

# A word from the Head

Welcome to the first edition of the Summerhill Newsletter 2021.

Firstly, I would like to say that it has been a privilege to become part of the Summerhill family over this half term. I have been able to visit over 500 lessons, meet with all 18 department leads and speak with our students on gate and lunch duties almost every day. It has been a pleasure.

The academic year began with more uncertainty around Covid and we could not thank families enough for the support you demonstrated when conducting the lateral flow testing in the first week (2000 tests were completed!). Although not the way we would have liked to have started we have had a very settled return. The vaccination programme led by the NHS and VaccsUK was all set up for Thursday 7th and 8th October which would have made us one of the first school sites to be used. Unfortunately, due to a national consent issue it was cancelled. As I write this, the NHS teams are currently using our school to support the national vaccination programme. This is certainly not how we wanted or foresaw this half term ending! The cases of covid over the half term had been very low. Unfortunately, over the last couple of days, from no pattern or trend, the number of cases has risen dramatically. Public Health commended the school for its practices and procedures that we had continued to enforce but nothing could have been done to stop this variant once it had got a hold. With further notice we would be providing live lessons via Google. I will be sending further information over the half term for our safe return.

### **Year 6 Open Evening/Mornings.....**

It has been a pleasure to meet so many students and families over the first half term. Our Year 6 Open Evening was a fantastic event to be part of. Over 800 people attended the event and the clear message as people were leaving was that they had a great experience. Most importantly on that evening, parents and carers were able to meet our amazing students. Over 200 students were here for the evening to support the event. On a personal note, I could not have felt prouder of our students and staff, I felt so privileged to be part of the Summerhill family. The open mornings were very well attended. Over 200 visitors came to have a look around the school 'live' and were presented with a very calm and purposeful environment where all students were engaged in their learning.

### **Year 7 'Meet the Team' Evening.....**

I was conscious that Year 7 and their parents and carers had not had the chance to see the school and meet staff due to covid restrictions. It was a pleasure to welcome so many families to meet with staff and have a tour of the amazing school that we have. Year 7 have settled in exceptionally well over the first term.





### **Year 11 Preparation Evening.....**

Our Year 11 evening to support students in revision strategies, recall and retention techniques was a great success. We remain committed to looking after our students' well-being particularly during stressful times and exam preparation. Again, the evening was exceptionally well supported by families. With all the disruption caused by Covid we will prepare our students as well as we possibly can for the examination period that lies ahead.

### **Extra-Curricular.....**

It has been an absolute pleasure to walk around the school after 3pm and see all of the fabulous extra-curricular activities. Ranging from a variety of sports to Maths de-coding clubs, to musical theatre, to photography, to dungeon and dragons!!! It is so nice to have this provision back for our students.

### **CenturyTech.....**

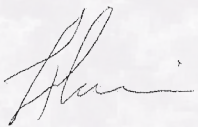
We have our new artificial intelligence computer system now in school. It has been rolled out with Year 11 first and will then become available to every student at Summerhill. This package will allow students to 'Supercharge their learning' through personalised challenge. CenturyTech not only marks assessments and test students' knowledge it also creates from this an individualised learning pathway. This pathway will support any misconceptions or areas for development within students learning. I thank the CenturyTech team for supporting with the rapid introduction of this system to support our students after the disruption of the last couple of years.

I would like to conclude by saying thank you to all students, families and staff for making me feel welcome when joining the Summerhill family. Thank you to parents and carers who support all aspects of the school and ensure that their sons and daughters maintain the high standards that we expect. It really is a triangulated effort between the students, parents/carers and the school to get the best outcomes we possibly can for all.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable half term with your families.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely



Tim Harris  
Headteacher



# TEXTILES

Year 7 have been studying doodle artist Jon Burgerman and his characters. They are starting to make some mini felt pizza keyrings inspired by his book "How To Eat Pizza".



Year 7 have also produced some paper weaving designs.

## Open Evening

Open Evening Autumn Dress. Fabric Leaves were dyed in autumnal colours and then decorated with paint, stitch and foil and assembled by the Year 7s and visiting Year 6s.

Year 8 Have been learning about Day of the Dead artists and creative ways to present their work.

Year 9 Textiles have been creating stitched Cultural Icons in the style of Mexican artist Victoria Villasana.

Year 10 Art Textiles have started with a structures theme. Experimenting with presentation techniques & researching fashion designers. We are moving on to structural construction processes including tucks, pleats, smocking, gathers and slashing!

## Textiles Tuesday

Textiles Tuesday got off to a great start this week with a batch of Cheeky Chickens!





# PE News Montage



PE News  
PE have introduced a weights room which is available to KS4 students.



