



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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15th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic Term 2 here at Sheldon, that has been full of the Christmas cheer, with staff and students getting into the festive spirit with the Christmas Carol Concert, Sixth Form Carols and the School Production. If you would like to see regular updates on what students are doing, please ensure you are following our [Facebook page](#) and [Sixth Form Instagram](#) but for those of you that don't access social media, please read the Sheldon Standard that comes out at the beginning of each term, as this newsletter shares all these amazing achievements and events.

Arrangements for the last day of term

As we come to the end of the term a reminder, school will finish at **12:35pm on Friday, 19th December**, for the Christmas break. Coachstyle has confirmed that they can provide transport at this earlier time. However, please note that all Faresaver buses and the Coachstyle Service 99 will operate at their usual pick-up time of 3:00pm.

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day 17th December

Wednesday 17th December is our Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day. Students are encouraged to make a £1 donation during tutor time, with all proceeds going to our chosen charity this year- Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Alternatively, you can use this link to make your donation <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sheldon2025-26>. Please note that students should wear their full Sheldon uniform, replacing only their school jumper with a Christmas jumper. Booking for the Christmas lunch is now closed. Details about the timings for the Christmas lunchtime will be shared in tutor time. Each student will have a 15-minute slot in the refectory with their year group.

Last week saw the Christmas term finishes with two showcase events: the **Christmas music concert** and the **School Production**. This year, our students shone on stage, performing Christmas songs and carols or delighting audiences with their production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. A huge thank you to the Performance and Expressive Arts Faculty for organising these incredible opportunities, encouraging our students to be brave and showcase their talents, and all the students who took part and the families who came to support. It couldn't happen without you.

Student survey summary

Each year, we gather student voice to ensure everyone has the opportunity to shape the school's vision. This term's survey received an impressive 1,250 responses, and we are pleased to report improvements in nearly all areas compared to previous surveys. Last year, movement between lessons and clarity around consequences for unkind behaviour were key concerns. The results suggest that our work on corridor behaviour, transitions, and clear communication of outcomes has had the desired impact.

This year, **two areas for development** were highlighted: the reward system and access to homework. In response, we are making milestones for rewards clearer and reviewing our homework platform over the coming months to improve the experience for students and parents and how we can remove identified barriers.

Questions	December 2025	November 2024	January 2024
I enjoy my lessons and think the teaching is good	90% agree	86% agree	55%
There is an adult I can talk to if something is worrying me	83% agree	81% agree	62%
The behaviour of other pupils in my lessons is good	85% agree	83% agree	45%
The behaviour of other pupils around the school is good	88% agree	75% agree	32%
I feel safe when I am at school	90% agree	90% agree	92%
I would recommend this school	85% agree	81% agree	73%
Sheldon School has a clear reward system in place.	82% agree		
I know what the reward is for each praise point milestone.	78% agree		
I find it easy to complete my homework.	63% agree		

Be Kind

We are proud to continue supporting local charities and giving back to our community, especially during this time of year. Our students have embraced the spirit of giving through our Reverse Advent event. Unlike a traditional advent calendar where one receives a daily treat, this initiative focuses on giving back. This year, the school collected a variety of items to donate to local food banks to support families facing financial challenges. We also made 20 hampers, which will support Sheldon Families this Christmas. A special thank you goes to Mr Wolff (Head of Year 10) and Miss Owen (Head of Year 8) for their dedication in organising this initiative.

Be Brave

Our Year 7 students braved the wind and rain to visit the German Christmas Market in Birmingham. There, they had the chance to practise their German language skills while sampling some of the amazing food on offer. The group received numerous compliments from stallholders on their excellent behaviour and conduct. Well done to all for representing the school with such pride and good manners!

Literacy Support- VIPERS

We are delighted to report on the excellent progress from our targeted Year 7 reading intervention programme. During a six-week intervention period, students attending daily small-group sessions with Mrs Punter, and Mrs Tong, Mrs Daly, and Mrs Barker our teaching assistant team, on average, students made **23.4 months of progress in reading**—a fantastic achievement for both students and staff and 10 students have now graduated from the programme- congratulations to them!

