



SHIRELAND BIOMEDICAL

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Year 7

Induction Pack



Contents

Message from the Acting Principal	4
Message from the CEO, Sir Mark Grundy	5
Introduction	6
Pack Contents	6
Key Forms	7
Getting Ready	8
Introduction	8
Induction Days	8
Induction Session for Parents and Carers	8
Shireland Biomedical UTC Uniform	9
Main Uniform	9
Compulsory Items:	9
Additional Information:	9
Optional Items:	9
PE Uniform:	9
Additional Information:	9
Jewellery:	10
Prohibited Items:	10
Equipment:	11
Mobile Phones	12
Key Advice to Get Ready	13
Life at Shireland Biomedical UTC	16
Arriving at Shireland Biomedical UTC	17
By Car	17
Pick Up	17
Shireland Biomedical UTC Day	18
Tutor Time Program	18
Sanctions at the End of the Day	18
Lunch Arrangements	19
Term Dates	19
Autumn term 2024.....	20
Spring term 2025	20
Summer term 2025	20

Key Staff	20
What will I Study?	21
Why do we do this?	21
About Literacy for Life	21
Themes	21
Other Subjects	23
Mathematics	23
Home Learning	23
Students with Additional Needs	24
Meet the SENDCo	25
Inclusion	25
SEND Provision	25
Making Friends	26
Friendships and Falling Out	26
Getting Involved	27
Opportunities at SBUTC	28
Extra-Curricular Activities	28
House Competitions	28
Student Voice	28
Student Leadership	29
Trips and Visits	29
Families	29
PTFA and Family Forum	29
Supporting Learning	30

Message from the Acting Principal

Dear Families

It is with great pleasure I write to welcome you to Shireland Biomedical University Technical College.

Our aim is to create an environment where students can fulfil their potential; having the opportunity to excel in everything they do. Whilst academic success is important, so is ensuring our students develop into well rounded individuals who can take the skills they learn into later life, ensuring they are successful in whichever path they choose to pursue.

To our parents I would like to say that developing fantastic students is a partnership between the families, the students and SBUTC, and we will work hard to ensure these relationships are strong. I want to ensure we become a real community, working together to help and support each other along our journey.

To our students I want to welcome you and hope the next few years is a happy time where you feel supported, encouraged to try new things, develop as young people, and achieve success. I would encourage you to make use of the many opportunities you will be offered during your time with us to develop your skills beyond the classroom as well.

There will be challenges along the way, good days and bad but by working together in partnership with each other we can ensure we create an amazing place to learn equal to any other in the country.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in the months ahead.

Kind Regards

Gulfam Shahzad

Acting Principal

Message from the CEO, Sir Mark Grundy

I came to Shireland in 1997 and have had the pleasure of watching the school evolve into the Outstanding institution that it is today. It has given me even greater pleasure being able to take and share this outstanding practice across the Trust.

Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust is known nationally for its innovation and collaboration particularly around our use of technology and we have for some time supported schools in our region in terms of school improvement. Our work with the DfE provides us with an excellent mechanism to benchmark our achievements and hopefully in all that we undertake we act to inspire others.

We believe that every person who passes through our doors deserves the very best that we can offer. We understand that each Academy is unique, but our emphasis and expectations will remain the same. Nothing less than Outstanding is acceptable.

We want every single person that comes through the doors of one of our academies to leave having grown as an individual, in terms of their skill set and their respect for others. We hope that everyone will have participated in a “Whole Education” that prepares them both personally and professionally and that they are well-placed for a successful and happy life.

Everyone who works with and for the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust does so because they believe in children and want their futures to be happy and successful.

Sir Mark Grundy

CEO, Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust



Introduction

This pack has been compiled to answer as many of your questions as possible before your child starts in September. We would encourage you to go through this pack with your child as it contains a lot of useful information that will support a smooth transition in September.

Pack Contents

Section 1 – Getting Ready

- Induction Day
- School Uniform
- Uniform Supplier Details
- Equipment List
- Key Advice

Section 2 – Life at Shireland Biomedical University Technology College (SBUTC)

- Arriving at SBUTC
- Outline of the Day
- Key Term Dates and Calendar
- Key Staff
- What will I study?
- Homework
- Students with Additional Needs
- Making Friends
- SBUTC Expectations
- Communication and Payments

Section 3 – Getting involved

- Extra-Curricular Activities
- House Competitions
- Empowering Students
- Trips and Visits
- Getting Involved as Parents

Key Forms

The following forms should be included in your welcome pack, to be completed and returned to SBUTC:

- SBUTC Student Data Form
- Medical Information
- Laptop & acceptable ICT use contract
- Permissions Form
- SCA Trust Photograph/Video Consent Form
- Student and Family Device Loan Agreement
- Family/Carer Acceptable Use of ICT Policy
- Biometrics Information and Privacy Notice
- Student, parent contract

If you have any queries and need telephone support, you can contact us on 0121 8281123 or email info@sbu.shirelandcat.net

These forms should be completed and returned to us either by post, handing them in on the induction evening or by dropping them into the reception at Shireland Biomedical SBUTC. These forms must be returned to use as soon as possible in order to secure your child's place.

