, and fun for all members of our school, building upon a foundation of supportive relationships, family and British values within a global society. Mature and mutually respectful relationships characterise our community and we strive for excellence in every way as we develop young people in partnership with parents and the wider community.

Each House has a Head of House, supported by a full-time House Officer, a team of tutors and other staff.

Our House names are all derived from constellations (Draco, Orion, Pegasus and Ursa) as these reflect the stellar aspirations for our students. Students wear their school uniform confidently and proudly, with coloured details proclaiming their House allegiance.

Rivalry between Houses is both fierce and friendly. Competitions cover a wide range of activities including sports, performing arts and academic. House competitions are strongly contested, with a lovely blend of respect, cooperation and friendly rivalry.

Student leadership is a key element of each House. House Captains and Leaders are elected by their peers. Our assemblies have a significant element of student leadership. They blend together relentless positivity and high expectations combined with rewards, motivation and key life messages. Summerhill students are gaining confidence and learning leadership skills that will change their lives and the lives of those around them.

In addition to the opportunities offered by the House system, students have access to a wide range of extracurricular trips and activities. In recent years, students have enjoyed visits to Iceland, Croatia, the surfing beaches of Devon, London and Snowdonia. We have celebrated considerable success in sporting competitions and our annual school production is the 'must see' event on the calendar.



"Pupils demonstrated high levels
of self-confidence and pride."
Ofsted 2019



"The strong progress
pupils make across the
curriculum is a result
of the good teaching
they receive."
Ofsted 2019



High Quality Learning

Our combined effort first and foremost, must be to help young people achieve their potential and go on to make a successful contribution to the world. We want to develop fully-rounded individuals who will play positive roles in their local, national and global communities.

The education at Summerhill helps to build academic and examination success, but also develops life skills through our “Global Learning” programme, which tackles important issues such as healthy living, good citizenship, careers, ethos and understanding differences within society.

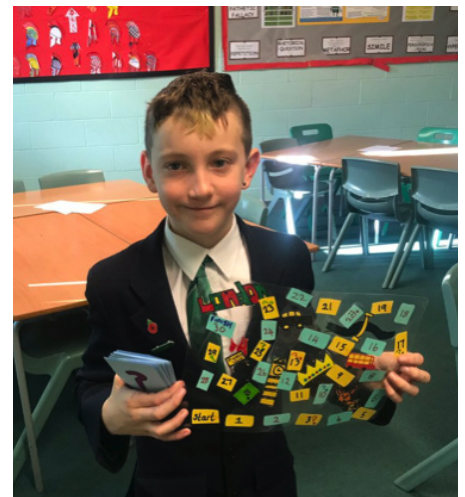
We offer a “modern traditional” curriculum, that continuously evolves to prepare students for life in the 21st century through helping them to gain high-value qualifications. Most of our courses are GCSEs, with a few selected vocational courses. We do not believe it is right to waste students’ time by encouraging them to take qualifications that help the school’s position in league tables but will not be valued by future employers or educational institutions.

During Years 7 and 8, students study English, Maths, Science, PE, Global Learning, Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish), Art, Computing, Design Technology, Drama, Food, Geography, History, Music, Religious Studies and Textiles. As students enter Year 8, they have the option to learn a second Modern Foreign Language.

During Year 9, students all study English, Maths, Science, PE, Global Learning, Geography, History and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). Students also select three subjects from Art, Computing, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Food, Music, Religious Studies and Textiles to give them a first opportunity to really personalise their studies.

During Years 10 and 11, students all study English, Maths, Science, core PE and Global Learning. Students also select four option subjects from Art, Business, Computer Science, Construction, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Food, French, Geography, Health & Social Care, History, Media, Music, PE, Religious Studies, Spanish, Textiles and Triple Science. This comprehensive range of high-quality options allows students to tailor their studies to their preferences and career aspirations.

All subject areas are encouraged to be innovative in their teaching and all staff are expected to keep themselves abreast of the latest developments in their subject.



