



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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Dear Parents and Carers,

There is so much to celebrate this term at Sheldon. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have demonstrated excellent behaviour and a mature attitude throughout their mock examinations, while Year 9 have been thoughtfully considering their option choices for next year. It has been wonderful to see Year 11 and 13 fully embracing the process, and the additional rewards and Prom tickets awarded in assemblies have been a real highlight. As we move into the February half term, we are confident students will use this time effectively, especially with a short five week Term 4 ahead before exams begin in earnest on 7th May in Term 5.

If you would like to see regular updates on what students are doing, please ensure you are following our [Facebook page](#) and [Sixth Form Instagram](#) but for those of you that don't access social media, please read the Sheldon Standard that comes out at the beginning of each term, as this newsletter shares all the amazing achievements and events.

Parent survey – Yondr pouches

Each year, we gather parent voice to ensure everyone has the opportunity to shape the school's vision. We are currently seeking parental feedback on the possible introduction of mobile phone pouches at Sheldon School. As outlined in the recent letter to families, the aim of this proposal is to reduce distractions during the school day, improve students' focus and wellbeing, and support safer, more positive social interactions. While phones are already not permitted for use in school, many students still find it challenging to resist accessing them, and national guidance is increasingly emphasising the need for tighter restrictions. The Yondr system—already in use in several schools—has been shown to improve behaviour, reduce online bullying, and strengthen safeguarding. No decision has yet been made, and we are committed to listening to our community before taking next steps. In addition to the online survey, we will be hosting a couple of evening events where parents and carers can come into school, ask questions, and have any queries answered directly by staff. We strongly encourage all families to share their views and take part in the consultation before Friday 13th February [here](#).

Be Kind

Celebrating Our Inspiring Alumni

We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome back several of our amazing alumni this term, who have generously shared their expertise, experiences and inspiration with our students. Our A Level Photography classes enjoyed an invaluable session with former student Cameron Hendry, now a successful professional photographer whose impressive portfolio includes portraits of leading UK rap artists such as Stormzy. Cameron has twice been shortlisted for the Portrait of Britain Awards. We were also honoured to hear from former student and keynote speaker Emily McIntosh, who spoke movingly about her 1,500-mile journey along the Welsh and Southwest Coast Paths, and how adventure helped her navigate grief and loss. Finally, Abigail Williams visited the Drama department and gave a Year 12 Assembly on her career in choreographing stage combat for stage and screen, which the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed. If you are or know a Sheldon Alumni who wants to come back share their story, to inspire students, please get in touch.

Thinking of Others and Giving Kindly

As part of our ongoing focus on kindness and supporting those less fortunate than ourselves, we are inviting families to donate any old or outgrown PE kit to our PE Faculty. These items will be used as emergency kit for students who may need support, helping ensure everyone can fully take part in lessons without worry or

embarrassment. We are particularly in need of trainers, football or rugby boots, black sports leggings, plain white T-shirts, and any former Sheldon PE kit. Donations can be brought directly to PE lessons or dropped off at the PE Faculty Office or reception. Your generosity, no matter how small, makes a genuine difference—thank you for helping us look after one another as a community.

AI Images

I would like to follow up on the letter sent a couple of weeks ago about an increasing concern regarding the misuse of generative AI by a small number of students. While AI can be a powerful and positive tool, some learners have used it to create or share false or misleading content involving other students or staff without consent. This behaviour goes against our school values—Be Kind, Be Brave, Be the Best You—and is a serious breach of our Behaviour Policy. Any incidents of AI misuse will be treated with appropriate sanctions, and we ask for your support in discussing responsible technology use, the importance of consent, and the real-world impact of online actions with your child. Our aim is to ensure Sheldon remains a safe, respectful, and inclusive community for all.