If your contact details change after you have submitted your forms, please let us know by phone or email as soon as possible. If you need assistance with completing the forms, please speak to your child's primary school or ring the school office.

Transition Programme:

Please see our transition programme below: REMEMBER TO RETURN YOU COMPLETED FORMS

Date	Activity	Timings
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 6 Parent Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal's overview - Meet the L4L tutors - Overview of transition days - Meet SLT and Safeguarding team - Uniform shop REMEMBER TO RETURN YOU COMPLETED FORMS	4.00 - 6.00
Wednesday 3 rd July	Year 6 Transition Day 1:	9.00 -3.00
	Year 6 Transition Day 2:	9.00 -3.00



Getting Ready



Induction Session for Parents and Carers

On **Tuesday 2nd July from 4.00pm to 6pm** we aim to host a session for Parents and Carers to find out more about SBUTC where you will be able to meet the Principal and other key staff in addition to gathering any other relevant information you require.

Shireland Biomedical UTC Uniform

All students are expected to wear full uniform when they are in the SBUTC, in addition to on the way to and from the SBUTC. There may be exceptions to this, but you will be told about these days in advance. Research clearly shows that a uniform plays a key role in contributing to the ethos of the SBUTC and can also support positive behaviour and discipline. We want our students to be dressed for success and look smart. We want our students to wear the uniform with a sense of pride and aspiration.

Main Uniform

Compulsory Items:

- Black blazer with the SBUTC Logo
- SBUTC tie in house colours with logo
- White blouse or shirt tucked into waistband with top button fastened
- Plain black trousers or plain black pleated skirt of knee or ankle length
- Plain black socks or plain black tights
- Plain black leather polishable shoes that are smart, not trainers or trainer like. They should have a flat sole or low heel. They should not have any coloured trims
- A sensible school bag that is large enough to hold an A4 folder and all the equipment required for the day

Additional Information:

- Blazers should be worn at all times
- Outdoor coats may be of varied colours but should be smart, ideally waterproof, and not covered in lettering. Outdoor coat may not be worn in the building.
- Hooded sweatshirts or hooded tracksuit tops are not permitted.
- Ankle boots may be worn underneath trousers, but should be smart and polishable.
- Make-up (if worn), should be natural and not excessive

Optional Items:

- Plain black jumper worn under the blazer, with or without sleeves (optional – but no cardigans)
- Salwaar Kameez, headscarves and turbans may be worn but should be a plain colour

PE Uniform:

- SBUTC sports top with logo
- SBUTC tracksuit top
- SBUTC tracksuit bottoms
- Black football socks or calf length socks
- Trainers (can be any colour)

Additional Information:

- Non branded sweatshirts or hoodies are not permitted.
- Leggings and non-branded bottoms are not permitted.

Jewellery:

- One pair of stud earrings may be worn (one earring per ear) but should not be excessively large.
- If considered that earrings present a health and safety risk, the student will be instructed to remove them.
- One small nose stud may be worn, not nose rings. Multiple studs are not allowed. No other facial piercings.
- Earrings and nose studs must be removed for PE lessons.
- Long hair must be tied back for PE, practical Science and Design Technology lessons (please provide students with a bobble).
- A wristwatch is allowed.

Prohibited Items:

- Caps are not permitted on site. Hats must be removed before entering the SBUTC buildings
- Hooded tops or tracksuit tops.
- Nail extensions, false nails and/or brightly coloured nail varnish.
- Extreme haircuts or styles (e.g. bright unnatural colours, patterns or lines shaved in hair or eyebrows)
- Headphones (including air pods)
- Any other jewellery in addition to the above including rings and necklaces.
- Trainers must not be worn around the SBUTC (apart from the days where you have Physical Education lessons, at break or lunchtime if taking part in sporting activities). Students must change back into shoes before entering the SBUTC building.

