

PROSPECTUS
2022/23

SUMMERHILL SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER WELCOME



It is a privilege to be the Headteacher of Summerhill School. We have inspiring students, committed supportive parents and a passionate team of staff, who are always challenging themselves to provide the best education and opportunities for our students. Summerhill has a true community culture.

Summerhill School is a very special place. We want all of our students to feel cared for, loved, nurtured and developed in a supportive climate that strives to ensure they all reach their full potential. Academic success is extremely important, but so too is preparing our young people for a rapidly changing society and to become responsible, caring, tolerant individuals with a love for life and a belief that they should exceed their aspirations and goals.

We have extremely high expectations of student behaviour and attainment, never settling for second best. Young people only get one chance in education, and we take our responsibility in educating your children extremely seriously. Our relationship and partnership with you as parents and carers is vital and we very much look forward to beginning that special journey together.

We continue to focus on developing responsible, highly skilled global citizens who will have a positive impact on our community now and in future years. The school remains committed to maintaining its strong links, already established with charitable organisations, local employers and higher education establishments. These will be developed further to ensure that all students can benefit from these positive partnerships. Summerhill School is tenacious in its overall aim to deliver an outstanding provision for our young people.

At Summerhill we are committed to creating a caring and supportive environment. Our ethos is 'Success through Caring' and we aim to live this out in all aspects of school life. 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:

C A R E

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 our best in everything we do and demonstrating resilience through challenging times.

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

OUTCOMES

"WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE HARD WORKING AND MOTIVATED STUDENTS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY THEIR FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES."

Students at Summerhill consistently achieve outstanding examination results helping us attain a robust reputation as one of the highest performing schools in the area. We know that unlocking student potential is the key to allowing students to successfully progress in their varied and exciting career paths.

The sustained growth in attainment over many years can be attributed to two key factors. Firstly, we are lucky to have hard working and motivated students that are supported by their families & communities. Secondly, we have a growing team of dedicated professionals (teachers & support staff) that are highly trained and supported to ensure all students have the opportunities to maximise their potential.

We prize our relationships with former students and often delight in them returning to share their experiences of university and diverse career paths. Though many routes are followed, and many destinations were unexpected, all of these journeys started with outstanding outcomes at Summerhill School.



Our curriculum is designed to help young people achieve their full 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. Our curriculum is based on three main areas of intent:

SUMMERHILL STUDENTS WILL BE VALUABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

Our students will learn to conduct themselves positively, becoming confident, reflective, resilient and responsible members of society. Summerhill students will develop independence as well as being able to live/work in harmony with others, respecting beliefs that differ from their own. Our students will have a clear moral compass; care for the environment; value their own and others' physical, mental and emotional health.

SUMMERHILL STUDENTS WILL BE SKILLED COMMUNICATORS

Our students will be skilful readers and great listeners with a thirst for learning and strong literacy skills. They will be fully conversant in the language and conventions required to access high-level learning. Summerhill students will be articulate and able to influence a range of audiences through fluent expression. Our students will communicate appropriately and clearly through different mediums, showing a keen awareness of viewpoints as they engage critically with information and the world around them.

SUMMERHILL STUDENTS WILL BE KNOWLEDGEABLE

Our students will develop a deep conceptual understanding of their subject disciplines through our knowledge-rich curriculum. The learning of knowledge and skills will be sequenced logically to ensure clear progression. Summerhill students will gain experience of applying their learning in a range of relevant situations. Our students will have the opportunity to gain high-value qualifications.

We offer an ambitious "modern traditional" curriculum, that continuously evolves to prepare students for life in the 21st century. 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.



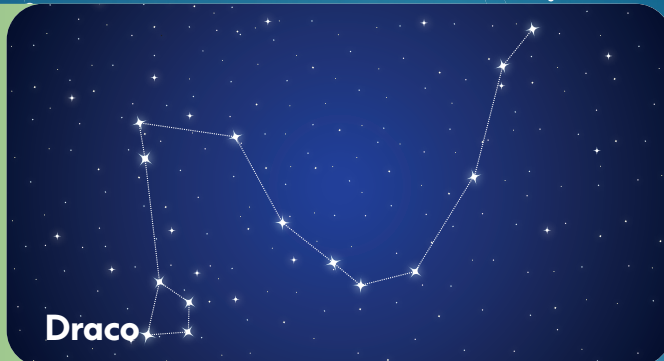
HOUSE SYSTEM

Summerhill House System is an extremely important aspect of life at Summerhill! It is at the heart of our school and is made up of four houses which are:

Draco
the Dragon
(Green)



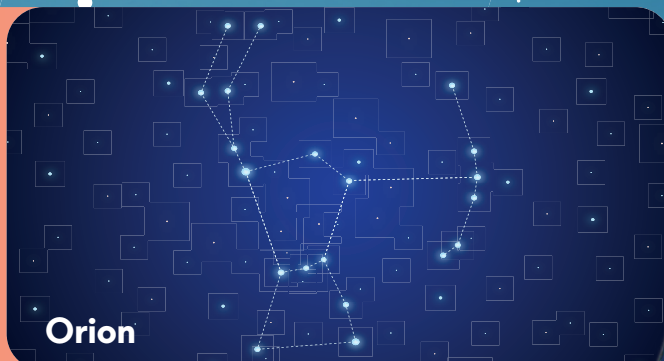
Draco



Orion
the Hunter
(Red)