Be Brave

Our first Culture Day for Years 11–13 was a resounding success and a truly joyful celebration of the rich diversity within our school community. Designed and led by our Sixth Form Presidents, Prefects and student leadership team, the event brought together students representing over 50 languages and a wide range of cultural backgrounds. The day was filled with colour, pride and learning, as students shared traditional clothing, food, music, games and stories that reflected their heritage. The catwalk, cultural displays and lunchtime activities were especially popular, sparking curiosity and thoughtful conversations across the school. We are delighted with the positive response from students and staff, and we look forward to expanding Culture Day to the whole school in future years.

Duke of Edinburgh success

We enjoyed welcoming over 100 students back to our Duke of Edinburgh awards evening. Where our Bronze and Silver students received their certificates after trekking an astonishing 7,750km and completing 1,547 hours of volunteering. A huge congratulations also goes to Miss Langdon for receiving a well-deserved award recognising her seven years of dedicated service to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Be the Best You

FOSS Fundraising Success

We were thrilled to kick off the term with a fantastic fundraising evening at the Roz Chandler Fitness Clubbercise Night, raising an impressive £380 for the Friends of Sheldon School (FOSS). This money will directly support a range of enrichment opportunities for our students, including clubs, workshops, subsidised trips and special events. Roz runs a regular Clubbercise class in our School Hall on Thursday evenings. Keep an eye out for more chances to get involved as we launch our annual Spring Prize Draw next month, helping FOSS continue its invaluable work across the school community.

UKMT Maths Challenge Success

Huge congratulations to all our Year 9 and Year 10 students who took part in the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Mathematics Challenge this year. An impressive 122 students participated, with 60 achieving awards for their outstanding scores. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, problem-solving skills and dedication. A special well-done goes to Eason, Jack, Alex and Samuel, who have all qualified for the next round of the competition—an exceptional achievement. Well done to everyone involved!

Pencelli Year 9 Outdoor Adventure Trip

A highlight of the Sheldon experience is the Year 9 trip to Pencelli Outdoor Adventure Centre in the Brecon Beacons. In January, students embraced the challenge, taking part in canoeing, climbing, mountain walking, caving, and gorge walking. They had a fantastic week, fully immersing themselves in every activity and creating lasting memories. A huge thank you to the students for representing Sheldon so well and to the staff who organized and supported the trip. Current Year 8s will hear more about this exciting opportunity later this year.

General information

As you are all aware, there was a tragic incident in Chippenham in which a young person, Shayne Hambakachere, a Hardenhuish student sadly lost their life. Although no Sheldon students were involved, some of our students, particularly in Year 11, knew the young person, and our thoughts are very much with his family, friends and school community at this incredibly difficult time. Understandably, some students may feel upset or unsettled, and our pastoral team and Heads of Year remain available to offer support in the days and weeks ahead. As always, we ask families to avoid online speculation and direct any media enquiries to the police. This tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of knife crime. We continue to address these issues proactively through our PSHE curriculum, assemblies and tutor sessions to help keep our students safe and informed.

Finally, we have been in talks with the local council to place lifesaving bleed kits on Hardenhuish Lane between the two secondary schools, and we believe this will be done in the next week or so. We have also purchased these kits for our own site, and our staff have signed up for additional first aid training. We hope this measure reassures parents and students that we are taking proactive action. We continue to work closely with the police about additional education opportunities that may be available through them and local charities and will engage in these if we think it will have a positive impact. However, we want our approach to be thoughtful and proportionate. Parents seeking advice on supporting young people with knife crime or bereavement can find helpful guidance on [Support organisations | Wiltshire Police](#) or the Child Bereavement UK [website](#). If anyone has information relating to the incident, we encourage them to contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Year 11 and 13 Revision Olympics

From a parent of a Year 11 child myself, and someone who is battling through revision at the moment in my own home, a reminder that all revision resources can be found [here](#) on our website, and these form part of students homework on Epraise. We hope this helps you feel more confident about what your child should be working on, especially for those moments when they say they don't know where to start. I completely understand the amount of nagging that often comes with this time of year, but please know that all your encouragement and persistence will make a real difference when exam results arrive in the summer.

