



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

28th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another extremely busy and productive term here at Sheldon School with so many events and achievements to be proud of. If you would like to see regular updates on what students are doing, please ensure you are following our [Facebook page](#). But for those of you that don't access social media, please read the Sheldon Standard that comes out at the same time as this newsletter shares all these amazing achievements and events.

Term 4 has been a fantastic action-packed term, where the days have got longer, and the flowers, like our students, have started to blossom. We've enjoyed fancy dress fun for World Book Day and outdoor adventures on the Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors practice events. Lots of opportunities for students to be Brave, by supporting the multiple primary school events as Sports Ambassadors and taking part in the Step into it Dance showcase. We've celebrated National Women's Day, National Careers Week, Ramadan, Technognition Day and World Thinking Day. We have loved welcoming various guests to the school, such as the Army Cadets, Chippenham Local Youth Network and Stagecoach Performing Arts club. Finally, we have also enjoyed success through the UK Maths Challenge, Flying Start Challenge, National cross-country championships and lots of other sporting fixtures and achievements in between.

Charity - Be Kind

This term the school has been raising money towards Red Nose Day, with Years 7-11 raising money through various cake sales and the Sixth Form hosting a student vs teacher quiz show. In total we have raised £1,278.37. This term has also seen us start working in partnership with our Catering contractors (Innovate) and an organisation called OLIO. Through this, surplus food that would otherwise go to waste is collected from school and shared with those in need in our local community.

Attendance - Be Brave

School attendance continues to be a national topic, with the [government introducing new fines](#) for parents who are taking holidays in term time. Good attendance is classified by students having above 96% attendance across a year, which equates to about 8 days off per year. Academic success and mental health are closely linked to attendance, the more often students are in school, the better their mental health is and the better their achievement is. National attendance data suggests that students with attendance below 90% are less likely to achieve good GCSE qualifications. If you are unsure about sending your child into school, please check out the latest advice from the NHS [here](#). But ensuring that your child attends regularly is important. Students whose attendance falls below 95% will be contacted by their tutor or head of year in line with the school attendance procedure.

Preparation for the summer exams - Be the Best you

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now on to their fifth week of structured revision to help support them in their studies and preparation for the summer examinations. All resources and revision materials have been

emailed home to students and parents, however they can also be found [here](#) on our website for Year 11. Year 11 students can also access lunchtime and after school revision sessions and details of these can be found [here](#).

Year 10 Assessments

We are reintroducing formal Year 10 Assessments this year and students will get an experience of completing these in the core subjects of English, maths and science. These will take place in the sports hall under exam conditions. This will be the first experience that most of our Y10 students will have of sitting assessments under formal exam conditions, as their SATs were cancelled in Year 6. We are currently working through access arrangements for Year 10 students and are working with subject teachers and parents to ensure that we get this right. If your child is entitled to extra time, a reader etc because of their SEN need, you will be contacted by the SEN team. Below are the dates and times of these exams:

- **Tues 8th May** - 0840 English Literature (1h 30m)
- **Wed 9th May** - 0840 Mathematics - Calculator (1h 15m)
- **Thu 10th May** - 0840 Science - Separate Scientists sit one paper, Trilogy another (all 1h 15m)

Students will also be sitting formal assessments for their other subjects, but these will take place in classrooms during the second half of term 5 and into term 6. More details of these will be given closer to the time via Epraise. We have asked subject teachers to provide students with a list of topics that are being assessed and provide revision resources and activities for homework in the build-up to these assessments. We hope this will reduce students stress levels and ensure that they are revising the right information and in the correct way.

Parent survey - homework update

A huge thank you to those parents who completed the homework survey across this term. It is an important part of the consultation process to see if the changes we have made have been effective. As a parent of a teenage son myself, I know the battle it can be with getting them to do homework each night. So, thank you for your support in getting them to do this. We feel homework is an important part of the preparation process to foster positive independent study skills, which are needed for external examinations and jobs success in the future. Below is a small summary. Around 70% of parents agreed, that as we have moved to an online homework platform, that planners might not be needed moving forward. 93%+ of parents agreed that Epraise is an easy to navigate platform for themselves and their children, and the structure makes it clear when homework is due in. However, the school needs to do more work on ensuring that staff are marking homework as completed or not, as this can sometimes be unclear. This is something that we are already working on. 96% of you agree that the new system now means that homework is set more regularly and 97% state that homework is set in line with the published timetable, which makes things easy for you as parents to track. The school will continue to look at how to improve our homework offer and the feedback from the survey suggests that online platforms such as SPARX and Kerboodle are effective. This is due to the personalised feedback they give to students and that they can offer additional support or guidance through tutorial videos. In the coming weeks we will update our FAQ document to address points raised in the most recent survey. The FAQ document can be found [here](#).

Ofsted update

We were inspected by an Ofsted team on 12th and 13th March this term. This inspection was expected following our last inspection in December 2023. The report and experience was a very positive one for the school and

community and I am excited to be able to share the report with you hopefully during Term 5. Unfortunately, we cannot share the grade with you at this time, as the inspection undergoes a 30 day moderation process before it is released. Again, this is the normal procedure.

Term 5 extra-curricular clubs

A full list of clubs can be found [here](#) on our website, with further details available on epraise and also on posters located around school. A reminder that Yr7-9 students are encouraged to attend at least one club per term.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Lynch', written in a cursive style.

Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Key Dates document

Easter holiday	Fri 29 March 2024 – Fri 12 April 2024	SDD DAYS School Closed Mon/Tues 22-23 July
Half term break	Mon 27 May 2024 – Fri 31 May 2024	
Summer term ends	Fri 19 July school finishes 12.30pm	

<p>Open Mornings 24-25 Jun 2024</p>	<p>Parents' Evenings</p> <p>Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm all f2f</p> <p>Year 7 L side Tues 23 Apr 2024 Year 7 R side Thurs 02 May 2024 Year 8 L side Thurs 09 May 2024 Year 8 R side Mon 13 May 2024</p> <p>Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f)</p> <p>Years 10-13 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm (virtual)</p> <p>Year 12 Thurs 18 April 2024 (f2f) Year 13 Weds 27 Mar 2024 (f2f)</p>	<p>Year 6 Open Evening Weds 26 Jun 2023</p> <p>Year 9 Options Evening Thurs 1 Feb 2024</p>
--	---	--

<p>Year 10 Work Experience Weeks Fortnight beginning 03 June 2024</p> <p>Year 12 Work Experience Week W/c 8th July 2024 (tbc)</p>	<p>Year 10 Internal Assessment Exam week 8-10 May 2024</p> <p>Year 12 Exam week W/c 6th May 2024</p>
--	---