

# Sheldon Standard

Issue 222 Friday 25 September 2009



## TANZANIA 2009

At the end of the last summer term I set off for Tanzania, Africa with fifteen Year 13 students, Miss McCarthy and Miss North. We flew from Heathrow to Nairobi, and then continued travelling to Moshi where we began our adventure. We spent a month travelling, working and having fun all over Tanzania. Our most important job was to assist in the building of new classrooms at Mbokomu Primary School. Helped by local builders we attempted bricklaying, cement mixing and

landscaping, some of us more successfully than others! On our travels we visited more Primary schools where we were given the opportunity to teach classes English, serve lunch and play netball against the school's best team. Our trip also included a 5 day expedition to the summit of Mt. Meru, safari drives to see elephants, lions and cheetahs and the chance to snorkel in the Indian Ocean. A personal highlight was meeting the Masai tribe and performing our medley of 'In the Jungle' and 'Hakuna Matata' for them, there's no doubt that they were very impressed!

The whole group returned to the UK exhausted but happy. All the students and staff agree this was a life changing experience which none of us will ever forget.

Miss Hannah Went

### Language College News



We currently have over 30 Year 13 students who are fund raising for their own expedition to Tanzania in July 2010. What this space for fundraising events.

#### Year 7 Spanish Club

Year 7 Spanish Club will be starting on Wednesday 3 November. All Year 7 pupils interested in learning some Spanish through fun activities are very welcome. Sessions will run from 3.15 to 4.00 - further details will be given in their Modern Languages lessons over the next 2 weeks.

#### Year 9 Beginners' Spanish

These classes will be on Wednesdays from 3 November from 3.15 to 4.00 and are designed to give Year 9 pupils a basic knowledge of Spanish which will be useful for holidays and which will also form a basis for further study at Key Stage 4. More information will be given out in their French/German lessons.

### European Day of Languages

Sheldon will be celebrating this day on Monday 28 September. The Modern Languages Faculty will be selling typical French and German snacks in L2 at 12.20 - and pupils will have extra opportunities to put their languages into practice in class.



### More Music examination results

Lara Sheate Grade 2 Piano with Merit  
Saffie Hurley - Grade 5 Piano with Merit  
Lucy Haesloop - Grade 1 Piano with Distinction  
Susanna Jones - Grade 3 Electronic Piano with Merit

Rhianna Holtom - Grade 1 Electronic Keyboard  
Sophie Crawford - Grade 2 Piano with Merit

Congratulations to you all!

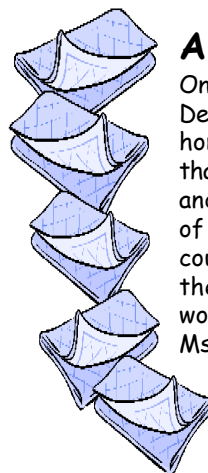
### Key Stage Three Drama Club

Drama club is open to anyone in Years 7, 8 or 9 and runs on a Tuesday afternoon from 3:15 to 4:15 in A10. New members always welcome.

### A PLEA FOR BLANKETS!

Once a month, Ms Eleanor Besley in our PSRE Department, helps arrange a soup run for the homeless in Bristol. They are very aware that the weather is fast becoming much colder and would be very grateful of any donations of unwanted, clean blankets. If you feel you could help by donating any relevant items, these should be left at reception. If you would like more information please contact Ms Besley via the school.

Many thanks in anticipation of your kind support.



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# HEAD-ITORIAL



## To build or to cut?

It has been a busy fortnight at Sheldon. The open evening for prospective parents last week attracted large numbers, most of whom were concerned about their chances of getting at place for their child in year 7 next year. We now have every year group in the school full and the sixth form has reached 400. I do not expect to see much additional growth, so our period of expansion is drawing to a close. In most areas our accommodation is very good, but we are short of high-quality lunchtime space. With that in mind we are developing plans for a new refectory and already we have secured a large grant from the School Food Trust to partially finance a building project.

Last week I met with DK architects, who designed the sixth form centre. They are developing initial designs for a large refectory and a new school foyer, which will link with the existing hall foyer. It is a very exciting development which could transform our non-teaching facilities for the better. We discussed a few other ideas with architects, including a new medical space for our school matron and the possibility of adding a staircase in the languages faculty to improve the movement to and from lessons.

Financially, it is a challenging time for schools: we are forbidden from carrying forward large surplus balances, but we know that education spending is likely to be squeezed over the next three years. On balance, I think it is right for us to continue to make ambitious capital plans knowing that our healthy pupil numbers should cushion us from the impact of the cuts to come.

**Gerard MacMahon**  
Headteacher

### A WORTHY WINNER!

Laura Bailey of 8EJB, entered a Young Times (part of The Times newspaper) challenge to design an invention for a summer holiday in Britain. Hundreds took part but Laura won with her idea of a swimming pool that turns into a gazebo! Laura's prize is a family ticket to the Wallace and Gromit World of Cracking Ideas Exhibition at the Science Museum in London, which runs until 1 November. The judges praised Laura's simple, fun and innovative idea that was perfect for the unpredictable British weather!

Congratulations Laura!

### CHARITY RUGBY MATCH

in aid of

the Jay Ryles-Jenkins Fund  
Sheldon vs Hardenhuish

Friday 23 October  
7 pm kick off

Chippenham Rugby Club

Voluntary contribution of £2 per entry

Meal Deal - £5 for a Chilli and a pint (other food also available)  
For every drink bought, the club will donate £1 to the fund!

If you are able, please go along and support this very good cause.

### A LEVEL HISTORIANS

21 Year 12 A-Level historians have completed their induction at the History Centre and will be volunteering every week over the next year. They will be fully trained in using the archive including digitalising manuscripts, writing thumb nail histories to appear on the official web site, cataloguing resources and researching materials for primary school local history lessons. They will have the opportunity to be certificated under the millennium volunteers scheme. Thank you to the volunteers who will be making Wiltshire's local history accessible to everyone online.

### SNAKES ALIVE!



Do you keep snakes etc? Would you like to but don't have the necessary equipment? The DT department have a vivarium available (at no cost) - 2' wide x 2' deep x 2' high complete with sliding glass doors and ventilation at rear. If you are interested please see the DT Technicians.

James Green in Year 10, competes regularly for Marlborough Junior Athletic Club U15 boys. His team won the Wessex league and James was recently awarded U15 Boys Athlete of the Year for his contribution and his results, especially in the 800m and relay.

Congratulations James!

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