

Head of Textiles & Food

Summerhill School

Thank you for your interest in leading the Textiles & Food department at our school.

Visits to the school are always welcome. Please contact Miss K Stone, Headteacher's PA on 01384 816165 or via email at kstone@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk to arrange.



Wider School Context

Summerhill School is recognised as one of the strongest schools in the Dudley Borough. With fantastic students, facilities and staff our GCSE outcomes have placed us at the top of the Dudley area with a Progress 8 score of +0.55, Attainment 8 score of 55.4 and Grade 5+ in English & Maths of 68%. This puts us in the top 10% of schools nationally.

We are not complacent and want to drive the school forward to be even more successful. We are very much a school that looks at the holistic student and place huge emphasis on the experience that our students get at Summerhill. We have a passion to allow all students to flourish academically, socially and emotionally. Cultural capital is an essential part of a student's journey through Summerhill.

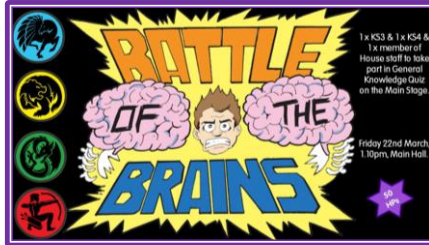
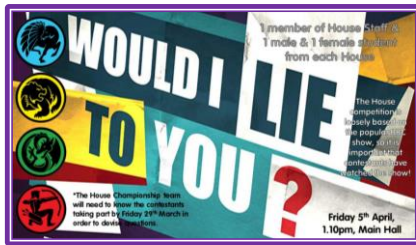
Pupils currently at the school make good progress across year groups and in the different subjects.

The school is located on the western edge of the West Midlands conurbation, in an area with desirable housing and easy access to the countryside. As a result, our students are largely from homes with above average incomes and we have a lower than typical proportion of Pupil Premium students, though we still have students who need support in a wide range of ways. The school was rebuilt completely under a PFI agreement in 2003 and we benefit from a modern, well-maintained building.



The House system plays a big part in the life of our school. Every student, parent and member of staff is a member of a House. Our tutor groups are horizontal, but always in houses. Inter-House competitions are fiercely competitive but also friendly!

..the house system is used to promote a wide range of personal qualities, such as self-confidence and leadership skills.



We have very high expectations of student behaviour and parents are typically very supportive. There is a lovely community feel to the school.

Pupils dress smartly and wear the relatively new school uniform with pride. Pupils value learning and have good attitudes to their studies.

Department Facilities

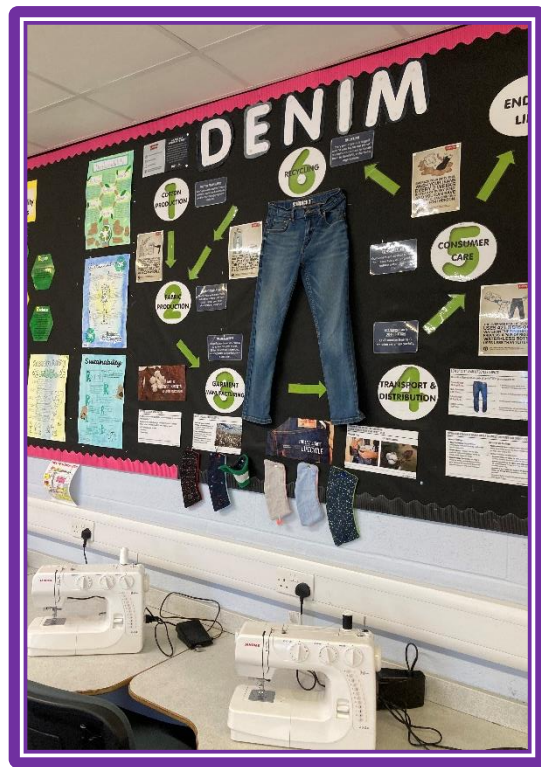
Summerhill is a modern well designed building equipped with a swimming pool, a Learning Resource Centre which houses 60 computers and a hall with professional theatre lighting used for assemblies and House competitions.

The Textiles & Food Department is located on the first floor in a corridor alongside rooms for Art and Business Studies. Workshops for wood/metal/plastics are located on the corridor below.



There is a purpose-built room for the teaching of Textiles. This includes space for 20+ sewing machines plus overlockers, sublimation printers, a large heat press and a well-stocked store cupboard.





Staff are provided with an iPad in order to assist their teaching. Each room also has an Apple TV so you can directly link your iPad to the projector. A set of laptops is based within the Food/Textiles department.

There are two specialist rooms for the teaching of Food, each equipped with 11 cookers. An adjacent store room provides fridge, freezer storage and a blast chiller.



Staffing

The Textiles & Food department consists of 2 main teachers – a Head of Department who is responsible for teaching the majority of the Textiles at KS3 and GCSE, plus a specialist teacher of Food. A small number of periods are taught by other staff during the KS3 rotations.

Teaching staff are supported by a full-time Food & Textiles technician.

The school has a full programme of staff development which is tailored depending upon where in your professional journey you are. We support staff to attend good quality external courses and also use twilight sessions and training days to share and promote good teaching practice.

Behaviour is good.

Pupils are polite, well mannered and courteous

Curriculum

In Years 7 and 8, all students study Food and Textiles as part of the Technology rotation. They have a double period (100 minutes) per week, switching between Food, Textiles and DT (workshop-based) so that students experience 6 units per year (2 for each specialism).

In Year 9, students have some flexibility as they opt to study slightly fewer creative and specialist subjects, but dedicate more time to each. Students who opt for Food and/or Textiles have a double period (100 minutes) every week, enabling them to pursue the KS3 curriculum in greater depth. Just over 25% of current Y8 students have indicated a preference to continue with Textiles, while nearly 40% have indicated that they wish to continue studying Food.

In Years 10 and 11, students who opt for Food and/or Textiles have a double period (100 minutes) and also a single period (50 minutes) per week.

Food students currently study the AQA 8385 course in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Textiles students currently follow the AQA 8204 course in Art and Design (Textile Design). This does mean that students are unable to opt for both Textiles and the traditional Art GCSE. If the new Head of Department would prefer to offer an alternative qualification for Textiles (eg one that was based on Design Technology or a Vocational route) we would be very pleased to discuss this further. Obviously, students who have already started on the AQA 8204 pathway would need to be supported to complete this course.

The range of educational visits and trips...and programme of extra-curricular activities, makes a strong contribution to pupils' SMSC awareness and personal development

Number of students choosing to study Food/Textiles as a GCSE option in Years 10/11:

	Food	Textiles
Current Y9 (Summer 2025)	19	17
Current Y10 (Summer 2024)	18	24
Current Y11 (Summer 2023)	18	22
Summer 2022	22	8
Summer 2021	24	16
Summer 2020	16	8