

Solihull Sixth Form College College Update 20 December 2024



UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have come to the end of a very hectic Autumn term and I reflect on a lot of fantastic work having been completed.

Year 12 learners have now settled into College life and are thriving in their studies, while Year 13s are starting to think ahead to their examinations, with mock A level exams taking place in January and BTEC examinations also scheduled.

We have opened a brand-new building with the Turvey Building completed at the end of October and Psychology moving in after half-term. It has been great to see an ambitious net-zero project completed and have students in classrooms making the most of those fantastic new facilities.

We have also welcomed new members of Student Council and I look forward to working with them. It just remains for me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and see you in January!

Martin Sullivan (Principal)

NEW TURVEY BUILDING



NEW CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Meet Jose Lopes, Chair of Governors



I am proud to be the Chair of the Local Governing Body for Solihull Sixth Form College. I am recently retired from my role as the Pro Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs at University College Birmingham, where I worked between 2021 - 2024.

Prior to that, I was Head of Business Engagement at the West Midlands Combined Authority, after a 30-year career in Engineering, culminating as Head of Technical Excellence at Jaguar Land Rover in Warwickshire.

I believe the need for Level 3+ skills has never been higher. The values and aims of the Summit Learning Trust, focused as they are on outcomes and ambition for learners and underpinned by

strengths in your people, safeguarding, application of appropriate resources and diversity, are what I'd hope to see in an organisation focused on growth and success for all their stakeholders. I believe that community engagement and cohesion are crucial when embedding values which resonate, within any college's culture.

My key observation is that the UK education and labour markets still face significant challenges around ensuring all our young people succeed in life. My previous roles supporting skills within Higher Education, Public Sector and Industry, have provided me with a broad and deep understanding of the requirement to deliver the right outcomes in education, and to ensure young people and adults have the best opportunities to succeed in their chosen employment or onward educational journey.

As a previous chair of governors and academy trust board member at a local University Technical College, and governor of my local primary school, I understand how partnership between governors and staff members can deliver outstanding results in education, as well as the crucial role governors play in supporting students, and their families.

NEW STUDENT COUNCIL

A new group of Year 12 learners have been appointed to Student Council.

Ameera Capper (right) will be Chair of Student Council. She is currently working with the Year 13 Chair Denisa Corlan and her team, but will take over when the Year 13 members step down to focus on their exams. Other members of the Executive are:

Deputy Chairs - Camilla Hammond and Christopher Hill

Treasurer - Faidaan Khan

Tackling Sexual Harassment Chair - Rumaisa Mahmood

Tackling Sexual Harassment Deputy Chair - Hawaa Ahmed

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair - Becca Ajibade
Charity & Society Co-ordinator - Sophia Carden

Students are reminded that the Student Council exists to represent all learners - they can be contacted via the Student Development Office.



SPRING TERM START

The new Spring Term starts for staff on Monday 6 January. However, this is a Staff Development Day and there are no lessons on this date.

Students return to campus on Tuesday 7 January for the resumption of lessons.

Many BTEC students start the Spring Term with exams between Monday 6 - Monday 20 January. We wish all those learners sitting assessments the very best of luck!

Most Year 13 students are making UCAS applications and the UCAS deadline to submit these applications is fast approaching once we come back in January. The deadline for us to process and submit forms to UCAS is Wednesday 29 January. We urge students not to leave it until this date and cannot guarantee the submission of any forms received after Monday 20 January.



MOCK EXAMINATIONS

Please note that mock examinations for Year 13s take place from Monday 20 – Friday 24 January inclusive. During this period, Year 13 A level learners attend their exams, but have no lessons. This also applies to Year 13 Single BTEC, Criminology and Core Maths lessons.

Students on the following courses will be expected to attend lessons as normal: Year 13 BTEC Double,

Year 13 BTEC Triple, Year 13 T level, Year 13 learners on pick up programmes in Year 12 A level & BTEC classes and Year 13 students taking GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths (unless they have an exam at that time).

Many BTEC students also have exams between Monday 6 – Monday 20 January. Good luck to all our students!

KEY DATES

Monday 6 January - Staff Development Day - there will be no lessons.

Tuesday 7 January - Lessons resume following the Christmas holidays.

BTEC Examinations - 6-20 January

Year 13 Mock Examinations - 20-24 January

Thursday 23 January - College Open Evening (4.30 - 8.00pm) - lessons will be amended this day to allow staff time to set up. The timetable for the day will be:

9.00am – 10.30am - Column D (same as usual)

10.45am – 12.15pm - Column E (same for both Y12 & Y13). There will be no intervention slot.

12.15pm – 1.00pm - Lunch (same for all students)

1.00 – 2.30 - Column C (change for both Y12 & Y13)

Friday 24 January - Interview Day for new applicants - there are no lessons on this date.

Wednesday 29 January - UCAS application deadline

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