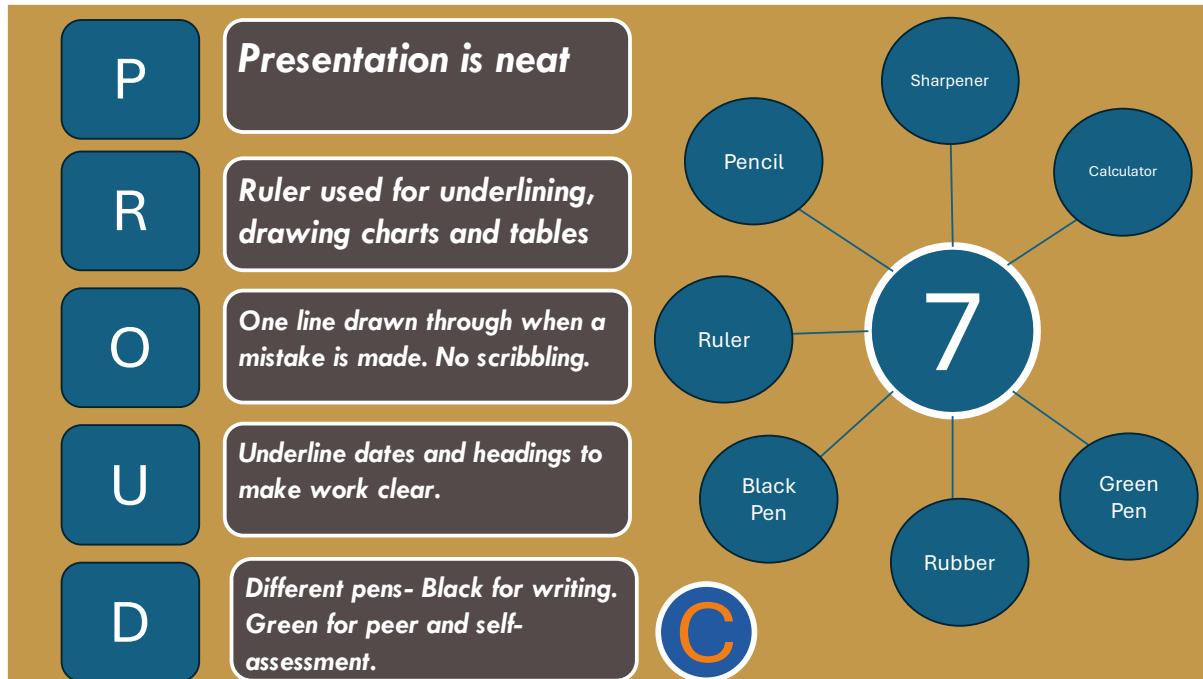
Failure to adhere to the uniform policy will result in contact home and students will be asked to rectify the issue.

Students will be expected to come to SBUTC in their full PE kit only on the days they have their timetabled PE lessons. All other days they are expected to attend in their full smart SBUTC uniform.

If there is a uniform issue at any time during the year, please ensure that your child brings a note (to their Form Teacher) to explain the problem. The note should also explain when you expect the problem to be resolved. If students arrive at school wearing incorrect uniform, they will be loaned a suitable replacement for the day if possible or removed from circulation. If there is a persistent issue with uniform, we will contact you to ask for your support in resolving the situation.

Our uniform supplier is CC Uniforms in West Bromwich. The SCBSO blazer, tie and sports tracksuit top can be purchased from the uniform shop, or online at www.ccuniforms.co.uk.

All other items can be purchased from a retailer of your choice, following the guidance above.



Equipment:

Being prepared is essential in securing success, it is therefore imperative students arrive each day with all their equipment and keep them in good condition.

This starts with a sensibly sized bag which can accommodate an A4 folder. You need something which means that letters and homework can be taken to and from the SBUTC and not be crumpled upon their return.

Compulsory Equipment:

A pencil case that should contain the following:

- Black pens
- A green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Scientific Calculator

Desirable Equipment:

- Pencil crayons or felt pens
- Highlighter pens
- Folder with dividers

Mobile Phones



At Shireland Biomedical UTC we **prohibit the use of mobile phones and similar devices** on our school site. The use of **headphones** to support these devices are also prohibited unless issued by the school for use with laptops.

Mobile phones are never used, seen, or heard whilst at school.

All students are to abide by this rule while on our school premises from **8.00am until 4.15pm.**

The government has released new guidelines this year to support schools in implementing a "no mobile phones" policy within schools. Research has shown that mobile phones have a harmful influence on the learning environment. Their use in schools can lead to distraction and disruption, exacerbating misbehaviour and bullying. Therefore, schools have been asked to prohibit the use of mobile phones to create a safer and happier environment for all students.

Our school policy is simple: mobile phones are not allowed to be used by students during school hours. KS5 students have one designated area within the school on the ground floor where they can use their phones to support their studies. Phones can only be used for this purpose and must not be used for any other reason.

If your child needs to contact you during the day, we will phone on their behalf or allow them to use the phone to speak to you. We would never refuse a student calling their parents at the end of the day if they needed to get in touch.

Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone anywhere on site. This includes the toilets, PE changing rooms, the theatre, canteen, playground or during after school clubs. Sanctions will be issued in line with our Behaviour Procedures, in addition to the phone being confiscated if this is the case.

We will also work with students to consider E-Safety and how to use social media responsibly and as a force for good. There have been many serious and tragic cyberbullying cases up and down the country which have led to the most severe consequences. At Shireland Biomedical University Technical College we are committed to developing decent young people and this includes accessing the online world. Students will be asked to abide by our E-Safety and Acceptable Use policies. We will inform students about various aspects of online safety, working with local organisations such as West Midlands Police.

Although we allow smartwatches for the use of telling the time, if students are observed to be using them for inappropriate reasons (for example, messaging), or they make a noise in relation to a phone notification, they will be confiscated.

