



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful Term 1 at Sheldon, I am incredibly proud of the positive start our students have made to the new academic year. From welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students to celebrating achievements, launching new opportunities and enjoying a wide range of events and activities, there has already been so much to celebrate.

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.

Expectation reminders

As we move into the colder winter and spring terms, we would appreciate parents' support in reinforcing a few of our everyday expectations. Students should arrive at tutor time each morning wearing their school jumper; although this can be removed during lessons if they wish. This expectation will remain in place until Term 5. Hoodies are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn on site. During colder weather, students should instead wear an appropriate coat over their uniform.

We would also appreciate your support in ensuring that skirts are worn at the correct mid-thigh length and are not rolled up. Next term, we will start to issue sanctions to students if their skirt is too short as simple reminders have not worked. As a separate issue, we are currently seeing an increasing number of students chewing gum at school, which is not permitted, therefore, can you pass on that message at home too. Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us maintain high standards and ensuring students arrive each day ready to learn and proud to represent Sheldon.

First Aid and Student Wellbeing

Our First Aid Team is here to support students who become unwell or injured during the school day, with each situation assessed individually. We are seeing an increase in students visiting first aid with minor concerns. Unless urgent, students should speak to their teacher, Head of Year or Pastoral Team before attending first aid. Staff can then refer them to first aid if needed. Where students are well enough to remain in school, they will be supported and encouraged to return to lessons.

If your child comes to school after feeling unwell at home, a brief note is helpful. Please remember that our first aiders cannot diagnose medical conditions and may recommend further medical advice where appropriate.

Enrichment Day 1: Cultural Capital opportunities – 7 December

Our first Enrichment Day of the year takes place on 7 December, with a focus on Cultural Capital. The normal timetable will be suspended for the day, giving students across each year group the opportunity to take part in a range of trips, visits and experiences beyond the classroom.

Students in Years 7-9 will be taking part in enrichment trips outside of school. Information about these trips have been shared with parents. If you have not yet signed your child up for their trip (in Years 7-9 only), please do so via ParentPay. We have worked hard to keep costs as low as possible, helping to make these opportunities accessible to as many students as possible. Trips are free for Enrichment Day 1 for students eligible for Targeted Free School Meals. We will be sending out information about the in-school activities for Years 10-13 next term.

An outline of the activities for each year group can be found below.

Year Group	Activity
7	Pantomime (Bristol Hippodrome)
8	Cadbury World (Birmingham)
9	Design Museum + walking tour of London sites
	Imperial War Museum + walking tour of London sites
	V&A Museum + walking tour of London sites
	Natural History Museum + walking tour of London sites
10	Weird and Wonderful World of Work (in school)
11	Macbeth Production (in school)
Sixth Form	First Aid, Wellbeing, Financial Skills, Cooking, Study Skills, Self Defence (in school)

Enrichment Day 2: Be Brave – 20 July

Get ready for our next Enrichment Day! Taking place on 20 July, the theme will be Outdoor Education, with an exciting programme of activities and experiences planned for students. Final arrangements and costs are currently being confirmed. We will share full details with parents in the new year. Below is the first draft of activities; however, we are awaiting confirmation from venues, so this is subject to change before the official launch.

Year Group	Activity
7	Mojo Active
8	West Country Water Park or The Wave
9	Pen Y Fan Mountain walk or water sports on the Wye
10	Thorpe Park or Harry Potter World
Sixth Form	Cotswold Water Park

Phone Free School Update

Thank you to students, staff and parents for their continued support in making this initiative such a success. It has been wonderful to see students embracing time away from electronic devices, with cards, Top Trumps, UNO and chess becoming increasingly visible before school, at break and during lunchtimes. Most importantly, it is lovely to see students talking, playing and spending time together, creating a positive and sociable atmosphere around the school.

Homework Expectations and Support

We recognise that, at times, students may need some additional support to manage their homework successfully. Students who miss three pieces of homework in a week will therefore attend a lunchtime detention to help them catch up, while those who experience ongoing difficulties will be invited to our Homework Support Club with their Head of Year or Head of Faculty. The aim is to support rather than simply sanction, helping students build positive routines, organisation and study habits that will benefit them throughout their education.

New Fitness Suite – Open

Our new Fitness Suite is now open, and it has been fantastic to see students beginning to use this exciting new facility. We are currently running inductions for Key Stage 4 and 5 students after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. A huge thank you to Ellie Workman from CrossFit Chippenham, who has been supporting our student inductions and will also be delivering free after-school fitness classes during Term 2.

