



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

18th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year at Sheldon, I'm filled with pride reflecting on what a fantastic year it has been. From the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Ball to Olympic Fun Runs, the Students vs Staff vs Parents Golf Day, Year 7 and 8 walks, Reward Trips to Longleat, and visits to France and the Lake District, there has been no shortage of memorable moments. With Sports Day rounding things off with a wonderful display of energy and team spirit- in very warm conditions.

It has been an absolute pleasure to lead the school this year and to see it go from strength to strength. One particularly proud moment for me this term was hearing our new student leadership team speak at Open Evening. Their passion for Sheldon, and their gratitude for the support they've received over the years, was incredibly moving. I'll admit, I had to compose myself each time they spoke – they truly embodied everything that is special about our school community.

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 Sheldonian (student newspaper), which is published at the beginning of each term.

Open Evening success

Our recent Open Evening was a true celebration of everything that makes Sheldon special. The site was a hive of activity, with over 1,000 visitors joining us — our highest ever attendance. All three of our main talks were fully booked, reflecting the growing interest in what we offer. This enthusiasm continued during our Open Day tours, where prospective parents had the chance to see the school in action during a typical day. These visits offered a valuable 'behind-the-scenes' glimpse of our vibrant learning community. Encouragingly, despite a local dip in student numbers, interest in Sheldon remains strong and our projected admissions look very positive moving forward.

Be Kind

Charity and community spirit continue to thrive at Sheldon, and we're incredibly proud of the efforts made by both students and staff this year. We would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's Sheldon Golf Day at Chippenham Golf Club. The annual Students vs Teachers vs Parents competition was a great afternoon of sport and generosity, helping to raise nearly £300 for the Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal. Our Student Leadership Team deserves particular recognition for their ongoing fundraising throughout the year. Their efforts have culminated in the creation of our very own Norbot, *Vincent Van Bot* – a vibrant statue inspired by a certain well-known Dutch artist, complete with a 'Starry Night' hat, 'Sunflowers' boots, and an injured ear. This creative project is part of a wider art trail raising funds for The Grand Appeal, and we'll share more details soon about where *Vincent* will be displayed. Thank you to everyone who has supported these brilliant causes – we're already excited to see what the team will take on next year!

Student and Staff survey positives

We were pleased to gather feedback from our students through our annual survey, which provided valuable insight into their day-to-day experiences at Sheldon. It's encouraging to see that 84% of students say they enjoy their lessons, reflecting the commitment of our staff to creating engaging and purposeful learning

environments. Furthermore, 82% of students believe behaviour at the school is good or better, and 80% feel that bullying is either not an issue or is dealt with effectively when it does occur. These results are a strong endorsement of the positive culture we are building together, and we will continue to work hard to improve the experience for every student.

Equally heartening was the feedback from our staff survey, which highlights a strong and supportive professional culture at Sheldon. An overwhelming 99% of staff said that behaviour in school is good or better, and 94% reported feeling very valued and listened to by the leadership team. Perhaps most affirming of all, 99% of staff said they would recommend Sheldon to friends or family. These results reflect the strong sense of community among our staff and their deep commitment to making Sheldon a place where both students and colleagues can thrive.

Be Brave

This term, it's been inspiring to see so many students embody the "Being Brave" element of our school motto by stepping out of their comfort zones and performing or competing with confidence and pride. Whether it was on stage or on the sports field, students truly rose to the occasion. Sports Day saw some outstanding achievements, including the breaking of the Year 7 girls' 100m record by over half a second, along with impressive performances in both track and field events despite the challenging heat. What stood out just as much as the athletic talent was the overwhelming support and encouragement students gave each other throughout the day. Our summer concert was another highlight, showcasing the diversity of our musical talent – with classical orchestras and modern bands sharing the stage in a vibrant and uplifting celebration of music. We have asked those who performed to take the stage in assemblies moving forward, so they can share their talents with their year group.

Be the Best you

At Sheldon, we are always looking for opportunities to celebrate students who go above and beyond in demonstrating our core values: Be Kind, Be Brave, and Be The Best You. On Monday, we were thrilled to take 62 students on a special trip to Longleat Safari Park as a reward for achieving their Gold Character Award – a recognition of their outstanding commitment to personal growth, positivity, and contribution to our school community. We hope they had a fantastic day; they thoroughly deserve it. This spirit of being the best version of yourself was also on full display at our annual Sheldon Exhibition, where the exceptional talents of our GCSE and A Level students in Art, Photography, Textiles, and Resistant Materials were showcased.

Safeguarding update

During the final week of term, we had an incident involving an unauthorised female visitor on the school site. The police were called promptly, and the individual was arrested without incident. While this was an isolated event, it serves as a timely reminder of the importance of the safeguarding measures we have already put in place, including fencing and security gates, which are vital in helping to keep our students and staff safe. Work to fully secure the site will continue over the summer and will be completed ahead of students returning in September.

Welcome to Year 6s

Last week, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students to Sheldon for two days of transition activities. They took part in a range of team-building exercises and experienced their first lessons at the school, giving them a taste of what life at Sheldon will be like. They were an absolute pleasure to have on

site – enthusiastic, polite, and full of curiosity. We are really looking forward to them joining the Sheldon family in September and beginning their journey with us.

Results Day information

A reminder that **A Level and GCSE results** will be available on the following days. A Level results will be able to be collected on **Thursday 14 August 2025** from **8:00–10:00am** in the Sixth Form Study Area, and **GCSE results** will be available on **Thursday 21 August 2025** from **8:30–10:30am**, also in the Sixth Form Study Area. After these times, results can be collected on these days from Reception until 3.00pm. If a third party is collecting results on behalf of a student, they must bring valid photographic ID.