Orion



Pegasus
the Flying
Horse
(Pegasus)
(Blue)



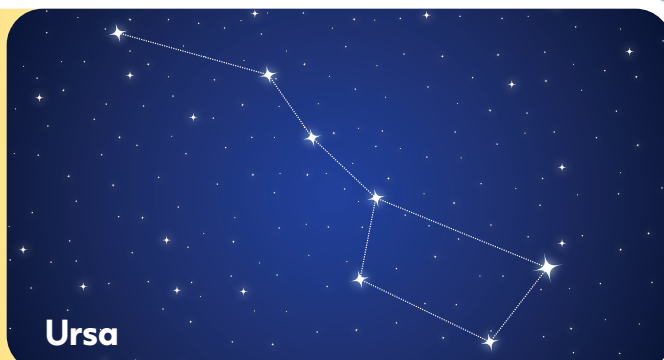
Pegasus



Ursa
the Great
Bear (Ursa)
(Yellow)



Ursa



The houses take their names from constellations highlighting the need to reach for the stars, shine bright in everything we do and work together to create something fantastic.



**"BELONGING
TO A HOUSE
HELPS OUR
STUDENTS FEEL
PART OF A SMALLER
COMMUNITY WITHIN
THE LARGER WHOLE
SCHOOL COMMUNITY"**

We are aware that moving to secondary school from a primary school can sometimes feel like a very big step.

Belonging to a House helps our students feel part of a smaller community within the larger whole school community, providing a place of security, support and friendship.

We wholeheartedly believe that sharing a House with other students gives an ideal opportunity to learn about the values of tolerance, support, courtesy and friendship.

To emphasise the feeling of belonging to a family, our school uniform identifies students as belonging to their House. Our students 'Look Smart' and 'Feel Proud' with the House coloured tie and blazer.

| SAFEGUARDING

At Summerhill, we have a strong culture of respect, tolerance and our environment is one whereby all our students flourish. Our staff know and care about all students and our school is an environment where students feel safe, listened to and supported. Bullying, discrimination, and peer-on-peer abuse (whether online or offline) are not accepted and dealt with quickly, consistently and sensitively.

At Summerhill, we are committed to safeguarding children and young people. We expect everyone who works in our school to share this commitment. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and as such, all adults in our school take welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to us about anything that worries them.

To achieve this commitment, we ensure continuous development and improvement of robust safeguarding and child protection processes and procedures that promote a culture of safeguarding amongst our staff and volunteers. We also work closely with a number of outside agencies including police, early help teams, medical professionals and social services to ensure we always act in the best interests of our students.

"AT SUMMERHILL, WE ARE COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE."

| MENTAL HEALTH

We believe in promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. Prioritising the wellbeing of students and staff ensures that good teaching and learning can take place, and that the school is a community where everyone feels able to thrive.

Summerhill aims to support each student with their emotional health and wellbeing. As a school we approach this in various ways, including through our safeguarding team, house team, tutor time activities, Global learning lessons and use of external visitors.

For any student who may be experiencing poor mental health we have qualified Mental Health First Aiders alongside our safeguarding team who are available to listen, offer guidance, mentor or signpost parents and students to places of support.

We also have a constantly updated Well-Being Portal that allows students and families to explore any early concerns that may arise.



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.

Summerhill is a caring, safe and friendly learning community that has mutual respect at the heart of all our relationships.

We have consistently high expectations of behaviour so that the focus in all our classrooms is on high quality teaching and learning. Our students are keen to learn, polite, well-mannered and courteous. We want all 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.



| THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY

ENRICHMENT

Summerhill School is a fully inclusive school which strongly believes in developing students not only academically but also physically, socially, mentally and spiritually. Activities outside the curriculum are an important part of any student's development and form part of our school ethos. The house ethos is strong within Summerhill School and students have the opportunity to support school development within each house by being a house leader. At key stage 4 students are privileged to be appointed as a prefect and join the Junior Leadership Team (JLT).

At Summerhill School we have a wide enrichment and extra-curricular programme to develop students holistically. These include regular events, shows and concerts completed by our Performing Arts Department and a wide range of sporting activities including both individual and team sports who regularly compete locally and nationally. Summerhill School extra-curricular activities are delivered throughout the week after school. We also hold a range of support sessions for KS4 pupils across a range of subjects.

In addition, we offer a number of opportunities to take part in subject based field trips including..... and visits abroad to Barcelona, Germany and sporting activities including skiing and football tours.

Outdoor and adventurous activities are a key aspect of our character development, year 7 students have the opportunity to take part in our PGL residential. All students are encouraged to take part in Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) where students help within the community/environment, become fitter, develop new skills, plan, train and complete an expedition. Students also have the opportunity to join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) designed to develop personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline.