Well done to three Year 11 boys, Kian Mulcahy UDB, Zak Poskitt OPH & Rhys Priest DDH who have been selected for the West Midlands County Football Team



Our amazing Year 11 GCSE PE students have been completing fitness training and their six week personal exercise programmes.





# PE Sports Caps News

The students below are the students with the highest number of sport caps in their year group. Students get one sports cap for representing the school at an extra-curricular fixture or for attending two extra-curricular clubs. When they get ten caps, they get a star embroidered on to their PE top just above their school badge.

## Year 7

Aden Connett-Cresswell & Ollie Smith - 6 caps each

Ellie Williams - 5 caps

## Year 8

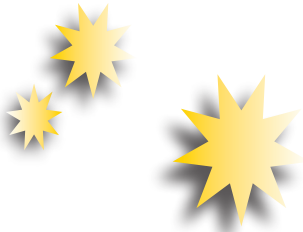
Joe Mccann - 6 caps

Lois Hill - 6 caps

## Year 9

Samuel Billingsley, Kian Hartland, Tom Marsh - 11 caps each

Amelia Hiscox - 12 caps



## Year 10

Tayte Shakespeare - 23 caps

Will Slater - 13 caps

## Year 11

Louie Preston - 24 caps

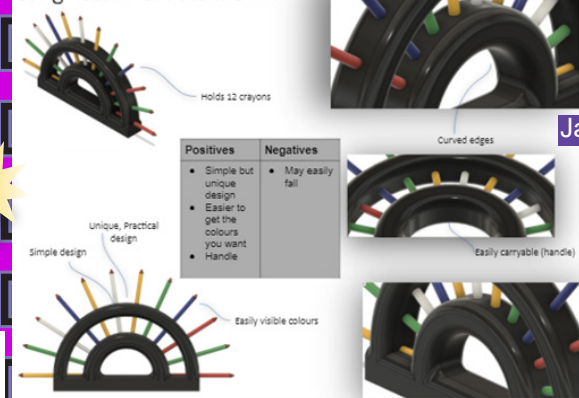
Phoebe Crampton - 20 caps



## Year 10 ~ DT CAD: Autodesk Fusion

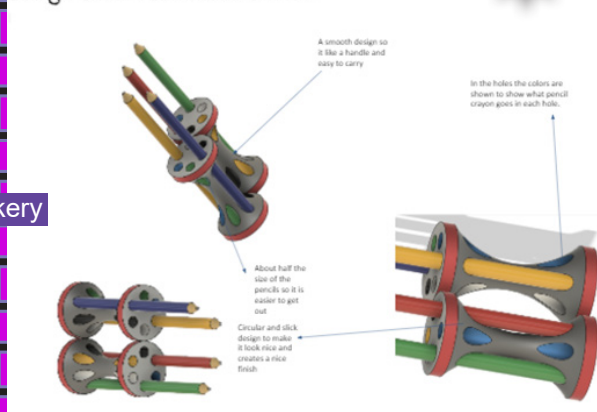
The Year 10 DT students have been learning CAD: Autodesk Fusion and have produced some lovely designs for colouring crayon holders. Here are three examples of our students work to show you by Jay Barnard PMQ, Rory Hartland PMQ and Jayden Dockery OLS.

### Design Ideas: Autodesk Fusion



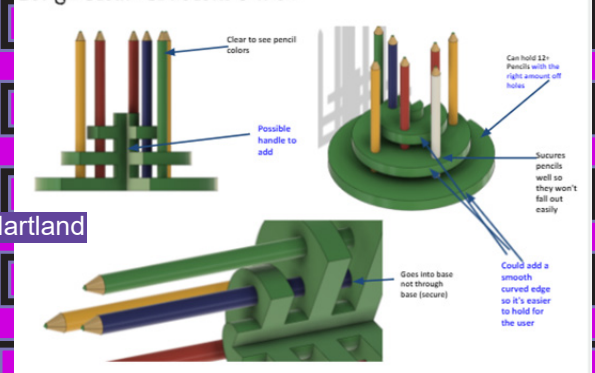
Jay Barnard

### Design Ideas: Autodesk Fusion



Jayden Dockery

### Design Ideas: Autodesk Fusion



Rory Hartland



# Science



Miss Durham would like to say a massive 'well done' to all those in 721 who produced fantastic cell models.

## Steel Band



## Musical Theatre Group



## Choir



## Drums in assembly



# Music

The return of Musical Theatre, Choir and Steel Band!



# Art News & Maths Success



Art

~ KS3 students helped Year 6 students recreate Sir Antony Gormley's 'Field' installation.