All smartwatches need to be removed for assessments and examinations.

Key Advice to Get Ready

Starting a new school is a major event for both students and parents. It is natural to worry but remember, you are part of a community who are all experiencing the same feelings along with thousands of parents and students across the country. A good piece of advice is that great parenting is about making your child completely independent of you, and we want to be part of a partnership which helps students to gain these essential life skills.

Below we have put together some top tips to make sure students have the best start.

Children's Top 10 Worries about Starting at a new Secondary School:

- Getting to school and back (especially if it involves a bus journey)
- Being bullied by older students
- Not making friends
- Getting lost
- Homework
- Not being able to do the work
- Not having the right books and equipment
- Not knowing what to do if there's a problem
- Not getting on with the teachers
- Getting into trouble

At SBUTC we have taken away some of the top concerns. There will only be three other year groups of students, all year 7 students will be taught on one area of the building so your child will not get lost, and the teachers will quickly get to know them as they will have most of their lessons with the same teacher as they will be following our Literacy for Life Curriculum.

Travel

Your child may be travelling further than their primary school, on their own for the first time or on public transport.

- Make sure you have tested the journey beforehand, several times if needed
- Note the differences between traffic in the holidays and at peak drop off times
- If your child is walking, is there a friend from the same primary school they can walk with?
- If taking the bus, are you going to use a bus pass or cash?
- What time does your child need to leave home in the morning?
- How is your child getting home and do they need a key to your house?
- Smartphones are banned at the SBUTC, if you are worried about the journey, invest in the cheapest pay as you go phone with £5 of credit for an emergency

Experience shows large numbers of parents drop students off in the first week or so and this tends to tail off as students find friends they want to travel to school with. Do not be surprised if you get a request to drop your child off round the corner!

Morning Routine

- Plan backwards from the latest time to leave the house
- What time do they need to get up?
- Think about the morning: shower now or at night, make lunch now or beforehand? When will your child be responsible for making their own lunch?
- Make sure your child has enough sleep, especially when moving back to term time from the holidays. As puberty hits it is not uncommon for children to want to sleep more and it may be harder for them to get up in the morning
- Make sure that consoles and phones are not in bedrooms overnight to ensure a good night's sleep. It is not uncommon to see a student about to fall asleep in class because they were up at 2:00am on phones or the latest games

Encourage Independence

- Make sure your child can tie their shoes laces and tie
- Make sure they know and understand the uniform expectations
- Make it their job to know when they need their PE kit, swimming kit or musical instrument
- If necessary, make a plan and put it on the fridge for your child to follow. Better still, get them to make the plan
- Have your child pack their own bag the night before

Be Organised

- Get a copy of your child's timetable; we will provide a spare. Keep this on display so that you and your child can refer to it
- Encourage your child to learn what lessons they have on which days so that they can become independent
- Persuade your child to wear a watch for timekeeping. Note: smartwatches are not permitted

Label Things

Losing uniform, PE kit, pencil cases and bags can be an expensive business, so invest in a marker pen and some name tags and make sure that everything your child is bringing into the SBUTC is named. Writing your child's name in their blazer, PE kit and tie is essential.

Communicate With Us

Most importantly, communicate with us. Let us know if there is a problem and ask if you have any questions. We want the best for your child and all the students at the SBUTC and will plan, mediate, counsel and work to find solutions.

If your child is struggling, is getting too much/not enough home learning, is unhappy or confused, has an issue with another child or any other concerns you can communicate with us via a Phone call to Reception, a note in the planner or by email. Your first point of contact should be your child's Form Tutor as they will know your child best. For any specific issues such as SEN, Safeguarding, Finance etc. our Reception team will be able to put you in contact with the relevant member of staff who will be able to assist you.

If you arrive at Shireland Biomedical SBUTC without an appointment it is unlikely that a member of staff will be available to meet with you immediately as they have teaching commitments and full diaries. We advise you to call or email in advance and ask to speak to someone, or to make an appointment.

Please remember, we will always do what we can to support your child. If we are not made aware of an issue, there is nothing we can do; you are best placed to tell us about your child's needs.

For more information and regular updates about school, please follow us on Facebook: [Shireland Biomedical SBUTC | West Bromwich | Facebook](#)



Life at Shireland Biomedical UTC



Arriving at Shireland Biomedical UTC

Students are expected to be in their Tutor rooms by 8:45am for Registration and Tutor Time. Students can come on site from 8:30am and wait in the playground, or if the weather is poor, the Canteen.

Students will gather in the playground until the bell rings at 8.40am for Tutor Time. Parents are not allowed into the SBUTC with students, though if you wish to speak to any of our staff you can make an appointment by contacting Reception. There will always be a member of staff on the gates to greet students as they arrive.

