



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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22nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a warm, short and very busy Term 5 here at Sheldon, but another absolutely fantastic one with students excelling in a number of areas inside and outside of the classroom. I love having the opportunity to talk about their successes and what has happened across the term at Sheldon. A reminder that I will cover some of these highlights from this term below, but if you want to stay up to date with students' achievements, please follow our [Facebook page](#). For those who don't use social media, you can also read the Sheldon Standard or the Sheldonian (student newspaper), which are published at the beginning of each term.

Be Kind

Mental Health Awareness Week and fundraising activities

What an incredible penultimate week it was at Sheldon as we came together to support Mental Health Awareness Week! From the Row-a-thon, bake sale, to the Mental Health Mile and Wear It Green Day, it's been inspiring to see our community unite to raise funds for local charities and promote the importance of mental wellbeing. A huge thank you to Miss Owen and our brilliant team of Wellbeing Ambassadors for organising such a thoughtful and impactful programme of events. Special thanks also to Poppy and Macey in Year 12, who delivered assemblies throughout the week to raise awareness about how young people can look after their mental health.

As I write this, I'm feeling a mix of excitement and nerves ahead of the ice bucket challenge—but most of all, I'm deeply grateful to our students and parents for their enthusiasm and generosity. Together, we've raised nearly £700, and every contribution makes a difference. If you would like to donate, please click on the link here <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sheldon-icebucket>

Be Brave

VE celebrations

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, students had lessons about this during PSRE, Year group assemblies and KS3 students had a focus on WWII in their history classes. This culminated in a student and staff gathering at the flagpole for a special ceremony to remember the fallen. A thank you to Miss Frater for organising the VE Day commemorations and to all the students that participated in the ceremony and/or for wearing their armed forces uniforms to school.

Be the Best you

Young Musician of the Year

Again, I was blown away by the extraordinary musical talent of the students here at Sheldon! A special 'Thank you' to our guest adjudicator and former Sheldon student, Jacob Byrne, for taking on the difficult task of selecting the winners and to Mrs Hall for organising the evening. Finally, well done to all who took part and congratulations to the winners. Marylou in Y9 (Lower School Winner), Emily in Y7 (Lower School Runner-Up), Anayah in Y11 (Upper School Winner), Ethan in Y11 (Upper School Runner-Up), Ralph in Y13 (Sixth Form Winner) and George in Y12 (Sixth Form Runner-Up).

Year 11 Musical success for Year 11 band Insignia

The musical success continued with Year 11 students and school prefects Elod, Arthur and Ethan, winning the Take the Stage competition in the battle of the bands contest. They battled it out in the open category and won a festival slot this summer and will perform at the Year 11 Prom. They have been a regular feature of our school concerts and assemblies and are great role models to our younger students.

Ten Tors

Compliments to all of the students that took part in the gruelling Ten Tors Challenge this year. We were well represented with two teams navigating the 35-mile route and one 45-mile team. They visited various check points on Dartmoor over the two days, which included an overnight camp. This is a huge challenge that the students have been preparing for all year. We're very proud of their hard work and commitment, a special mention to those students who missed the final cut to make the team but took part in all the training. We hope to see you in the teams next year.

Artistic Swimming success

Well done to Alysia, a Sixth Form student, who competed at the Artistic Swimming National Championships in Nottingham, where she won a gold medal with her duet partner Molly in the junior competition and bronze medal in the senior competition. The pair are now the British Junior Champions for free duet. Alysia also competed in 3 team events and went home with a silver and bronze medal.

Sheldon Dance Company success

Our Senior Dance Company did exceptionally well at the Great Big Dance Off. They placed 4th as a school out of 24 pieces and 20 schools across the region. They were amongst the highest scoring performances, gaining over 250 points. Although they narrowly missed out on going to the finals, we are still very proud of their performance.

Trampoline Achievement

Connor, a Year 8 student, had two recent successes in Double Mini Trampoline (DMT). He won joint 3rd in the DMT at the English Gymnastics Qualification event in Birmingham and gold in DMT at the British Qualifier in Telford.