Thanks go to: Danni Skidmore,  
Lucie Evans, Lucas Taylor, Grace Blackford,  
Katie Wiggins, Madison Leigh, Kyle Pain, Annie Daly,  
Alex Bullock, Elizabeth Smith, Lacey Dews,  
Orson Griffiths, Annabel Bennett,  
Harriet Reece, Lily Noble, Ashlinn Rew,  
Charlotte Loach, Mia Fellows, Isobel Oliver



Maths



Certificate Winners  
from the Junior UK Maths  
Challenge 2021.

Congratulations to you all, but a  
special mention to  
Joshua Garbett UJM for his  
Gold certificate and qualification  
to the next round.



# Drama Club

This half-term, Miss Williams has been thoroughly entertained by those attending Drama club!



Year 7 Breakfast Muffins ~ Year 8 Open Evening ~ Year 9 Sausage Rolls ~  
Year 10 Iron Rich Dishes ~ Year 11 International Cuisine

## Food





# LEARNING FOCUS

## "WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN SCHOOL TODAY?"

HOW TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING



**I**t's the classic parent question: 'What did you learn at school today?' There's a good chance you were asked that question as a child and that you also ask that question now, as a parent. You'll know from experience that the quality of response can vary and is not always particularly detailed! But asking your child questions about their day

at school has huge value. In fact, it is one of the most effective ways you can support their learning. This term at Summerhill, all teaching staff have been focussing on improving learning through the use of quality questioning. Staff training has focussed on the most effective way of using questions to check understanding, recall

knowledge and consolidate learning. Your child may have noticed that the amount of questions they are being asked has increased! We believe that quality questioning not only enables teachers to check for understanding but also increases your child's active participation in their learning. It is one of the most essential tools in a teacher's 'toolkit'.

But good questioning doesn't stop at the school gate. Asking your child questions about their learning can be a really effective way of building on what they've learnt and helping their recall. Here are some easy ways of asking questions that can help you to support your child's learning:

**Ask what they understood rather than if they understood.**

**Ask them to tell you one thing they learned today that they didn't know this morning.**

**Ask what were some of the key words from today's learning.**

**Ask if they needed to ask their teacher for help with anything.**

**Ask 'What did you do today that made your brain work really hard?'**

**Ask 'Did you do anything that made your teacher say 'well done'?''**

Talking about learning not only reinforces a child's understanding but can really help develop them as articulate, confident communicators.

## CAN DO, NEED TO.

As a learner, do you know what your strengths and skills are ('CAN DO') and what areas you need to develop ('NEED TO')?

Ask your teacher to support your understanding of what you can do and what you need to do in each subject.

Asking your child to explain what they can do and what they need to do better in each subject can really support their understanding.

### Useful words to learn this week

#### Cognate

**Definition:** Connected to, or having the same language root as other words E.g. 'Because the language is cognate to your natural tongue, it should be easy for you to learn.'

**Synonyms:** Connected, associated, linked, derived, related, allied.

#### Enumerate

**Definition:** mention (a number of things) one by one.

E.g. 'There is not space to enumerate all her achievements.'

**Synonyms:** list, itemise, mention, specify, identify, spell out.

**Can you recall the meaning of these words: 'abundance', 'insouciant'?**

Developing a wide vocabulary is an essential part of a child's learning. Each week at Summerhill, students are encouraged to learn two new words. Students will encounter these words every single day that week.

## Media & Film

Coming to a classroom near you!

This term, GCSE Film Studies has made its premiere at Summerhill and is a smash hit! After a wait that seemed longer than a delayed James Bond film, students finally got to take their front row seats in this exciting new course. Mr Holden rolled out the red carpet to welcome the new stars of his new class as they prepared to boldly go where learners had not gone before!

Cover Stars!

GCSE Media Studies students have been demonstrating their creativity and understanding of print media this term by producing magazine covers. By applying their knowledge of cover images, mastheads, coverlines and more, students have begun to produce work that would be at home on the shelves of any good newsagents!

Roving Reporters!

A huge thank you to our team of 'roving reporters' who helped out on Open Evening. The Year 10 and 11 students worked tirelessly all night, interviewing visitors, filming demonstrations and taking many great photos of the exciting evening's events.