Outstanding Facilities

We have a modern, well-maintained building, which was constructed under a Public Finance Initiative (PFI) and is maintained to a very high standard.

The school accommodation has been designed so that subject areas are clustered together. This enables collaborative work to take place with subject teams and maximises the use of equipment and resources. We are fortunate to have space to accommodate all of our students in one modern building, without the need for mobile classrooms, annexes or compromises.

In addition to subject classrooms the school has an extensive range of specialist rooms to support the curriculum including 8 Science labs, and specialist spaces for Drama, Art, Pottery, Food Technology and Textiles. Design & Technology rooms offer facilities for computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM) . Music enjoys not only specialist classrooms but a generous number of music practice rooms.

The school has excellent indoor and outdoor sports facilities allowing a wide range of sporting activities not only to support the curriculum but also to provide opportunities for after school activities and community usage. Our 25m swimming pool provides excellent opportunities for Summerhill students, our primary partner schools and the highly successful Summerhill Swim Scheme. Our modern all-weather pitch provides an excellent resource that is used in lessons, lunchtimes, after school and by community groups in the evenings and at weekends.

The school continues to ensure that the technologies in the building are extensive and up to date. We have a range of computer suites including specialist computer classrooms, a Learning Centre and small clusters to enable learning to take place in specialised areas. This is supported by trolleys of iPads and laptops that can be deployed flexibly thanks to the wireless network. We make extensive use of online systems for learning and communication.





"I love Summerhill because there are so many opportunities and people to help me achieve my goals."

"Since I moved to Summerhill last year,
I am finally happy and enjoying school."



Student Support

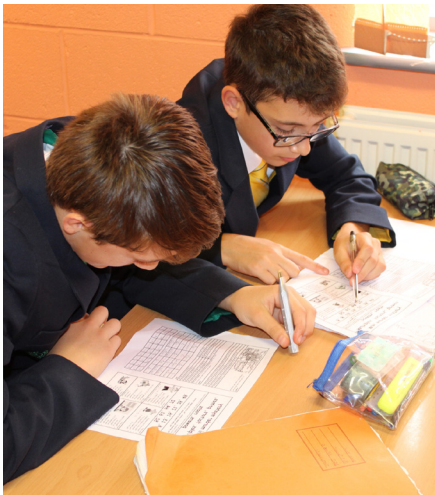
Summerhill is a fully-inclusive and comprehensive school. We work with students from different backgrounds, who bring different experiences and abilities and may face a range of challenges. We have an amazing staff team who work hard to support students at all levels, and it is leading to great success. We have amazing GCSE results with four consecutive years of improvement. Many students achieve the very highest GCSE grades (grades 7 to 9) in all subjects. We also show strong performances from less naturally academic students.

Throughout 2020, we have developed our new Student Support Hub which has brought together all of our services to ensure wrap around care for students as and when they need it. It covers all aspects of need from SEND, nurture, vulnerability and medical. Our priority is to ensure that the individual needs of all students are met, so that all students have the same opportunities. Strategies used include intervention support classes, homework support, lunchtime clubs, one to one interventions and in class support, provided by a high quality team. The school takes advantage of extra support offered by the Local Authority such as specialist teachers, educational psychologists and other therapy services.

Transition from primary school can be both exciting and daunting for students as well as parents. At Summerhill, we view transition as a process from as early as Year 5, starting with the 'Looking to the Future' Programme. Summerhill staff work closely with our primary colleagues, SEN department and medical teams in order to ensure that we know your child thoroughly and that appropriate support is in place.

In Year 6, students have the opportunity to visit and participate in activities in school. Students are introduced to key members of staff including their Head of House, House Officer, Family Welfare Coordinator and members of the wider school community. Students explore key ideas such as being part of a House and developing independence. In addition to this they get the chance to experience a variety of exciting lessons. Most students come to Summerhill from neighbouring primary schools but every year we welcome new students from further afield.

Students typically settle in very quickly and thrive at Summerhill, but support is always available for those who need it.



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