



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

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22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although this has been a shorter term, it has been no less busy, successful or significant. Across the school, there have been countless events, activities and achievements that have filled me with pride and reflect the strength of our community. As the examination season begins in earnest, I would like to recognise the exceptional effort, resilience and dedication shown by our Year 11 and Year 13 students; they have approached this important period with real maturity and determination. We wish them every success as they continue their revision and move into their exams next term. As a parent of a Year 11 student myself, I also recognise the vital role families play during this time, and I know just how much encouragement, patience and support goes into helping young people prepare for these crucial weeks.

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 keep up to date with all things Sheldon on our Website [here](#), this is where we share all the amazing achievements and events taking place each day.

Summer Term - Uniform update

As we enter the final term of the school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support in maintaining the high standards we expect at Sheldon School. With the warmer weather now approaching, students are not required to wear their school jumper during Term 6, although full adherence to the school uniform policy remains important and we appreciate your support in reinforcing this at home. Tailored grey shorts are permitted and can be a sensible investment for the coming weeks. During break and lunchtime, students have access to shaded areas across the site, and water fountains are available around the school, so we encourage all students to bring a refillable water bottle. We also recommend that students bring a hat for outdoor lessons and apply sunscreen as needed. Picnic blankets are available at lunchtime for those wishing to sit under trees and enjoy the outdoor space. Should we experience a prolonged period of hot weather, we will review arrangements and may allow students to wear their PE kit; we will, of course, communicate any such updates to students and parents in advance.

Phone Free School

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving focus, wellbeing and the overall learning environment, we will be introducing the Yondr phone pouch system for students in Years 7–10 from Monday 1 June. On this first day, pouches will be issued during tutor time, and students will be guided to switch off their phones and place all mobile technology, including smartwatches, securely in their pouch for the duration of the school day. To support a calm and orderly introduction, we will operate a staggered finish, with Years 7 and 8 leaving at 2:50pm and Years 9 and 10 at 3:00pm, allowing time for pouches to be unlocked with staff support. Any student absent on the first day will receive their pouch on Tuesday 2 June, from which point, all students will be expected to turn phones off and place in their pouch, before entering the school site. Staff will be available each morning to support students in establishing this routine. We appreciate your support and cooperation in embedding this important change, and we are confident it will have a positive impact on students' focus, outcomes and overall school experience. Sixth Formers will not be issued with pouches but will be expected to only use phones, airpods etc in Sixth Form only spaces.

Parent Survey results

We were delighted with the very positive response to our recent parent survey, with over 250 parents/carers taking the time to share their views. The results show significant improvement across almost all areas compared to the survey conducted during our Ofsted visit in 2024. In particular, 93% of parents report that their child is happy and feels safe at Sheldon, while 98% believe their child does well here. There have also been substantial improvements in how concerns are addressed (rising from 59% to 86%) and in support for students with SEND (from 52% to 89%). Behaviour, high expectations and the school's response to bullying have all shown encouraging gains, and 95% of parents would now recommend Sheldon to others. While these outcomes are very encouraging, we recognise there is still work to do, particularly around communication and homework, which we are actively reviewing ahead of September. Thank you again for your continued support and for working in partnership with us.

Parent Survey results next steps

Homework

The survey indicates that 65% of parents are satisfied with the current amount of homework set. However, views remain mixed, with around 20% feeling that not enough is set and a similar proportion believing there is too much. In response, we will be reviewing both the quantity and quality of homework to ensure it is purposeful, balanced and supports students' learning effectively. We also recognise that, regardless of adjustments, homework can sometimes be challenging to engage students with consistently, and we appreciate the ongoing support from parents in encouraging positive homework routines at home.

Communication

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving communication with parents and ensuring greater clarity around homework and behaviour, we will be moving from Epraise to a new platform, ClassCharts, from September. This change will enable us to provide more consistent and accessible information about students' learning and conduct. Throughout Term 6, we will be sharing further details with both students and parents to support a smooth transition. We will also be offering a range of in-person and online support sessions to help parents set up and navigate their new accounts, ensuring everyone feels confident using the system from the outset.

Questions	2024	2026
My child is happy at Sheldon	84%	93%
My child feels safe at this school	85%	93%
The school makes sure the pupils are well behaved	80%	85%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt properly	59%	86%
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	52%	89%
The school has high expectations for my child.	84%	87%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	72%	88%
My child does well at Sheldon	85%	98%
My child can take part in clubs, events and activities at Sheldon	94%	97%
I would recommend Sheldon to another parent	82%	95%
The reports I receive each year give me enough information to let me know how well my child is doing?		83%
You are happy with the homework that is set for your child		65%

Hall of Fame Opening and 50th Year Anniversary Tour of the School

We were delighted to celebrate the official opening of the newly relocated Sheldon Hall of Fame, marking an important milestone as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. It was a truly special evening, bringing together former students, staff and members of our wider community, and we were particularly grateful to our guest speakers, Dan Bethell and Fore Bros, who shared their inspiring Sheldon journeys. The event also provided a fitting opportunity to recognise the outstanding dedication of long-serving members of our PE department, with special thanks to Richard Bull (1971–2004), Paul Weller (1977–2016), Emma le Fleming (1984–2019) and Adam Douglas (1990–2020), whose combined commitment has made a lasting impact on generations of students.

