



17th July 26

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year at Sheldon, I am filled with immense pride when reflecting on everything we have achieved together. The year has been packed with memorable experiences and opportunities, from the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Ball to Golf Day, reward and educational visits. Throughout it all, our students have embraced every opportunity to demonstrate our school values.

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

We plan some changes to the uniform next year based on the weather over recent months. From Term 5 we will be introducing a summer uniform. This will be a simple white polo shirt with our logo. Students will be able to wear this with tailored shorts, skirts or trousers over the summer terms. We hope this will enable students and parents to manage the increase in temperatures we are experiencing. The cost would be £9-12 depending on the size required. We hope this will help make students more comfortable in lessons. We will let you know when these will be available in Scholars.

Phone Free School Update

Our new phone-free school system continues to be a great success. Students have responded exceptionally well, and the process has quickly become a normal part of the school day. As expected, there have been a few minor teething issues, mainly involving students who occasionally forget either their phone or their pouch. A reminder that if a student forgets their pouch, they should go directly to Behaviour Support or Reception to hand in their phone immediately to avoid a sanction. Where forgetting a pouch becomes a regular occurrence or forms a pattern, a detention will be issued. Thank you to students, staff and parents for their continued support in helping make this initiative a success.

Homework Expectations and Support

The homework timetable will continue for all year groups next year, and we remain committed to enhancing the quality and impact of the work set for students. Homework plays an important role in reinforcing learning, developing independence and preparing students for future success. To support high standards and ensure greater consistency, we will be introducing a more robust approach to missed homework from September. Students who fail to complete three pieces of homework in a week will receive a lunchtime detention, while those who repeatedly struggle to meet expectations will be required to attend a Homework Support Club with their Head of Year or Head of Faculty. These sessions are designed not only to improve completion rates but also to help students develop effective study habits, organisation skills and routines that will support their learning both in school and beyond.

New Fitness Suite – Opening September 2026

Over the summer, you may notice significant building work taking place in A9 as we create our brand-new Fitness Suite, which is progressing well and remains on track for completion ready for the start of the next academic year. The facility will feature a CrossFit rig, barbells, Concept2 bikes, SkiErgs, rowing machines, dumbbells, cable machines and 12 squat racks, creating a high-quality training environment for our school community. We are excited that the space will be available for students, staff and the wider community to use before and after school, with Sixth Form students also able to access the facility during free periods. Looking ahead, we plan to open membership opportunities to the public later in the year, alongside a range of fitness classes and programmes. Further details about memberships and how to get involved will be shared in due course.

ClassCharts Launch – September 2026

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving communication between school, students and families, we will be introducing ClassCharts from September 2026. Over the summer, parents and carers will receive an email containing instructions on how to download the app, along with login details for this new platform, which will replace our current ePraise system. ClassCharts will provide a single place to access information about attendance, behaviour, homework and school communications. To ensure a smooth transition, students will be introduced to the system during tutor time in the first two weeks of term and shown how to use its key features. To allow everyone time to become familiar with the platform, we will not be setting homework during the first three weeks of term. Homework for students in Years 8–13 will begin during the week commencing 24 September. We will also be offering workshops and online support sessions for parents and students to help everyone get the most out of the new system.

Be Kind

FOSS Quiz Night Raises £900

A huge thank you to the Friends of Sheldon School (FOSS) and Mr Humphreys (PE teacher and HOY 13) for their outstanding support in organising this year's Quiz Night, which successfully raised £900 for the school. The event attracted 20 teams and featured a fun and challenging quiz based around the school day and the subjects studied at Sheldon. It was fantastic to see so many members of our community come together to support the event and enjoy the evening. The funds raised by FOSS continue to make a real difference, helping to support a wide range of initiatives and opportunities for our students. FOSS are already planning another event later this winter, so keep an eye out for details and start assembling your team! Once again, thank you to everyone involved, and especially to our dedicated FOSS team for the time, energy and support they give to our school community.

Be Brave

Welcoming Our New Year 7 Students

Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students to Sheldon School for their two transition days. It was wonderful to see them embracing the opportunities on offer, taking part in taster lessons, team-building activities, meeting their tutors and getting to know the prefects and student mentors who will be supporting them when they join us in September. We were also pleased to welcome parents and carers to school, providing an opportunity to meet key staff and learn more about the exciting journey ahead. The positive attitude, enthusiasm and confidence shown by our new students has given us every reason to be excited for the new academic year.

A reminder that information regarding Year 7 Camp has been emailed out and put on ParentPay, and we encourage families to complete the payment arrangements as soon as possible. As Year 7 Camp takes place the week beginning 14th September.

