



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

Hardenhuish Lane,
Chippenham
Wiltshire,
SN14 6HJ
admin@sheldonschool.co.uk
www.sheldonschool.co.uk
01249 766020

19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of my first academic year here at Sheldon School, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your support and involvement in school life over the last 12 months. When I took this role, I knew Sheldon was going to be a special place to work, but it has exceeded all my expectations. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to building on our successes next year and beyond. I wanted to thank all the staff at Sheldon School and governors for their hard work and dedication in making the school the place it is. If you get the opportunity to email them and thank them at this very busy time of year, I am sure they would appreciate it.

It has been a truly fantastic year here at Sheldon with too many events, individual and group achievements to mention here in this letter. But a reminder, if you would like to see regular updates on what our students are doing, please ensure you are following our [Facebook page](#). For those of you who don't access social media, please read the Sheldon Standard that comes out at the same time as this newsletter, which also shares all of these amazing achievements and events.

Changes to the timings of the School Day

The trial in Term 6 has gone well and has seen an improvement in both timekeeping and a reduction in transition times between lessons. Therefore, we will continue this approach for the next academic year and the timings are shown below.

Tutor Time	08:30 – 08:55
Lesson 1	08:55 – 09:45
Lesson 2	09:45 – 10:35
Break	10:35 – 10:55
Lesson 3	10:55 – 11:45
Lesson 4	11:45 – 12:35
Lunch	12:35 – 13:20
Lesson 5	13:20 – 14:10
Lesson 6	14:10 – 15:00

New Department for Education Attendance and Penalty Notice Regulations and updated Attendance Policy

Some of you may be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) has issued new, statutory guidance for schools and local authorities entitled 'Working together to improve school attendance', which comes into effect from Monday 19 August 2024. The document talks about the importance of school attendance for all children and for schools, and other partners, to work in collaboration with pupils and parents to secure good attendance. We recognise the importance of positive relationships in maintaining good levels of attendance and this is something that we are keen to strengthen further with you as parents/carers.

In line with the new national guidance, we have updated our Attendance Policy which will be available on our website ready for the new academic year, when it comes into effect. In advance of our updated policy being published, we want to bring to your attention the changes that will come into force (from Monday 19 August 2024 onwards) for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised term time absence as there are significant changes to the severity of these with the introduction of a 'National Framework for Penalty Notices'. Further details can be found at the end of this letter.

Goodbyes and thank you

In Education, Term 6 is a sad time of the year, as we have to say goodbye to colleagues who will be leaving us to go to new jobs, or new positions at other schools. An ex-colleague compared it to the Football transfer window. Therefore, I am sure you will want to wish the following staff good luck and all the best in their new roles.

Member of Staff	Role	Where they are going?
Mr Young	Maths maternity cover	Maths Teaching
Mr Croucher	Science teacher	Role outside of teaching
Miss Strauss	School Counsellor	Counsellor role elsewhere
Mr Johnson	PE Teacher	Promotion to Head of PE
Miss Palmer	English teacher and Deputy Head of Year 7	Role outside of teaching
Mrs Fediw	IT Technician	Retirement
Mrs Roan	Science teacher	Relocation - Science teaching
Miss Hendra	English	Complete a Masters degree
Miss Evans	Geography & Deputy SENDCo	Relocation- Geography teaching
Mrs Davies	Behaviour Support team	Retirement
Miss Masters	Head of MFL	Promotion to Assistant Headteacher
Miss John	Music Teacher	Promotion to Head of Music
Ms Humphreys	Sixth Form Administrator	Role outside of education
Mrs Payne	Exams Manager	Exploring other opportunities
Ms Kearsey-Gutkowska	Governance Professional	Starting own business
Mrs Gill	Sports Hall and Lettings Manager	Relocation

Be Kind

It was fantastic to meet our new Year 6s last week during their transition days. It was lovely to see all of our students making them feel welcome by showing them around the school, taking them to lessons and chatting to them in between lessons and in their free time. A special thank you to the Year 10 Prefects who came into school on their day off to help them settle in and start their Sheldon journey.

Be Brave

On Wednesday 17th July we took all 270+ Year 7 students for an 8.5mile walk from school to Corsham Court. The students showed great resilience completing the walk, in hot temperatures, with little or no complaining. We are hoping this becomes a new tradition within the school, as we continue to focus on outdoor education. It is exciting to announce that the school will launch a Forest School in September to form part of the school alternative provision package and enrichment. I look forward to

sharing with you more details when it is up and running. If you would like to donate equipment or sponsor this facility, we would love to hear from you. Particularly, if you have spare or unused gardening equipment.

Finally, to our sixth form explorers who are excellent role models of our value of being brave. They are undertaking an expedition to Tanzania over the summer months, before they return to school for their A Level results. I wish them good luck and safe travels, and I look forward to hearing about their trip on their return.

Be the Best you

The final week of term, has seen students from Yr7-10 receive their reward breakfast for achieving the most praise points in their year groups. I had the pleasure of serving them their squash, fruit and croissants! These students have achieved over 400+ praise points each across the year and their hard work and dedication, epitomises our value of being the best you.

Well done, to Eve, Elod, Ross and Anneka our Year 10 prefects, who were selected to be our Head students and Deputy Head students next year. They will work closely with our two new sixth form presidents Rhys and Rufus next year, leading student leadership across all year groups as part of the school student council. These two groups went through a rigorous process over a number of days to secure their new roles. I look forward to working with them and the wider student leadership team next year. Finally, congratulations to our Year 12 Chemistry students (Tilly, Michael, Josh and Lucas) for their recent success in the Cambridge University chemistry competition, where they achieved a bronze award.

Key dates

AS and A 'Level results day is on Thursday 15th August and students can pick results up from 8am and GCSE results day is on the 22nd August, and students can pick results up from 8.30am. Students can collect results from the Sixth Form building. I wish all students good luck with their results! Finally, school starts back on Wednesday the 4th September for all students 7-11 and Year 12. However, Year 12 students will start back on Thursday 5th September and should head to A9.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to seeing everyone then.

Best wishes



Peter Lynch
Headteacher

Attendance update- further details

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the below changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines that are accrued after 19th August 2024.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to the parents of statutory school age children.

Per parent, per child

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent from school without prior approval by the school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more days which have not been authorised by the school.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. First Offence	The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
Second Offence (within 3 years)	The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)	The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

These changes do emphasise the importance that the Department for Education is placing on regular school attendance, particularly in relation to term time holidays. These will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances as listed in the new guidance and referenced in our upcoming Attendance Policy.

We want our young people to be happy, safe and successful and to leave school ready for the next stage of their lives. Attendance is a crucial element to this success: to make the most of education, pupils need to be present.