



# Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you are all well and looking forward to the Christmas break. We wanted to write to you before the end of the year to highlight some of the great work that has been undertaken in school this term, as well as some forthcoming developments and important information.

We started the year with a Freshers Fair. This was organised entirely by Year 13 students in order to promote engagement with our huge range of enrichment activities. Year 12 learned all about options as diverse as British Sign Language, Ten Tors, Core Maths and volunteering in the local community and I am very pleased that so many are signed up and nearly all are contributing something to the wider community for at least one lesson per week via Project 5000. Another great addition this year was the charity football match (with live music and cake stalls) against Hardenhuish. It was entirely student-led and raised over £400 for Cancer Research UK. We also won and there were no injuries so it was a huge success! Our charity fund-raising continued when we raised money for Young Minds (Mental Health Awareness Week) and later in the term Children in Need and Sense UK. We came together as a community to host a number of successful cake sales and quizzes and also a 'Sponge the Teacher' event. These events raised over £500 between them.

Last week Year 12 beat Year 13 in the first Varsity competition of the year including a nail-biting win on penalties in the football. There will be a chance for Year 12 to win the best of 3 series in early in 2024.

Thank you and well done to all those who have participated in the recent Christmas Concert and school production.

Please take the opportunity over the holidays to discuss how any enrichment activities are going. This could include volunteering in the local community, volunteering/mentoring in school (Project 5000), the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Core Maths, The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award or Sign Language.

There is a key dates document on the website and we continue to share Weekly Notes there too, but we wanted to highlight a couple of important events coming up soon and give you a 'heads-up' up about some dates a bit further away that may need some planning or thought.

Year 12 will have an interim report coming home towards the end of January and looking ahead will have internal assessments in the week beginning **May 6<sup>th</sup> 2024**. All of Year 12 are expected to be out on work experience in the week beginning **July 8<sup>th</sup> 2024** and should be thinking about where to go and starting to contact prospective placements in the new year.

We also need to share with you a key change that will take place from when we return in January 2024. It has been our default position since we returned to school after the pandemic to expect students to be in school for most of their study time. Students have been able to earn home study as they progress but most students have been expected to be in school for most of their study time. After consulting with staff, students and some parents we have decided to change our approach to study time. All the details can be found in the attached document but the key points are as follows:

- Lesson attendance is essential for success and will continue to be monitored rigorously
- Independent study is also essential for success and it is recommended that for every hour of lesson time students should be spending an equivalent amount of time studying independently. So, between 3-5 hours per subject, per week
- Spending study time in school is still highly encouraged but from January 2024, students will be able to spend their study time at home OR in school
- Students who do not meet the expectations detailed on the attached document (and shared via assembly this week) will lose this privilege

Wherever possible appointments, driving lessons etc should be made outside of the school day. When this isn't possible, they should be made in study time. Known appointments, absences etc should be communicated in advance via email from a parent to [sixthform@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@sheldonschool.co.uk). Unplanned absences / illness should continue to be reported via 01249 766020 option 2.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for an extremely successful term with the majority of students focused on learning and being their absolute best selves every single day.

We wish you all a very peaceful festive season.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Eugene Spiers  
Head of Sixth Form / Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Rhian Brunt  
Head of Year 12