



# 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

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic first term at Sheldon School with so many wonderful achievements and events taking place. I would like to thank all students and parents for making me feel so welcome, and for the supportive emails and letters that I have received. I hope your child has enjoyed the changes we have put in place and they have felt the positivity around the school.

In September we launched our new values of '**Be Kind, Be Brave and Be the Best you**' and it has been great to see these be adopted around school in such a short period of time. The termly update from me will focus on these 3 areas:

## **Be Kind**

This term has seen the school start work with Representation Matters, with the aim to ensure all students feel they belong at Sheldon School. The school is currently carrying out an audit with the company to look where the school currently is and what it needs to do to improve. We are in the process of updating our behaviour policy and dress code and we are going to adopt **The HALO code**. This is a campaign, signed by schools that promises members of the Black community that they have the "freedom and security to wear all afro hairstyles without restriction or judgement". The school will implement these changes in their new uniform policy moving forward.

This term we have launched our new multi faith prayer room, which can be used by students of all faiths to celebrate their religious beliefs and festivals. The room Vi7 in the Sixth Form, is available each day during lunchtime and after school.

## **Be Brave**

**Bullying**- we know that some students experience bullying at school and will need to be courageous and brave informing an adult to stop it from happening. Next term we are updating our antibullying policy, so we ensure that the school's processes around bullying are robust. Therefore, we would like to work with parents and students (ex and current) to form a group to look at how we can make the school safer for everyone. If you are interested, please complete the link [here](#) and we will get in touch.

## **Be the best you**

This term has been amazing in terms of achievements, which culminated in the awards evening where the school was proud to welcome back ex-student Sir Peter Wanless to be our keynote speaker. Peter delivered a speech on our 3 school values. We have seen sporting success at the ESAA Cross Country Cup in Reading and Duke of Edinburgh sign up for bronze, silver and gold awards. We have celebrated Black History month and heard about pioneering Black men and women. In the middle of the term it was great to watch the sixth form students battle it out against Hardenhuish in a charity football match to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust. This term we have appointed our Year 9 Science Ambassadors and Sports Ambassadors who will be supporting our feeder primary school children with their sports competitions and science lessons.

## Other updates

### Uniform

We have seen a huge improvement in uniform this term, so thank you for your support in this matter. The students look amazing and are wearing their uniform with pride. A reminder that if a student's shoes break, they should provide a note from yourself and should try to replace the shoes as quickly as they can. Students who arrive without a note will be expected to wear black daps.

As the cold weather continues, please remind your child that they are only allowed to wear coats to school, and that hoodies are not permitted. Students should avoid wearing them to school if possible. If they are worn inside the school grounds, they will be put in Reception until the end of the day, where they can be collected.

### Lunchtime arrangements - [link to presentation](#)

Through play children explore the world around them and learn to take responsibility for their own choices. At Sheldon, we know that behaviour in students' free time is a good indicator of the culture of the school. Therefore, students need structured organised play that reinforces the values and expectations of the school. We have therefore split the school into individual year groups, so that every year group has their own area to play and the school will be providing equipment for them to use. Year 7, 8 and 9 have their individual court and Year 10 and 11 will have access to the Astroturf each day. We will also be opening the Sports Hall for students to play indoors should they wish. More information can be found [here](#).

We are rightly proud of our School and want to look after it, so we ask students to eat food in the dining areas, A9 or directly outside these areas at breaktime and lunchtime. We ask them not to eat in the buildings. With 1,700+ students potentially eating at break and lunchtime, we like to contain this "mess" in certain areas, so it can be easily cleaned.

### Homework

From next term, we will be using a homework timetable to set homework for Key Stages 3 and 4. This will give students, parents, carers, and staff clarity on when work should be set. All homework set will be due in 7 days (e.g., set on Monday and due the following Monday). This approach will provide students sufficient time to manage their schoolwork alongside any other extracurricular or family commitments. To ensure that parents are able to support their child with homework, we have purchased a homework add-on for our ePraise platform. From Term 2, all homework will be diarised using this software. This means that parents and carers can use ePraise to see the homework that has been set for their children, and when it is due.

This is always one of the longest terms in the year so I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a restful half term break and I look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. A list of key dates for Term 2 follows at the bottom of this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Pete Lynch  
Headteacher

## **Term 2 Key Dates**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Term 2 begins

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Year 10 Work Experience Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Year 7 Parent Information Evening

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Sixth Form Information Evening (for current Year 11 students)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Year 13 Virtual Parents' Evening

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Year 11 Parent Information Evening

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – TD Day School Closed

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term 2 (finish at 12.30pm)