Be the best you

This term has been another fantastic season for sport at Sheldon. Our students have shown outstanding commitment and enthusiasm, and we are proud of their achievements. Seventy students competed in the Area Cross Country Championships, with more than twenty qualifying for the County Championships—a brilliant result. Our Sports Ambassadors in Years 9–13 have also been exceptional, supporting primary school events across Chippenham and demonstrating excellent leadership skills. Highlights of the term included a hockey festival with Chippenham Hockey Club and an exciting trip to Twickenham to watch England Rugby.

Our girls' teams have enjoyed an excellent term. Year 7 and 8 netball A teams remain unbeaten, with strong wins against local schools such as Abbeyfield, Corsham, and Malmesbury. Sheldon currently leads the varsity competition against Hardenhuish, and our football teams have also impressed, with the U14 and U16 sides beating Hardenhuish and preparing for their next fixtures after Christmas.

The boys have had a strong term in rugby and football. Year 8 and 9 B teams were unbeaten at the 'Rock Up and Play' events, and Year 10 reached the final of their tournament after winning all their initial games. Year 11 recorded great wins against Corsham and Kingsbury Green, while varsity matches against Hardenhuish saw victories for Years 7 and 9. In football, Year 9 progressed to the County Cup quarter-finals after beating last year's winners, and our Sixth Form team secured a fantastic win against Dauntsey's.

Looking ahead, next term we will be running clubs for badminton, girls' football and hockey, upper school netball, boys' football, and fitness for all. Thank you to all students and staff for making Term 2 such a success—bring on Term 3!

General information

Year 9 Options information Evening

Year 9 students will soon make important decisions about the subjects they wish to study in Years 10 and 11. These choices will shape the curriculum each student will follow during their next two years at Sheldon School. To support you and your child in making these decisions, we will be holding an Options Information Evening for students and parents/carers on Thursday, 22nd January, at the school. Further details will be shared at the start of Term 3.

Year 11 Parents evening Monday 5th January

This year, Year 11 parents' evening is the end of the INSET day on 5th January. This timing is intended to provide staff with additional preparation time for the meetings. If you haven't already booked an appointment, please do so via School Cloud [here](#). For login assistance, click [here](#). The evening will provide an opportunity to review your child's recent in-class mock exams, discuss access arrangements, clarify coursework deadlines, and explore how to make the most of the **Revision Olympics** resources in preparation for the formal mocks in Term 3. These mocks will take place from 26th January over two weeks and are designed to replicate the summer exams, as they will take place in the Sports hall.

Year 13 Revision and Parent Information Evening – Weds 14th January @ 6pm in the Study Room

Year 13 also have their mock exams starting 26th January and should make use of the [Revision Olympics](#) and ['5hrs in....' documents](#) in order to prepare. There is also an information evening on the above date in which we will talk about revision, supporting Year 13s over their last 6 months and post-18 plans and decision making.

Year 11 and 13 Revision Olympics

All students will be given instructions via assemblies and lessons, on how to use the revision Olympics resources, which is essentially a step-by-step approach on how and what to revise for each subject for the next 15 weeks, as students prepare for the summer exams. All resources can be found [here](#) on our website, but will also form part of students homework over the next two terms, and will appear individually each week for each subject on Epraise. This is so you can ensure that and your child knows what to do.

If you want to support your child, please ask them to complete each subject tasks each week, there are also revision timetables and advice on how to structure their revision on the website [here](#). Or if you want to find out what specification your child is completing or want to download past papers, please click [here](#).

Thank you again for all your support this term, from me and the all the staff at the school. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will see you all on Tuesday 6th January.

Best wishes
Peter 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 5 Jan 2026 Fri 27 Mar 2026 SDD DAYS School Closed Mon 20 Jul 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	
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 13 Revision Evening Weds 14 Jan 2026 Year 9 Options Evening Thurs 22 Jan 2026 Open Mornings 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 12 Parent Information Evenings Post-18 Options Tues 9 Jun 2026 New Year 7 Parents' Evening Thurs 9 Jul 2026 6-9pm	Year 11 & 13 Mock Weeks (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 08 June 2026 (Y9 only) w/c 15 June 2026 (Y9 only) 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 Year 11 Prom Weds 17 June 2026 Year 13 Ball Tues 30 June 2026 Summer Concert Tues 07 July 2026
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