By Car

There is no parking onsite. If you wish to drop your child off or pick them at the end of the day you will need to use one of the many pay and display car parks situated near to the SBUTC. If you simply wait outside, you will receive a parking ticket from one of the many wardens that patrol the area immediately outside the SBUTC

Pick Up

The SBUTC Day ends at 3:25pm each day and students will be dismissed from their tutor groups unless they have been kept behind for failing to meet SBUTC expectations (i.e. late to school). If you are collecting your child from the SBUTC please be mindful of the parking situation to avoid receiving

a parking ticket. There will always be a member of staff on duty at the entrance to the SBUTC each evening.

Shireland Biomedical UTC Day

The day begins with Tutor time at 8:45am, where students will go to their tutor rooms and be greeted by their Tutor. Their Tutor will also be their Literacy for Life teacher. During this 40-minute session students will be registered and prepared for the day ahead. They will also explore a range of Tutor Time activities. The timings of the day for year 7 are shown below:

8:00	Free Breakfast Club
8:40	Students make their way to Tutor rooms
8:45 – 9:25	Tutor time begins
9:25 – 10:25	Lesson 1
10:25 – 10:40	Break
10:40 – 11:40	Lesson 2
11:40 – 12:40	Lesson 3
12:40 – 13:10	Lunch (Year 7 12.30 to 1.00)
13:15 – 14:15`	Lesson 4
14:15 – 15:15	Lesson 5
15:15 – 15:25	Tutor time
15.30 - 16.15	Enrichment

Tutor Time Program

During Tutor time students shall undertake several activities aimed at developing their skills in a range of contexts. The list below outlines some of the activities they will follow:

- Personal Development including: PSHE, RSE, Citizenship and Careers
- Reading and Literacy, including Accelerated Reader
- House activities and competitions
- Numeracy skills and activities
- A weekly assembly

Sanctions at the End of the Day

If your child has not met SBUTC expectations, they may be issued with a detention.

If necessary, we will hold students back at the end of the day for 10 minutes without informing you first. If a detention is to be longer than 10 minutes you will be informed either earlier that day, or in advance of the date of the detention. We aim to set sanctions (if necessary) that give an opportunity

for the student to put right what has gone wrong yet will not cause an issue with a child's safety on the way home. The SBUTC is a positive place where we aim to give out many more positive rewards than sanctions.

If your child is given a sanction at the end of the school day for failing to meet our standards and expectations, they will miss the school bus. Therefore, it is the students' responsibility to ensure they are meeting our standards and expectations.

Lunch Arrangements

Students have two options for lunch. They can either bring a packed lunch or they can purchase hot or cold food from the Canteen. All students will be expected to sit and eat in the Canteen where there will be teachers present to supervise them, before being allowed outside for their lunch break.

The SBUTC is cash free, with students an electronic system to buy their lunch using credit added by parents to their online account. If students are eligible for Free School Meals, then funds will be added daily to their accounts. Funds are credited at 11:30am each day and cannot be used to purchase food at break time. The Free School Meals allocation is intended to ensure that students access a healthy and balanced lunch. Students will not be permitted to only buy drinks/snacks with their allocation, they will be encouraged to purchase one of the Daily Meal Deals. Details of our menus can be found on our website.

If students are bringing a packed lunch, we ask parents to be mindful of our commitment to healthy eating. A chocolate bar as part of a balanced lunch is fine, a family pack of Doritos and a can of Monster energy is not (we have certainly seen this, especially if students are making their own lunch). Energy drinks are not permitted and will be confiscated. If we are aware that students are purchasing and drinking energy drinks on the way to the SBUTC, we will inform you. Students must be 16 or over to purchase energy drinks and shops must not sell them to young people. We discourage fizzy drinks in general but if students wish to bring a water bottle, they are permitted to drink water in non-practical lessons.

Students are not allowed off-site during lunchtimes. The MUGA will be reserved for those playing ball games only, the playgrounds are for socialising and other games. If students want to bring trainers to play on the MUGA this is fine, but they must not be worn anywhere else in the SBUTC. Please have a plastic bag to put them in rather than going into students' main bags along with their homework. Please note the MUGA is prone to freezing when the weather is too cold. When this happens, we will stop students using the MUGA for their own safety.

Term Dates

We will follow the Sandwell term dates as outlined below.

We will send you an updated calendar of events in September.

Autumn term 2024

- Term starts: Monday 2 September 2024 (INSET Day) and Tuesday 3 September 2024 (INSET day)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024
- Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024
- Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Spring term 2025

- Term starts: Monday 6 January 2025 (INSET Day)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025
- Easter Holiday: Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

Summer term 2025

- Term starts: Monday 28 April 2025 (Bank Holiday Monday 5 May)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
- Term ends: Monday 21 July 2025
- Summer holiday starts: Tuesday 22 July 2025

Key Staff

Year 7 Tutors

7A	Mr Saj Ashraf	Email: sashraf@sbu.shrielandcat.net
7B	Miss Joanna Liang	Email: sashraf@sbu.shrielandcat.net
7C	Mr Luke Elliot Year 7 L4L Lead	Email: lelliot@sbu.shrielandcat.net
7D	Mrs Sarah Dyer	Email: sdyer@sbu.shrielandcat.net
	Mrs Stoddard L4L Director	Email: sstoddard@sbu.shrielandcat.net

Below are the Senior Staff responsible for the running of the SBUTC. This team will grow over time as we add more students.