# Dates For The Diary



Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November  
 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
 Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January  
 Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January  
 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February  
 Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Remembrance Sunday  
 Armistice Day  
 Anti-bullying Week  
 Children in Need  
 2020 Year 11 Presentation Evening & Prom  
 Staff Training day - school closed to students  
 Year 7 Parents' Evening (1) - 3pm - 7pm tbc  
 Year 7 Parents' Evening (2) - 3pm - 7pm tbc  
 End of term - school closes at 12.30pm

Staff Training day - school closed to students  
 Start of term - school open to all students  
 Year 11 Parents' Evening (1) 3pm - 7pm tbc  
 Year 11 Parents' Evening (2) 3pm - 7pm tbc  
 Holocaust Memorial Day  
 Year 10 Parents' Evening (1) 3pm - 7pm tbc  
 Year 10 Parents' Evening (2) 3pm - 7pm tbc  
 Year 9 Options Evening 6pm - 7.30pm tbc  
 End of term

## LOST PROPERTY

Should your child be missing any of their uniform, please encourage them to see Mr Watkins after school in the 1st Aid Room on the ground floor near the lift. He keeps all the lost property.

Also, please put a name somewhere on each item of clothing. Ballpoint pen will suffice.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Autumn Term 2021

Physical Education				
Monday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Badminton	Sports Hall	Mr Mortelmans
	3.00 – 4.00pm	Year 7 & 8 Diving Sign up with Mrs Holt	Swimming Pool	Mrs Holt
Tuesday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Year 7 & 8 Netball	Netball Courts	Miss Robinson
	3.00 – 4.00pm	KS3 & 4 Rugby	Muga/Fields	Mr Barnbrook / Mrs J Ryan
Wednesday	3.00 – 4.00pm	GCSE PE Intervention	ICT2	Mr Mortelmans / Mrs Billingham
	3.00 – 4.00pm	Amplify Dance	Hall	Miss Robinson
	3.00 – 4.00pm	Volleyball	Sports Hall	Mrs Ryan
	3.00 – 4.00pm	KS4 Male Spinning Sign up with Mr Barnbrook	Weights Room	Mr Barnbrook
Thursday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Years 9, 10 & 11 Netball	Netball Courts	Mrs Billingham
	3.00 – 4.00pm	Years 8 & 9 Water Polo Sign up with Mrs Holt	Swimming Pool	Mrs Holt
Friday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Table Tennis	Sports Hall	Mr Mortelmans
	3.00 – 4.00pm	KS4 Female Spinning Sign up with Mrs Ryan	Weights Room	Mrs Ryan
Art Clubs				
Tuesday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Years 7 & 8 Textiles Tuesday	Textiles	Mrs Wood
Wednesday	2.50 – 3.50pm	Photography Club	Art 1	Mrs O'Dea
Thursday	Lunchtime	Jewellery Club (packed lunch)	DT1	Mrs Dhami
Languages & Culture				
Friday	2.55 – 3.45pm	MFL Culturethèque	LG2	Mrs Bennett
Imaginative Minds & Mind-boggling				
Thursday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Dungeons & Dragons Club	Library	Mr Morgan
Thursday	3.00 pm – until the code is broken!	Years 7, 8 & 9 National Cypher Challenge Competition – Codebreaking	ITC2	Miss Barnett / Mr Douch
Summerhill Favourites				
Monday	2.50 – 3.50pm	Year 9 Film Club Taster	LG1	Mrs Reynolds
Wednesday	lunchtime	Chess Club	SC6	Dr Quane
Catch-Up & Intervention				
Monday	3.00 – 4.30pm	GCSE Food Intervention	Food	Mrs Corbin
Wednesday & Thursday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Year 11 NEA Catchup / Year 10 Homework / Drop in (15 students Max – Year 11 take priority)	Textiles	Mrs Wood
SEN Homework / Literacy / Numeracy Clubs				
Monday – Thursday	2.50 – 3.45pm	Homework Club		
Mondays & Tuesdays	2.50 – 3.45pm	Year 7 – Literacy & Numeracy Club – for fun games	The Hub	
Wednesdays & Thursdays	2.50 – 3.45pm	Year 8 – Literacy & Numeracy Club – for fun games	The Hub	
Music, Musical Theatre & Drama				
Monday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Steel Band for Beginners Only	Hall / MU2	Mr Reynolds
Tuesday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Musical Theatre – For All (PE kit necessary)	Hall	Mr Reynolds
Wednesday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Music Club – KS3 Only	Music	Mr Sabin
	3.00 – 4.30pm	Choir – For All	MU2	Mr Reynolds
	3.00 – 4.00pm	Drama Club	Drama Studio	Miss Williams
Thursday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Music Club – KS4 Only	Music	Mr Sabin
Friday	3.00 – 4.30pm	Steel Band for Intermediate / Advanced / Experienced Players Only	Hall / MU2	Mr Reynolds
English and Journalism				
Wednesday	lunchtime	Reading Club	Library	Miss Kent / Mr Morgan
Friday	Lunchtime	Constellation	ENG4	Mr Findon

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