While the Hall of Fame began with a focus on sporting achievement, it is now evolving into a wider 'Hall of Success', celebrating the achievements of Sheldon alumni across a range of fields. We were also pleased to accept a signed album and memorabilia from Jamie Cullum (jazz singer and songwriter), recognising the rich musical history of the school. A new alumni section has been created to showcase the successes of former students, and if you are an ex-student who has gone on to an interesting and successful career, we would love to hear from you—please contact the school for further information.

Be Kind

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we were proud to come together as a school community to promote kindness and raise funds for our chosen charity, Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance. A range of activities took place throughout the week to encourage open conversations about wellbeing and to highlight simple, positive strategies that can support mental health. Thank you to everyone who took part, whether by wearing green, joining the litter pick or participating in our 'walk and talk' sessions at lunchtime. We are particularly grateful to our Sixth Form Wellbeing Ambassadors, who led tutor activities and assemblies, encouraging students to reflect on how teamwork and acts of kindness can make a real difference.

Be Brave

Year 10 Work Experience

A reminder that Year 10 work experience will take place during the weeks commencing 15th June or 22nd June, depending on arrangements between students and employers. We are delighted that over 220 students have successfully secured their placements, which is a fantastic achievement and reflects their initiative and commitment. All placements should now be recorded on Unifrog, which students can access using their school email and password, following assemblies, tutor support and guidance emails. If you or your child are experiencing any difficulties with the system, please contact Mrs Tillotson at ttillotson@sheldonschool.co.uk

Young Musician of the Year

We were delighted to host our Young Musician of the Year finals this term, which proved to be a truly outstanding event with a record number of participants and finalists. The standard of performance was exceptionally high, showcasing an impressive range of musical genres and instruments, and highlighting the depth of talent across our school. Congratulations to Rex (Year 9), Owen (Year 11) and George (Year 13), who were deservedly crowned this year's winners. We are also grateful to our guest adjudicator, Bethan Dudley Fryar, for her expert judgement and for providing valuable feedback to all performers.

Junior Dance Company Finalist

Please join us in congratulating our Junior Dance Company for their fantastic performance at the Great British Dance Off at the Bath Forum earlier this term. Competing in a highly competitive heat against over 40 schools, our dancers represented Sheldon with confidence and skill, particularly impressive as, for many, it was their first time performing in front of such a large audience. I also had the privilege of attending our Dance Showcase earlier this term, where the quality of talent on display was truly spectacular. We are incredibly proud of all involved. To read more, please visit our website.

Be the Best You

New prefects and School Presidents

Student leadership continues to go from strength to strength at Sheldon, and it has been a pleasure to see the smooth transition as our current teams pass the baton to the next generation of leaders. We were delighted to welcome our new Year 10 Prefects, with over 100 students applying for these important roles, and to celebrate their appointment at our annual Prefect Breakfast. These students will now have the opportunity to apply for positions within the Senior Prefect Team. We would also like to thank our outgoing Year 11 Prefects and Head Students for their excellent contribution to school life this year. In the Sixth Form, we are pleased to introduce our new Presidents for 2026–2027, Meenhaj and Olivia, who were selected following a rigorous process including student presentations, a vote and formal interviews. Both demonstrate great promise and have already shared exciting ideas, including building on the success of Culture Day. We look forward to seeing their impact as they lead and further enhance student life across the school.

Ten Tors success

Congratulations to all of our Ten Tors teams, who completed the extraordinary challenge of trekking 35 and 55 miles across Dartmoor earlier this month following a year-long training programme. Their determination, resilience and teamwork truly reflect the very best of the Sheldon ethos, and we are incredibly proud of every student involved. A special thank you must go to the dedicated staff who give up their weekends to support and organise this event, particularly Mr Page, Mrs Goldsmith and, with special recognition, Miss Libby for her 10 years of commitment to Ten Tors at Sheldon.

Goodbye to Year 11 and 13

On Friday 8 May, we came together to celebrate our exceptional Year 13 students at our annual Leavers' Day — a truly memorable occasion filled with laughter, reflection and a strong sense of community. From the quiz and games on the field to performances and the much-anticipated Leavers' Video, it was a fitting tribute to their time at Sheldon School and Sixth Form. We are incredibly proud of this year group and all they have achieved, and we wish them every success as they now begin their examinations.

Today, we also marked an important milestone for our Year 11 students as they officially began their study leave, with shirt signing and a celebration assembly providing a chance to reflect on their journey so far. We wish both year groups the very best over the coming weeks and encourage them to approach this period with confidence and determination. A reminder that Year 11 into Year 12 induction days will take place on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July, offering students the opportunity to experience their chosen subjects, take part in team-building activities and begin their transition into Sixth Form life.

Reminders

Year 11 Celebration and Year 13 Leavers' Days and Proms reminders

- **Year 13** Last Day was 8th May and their Ball is 30th June
- **Year 11** Last day is 22nd May and their Prom is 17th June

Thank you again for all your support this term. We hope you have a great break and enjoy the mini heat wave, and we look forward to welcoming back our students on Monday 1st June.

Best wishes



Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Sheldon School Term Dates 2025 – 2026

Half term break	Mon 25 May 2026 – Fri 29 May 2026	SDD Days School Open for staff
Summer term ends	Fri 17 July 2026 school finishes 12.35pm	
		SDD DAYS School Closed Mon 20 Jul 2026

<p>Open Mornings 22-23 Jun 2026</p> <p>Year 6 Open Evening Weds 24 Jun 2026</p>	<p>Parents’ Evenings Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f) Year 10 Thurs 11 Jun 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 9 Assessment Weeks w/c 08 June 2026 w/c 15 June 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