Acting Principal	Gulfam Shazad
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Assistant Principal - SENCo and Inclusion	Laura Chamberlain
Assistant Principal - Behaviour, Attendance	Natasha Tranter
Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning and Staff Development	Joseph MULLIGAN
Assistant Principal - Head of Sixth Form	Kayleigh Steed
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Emma Nightingale
Pastoral Manager	Rachel Baker

What will I Study?

At Shireland Biomedical SBUTC we do not run a traditional curriculum. Instead, we deliver the Literacy for Life curriculum in Key Stage 3 which has been developed by Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust over several years in partnership with Hodder Education.

The Literacy for Life curriculum has twice been judged as outstanding by Ofsted and students who follow the scheme have consistently made more progress than students in any other school in Sandwell.

Why do we do this?

It has been nationally recognised that most students who come into secondary education experience a drop in their progress. This is because in most schools, the strongest staff are placed with Year 11 and Year 7 students are not seen as a priority. Starting a new school can be difficult for some students and if they are seeing 14 or 15 teachers per week it can be hard to settle.

This is not the case at Shireland Biomedical SBUTC, we have a dedicated team of Literacy for Life teachers. Each teacher has a direct focus on the students in their class, not just from an academic perspective but also getting to know the students and their families well, forming a partnership which will really help students to progress.

Students have a dedicated classroom where they can store their work and feel comfortable as well as someone they can go to with any issues and who knows how they are performing across their subjects.

About Literacy for Life

Literacy for Life is taught through a series of themes in mixed ability classes, with different levels of support within the classroom for students who require stretch and challenge or those who need more support. We encourage and expect all students to produce high quality work and will provide opportunities for parents to see the work produced.

The curriculum is technology-rich with each student having their own device and ICT skills are embedded throughout the themes. We have a balance of written work and work on the devices as we are aware that students still need to be able to write fluently and accurately.

We assess students through a series of competencies, looking at both academic progress and personal development. Both are equally important in ensuring a well-rounded education.

Themes

A theme runs for approximately three weeks and has elements of all curriculum subjects taught through it. Themes will differ in their subject content; some may be more History or Science focussed, but we cover the National Curriculum over the course of the year. Here are some examples of themes students will study.

Citizen Me

The intention of this theme is to expand students' awareness of what it means to be part of a community. This is explored at local, national, and international levels as well as secular and religious community structures. Students will consider the benefits of pluralism, diversity, and British values. As the idea of community is brought into focus, students will also consider how politics is a tool for change and how MPs are an integral part of this. Students will learn about inspiring people and will contemplate the qualities of a person who is an inspiring global citizen. Finally, students will work collaboratively with their peers to complete a class agreed 'Citizen' project.

Silent Movies

The intention of this theme is to explore how perspectives in history and society are represented and communicated through the medium of film, notably the cultural phenomenon of the Silent Movie Industry. By celebrating the art of mime and slapstick comedy, students explore the origins of cinema, the lifestyles of influential people and technological advances that shaped attitudes throughout the early 20th century. Students use the biography of Charlie Chaplin to see how society was reflected in silent movies.

Studies in drama, art, and music challenge students to prepare for their own Silent Movie Showcase where they will work collaboratively to invent, record, edit and present a silent movie in anticipation of an "Oscars Ceremony". Nominations will compete for prestigious awards to celebrate achievements as actors, directors, editors, advertisers, writers and historians. Students learn how to manipulate video editing software to interpret silent movie techniques and communicate their very own narrative.

Journeys

This intention of this theme is to enable students to consider a range of reasons as to why people undertake journeys, and the effects that embarking on these journeys may have on them. We begin the theme by looking at the map skills that enable travellers successfully to get from one place to another. Building on these skills, students are able both to plan a journey and to write about a journey they have previously undertaken. The theme enables students to demonstrate their place knowledge of the Middle East, and the importance of this region to many of today's major world religions. Taking Christianity, Sikhism and Islam in turn, students explore religious pilgrimages that followers of these religions undertake, the reasons they take these journeys and what the lasting effects of these journeys may be. Students can contrast religious pilgrimages and poetry of today with those from the medieval period: have pilgrims' reasons for undertaking these journeys changed over the centuries?

Fairy Tales

The intention of this theme is to complete an in-depth study of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students will complete character and language analysis with a focus on being able to cite specific textual evidence. Furthermore, students will need to use their creative skills to create fairy tale settings and perform to an audience. Students will then need to use this knowledge to explore fairy tales around the world and assess their relevance today

Other Subjects

In addition to the Literacy for Life Curriculum students also study the following:

- 2 hours of Physical Education
- 2 hours of Practical Science
- 2 hours of Languages (German/French)
- 1 Hour of Art
- 1 hour of Music and Design Technology on Rotation

These subjects are taught by subject specialists, we have fully equipped specialist spaces for these lessons. All these subjects sit outside the Literacy for Life Curriculum as they require specialist facilities for tuition.

