



# Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 1 has been a fantastic start to the academic year here at Sheldon School, filled with exciting opportunities and engaging events for students to enjoy. The school remains committed to maintaining high standards both inside and outside the classroom, and it's encouraging to see positive progress each term.

Below are some highlights from last term. For regular updates on our students' activities and accomplishments, please follow our Facebook page. For those who prefer not to use social media, be sure to read *The Sheldon Standard*, which is published alongside this newsletter and features all of these wonderful achievements and events.

## Be Kind

### World Mental Health Day

We extend our gratitude to everyone who supported #WorldMentalHealthDay and #HelloYellow. This was a valuable opportunity to emphasise the importance of mental health for all. It was wonderful to see our younger students adorned with yellow bows and ribbons, while many Sixth Form students embraced the day in full yellow attire.

To mark the occasion, our Sixth Form Leadership Team organised a fundraising quiz, with Sixth Form students competing against Year 11s. Additionally, our younger students enjoyed a Five-a-Side football match in the Sports Hall. Donations to YoungMinds are still being accepted via ParentPay, and we will share the total amount raised later this term. All funds collected will go towards supporting YoungMinds in their mission to help young people care for their mental health.

## Prefect Base

Our new Prefect Team launched a friendship club in Term 1, known as the 'Prefect Base.' This club offers students a welcoming space to chat, play games, or simply relax during lunchtime. It is hosted by Year 11 Prefects who are available to answer questions and provide guidance to younger students. The club meets on Wednesdays during lunchtime in Room H7, and all students are warmly invited to attend.

## Be Brave

### German school visit

We had a visit from our friends at Schiller-Gymnasium in Hameln, Germany. We had a wonderful day showing off our school and sharing what life is like for British teenagers. A special thank you to our wonderful MFL department and their MFL leaders for organising the day, which included a scavenger hunt around Chippenham, a pub quiz and a party in our Diner. Our students were excellent hosts who showed off the best of our Sheldon values. I would personally like to thank UK-German Connection, for providing a grant to help fund the exchange and make these opportunities possible for our students.

### Sixth Form- mini gap trip

At the end of July, a group of Sheldon Sixth Form leavers headed to Tanzania for an unforgettable adventure/mini gap trip. Where they had the opportunity to meet the Masaai people, volunteer with a charity supporting local communities, trekked through stunning African landscapes and even got up close to the local wildlife on safari. Every year the school teams up with True Adventure to go on a mini-gap trip while waiting for A Level

results. Our new Year 12 students will learn more about their trip next term. If your child is interested in utilising this opportunity, please ask them to speak to the Head of Year.

### **Sports Ambassadors**

At the end of term our Sports Ambassadors participated in the Young Officials event at school. They had the opportunity to work with young athletes in primary schools and develop their leadership skills through being umpires, referees and playground leaders. They not only developed important leadership skills, but also gained confidence in their abilities to make decisions and be good role models to younger students. Thank you to all the sports ambassadors and PE staff who helped make this possible.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

Year 10 have embarked on the start of their journey by attending the first Year 10 Work Experience meeting in Term 1. It outlined how they organise their first experience of the world of work, which will take place during the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> June or 23<sup>rd</sup> June in Term 6. If you would like to offer a student a placement at your work place or get involved in some other way, please contact Mrs Tillotson on [ttillotson@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:ttillotson@sheldonschool.co.uk).

### **Year 7 camp**

The start of Year 7 always starts in the same way, which is a fabulous tradition at Sheldon School, where the Year 11 prefects and Sixth Form leadership team escort the new Year 7s on their Year 7 camp to Cranham Scout Centre just outside of Gloucester. It was fantastic that almost all of the students attended the two-day experience and camped overnight. The students had a fantastic time taking part in outdoor education, team building and walking activities. It was a great privilege to visit the camp, meet the students and cook on their first night. A huge thank you to the PE staff, tutors and TAs who volunteer to make this experience possible.

### **Be the Best You**

#### **Awards evening**

The last night of term one saw the school hold its annual Awards Evening to celebrate 240 student achievements from the previous year. This is the most prestigious event on the school calendar, rewarding high standards of work, commitment and citizenship. I had the privilege of hosting the evening and the event reinforces the school's core values. This year we saw the introduction of the Jessica Baker Award, named after a former Head Girl who recently passed away. This award was presented to a L Gould, a Year 7 student who exemplifies the Sheldon values to be kind, be brave and be the best you.

This year's guest speaker was Simon Benton, a former Sheldon parent and current executive at The Pokémon Company. Over the past year, Simon has closely collaborated with the Sheldon Pokémon Club. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of staying curious, asking 'why,' and working diligently. He advised students to be prepared for challenges along the way, reminding them that the journey is rarely straightforward.

#### **Year 11 Morning Intervention: English and Maths**

As part of our commitment to helping students reach their full potential, we have introduced morning intervention sessions for Year 11 students in English and Maths. These sessions offer targeted support to reinforce key concepts and build confidence as students prepare for their exams. We have prioritised students from vulnerable groups to ensure that everyone has access to the support they need.

