



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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3rd April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the spring term, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the hard work, achievements, and progress our students have made over the past few weeks of term 4. From academic successes to sporting triumphs and creative endeavours, it has been wonderful to see our school community thrive. With the days getting longer and lighter, we look forward to the opportunities that the summer term will bring.

A reminder that I will cover some of these highlights from this term below. But if you want to stay up to date with students' achievements, please follow our [Facebook page](#). For those who don't use social media, you can also read the Sheldon Standard or the Sheldonian (student newspaper), which are published at the beginning of each term.

New Fencing

Over the **Easter holiday**, new fencing and gates will be installed at the front of the school, between the **PE block, Dance Studio, DT blocks, and the car park**. This area is currently open, allowing visitors and students to come and go freely. Unfortunately, this has led to visitors and delivery drivers getting lost and ending up in the middle of the school site—something that is not ideal from a **safeguarding perspective**.

To address this, we have decided to **secure the front of the school**. This will also help prevent students from leaving the site during the school day and deter unwanted visitors from entering in the evenings and on weekends.

For students, the gates will be open at the **start and end of the school day as normal**. Sixth Formers will still be able to open the new gate by the main office to exit the site during the day, so they won't notice any significant difference.

Magnetic locks update

As you are aware from my last newsletter we introduced new magnetic locks on the doors in the Humanities, PSRE and English blocks at the start of the term to improve the flow of students around the school. I am pleased to say this has been successful and has improved the movement of students in corridors and has created a calmer atmosphere at busy changeovers. The changes that have been made were viewed favourably, and highlighted as an area of strength by external visitors during a recent site visit by The National Autistic Society. Therefore, the trial will become a permanent update from next term.

Disruption on roads due to Wessex Water works

Starting from Monday 7th April until Friday 9th May 2025, the road between Foscote and Yatton Keynell will be closed. This closure is required to allow Wessex Water to carry out mains laying and associated works. While this will largely affect students using the Coachstyle bus service B1428 we recognise that other parents may use the route to bring children to school. Parents of students who use the B1428 service have been written to with further details.

Attendance

At the start of this term, we welcomed our new Attendance Administrator, Michelle Major, who is now working alongside our Attendance Officer, Lisa Hughes. They are working really hard alongside our pastoral teams to improve student attendance. Please remember to call the school if your child is unwell. If your child requires leave of absence for anything apart from illness, this should be requested using the online leave of absence form on our website, which can be found [here](#). There is no longer a paper form. We will then reply to you by email. Please note that we are not allowed to authorise any holiday requested in term time, as this is not permitted under the DfE guidance that was published in August 2024. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Be Kind

The student leadership team have decided to focus their fundraising efforts for the next two terms on raising money for The Grand Appeal and local charities. They will be hosting a number of events over the next two terms to do this.

Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund- thank you and help

The Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund is a registered charity that raises money to support students to cover the costs of extracurricular activities, educational trips and equipment. Many of these valuable opportunities would not be possible without the support of the fund. They recently raised £1600, thank you to everyone who entered the Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund Prize Draw. This will allow us to continue to support student enrichment activities. A reminder to keep the following date free, and come along and support our Quiz Night – on Friday 27th June. There is an opportunity to have fun, win prizes and raise money for the school. If you would like to enter a team, please email - opportunityfund@sheldonschool.co.uk

Be Brave

Year 10 Work Experience

A reminder that the Year 10 work experience weeks are the w/c 16th June or w/c 23rd June. It is not dependent on sides of the year, but more about when it is convenient for the employer and student. All students should have recorded their placements on Unifrog by now. They can login using their school email and password. Students have had an assembly, visits to tutor groups and emails to show them how to use Unifrog. Please contact Mrs Tillotson if you or your child are having issues on ttillotson@sheldonschool.co.uk

Revision opportunities

As we move into Term 5, each subject is offering Year 11 students revision opportunities during lunchtime and after school. Please encourage your child to be Brave and attend. Also, before each exam subject areas are offering booster sessions, where they will do a quick recap of key points and reminders about what to do in the exam. The expectation is that all students attend.

Be the best you

Dance- Step into it.

The students put on a spectacular showcase event during the last week of term, with a variety of dance on show, varying from ballet to modern. The event supported out [Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal](#) fundraising efforts and raised in excess of £500. A huge thank you to the students and parents who supported the event and to Mrs Spalding for her efforts in organising it.

Volleyball success

Well done to our Year 10 student Luke, who was recently selected to play for the Southwest Regional U15 Volleyball Team. We saw him in action during the student v staff charity match and his skills and passion for the sport were amazing!