Students have been sent information about how to book after-school sessions, helping us manage numbers and ensure everyone can use the gym safely and comfortably. Sixth Form students can also use the Fitness Suite free of charge during their study periods, once they have completed their PAR-Q health questionnaire and induction. Key Stage 3 Inductions will begin after half term and students and parents will be emailed further details.

ClassCharts update

We are delighted that nearly all of our students and parents have now signed up to ClassCharts. ClassCharts is our key communication platform, providing access to important school information as well as rewards, attendance and sanctions. If you have not yet done so, please ensure that you download the ClassCharts app and activate your account as soon as possible, as this will be an important way of keeping up to date with your child's school life. Reminders have been sent to those families who are yet to register.

Be Kind

Year 7, 10 and 12

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to life at Sheldon, settling in brilliantly with the support of our Prefects and wider school community. They have already enjoyed Year 7 Camp and explored the many opportunities available through our Enrichment Fair. Equally, our Year 10 and Year 12 students have made a positive start to their GCSE and A Level courses. It has been wonderful to see all three year groups embracing the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead with such positivity and enthusiasm.

German Exchange students

It was a real pleasure to welcome around 50 students from our German exchange school to Sheldon, where they spent the day alongside our students, joining lessons and experiencing everyday school life. It was particularly special to be able to return the warm welcome our students received when they visited Germany last year.

We were incredibly proud to hear visiting staff and students comment on the kindness and friendliness of our students, and how welcome they had been made to feel. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make their day at Sheldon such a positive and memorable experience.

Benedicts Law

New statutory guidance introduced following Benedict's Law strengthens allergy safety in schools, including staff training and access to emergency adrenaline auto-injectors. At Sheldon, staff have received further training and we have reviewed the availability of emergency medication across the school site. This is also an important reminder that Sheldon is moving towards becoming a nut-free school. As we have several students with severe nut allergies, we ask that students do not bring nuts or products containing nuts into school or consume them while on site.

Be Brave

Year 6 Open Evening

Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome prospective Year 6 students and their families to Sheldon for tours during the school day and our Open Evening. It was a record-breaking event, with over a thousand parents and students joining us across the evening. A huge thank you to all the students and staff who volunteered as

tour guides and supported our individual faculty areas. Your enthusiasm and commitment helped showcase Sheldon at its very best. The deadline for secondary school applications is 31 October and all information can be found [here](#).

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was once again extremely popular, with hundreds of prospective students and families joining us to explore our facilities, meet staff and discover more about life in Sheldon Sixth Form. The evening followed a record-breaking year of results, in which Sheldon achieved the highest value-added score of any school within a 50-mile radius, including independent schools in Bristol and Bath. It was wonderful to see the hard work of our students and the quality of teaching at Sheldon reflected so strongly in these outcomes.

All information about courses and how to apply can be found [here](#) . The Sixth Form video can also be viewed [here](#). Next term there will be a Year 11 assembly about the Sixth Form and some opportunities to speak to current Sixth Form students about subject options. We will also start out Futures Meetings with every student in Year 11. Later in the year there will also be taster lessons scheduled to help students make their decisions.

Our New House Captains

Congratulations to the students who have been appointed as our new House Captains this term. Alongside our Science, Sport and Language Ambassadors, they form an important part of our growing Student Leadership Team.

Our House Captains will represent their Houses and tutor groups, champion student voice and play an important role in shaping our new House system. Congratulations not only to those appointed, but to every student who showed courage by putting themselves forward.

House Captain (Y12)	Lucy B	House Captain (Y12)	Naomi A
House Captain (Y12)	Luca D	House Captain (Y12)	Niamh O'H
Vice House Captain (Y11)	Alvina I	Vice House Captain (Y11)	Ben H
Vice House Captain (Y11)	Max H	Vice House Captain (Y11)	Rory S
7LG	Poppy W + Benjamin H	7LO	Darcie Y + Libby B
7RG	Tabitha C + Lenny B	7RO	Lucy E + Niko T
8LG	Connie B + Loui H	8LO	Nellie S + Ahyan S
8RG	Jess B + Dougie C	8RO	Grace P + Toby D
9LG	Michelle N + Tristan P	9LO	Robbie S + Safia M
9RG	Ella F + Felicity J	9RO	Harris M-H + Issy M
10LG	Leila W + Taylor F	10LO	Jack L+ Lilli K
10RG	Amelia D + Leo J	10RO1	Enya C + Hadley D