We will be using the Epraise data from Term 3 to identify students for compulsory revision sessions—specifically those who haven't demonstrated the required level of engagement with their studies. If you would like your child to attend these sessions voluntarily, please contact Mr Merriman or Mr Spiers. Next term, the school will also write to students and parents where mock examination outcomes were below expectations, inviting them to attend additional after-school support. Alongside this, we will publish a full timetable of all after-school intervention sessions, which will be open to any student who wishes to take part.

If you want to support your child, please ask them to complete each subject tasks each week. There are also revision timetables, and advice on how to structure their revision, on the website [here](#). Or if you want to find out what specification your child is completing, or want to download past papers, please click [here](#).

Finally, a warm welcome to the Sheldon Family for four newly appointed governors this term after advertising for positions before Christmas. And we are pleased to welcome the following to our governing body, Alex Lowe, Daniel Linde, Becky Gunner and Lisa Pullin. If you would like to get involved in governance, we are still looking for some key areas of expertise, two in particular; Health and Safety/ risk management and Education / teaching and learning. If you would like to get involved or want further information, please get in touch via the Headteachers PA Mrs H Akinbobola hakinbobola@sheldonschool.co.uk.

Thank you again for all your support this term, from me and the all the staff at the school, have a great February half term.

Best wishes

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

Peter Lynch
Headteacher

Sheldon School Term Dates 2025 – 2026

Academic year begins	Mon 1 September 2025 (students return on 3 rd Sept)	SDD Days School Open for staff Mon 5 Jan 2026
October Half term	Thurs 23 October 2025 – Fri 31 October 2025	
Christmas holiday	Fri 19 December 2025 (finish 12.35pm) – Mon 5 January 2026	Fri 27 Mar 2026
February half term	Mon 16 February 2026 – Fri 20 February 2026	SDD DAYS School Closed Mon 20 Jul 2026
Easter holiday	Fri 27 March 2026 – Fri 10 April 2026	
Half term break	Mon 25 May 2026 – Fri 29 May 2026	
Summer term ends	Fri 17 July 2026 school finishes 12.35pm	

<p>Open Mornings 22-23 Jun 2026</p> <p>Year 6 Open Evening Weds 24 Jun 2026</p>	<p>Parents’ Evenings Years 7-9 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm (f2f) Year 7 L side Thurs 14 May 2026 Year 7 R side Tues 19 May 2026 Year 8 L side Thurs 30 Apr 2026 Year 8 R side Tues 05 May 2026</p> <p>Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f) Year 10 Thurs 11 Jun 2026 Year 12 Thurs 26 Feb 2026</p> <p>Year 12 Parent Information Evenings Post-18 Options Tues 9 Jun 2026</p> <p>New Year 7 Parents’ Evening Thurs 9 Jul 2026 6-9pm</p>	<p>Year 7 & 8 Assessment Weeks w/c 09 March 2026 w/c 16 March 2026</p> <p>Year 9 & 10 Assessment Weeks w/c 08 June 2026 (Y9 only) w/c 15 June 2026 (Y9 only)</p> <p>Year 10 & 12 Mock Weeks (Sports Hall) w/c 20 April 2026 w/c 27 April 2026</p>	<p>Year 10 Work Experience Weeks Week beginning 15 June 2026 Week beginning 22 June 2026</p> <p>Year 12 Work Experience Week Week beginning 06 July 2026</p> <p>Year 11 Prom Weds 17 June 2026</p> <p>Year 13 Ball Tues 30 June 2026</p> <p>Summer Concert Tues 07 July 2026</p>
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Reports Home schedule			
	Settling Report	Interim 1 Report	Interim Plus Report
Year 7	Mon 24 November 2025		Weds 22 April 2026
Year 8		Weds 19 November 2025	Tues 21 April 2026
Year 9		Weds 17 December 2025	Weds 08 July 2026
Year 10	Mon 13 October 2025	Tues 13 January 2026	Weds 19 May 2026
Year 11		Weds 12 November 2025	Thurs 05 March 2026
Year 12	Thurs 16 October 2025	Mon 26 January 2026	Thurs 20 May 2026
Year 13		Mon 03 November 2025	Weds 04 March 2026