PE will be taught in variety of spaces depending upon the activities being undertaken.

Mathematics

We break out for discrete Mathematics lessons where a theme would not be an appropriate setting. At these times we may choose to set students by ability to ensure we are stretching the most able whilst also ensuring those who require additional support are catered for.

Home Learning

Home learning at SBUTC comes in a few different forms. These could include:

- Online home learning – this could be set using class sites or Microsoft Teams. You will receive full guidance before being set any online homework. Online homework could include quizzes, research or flipped learning.
- Extended home learning – this is issued before or after a theme and is a larger piece of work over an extended period. This type of home learning is usually issued over a holiday or across a unit of work. Students will always be provided with clear guidance and support in addition to the success criteria and expected to spend several hours on completing this extended piece of work.
- Class based Home learning – This is the most common type of work issued by class teachers and is relevant to the lesson the students have undertaken to practice their skills and knowledge.
- Flipped Home Learning – These are tasks which are issued to students before the lesson or topic. It may be to watch a video, read a passage from a book, contribute to an online discussion, or complete a short quiz. These tasks are used to assess prior knowledge of the

subject matter to ensure they arrive to lessons prepared and spend as much time as possible in lessons focussing on student progress.

- Home learning club - This will be held on a weekly basis. All students are welcome to attend and can use an ICT based device if needed. Students will be able to receive support from staff during this time. It is recommended that any students who may struggle to access the internet or IT at home attend these clubs to complete work set. If your child struggles with organisation we will recommend they attend home learning club to support them and ensure that they meet the deadlines set.

Top Tips for Homework

- You will be able to see the home learning tasks that have been set through our online portal – EduLink. This portal will allow you to access a variety of information, more information will be shared on this later.
- Agree a routine for completing home learning tasks with your child. Life can become a constant nag if you don't start this from the beginning. Home learning becomes an increasingly important part of the curriculum as your child progresses through the SBUTC.
- A good time to complete work at home is after a short break when your child returns home from the SBUTC; the worst time is 8:00pm when they suddenly 'remember they have this'.
- Have a quiet space away from the TV and a phone where home learning tasks can be completed. If students say that they need their phone for music or study, it's probably more of a distraction. The exception would be if the tasks must be completed online, and a smartphone is the only internet-enabled device they have access to.
- Spend time with your child in the first few weeks, establishing a routine.
- Don't let children struggle for longer than the recommended time. If they cannot do the work, please ask them to speak to their teachers and ask for support well before the final deadline.

Students with Additional Needs

At Shireland Biomedical UTC we are dedicated to unlocking the potential of all our students and we recognise that some students have additional needs and require support.

Our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) department is led by our SENDCo Miss Chamberlain and has two key roles: supporting students with EAL (English as an Additional Language) and supporting students with SEND.

Some students may receive specialist support where required through our SEND department. Where this is the case, they may be withdrawn from some lessons to receive this support. In class support is also provided where appropriate and possible for children who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) or who are in the process of obtaining an EHCP.

Meet the SENDCo

To make sure we are ready to support students from day one we will be inviting parents of students who are currently on their school's SEND register who have an EHCP to speak with the SENDCo; information about this is contained in your welcome pack. If you are concerned that your child has an unidentified need, please email info@SBU.shirelandcat.net and our SENDCo will do their best to support you.

Inclusion

We have a brand-new Inclusion department which focuses on the 4 key areas of need. This space and the interventions that run within them are led by our SENDCo and team of learning support staff. Students identified with SEND will, wherever possible, access the general curriculum within the Academy, achieved by using a range of strategies designed to meet the needs of individual students.

We are a small and growing Academy, and our SEND services will grow over time. More information about our SEND policy can be found on our website.

SEND Provision

Provision will include a range of 1:1 and small group interventions; these will include direct teaching and the use of computer software.

The SEND department will also provide some in-class support, working with teachers across several subjects. Our Literacy for Life model also helps SEND students as the teachers quickly become aware of students' needs and the support they require.

Making Friends

Students will be coming to SBUTC from many different primary schools across Sandwell and the wider West Midlands. We recognise this and offer the following opportunities for pupils to develop friendships with their peers:

- 2 Induction days so students can meet their classmates prior to starting in September.
- A full line up of clubs which students can join to find like-minded friends.
- House competitions for students to participate in.
- Social events and performance opportunities.

Students also naturally make friends in their Literacy for Life groups where they spend a large amount of their time. If you are concerned about your child struggling to make friends, make an appointment to speak to their Literacy for Life teacher.

Friendships and Falling Out

Starting a new school can be daunting and you may worry about your child making friends. Remember, everyone is going through the same experience and teachers are monitoring students carefully, encouraging them and making sure students are not left out.