#### **Paper society (Year 11 maths revision sessions)**

This term, we've had an impressive turnout for our after-school Paper Society (Maths revision sessions), with over 30 students attending regularly. If your child is in Year 11, encourage them to join us in the Refectory after school on Thursdays for focused practice on past papers and essential exam preparation tips. If they have any questions, please encourage them to speak with their Maths teacher for more information.

#### **Uniform**

We have seen a significant improvement in uniform standards over the past year, thanks to the collaborative efforts of parents, carers, and our school community. We sincerely appreciate your support in maintaining these standards.

As a reminder, if a student's shoes become damaged, please provide a note to explain the situation, and ensure they replace their shoes as soon as possible. We understand that temporary accommodations may be necessary, but alternative footwear, such as trainers, cannot be accepted long-term. Without a note from home, staff often need to spend additional time verifying these matters, so your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

With colder weather approaching, please remind your child that only coats are allowed as outerwear for school; hoodies and fleeces are not permitted. Students are encouraged to avoid wearing these items, and if worn on school grounds, they will be held in reception until the end of the day. Additionally, all students in Years 7–11 must wear their school jumper. They are welcome to remove it in class if they find it too warm.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a positive and professional school environment.

### **SparxReader**

As part of our continued efforts to support your child's literacy and learning development, we would like to invite you to a workshop focused on SparxReader, an innovative new tool that we will be using to enhance reading and comprehension skills in Key Stage 3 students. If you have a child in Y7, Y8 or Y9, please join us on Tuesday 19 November at 6:30pm in the School Hall for this helpful workshop before we launch it to students in early 2025. To register for the workshop, follow the link in the letter emailed via School Comms.

### **Chair of Governors role**

We have an exciting opportunity to join Sheldon School as the Chair of Governors. If you are passionate about supporting young people and would like to lead our Governing Body, we'd love to hear from you. For more information about the role, please visit our website. To apply, please send a CV and supporting letter to our HR Advisor, Sarah Hill, at [hr@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:hr@sheldonschool.co.uk).

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at the various events below.

Best wishes



Pete Lynch  
Headteacher

## Sheldon School Term Dates 2024 – 2025

<b>Academic year begins</b>	Mon 2 September 2024	<b>SDD Days School Open for staff</b>
<b>October Half term</b>	Fri 25 October 2024 – Mon 4 November 2024	Mon/Tues 2-3 Sept 2024
<b>Christmas holiday</b>	Fri 20 December 2024 (finish 12.35pm) – Tues 7 January 2025	Fri 25 Oct 2024
<b>February half term</b>	Mon 17 February 2025 – Fri 21 February 2025	Mon 4 Nov 2024
<b>Easter holiday</b>	Fri 4 April 2025 – Mon 21 April 2025	Mon/Tues 6-7 Jan 2025
<b>Half term break</b>	Mon 26 May 2025 – Fri 30 May 2025	Fri 4 Apr 2025
<b>Summer term ends</b>	Fri 18 July 2025 school finishes 12.35pm	<b>SDD DAYS School Closed</b> Mon 2 Dec 2024

<p><b>Year 9 Options Evening</b> Thurs 23 Jan 2025</p> <p><b>Open Mornings</b> 30 Jun-01 Jul 2025</p> <p><b>Year 6 Open Evening</b> Weds 2 Jul 2025</p>	<p><b>Parents' Evenings</b></p> <p><b>Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm (f2f)</b> Year 7 L side    Tues 22 Apr 2025 Year 7 R side    Thurs 01 May 2025 Year 8 L side    Tues 06 Mar 2025 Year 8 R side    Tues 11 Mar 2025 Year 9 L side    Tues 28 Jan 2025 Year 9 R side    Mon 03 Feb 2025</p> <p><b>Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f)</b> Year 10            Thurs 13 Feb 2025 Year 11            Tues 07 Jan 2025 Year 12            Thurs 19 Jun 2025 Year 13            Tues 01 Apr 2025</p> <p><b>Year 12 Parent Information Evenings</b></p> <p><b>Post-18 options</b> Tues 10 Jun 2025</p> <p><b>New Year 7 Parents' Evening</b> Thurs 10 Jul 2025 6-9pm</p>	<p><b>Year 11 &amp; 13 Mock Weeks (classrooms)</b> w/c 18 November 2024 w/c 25 November 2024 <b>(Sports Hall)</b> w/c 24 February 2025 w/c 03 March 2025</p> <p><b>Year 7, 9 &amp; 12 Assessment Weeks</b> w/c 09 December 2024 w/c 16 December 2024</p> <p><b>Year 8 &amp; 10 Assessment Weeks</b> w/c 13 January 2025 w/c 20 January 2025</p> <p><b>Year 10 &amp; 12 Mock Weeks (Sports Hall)</b> w/c 28 April 2025 w/c 05 May 2025</p> <p><b>Year 7, 8 &amp; 9 Assessment Weeks</b> w/c 16 June 2025 w/c 23 June 2025</p>	<p><b>Year 10 Work Experience Weeks</b> Week beginning 16 June 2025 Week beginning 23 June 2025</p> <p><b>Year 12 Work Experience Week</b> Week beginning 07 July 2025</p> <p><b>Christmas Concert</b> Thurs 05 Dec 2024</p> <p><b>School Production</b> 09-11 Dec 2024</p> <p><b>Summer Concert</b> Tues 15 Jul 2025</p>
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