Additional information- Uniform

This term saw the introduction of a detention for poor uniform which has had a big impact already. We'd like to thank all students and parents who have supported us with this change and made corrections, where they are needed. We are now seeing far fewer students in incorrect uniform and would like this to continue. As a reminder, here are some of our key rules around uniform: no trainers; no hoodies or other non-uniform jumpers; one ring; one pair of studs in the ears; clear nose studs only in the style of a traditional piercing (not through the septum); no painted or false nails; no false eyelashes; no necklaces or bracelets (unless medical). Some parents have asked does uniform matter? and why do we have a uniform policy? So here is a reminder of why we have chosen to have a policy and why it matters.

Why do we have a uniform policy?

- To create social equity/equality
- To ensure students remain safe during practical lessons
- To ensure precious/ expensive items are not lost

A uniform policy ensures all students are presented equally, regardless of their socio-economic background. By wearing the same attire, students are less likely to be singled out or targeted for bullying or name-calling

based on their clothing or accessories. When parents or students choose to wear expensive jewellery or branded trainers, it introduces a visible divide between those who can afford such items and those who cannot. This can create unnecessary pressure on families to keep up with trends, particularly during the current cost-of-living crisis. Our aim is to remove this pressure and foster a culture of inclusivity and equality.

A **second reason** for our uniform policy is student safety, especially during practical lessons. Students regularly take part in activities such as dance, drama, design technology and physical education, as well as active play during break and lunchtimes. Wearing jewellery—such as necklaces or bracelets—can increase the risk of injury if these items get caught on equipment or clothing. To reduce this risk, we ask students to keep jewellery to a minimum.

The **third reason** is loss. If a student wears something expensive or sentimental and they misplace or lose it, it is upsetting. Therefore, items like this need to be kept at home.

Year 11 and 13- Good luck and goodbye

This term we celebrated first with our Year 13 students with a fun and memorable Leavers' Day, marking their final day at Sheldon Sixth Form before their exams begin. Mr Spiers, Head of Sixth Form, praised the cohort as “an exceptional group who have shown remarkable dedication and kindness. We’ve been proud to support them and are confident they’ll achieve great things—both in their results and beyond.”

This week we said goodbye to Year 11 or class of 2025. They have been an absolute credit to the school in their time here and we will miss every one of them. We wish them all the best for the exams and the future and look forward to welcoming a record number back in September to the Sixth Form. Mrs Hall, Head of Year 11, commended the Year group for their “grit and determination they have shown across their educational lives, in dealing with Covid, isolation, online learning and reduced transition. This has only made them stronger, and I am looking forward to celebrating some fantastic results in the summer.”

Thank you again for all your support this term. We hope you have a great break, and we look forward to welcoming back our students on Monday 2nd June 2025, for term 6.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pete Lynch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Sheldon School Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Half term break	Mon 26 May 2025 – Fri 30 May 2025	
Summer term ends	Fri 18 July 2025 school finishes 12.35pm	
A Level Results Day	Thursday 14 th August 2025	
GCSE results Day	Thursday 21 st August 2025	
Term 1 2025 begins	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 (1 st & 2 nd September SDD)	
October 2025 Half Term	Thursday 23 rd October 2025 (SDD)	

Open Mornings 30 Jun-01 Jul 2025 Year 6 Open Evening Weds 2 Jul 2025	Parents' Evenings Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f) Year 12 Thurs 26 Jun 2025 Year 12 Parent Information Evenings Post-18 options Tues 10 Jun 2025 New Year 7 Parents' Evening Thurs 10 Jul 2025 6-9pm	Year 7, 8 & 9 Assessment Weeks w/c 9 June 2025 w/c 16 June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience Weeks Week beginning 16 June 2025 Week beginning 23 June 2025 Year 12 Work Experience Week Week beginning 07 July 2025 Year 11 Prom Thurs 19 June 2025 Year 13 Ball Tues 01 July 2025 Summer Concert Tues 08 July 2025 GCSE & A level Art & Photography with A level DT Exhibition Tues 08 July 2025
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