Careers provision at Summerhill School begins as you walk into our school. As well as a wide range of events throughout the year, including Post 16 Careers and Higher Education evening, visiting speakers, off site visits and workshops, we also have access to an independent Connexions Careers Advisor. We are committed to ensuring that the school fully meet all aspects of the Gatsby Benchmarks for Careers in school to enable our individual learners to thrive and have the most informed decisions on their futures when they leave Summerhill School.

Ofsted reported that, 'The well-planned careers education programme makes a good contribution to pupils' personal development. Pupils have a good understanding about careers and the various options that may be open to them in the future. Careers education also contributes to the strong attitudes to learning'

Our school Connexions service provides impartial information advice and guidance on a wide range of topics that affect young people. They can help students when making choices about their careers, education and training, finding them their ideal job and helping them write a CV and personal statement. They can also offer help with exam stress, money and health, and things to do in their free time that will develop their social skills and cultural capital.



"WE TRY
TO BUILD
POSITIVE
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH ALL OF
OUR STUDENTS."

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

At Summerhill School we are continually looking to support and develop students conduct and behaviour. As a Restorative Practice school, we educate students to recognise how their conduct and choices not only impact on themselves but also affect and influence others. We want all students to own their behaviour traits and understand the importance of this in school, at home and in the community.

The idea of 'connect before content' means that we try to build positive relationships with all of our students through all aspects of teaching. Restorative practice also helps to build, maintain and sometimes repair relationships between students.

The aim of restorative practice is to educate students on how to be the best version of themselves in everything they do. This includes being reflective of their actions; understanding of others' actions; compassionate to all and to support each other to enjoy their educational experience.



READING TO LEARN

From the moment you enter the building you will see that, at Summerhill, reading matters. In fact, reading is at the heart of our whole curriculum. We recognise the role that reading has in enabling students to become life-long learners who lead fulfilling, successful lives. We take a rigorous approach to the teaching of reading across all parts of the curriculum and aim to develop learners' confidence and enjoyment in reading.

At Summerhill we:

EXPLICITLY TEACH VOCABULARY SKILLS IN EVERY AREA OF THE CURRICULUM

PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH AN ENRICHING, RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING 'READING JOURNEY' IN EVERY PART OF THE CURRICULUM

PROVIDE A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE STUDENTS' WIDER READING AND READING FOR PLEASURE

GIVE TIME AND VALUE TO READING FOR ENJOYMENT THROUGH OUR DEAR+ PROGRAMME

We are a 'word rich' school. Across the curriculum, students are explicitly taught the subject-specific vocabulary that is essential for their development in that domain. Students are taught to 'read like a scientist' (or geographer, or linguist, or mathematician and so on). Keywords are shared and displayed across the school each week and students encounter them every single day.

We are a Reading Community. All staff display their favourite fiction or non-fiction book (or books) in their classroom.

We support students in finding books they will love, run reading challenges, book clubs, participate in reading award events and host author visit events.

We are proud participants in the Silver Stories programme and strive to be ambassadors for reading in the wider community. Students also have the opportunity to be awarded gold coins which they can redeem in our popular book vending machine, located in Reception.

"WE SUPPORT STUDENTS IN FINDING BOOKS THEY WILL LOVE, RUN READING CHALLENGES, BOOK CLUBS, PARTICIPATE IN READING AWARD EVENTS AND HOST AUTHOR VISIT EVENTS."



Learning sits at the heart of Summerhill and is our core purpose. We believe that every child deserves the chance to achieve their potential, develop their character and excel in all they do. Our staff continually develop their practice to deliver a high-quality learning experience for students, guided by students' needs and the evolving curriculum.

Our aim to provide rich learning experiences for students is underpinned by a set of shared 'M.A.P.E.D.' principles (Modelling, Assessment & Feedback, Planning, Practice, Explanation and Differentiation).

Our research-informed approach is tailor-made to suit the needs of Summerhill's students and forms the basis of our ongoing programme of professional development for staff.

At Summerhill, we recognise that consistency is key in ensuring students make good progress in their learning.

We aim to ensure that every lesson has the following characteristics to ensure that opportunities for effective learning are maximized:

MEET AND GREET STUDENTS

at the door

HAVE A DATA INFORMED

seating plan

ENSURE STUDENTS ARE QUICKLY ENGAGED

in a learning activity

ENSURE LEARNING OUTCOMES

are explicitly shared and understood

ENSURE AN ORDERLY AND POSITIVE WORKING ATMOSPHERE

is established and maintained throughout the lesson

CONSISTENTLY APPLY C.A.R.E.

using Class Charts

MODEL HIGH EXPECTATIONS

of literacy, oracy and presentation

GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION

to the health and safety of students in the classroom

END LESSONS PROMPTLY

and positively

"LEARNING SITS AT THE HEART OF SUMMERHILL AND IS OUR CORE PURPOSE."





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