It is inevitable that at some point children will fall out with each other and this usually blows over. If you feel that things have gone too far, please speak to us at the Academy. Certainly, speak to us if there is any hint of bullying or your child is unhappy about coming to the Academy.

One of the differences in today's schooling is social media. Things which used to calm down can be rapidly escalated by comments being made online and images shared. Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok are just a few apps that we discourage the use of and will outline further in our E-Safety information. Your child is not currently old enough to have their own account on these applications and any use must be supervised by a parent or carer. Please make sure you are aware of your child's social media activity and, where appropriate, have time without phones and screens.



SHIRELAND BIOMEDICAL

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Getting Involved



Opportunities at SBUTC

At Shireland Biomedical SBUTC we believe that our students can be the equal of any in the world provided they are given the right opportunities. This section of the Welcome Pack deals with the opportunities we are looking to offer our students in their first year. It also provides opportunities for parents to get involved and help to shape the SBUTC into a real community.

Participation is important to us. We would hope that every student is active in at least one extra-curricular activity. We would want each student to try and participate in at least one House or Trust competition.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At SBUTC every department is required to offer one club or activity for students. We will be updating our offer as we get feedback from students and parents and our staff reveal their talents. A full program of extracurricular activities will be shared in September, and we hope all students will sign up for at least one of the activities on offer.

Places at some clubs will be limited and we will not be signing students up until September. In some cases students may be asked to audition for some clubs and in some specific cases it may be by selection. Staff will consider the total number of clubs that students are participating in when places are limited to attempt to make sure all students have opportunities. It may be that a student attends a club for one term and then moves onto another activity to allow more students to access the opportunities.

House Competitions

There will be plenty of opportunities to participate in house competitions throughout the year with a range of competitions taking place in all areas of the curriculum so all students will have an opportunity to participate. These events will be a mixture of individual and team events.

As part of this there will be opportunities to compete against the other Academies within the Trust. There may be Trust-wide competitions and opportunities for students to collaborate on projects as all the Academies within the Trust are following the same Literacy for Life Curriculum and even opportunities to be part of a Trust-wide House team at some events.

Student Voice

We want our students to feel part of establishing the SBUTC and we will be holding regular student voice events where our students can share their views and share ideas on what they want from their SBUTC. The students are part of making history as they are the SBUTC's first ever year 7 cohort and we value their opinions on how to make it better for them.

Student Leadership

We value our students and place them at the heart of everything we do, as such we want them to be part of the decision-making process, constructing their environment and being leaders to each other. Some of the ways in which we aim achieve this include:

- Shireland Biomedical SBUTC student council: Two representatives from each form helping to shape the SBUTC community. Using the technology, we have we will also look to put some decisions to a whole SBUTC vote
- Student-led assemblies
- Making students more responsible for the environment, helping us to ensure it is as environmentally sustainable as possible
- Being our representatives out in the community. We would like our students to be our ambassadors, capable of meeting parents, showing visitors around the SBUTC and presenting at our open evenings

Trips and Visits

At Shireland Biomedical SBUTC we are committed to making sure students have as many positive experiences as possible to extend their learning. This includes taking students to both local and national locations on trips and visits as well as some residential opportunities.

Families

We fully understand the role parents and carers play in the education of our children and that it is a three-way partnership between the SBUTC, students, and families/carers. There will be several events held over the course of the year where we will invite students and families to get involved so we can have some fun as well as strengthening our links within the community. Plans for these events are currently being finalised and will be shared in due course.

We are keen for families to get involved by ensuring as many as possible can attend the many events that will be held throughout the year such as awards events and the showcasing of student work.

PTFA and Family Forum

We will be looking to setup a Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) who will support the SBUTC by helping with putting on events and to fundraise. This can be a great way to meet other families and ensure we are at the heart of the community.

Once a term we will have a Family Forum where parents can speak to senior staff about ideas to improve the SBUTC, or any concerns they may have and how we can work together to solve them. This is meant to be a strong interface between students and parents and is public and open to all. Please note that issues with individual students cannot be discussed in a public forum.

Supporting Learning

Supporting learning is very important. You can do this through attending Parents Evenings, helping students with home learning tasks, reading with your child and we will look to have some joint parent / student activities and challenges later in the year. Simple things like ensuring there is a time and place to complete work can make a big difference.

We also ask that you support your child in making sure they have the correct uniform, arrive at the SBUTC on time, attend each day and are properly equipped. These steps ensure that your child's learning is not disrupted and is a positive experience for them. No one likes to start the day being told they are late and need to sort their uniform out.

Throughout the year we will provide documentation on how parents can support their child's learning as we start to approach different topics. There are several apps and websites which can support students to ensure they are fulfilling their potential and we will highlight some of these as we go.

In October we will hold a 'Settling In' evening where you will be able to discuss the start that your child has made at the SBUTC with their L4L teacher, see their early work and discuss any concerns. We will also deliver a presentation at this evening about further ways that you can support your child.