Goodbye to the following staff

Term 6 is always a bittersweet time, as we prepare to say goodbye to members of staff who are moving on to new adventures. This year, we bid farewell to several valued colleagues, some of whom have been part of the Sheldon community for many years. We wish all the best to Miss Clancy, Miss Lolla, Mrs Wolff and Dr Aicken. We also say a fond farewell to three long-serving colleagues who are retiring: Mrs Porter, who has been with us since 2006 and has made a significant impact through her leadership of primary sports coordination; Mr Watts, who joined Sheldon in 2001 and has inspired countless students in Design Technology; and Mr Williams, who joined the school 1990 and has given an incredible 35 years of loyal service. We thank them all for their contributions and wish them every happiness in the future.

We're also delighted to share some joyful news within our staff team. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr Bowen, Miss Waller and Mr Tweedie, who are all getting married over the summer, and to Miss Chiekrie and Miss Catt, who will be starting their maternity leave. We look forward to welcoming them back in due course and hearing their exciting updates.

As we wrap up another successful year at Sheldon, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support. It makes a real difference, and we're incredibly grateful for the partnership we share in helping our students thrive. We wish you all a safe, relaxing, and fantastic summer break. Key dates and start-of-term information can be found below, but we're very much looking forward to welcoming Years 7-11 & Year 13 students back on **Wednesday 3rd September**, following two staff INSET days on the 1st and 2nd. And finally, we will welcome back Year 12 at 8.30am on Thursday 4th September.

Thank you once again for all your support – we look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Best wishes



Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Sheldon School Term Dates 2025 – 2026

Academic year begins	Mon 1 September 2025 (students return on 3 rd Sept)	SDD Days School Open for staff Mon/Tues 1-2 Sept 2025 Thurs 23 Oct 2025 Mon 5 Jan 2026 Fri 27 Mar 2026
October Half term	Thurs 23 October 2025 – Fri 31 October 2025	
Christmas holiday	Fri 19 December 2025 (finish 12.35pm) – Mon 5 January 2026	
February half term	Mon 16 February 2026 – Fri 20 February 2026	
Easter holiday	Fri 27 March 2026 – Fri 10 April 2026	
Half term break	Mon 25 May 2026 – Fri 29 May 2026	SDD DAYS School Closed Mon 1 Dec 2025
Summer term ends	Fri 17 July 2026 school finishes 12.35pm	

Reports Home schedule

	Settling Report	Interim 1 Report	Interim Plus Report
Year 7	Mon 24 November 2025		Weds 22 April 2026
Year 8		Weds 19 November 2025	Tues 21 April 2026
Year 9		Weds 17 December 2025	Weds 08 July 2026
Year 10	Mon 13 October 2025	Tues 13 January 2026	Weds 19 May 2026
Year 11		Weds 12 November 2025	Thurs 05 March 2026
Year 12	Thurs 16 October 2025	Mon 26 January 2026	Thurs 20 May 2026
Year 13		Mon 03 November 2025	Weds 04 March 2026

Year 11 Revision Evening Thurs 25 Sept 2025 Sixth Form Open Evening Thurs 16 Oct 2025 Awards Evening Weds 22 Oct 2025 Year 13 Revision Evening Weds 14 Jan 2026 Year 9 Options Evening Thurs 22 Jan 2026 Open Mornings 24-26 Sept 2025 22-23 Jun 2026 Year 6 Open Evening Weds 24 Jun 2026	Parents' Evenings Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm (f2f) Year 7 L side Thurs 14 May 2026 Year 7 R side Tues 19 May 2026 Year 8 L side Thurs 30 Apr 2026 Year 8 R side Tues 05 May 2026 Year 9 L&R side Tues 27 Jan 2026 Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f) Year 10 Thurs 11 Jun 2026 Year 11 Mon 05 Jan 2026 (3-7.30pm) Year 12 Thurs 26 Feb 2026 Year 13 Thurs 20 Nov 2025 Year 12 Parent Information Evenings Opportunities & Expectations Thurs 18 Sept 2025 Year 10 Work Experience Parent Information Evening Tues 4 Nov 2025 New Year 7 Parents' Evening Thurs 9 Jul 2026 6-9pm	Year 11 & 13 Mock Weeks (classrooms) w/c 29 September 2025 (Y13 only) w/c 06 October 2025 (Y11 only) w/c 13 October 2025 (Y11 only) (Sports Hall) w/c 26 January 2026 w/c 02 February 2026 Year 7 & 8 Assessment Weeks w/c 09 March 2026 w/c 16 March 2026 Year 9 & 10 Assessment Weeks w/c 24 November 2025 w/c 01 December 2025 w/c 08 June 2026 (Y9 only) w/c 15 June 2026 (Y9 only) Year 12 Assessment Week (classroom) w/c 15 December 2025 Year 10 & 12 Mock Weeks (Sports Hall) w/c 20 April 2026 w/c 27 April 2026	Year 10 Work Experience Weeks Week beginning 15 June 2026 Week beginning 22 June 2026 Year 12 Work Experience Week Week beginning 06 July 2026 Christmas Concert Thurs 04 Dec 2025 School Production Weds 10 & Thurs 11 Dec 2025 Year 11 Prom Weds 17 June 2026 Year 13 Ball Tues 30 June 2026 Summer Concert Tues 07 July 2026
---	---	---	--