STEM Flying Start Challenge success

Our Science department recently took several teams to compete in the **National Flying Start Challenge**, with two of them advancing to the **Regional Finals**, where they secured **2nd and 3rd place**. During the event, the teams participated in a day of engineering challenges organized by **AtkinsRéalis**, including a flight test of the gliders they have been perfecting this term. We are incredibly proud of their approach to this challenge, demonstrating outstanding teamwork and a passion for engineering.

They now move on to the **National Final**—best of luck!

Athletic Success

Huge congratulations to Ciaran in Year 10 for winning gold and silver at the inaugural England Athletics U16 Winter Long Throws Championships at Loughborough University, where he achieved two new personal bests—46.41m in discus and 51.83m in hammer!

And finally, a massive well done to Otis in Year 12, who won gold in the high jump at the UK Indoor Athletics Championships in Birmingham. Competing in a senior adult competition, 17-year-old Otis outjumped everyone in the UK, clearing an extraordinary 2.20m. To put this in perspective, 2.24m would have enabled him to qualify for the Olympics. This outstanding achievement earned him a new personal best and the attention of the national media, including an interview on *Points West*.

Additional information

Year 11 and 13 Exam Preparation

After a very successful Mock examination period at the start of the term, students have received their results and feedback, so they are now refining their revision in preparation for the summer. A reminder that all resources can be found [here](#) on our website or on your child's Epraise. I hope the students continue to work hard over the Easter break, but do use the time to get some rest and recovery.

Year 11 and Year Leavers Day and Proms reminders

- Year 13 Last Day is the 9th May and their Ball is 1st July
- Year 11 is 23rd May and their Prom is 19th June

All Year 11 and 13 Exam information can be found [here](#). This includes exam start and end dates. All students have been sent copies of their exam timetable, so can start planning their revision accordingly.

We appreciate that some exams start before **Leavers' Day**, but the evidence suggests that students who stay in school and maintain their normal routines perform better in exams than those who take early study leave. The school will provide revision sessions before school for morning exams and will utilise **Periods 3 and 4** for afternoon exam preparation.

After the **Easter break**, Year 11 students will have the option to complete independent revision during their **PE and PSRE lessons** in computer rooms or on iPads. If your child would like to take advantage of this, please remind them to bring their revision materials for these sessions. These sessions will be supervised by the **school's Leadership Team and subject teachers**.

Pre loved Uniform Sale

A reminder that the Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund (SSOF) Pre-Loved Uniform Sale will take place on **Thursday, 3 July**, after school in the main hall. This event is open to both new and existing Sheldon School students. As a parent of two growing boys, I know how disheartening it can be to see them outgrow their uniform in a matter of weeks. Rather than letting these items go to waste, the SSOF is also accepting donations of pre-loved uniform items, including jumpers, ties, and PE kits. Donations can be dropped off at reception by students or parents.

A reminder of the uniform list and policy is below.

<https://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/home/information/uniform/>

Thank you again for all your support this term. We hope you have a great break, and we look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday 22nd April, following the Bank holiday Monday.

Best wishes



Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Sheldon School Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Academic year begins	Mon 2 September 2024	
Christmas holiday	Fri 20 December 2024 (finish 12.35pm) – Tues 7 January 2025	
Easter holiday	Fri 4 April 2025 – Mon 21 April 2025	
Half term break	Mon 26 May 2025 – Fri 30 May 2025	
Summer term ends	Fri 18 July 2025 school finishes 12.35pm	

Open Mornings 30 Jun-01 Jul 2025 Year 6 Open Evening Weds 2 Jul 2025	Parents' Evenings Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm (f2f) Year 7 L side Tues 22 Apr 2025 Year 7 R side Thurs 01 May 2025 Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f) Year 12 Thurs 26 Jun 2025 Year 12 Parent Information Evenings Post-18 options Tues 10 Jun 2025 New Year 7 Parents' Evening Thurs 10 Jul 2025 6-9pm	Year 10 & 12 Mock Weeks (Sports Hall) w/c 28 April 2025 w/c 05 May 2025 Year 7, 8 & 9 Assessment Weeks w/c 9 June 2025 w/c 16 June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience Weeks Week beginning 16 June 2025 Week beginning 23 June 2025 Year 12 Work Experience Week Week beginning 07 July 2025 Year 11 Prom Thurs 19 June 2025 Year 13 Ball Tues 01 July 2025 Summer Concert Tues 15 Jul 2025
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