Our New House System

Looking ahead to September, we are excited to launch our brand-new **House System**, which will help strengthen school identity, participation and healthy competition. Students and staff will be assigned to one of **four houses**, each represented by its own colour and name. Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to earn points and compete in a wide range of academic, sporting, cultural and enrichment activities. Further details, including house names and leadership opportunities, will be shared at the start of the new academic year.

Be the Best You

Ten Tors celebration event

This term we were delighted to hold our first annual Ten Tors Celebration Event, recognising the achievements and commitment of the students who have taken part throughout the year. The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hard work, determination and success of our students, and we were pleased to award certificates and prizes to those taking part in the 35, 45 and 55mile races. We recognised Miss Libby, who has given ten years of dedicated commitment to supporting the event. I would also like to thank Mr Page and Mrs Goldsmith for organising and running the event so successfully.

Thank you to all the parents and students who attended and supported the celebration.

Enrichment Days – Learning Beyond the Classroom

We are excited to be introducing two Enrichment Days next year, with collapsed timetable days taking place on 7 December and 20 July. These days are designed to provide students with memorable experiences beyond the classroom, helping to broaden horizons and bring learning to life. On our December Enrichment Day, all students will take part in activities tailored to their year group.

Enrichment Day 2 in July, will consist of outward bound/ adventure activities. We look forward to sharing further details about both days with families as the year progresses and to providing students with these exciting opportunities to learn, explore and be inspired.

Goodbyes and thank you

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I am delighted to say that we are fully staffed with both teaching and support staff ready for September. This places the school in a very strong position as we continue our journey of improvement.

The end of the school year also means we say farewell to a number of valued colleagues. I know many parents will want to join me in thanking them for the significant contribution they have made to Sheldon School. Collectively, these staff have dedicated many years of service to our students, with some having spent as many as 38 years working in education.

This summer we will be saying goodbye to:

- **Mr Mark Merriman**, Head of Year and English Teacher, who has worked at Sheldon for 38 Years and 20+ as Head of Year. His commitment to supporting students both academically and pastorally is greatly appreciated by current and former students. We wish him all the best in retirement.
- **Mrs Bridget Collins**, our Primary Transition Lead and Drama Teacher, who has played a pivotal role in ensuring Year 6 pupils make a successful transition into secondary school. She has worked at Sheldon for 35 years and is known to all our students. Her warmth and professionalism will be missed by students and staff. We wish her all the best in retirement
- **Miss Beth Dowdle**, Head of Year and English Teacher, who leaves after 25 years of dedicated service to the school. She is looking towards a career change, and we wish her all the best in whatever she does.
- **Mrs Lindsay Freeman**, has led our Hearing Resource Base over the last 12 years and has grown it to be an exceptional space for students. She has recently overseen a move to a new location within the school and

her hardwork and dedication has made a lasting difference to the lives of many young people and their families. She will be now working for the Local Authority, supporting deaf students across the county.

- **Mrs Francesca Daly**, Art Teacher, who is leaving to take up an exciting promotion as Head of Art at a Kingsbridge Academy in Devon.
- **Miss Elaine Chiekrie**, who has taught Science at Sheldon for the past two and a half years and is relocating to the North of England.

We also say goodbye to several colleagues who have been with us on temporary contracts:

- **Miss Cosgriff**, who has provided excellent maternity cover within the Mathematics department.
- **Miss Forgas**, who joined us last year as a cover teacher and is now beginning her teacher training.

On behalf of everyone at Sheldon School, I would like to thank each of these colleagues for their dedication and commitment to our students. We are incredibly grateful for everything they have contributed to our school community and wish them every success and happiness in the next chapter of their careers. Finally, a huge thank you to Elaine Beange who is remaining at the school as Teacher of English but stepping down from the role of Head of English after 15 years.

Open Evening

Although our Open Evening was unfortunately cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions, we were overwhelmed by the support and interest shown by families and the wider community. A reminder the postponed evening is taking place in Term 1 on the 24th September and bookings can be made on our website or [here](#).

Examination Results Days 2026

We would like to wish all of our Year 11 and Sixth Form students the very best of luck as they prepare to receive their examination results this summer. **A Level Results Day** will take place on Thursday 13 August, with results available for collection from school between 8.00am and 10.00am.

GCSE Results Day will follow on Thursday 20 August, with results available between 8.30am and 10.00am. Staff will be on hand throughout both mornings to offer support, guidance and advice regarding next steps. We look forward to celebrating our students' achievements and wish them every success as they embark on the next stage of their educational and career journeys.

Thank you again for all your support this term. We hope you have a great break and enjoy the weather, and we look forward to welcoming back our students on Thursday 3rd September.

Have a great summer!



Pete Lynch
Headteacher

<https://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/assets/Documents/Information/Term-Dates-2026-27.pdf>