

# HEAD-ITORIAL

## sQuid's In and Cash is Out

Congratulations to our Sixth Formers who have performed really well in their January module examinations. Keep up the good work!!  
Mr Seeley and Miss Young

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Sheldon's new cashless catering system will begin on June 2nd 2008. Many parents responded to our online catering survey a couple of years ago saying that they would welcome an effective cashless system. We have spent the last year working with sQuid Limited to develop our new system. Sheldon will be the first school in the country to use this new technology, which is similar to London Transport's Oyster card. The sQuid system is used for public transport in Bolton (and is to be introduced across Greater Manchester). We have secured some local authority funding to support our project.

All pupils will be issued with their personalised sQuid card during the week beginning May 19th. Pupils will be able to use the card at all catering outlets from June 2 and we plan to be cashless from June 9. Pupils will tap their card onto a small mat to pay for transactions - no swiping or PINs. Lost cards can be cancelled immediately and outstanding balances transferred to a newly-issued card. Parents will be sure that dinner money is spent at school and pupils won't have to worry about carrying cash. We should see shorter queues and more pupils will be encouraged to buy school meals. In the long run we may extend the scheme to other school transactions such as payments for trips.

sQuid is a "tap-and-go" e-money card. Parents will be able to put money on the card online or through the finance office. The cards will be loaded automatically with credits for pupils who are eligible for free meals, making this provision totally confidential. All parents will receive detailed information about the cards in early May and we will have a link from our website for charging up the cards.

The quality of food at Sheldon has been transformed in the last few years; our catering manager, Nicole Owen and her team, are doing a tremendous job producing attractive menus and options for pupils. In the summer a big new catering outlet will be built as part of the sixth form development, it will have a servery opening on to the new canopied piazza.

I am sure that parents will welcome this exciting development and I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to try it out.

Gerard MacMahon  
Headteacher

### YEAR 7 SCIENCE DAY

Year 7 pupils have taken part in their science days recently where they spent a whole day doing a variety of science experiments. During the day they took part in two competitions - one to see who could build the strongest car park out of straws, paper, sellotape and paper clips, and the other was to produce a viscosity timer. Pupils had to produce a timer which would measure exactly 5, 10 and 20 seconds. The highlight of the day for many was the science show where pupils saw custard powder explode, rockets made out of film canisters and much more. They then had opportunity to make flubber, paper bangers and screaming straws. It was an excellent day which was enjoyed by both pupils and staff.

### SIXTH FORM DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

AS and A2 Drama practical examinations will be taking place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 April, starting at 6 pm in the Drama Studio. Admission will be £3 for adults and £2 for students and concessions. Programmes for both evenings are as follows:

#### Tuesday 1 April

- ◆ Year 12 will perform edited versions of two Dario Fo plays - "The Virtuous Burglar" and "One was Nude and One wore Tails".
- ◆ Year 13 will perform their own interpretations of extracts from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" by Edward Albee, and "Top Girls" by Caryl Churchill.

#### Wednesday 2 April

- ◆ Year 12 will perform "Grimm Tales" based on the Grimm fairytales by Carol Ann Duffy, and Year 13 will give two versions of "The Birthday Party" by Harold Pinter.

Both evenings will provide an opportunity to see high quality drama by our Year 12 and 13 students. Year 10 and 11 Drama students would benefit from seeing these productions, especially those students considering taking Drama at AS level.

### Rotary 'Young Chef' Competition

Following the success at last summer's local round of this competition, held annually between Sheldon, Hardenhuish and Abbeyfield, Sheldon's very own Master Chef, Karl Finch of 11ASR, set off for the District Finals. Karl arrived in Wincanton in plenty of time and then set about preparing, cooking and serving a three course meal in two hours, alongside nineteen other young chefs!

Although Karl did not win he produced food to an excellent standard, and he should be very proud of his achievements. His work was highly commended by our local Rotarian, Graham Baskerville.

Well done Karl!

On Mothers' Day the Chippenham Under 14s rugby team beat Corsham to win the Wiltshire Cup. There are a number of Sheldon boys on the team and this is a real achievement for them as they haven't beaten Corsham in many years. They will now play a team from Dorset sometime in April. We wish them every success!

Get your Standard by e mail. Contact Carolyn Wakefield at sheldonstandard@gmail.com and a copy will be sent to you each time the Standard is issued. Items for possible inclusion should be sent to c.wakefield@sheldonschool.co.uk

# Sheldon Standard

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## YOUTH SPEAKS!

During January, February and March the Intermediate and Senior Public Speaking teams took part in the Rotary International Youth Speaks competition.

The Intermediate teams from Year 8 were Nicole Jacomb, Melissa Jones, Ella Ratcliff, Laura Nelson, Hannah Magor, Jacob Box, Rhys Brown, Verity Ferris and Rebecca Stimson. They all spoke very well in the initial heats, and Rhys, Verity and Rebecca won their way into the district semi-finals, where they were a credit to themselves and to the school. The Senior team comprising Daisy Payne, Emily Patterson and Xioaxuan Liu, were also in fine form. They won their way through the heats and semi-finals, and did extremely well to come second in the district final. They so impressed the judges that they were later invited to talk at a Rotary Club lunch - needless to say they performed superbly!

Speaking in public is not a skill with which we are born. All these speakers have worked hard and improved their individual abilities enormously. They are to be congratulated on their excellent performances!

Mr M Perry

## National Science and Engineering Week

Science and Engineering is all about questions - questions and problems result in someone trying to solve them through research and investigation. Do you have a big question? Why not e mail it to [shelnet@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:shelnet@sheldonschool.co.uk)? The best question will receive a prize! Some questions so far .....

- Why is the Earth round?
- If I went into a Black Hole, where would I go?
- How do migrating animals know which way to go?
- What's at the end of the Universe?
- Do animals problem solve?
- Why do I have dreams?
- Why are some metals reactive and others not?

## Arrival times at School

There are some pupils arriving at school very early in the morning. Normally, pupils should not arrive before 8 am.

If your child needs to be in school before 8 am they should either go to the dining hall or remain outside until 8 am. The reason for this is that there are not always enough adults to supervise pupils before 8 am. However, pupils may arrive from 8 am, especially if they wish to have breakfast or order an "In the Bag" meal.

Pupils who walk or cycle to school are expected to arrive between 8.15 and 8.30 am. This is when staff supervision starts at the entrance areas.

## Young Prepare!



The Music Department have now held their auditions for the Young Musician Competition, and were very impressed with all the pupils - over 60 altogether! - who auditioned. It was very difficult to pick the finalists, but the following pupils need to be congratulated on making it through: Joanna Ranger, Hannah Crocker, Charlotte Scoynes, Peter Hanks, David Knight, Isaac Hiorns, Callum Henry and Mary Barnes in the Lower School section, and Jacob Byrne, Leanne Scoynes, Ruth Knight, Dominique Orlans, Fiona Cursiter, Sam Ranger and James Parsons in the Upper School section. The competition promises to be a close one! In addition to the solo performances, Sheldon's groups will also be performing, and will be providing an exciting and varied programme. The concert takes place on **Tuesday 25 March at 7pm** in the Hall, and tickets are on sale from the Finance Office at a cost of £3 and £5. Come and support the performers - we would love to see you there!

## FAMILY SCIENCE CLUB

The termly Family Science Evening where 6 families came in to have a go at some science experiments. The topic for the evening was chemical reactions and how we can recognise them. This gave everyone the chance to see lots of different reactions which fizzed, bubbled and changed colour! The highlight of the evening was the Thermite reaction which is a very violent displacement reaction which left behind a red hot piece of iron.



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