21st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank the students and parents for making me feel really welcome at Sheldon in my first few weeks. They really have embraced our new values of **being kind, being brave** and **being the best you**. It has been fantastic meeting over 150+ of you during my Q and A sessions on the last few Tuesdays. The last one of these is next week on 26th September at 3.15pm and 5.15pm. Please come along for if you would like to hear about the vision for the school and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Positive starts

Year 7 and 12 groups have made a fantastic start to their journey at Sheldon, and have made such positive impressions with their teachers. Year 7 have received over 4500+ praise points in less than two weeks, with 7BHD getting over 600+ praise points already. They have also enjoyed a very wet and windy time on camp this week. I had the privilege of cooking them their dinner on the BBQ on Wednesday, whilst dodging the rain showers. This positive start has been mirrored in the other Year groups, with Year 8 (4100+), Year 9 (3300+), Year 10 (3800+) and Year 11 (3000+) getting an increase in praise points. This really does show that the students are **being the best** versions of themselves.

As we are a few weeks into the term, I thought I would update you on our priorities for this term. The consistency of application for the uniform has seen a huge improvement from day one, and staff are now focusing on praising the students for how smart they are looking. This has now meant staff can concentrate more on their teaching. We have also relaxed some rules around students wearing their PE kit home at the end of the day, so students can now maximise their time participating in PE lessons. It also means that students can get on their buses on time! Also, we are allowing students to wear clear nose stud retainers.

In terms of behaviour, students are now really clear on our new expectations and disruption to lesson has significantly reduced in a very short space of time. This has been commented on by staff, students and parents alike. So please pass this on to your child. As we embed our new procedures, we continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these systems. We know that some students occasionally get it wrong and need support from our Behaviour Support team in the Reset room, and this has worked well so far. A reminder that students who are using the Reset room multiple times during the day risk further sanctions, meaning that they would miss out on valuable learning time.

Please find included with this letter, for your information, a list of key dates for this year. I would like to thank you for your continued support and for the positive feedback we have received.

Your faithfully,

Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Key Dates document

Sheldon School Term dates 2023 - 2024

Academic year begins	Monday 4 September 2023	**SDD DAYS** School Closed	
October Half term	Mon 23 October 2023 – Fri 27 October 2023	Mon 27 Nov 2023	
Christmas holiday	Fri 15 December 2023 (finish 12.30pm) Tues 2nd Jan 2024	Mon/Tues 22-23 July	
February half term	Mon 12 Feb 2024 – Fri 16 Feb 2024	**SDD Days** School Open for staff	
Easter holiday	Fri 29 March 2024 – Fri 12 April 2024	Tues/Wed 2-3 Jan 2024	
Half term break	Mon 27 May 2024 – Fri 31 May 2024	Mon/Tues 4-5 Sept 2024	
Summer term ends	Fri 19 July school finishes 12.30pm		

Awards Evening	**Parents' Evenings**	**Parent Information Evenings**
12 Oct 2023	**Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm all f2f**	Year 12 Weds 20th Sept
	Year 7 L side Tues 23 Apr 2024	Year 10 Thurs 02 Nov 2023
Open Mornings	Year 7 R side Thurs 02 May 2024	Year 7 Tues 07 Nov 2023
25-27 Sept 2023	Year 8 L side Thurs 09 May 2024	Year 11 Thurs 23 Nov 2023
24-25 Jun 2024	Year 8 R side Mon 13 May 2024	Year 13 Thurs 18th Jan (tbc)
	Year 9 L side Weds 21 Feb 2024	Year8/9 Thurs 25 Jan 2024
	Year 9 R side Mon 26 Feb 2024	All Years Tues 26 March 2024
		Year 7/8 Tues 30 April 2024
	Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f)	Year 12 Tues 18th June (tbc)
	Years 10-13 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm (virtual)	Year 9/10 Tues 25 June 2024
	Year 10 Tues 16 Jan 2024 (virtual)	
	Year 11 Thurs 07 Dec 2023 (virtual)	**Meet the Tutor evening (4:00pm-6:30pm)**
	Year 11 Tues 19 March 2024 (f2f)	Wed 27 Sept 2023 (f2f)
	Year 12 Thurs 18 April 2024 (f2f)	
	Year 13 Tues 21 Nov 2023 (virtual)	**Year 6 Open Evening**
	Year 13 Weds 27 Mar 2024 (f2f)	Weds 26 Jun 2023
		Year 11 Options Evening
		Thurs 9th November
		Year 9 Options Evening
		Thurs 1 Feb 2024

Children's Mental Health week	**Year 11 mock weeks**
W/C 05 February 2024	W/C 15 January 2024
Year 10 Work Experience Weeks	**Year 13 mock weeks**
Fortnight beginning 03 June 2024	W/C 29 January 2024
Year 12 Work Experience Week	**Year 10 Exam week**
W/C 8th July 2024 (tbc)	tbc
	Year 12 Exam week
	W/C 6th May 2024