



15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic Term 2 at Sheldon School with so many amazing events and activities, from sponge the teacher (including myself) for Children in Need, Reverse Advent, Hot Chocolate and Cookie celebration, Christmas Carol concert, A Christmas Carol production, sporting fixtures, Sixth Form varsity and the Year 7 Christmas market trip to name just a few. I am thoroughly proud to be leading this school and I am realising what a special place it is to work.

This week marked my 100<sup>th</sup> day as Headteacher and therefore I thought it would be good to reflect on the things that we have achieved in that time and what we are looking to do in terms 3 and 4 to continue to make the school the best it can be.

## Term 1 and 2 review

- In September we introduced the new school values Be kind, Be brave and Be the Best you, so that we can talk to students about their behaviours and actions.
- We started to work with Representation Matters on creating a school that is fully inclusive and celebrates difference.
- We introduced a new teaching and learning framework, utilising 'Teach Like a Champion' strategies, focusing on the start of lessons and students recall of previous knowledge.
- We introduced a new behaviour approach to combat low level disruption in lessons and to simplify the system to make it easy to follow and understand. This involved the introduction of a reset and reflection room for students, so we can support students more carefully with Special Educational Needs.
- We have installed new equipment for break and lunchtime for students to play with, and have opened up the sports hall to all students at lunchtime to use for sport. We have also opened classrooms for students to sit in, so they can sit out of the cold and wet.
- We have created a designated lunch and breaktime spaces for each year group to use, so they have space and equipment to play with their friends.
- We have started a new homework timetable and approach to the setting of it, to ensure that we have consistency across the year group and school. This has seen a huge increase in the number of pieces of homework set, but also the engagement levels of students have been awesome. With some year groups getting a 100% completion rate.
- We reward students who complete their homework on time and to an acceptable standard.
- We introduced a structured revision plan "Revision Olympics" to prepare Year 11 students for their mock exams.
- We have written a clear communication policy to help parents contact the school and show how to escalate issues or concerns- this can be found [here](#) on our website.
- We have increased social media presence to share good news stories about students learning and activities.
- We have introduced a new rewards system to celebrate students' achievements for doing the right thing and attending school.

### **Term 3 and 4**

- Introduce explicit teaching of key vocabulary in lessons to support SEN and disadvantaged students.
- Develop an online curriculum for students to follow when they are absent.
- Refine the feedback policy for each department to ensure that students are receiving regular purposeful feedback.
- Simplify the extra-curricular offer, so that students and parents know when each club is running.
- Continue to refine and improve the homework provision for students.
- Rewrite the school anti-bullying policy to reflect our behaviour policy and applying for the Princess Diana anti bullying award to improve practice across the school and make dealing with bullying incidences more effective.

I hope this gives you a flavour of the work we have been doing and intend to do moving forward.

This term has seen our school values being displayed regularly by all students; some explicit examples are below.

#### **Be Kind**

Every year Miss Owen and Mr Wolff organise our Reverse Advent event. This is the opposite of a normal advent calendar. So, rather than receiving something every day, such as a chocolate, the focus is on giving. This year, school collected a range of items to donate to local food banks and then gave parcels to families who were struggling financially. Sheldon school is a community, where we look out for each other and this event typifies that. A massive thank you to all of those parents and students who donated items or helped deliver parcels.

We raised a fantastic £1789.13 for Children in Need with a brilliant cake sale, sporting events and sponge the teacher. A huge thank you also to those students who raised money for Shelter by wearing a Christmas jumper on Wednesday this week, it certainly made the school feel very festive.

#### **Be Brave**

This term we held an Equality and Diversity workshop for parents to ask how we can work together to make all students feel welcome at Sheldon. It was a successful evening and we will continue to work with those who attended to shape our whole school approach. It has been a fantastic end to the term with the Christmas Carol concert and the production of A Christmas Carol. Both productions were of an amazing high quality and hundreds of students had the opportunity to Be Brave and perform on the stage in front of an audience. So, well done for all those involved and thank you to the family and friends who supported them by attending.

#### **Be the best you**

It was fantastic to see 237 students recognised for receiving 100 Praise points and less than 10 Demerits this term. They were treated to a hot chocolate and cookies, as a reward; these students also had over 96% attendance. We will continue to reward students in this way each term moving forward, as it promotes our three values and the importance of attending school every day.

Finally, it was great seeing so many Year 11 parents attending the Year 11 information evening and talk through the [structured revision plan](#) that students will be following in the build up to their mock exams in the new year. It has been fantastic seeing so many students continuing to work in school at the end of the day and creating revision buddy groups. We hope they continue to work hard over the festive period, but take some time for rest and relaxation.

Thank you again for all your support this term, from me and the all the staff at the school. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we will see you all on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Best wishes



Pete Lynch  
Headteacher

### Key Dates document

<b>Term 3 begins for pupils</b>	Thursday 4 January 2024	<b>SDD Days School Open for staff</b>
<b>February half term</b>	Mon 12 Feb 2024 – Fri 16 Feb 2024	Tues/Wed 2-3 Jan 2024
<b>Easter holiday</b>	Fri 29 March 2024 – Fri 12 April 2024	<b>SDD DAYS School Closed</b>
<b>Half term break</b>	Mon 27 May 2024 – Fri 31 May 2024	Mon/Tues 22-23 July
<b>Summer term ends</b>	Fri 19 July school finishes 12.30pm	

<b>Open Mornings</b> 24-25 Jun 2024	<b>Parents' Evenings</b> <b>Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm all f2f</b> 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 Year 9 L side Weds 21 Feb 2024 Year 9 R side Mon 26 Feb 2024  <b>Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f)</b> <b>Years 10-13 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm (virtual)</b> Year 10 Tues 16 Jan 2024 (virtual) Year 11 Tues 19 March 2024 (f2f) Year 12 Thurs 18 April 2024 (f2f) Year 13 Weds 27 Mar 2024 (f2f)	<b>Parent Information Evenings</b> <b>Year 13</b> Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan (tbc) Year 8/9 Thurs 25 Jan 2024 All Years Tues 26 March 2024 Year 7/8 Tues 30 April 2024 <b>Year 12</b> Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> June (tbc) Year 9/10 Tues 25 June 2024  <b>Year 6 Open Evening</b> Weds 26 Jun 2023  <b>Year 9 Options Evening</b> Thurs 1 Feb 2024
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<b>Children's Mental Health week</b> W/C 05 February 2024 <b>Year 10 Work Experience Weeks</b> Fortnight beginning 03 June 2024 <b>Year 12 Work Experience Week</b> W/C 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 (tbc)	<b>Year 11 mock weeks</b> W/C 15 January 2024 <b>Year 13 mock weeks</b> W/C 29 January 2024 <b>Year 10 Exam week</b> tbc <b>Year 12 Exam week</b> W/C 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
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