House Captain (Y12)	Tilly W	House Captain (Y12)	Naomi B
House Captain (Y12)	Eirwen D	House Captain (Y12)	Oliver H
Vice House Captain (Y11)	Niamh B	Vice House Captain (Y11)	Connie G
Vice House Captain (Y11)	Anja W	Vice House Captain (Y11)	Kathryn G
7LR	Olive I-M + Elodie B	7LB	Maya-Grace B + Dylan J
7RR	Emi L + Noah M	7RB	Lauren L + Isla B
8LR	Joby D + Dougie C	8LB	Niamh O'Connor + Lily Smart
8RR	Aarav M + Lily D	8RB	Eric L + Eleanor B
9LR	Hermes P H + Frankie V	9LB	Lottie A + Melody C
9RR	Loubana A + Liam M	9RB	Henry G-M + Laura N
10LR	Tiffany K + Andrew C	10LB	Lyla M-B + Rafferty B
10RR	Bethany P + Suvan N	10RB1	Judah B + Aimee T
		10RB2	Angel M + Simon S

House system

Our new House system is up and running, with the first House points already being won! This term has seen Inter-House Cross Country, a Poetry Competition, a Book Review Competition, a Photography competition as well as some fantastic pumpkin carving. It has been great to see students embracing the new system, with plenty more opportunities to earn points still to come. Current standings are as follows:

Orange	42
Blue	36
Green	32
Red	30

Be the Best You

Awards Evening

Congratulations to the hundreds of students who have been nominated for an award and will be recognised at our Awards Evening. Hosted by our Student Presidents, the evening is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, hard work and contributions of our students.

We are also delighted to welcome back Sheldon alumna Shania Harper as our guest speaker. Since leaving Sheldon in 2018, Shania has built an impressive career in science and research and is now completing a PhD at the Institute of Cancer Research and Imperial College London. We look forward to welcoming her back to Sheldon and hearing about her journey since leaving us.

Summer Concert and Art & DT exhibition

After the hot weather forced us to postpone our Summer Concert and Art & DT Exhibition last term, it was wonderful to finally hold both events at the start of this term.

The Art & DT Exhibition showcased some truly inspiring GCSE and A Level work, with the exceptional standard of our students' achievements also recognised by examiners. Our Summer/Autumn Concert was another fantastic evening, celebrating the talents of both established musicians and those beginning to make their mark.

Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to the staff who supported our students in producing work and performances of such a high standard. I am now very much looking forward to the Christmas Concert at the end of Term 2.

Attendance

As term 1 of 2026 draws to a close, we are pleased to say that attendance has improved over the same time period last year. Students that have either improved or maintained their attendance from term 6 will receive a congratulations letter and merits at the start of term 2.

In the last week we have received an award for being in the top 25% most improved FFT secondary schools in England. We are very pleased to be making good progress, as there is a clear and direct link between good attendance and progress made in learning.

We totally understand that illness is sometimes unavoidable. Please have a look at the NHS guidelines on when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you again for all your support this term. We hope you have a great 10-day break, and we look forward to welcoming back our students on Monday 2 November.

Have a great half term!

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

Pete Lynch
Headteacher

Sheldon School Term Dates 2026 – 2027

Academic Year begins	Tues 1 September 2026 (students return on 3 rd September)	SDD Days School Open for staff
October Half Term	Thurs 22 October 2026 – Fri 30 October 2026	Tues/Weds 1-2 Sept 2026
Christmas holiday	Fri 18 December 2026 (finish 12.35pm) – Mon 4 January 2027	Weds 21 Oct 2026
February Half Term	Mon 15 February 2027 – Fri 19 February 2027	Mon 4 Jan 2027
Easter holiday	Fri 26 March 2027 – Mon 12 April 2027	Thurs 25 March 2027
May Half Term	Mon 31 May 2027 – Fri 4 June 2027	Mon 12 April 2027
Summer term ends	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	SDD DAYS School Closed
		Fri 27 Nov 2026
		Thurs 22 July 2027

Reports Home Schedule			
	Settling In Report	Interim Report	Interim Plus Report
Year 7	25 th November 2026		21 April 2027
Year 8		18 November 2026	19 April 2027
Year 9		8 January 2027	7 July 2027
Year 10	14 th October 2026	14 January 2027	25 May 2027
Year 11		11 November 2026	4 March 2027
Year 12	15 th October 2026	21 January 2027	26 May 2027
Year 13		21 October 2027	3 March 2027

Year 13 Revision Evening Weds 13 Jan 2027 Year 9 Options Evening Thurs 21 Jan 2027 Open Mornings 28-29 June 2027 Year 6 Open Evening Weds 30 June 2027 Transition Days Thurs 08 July 2027 <i>(only new Y7s in school)</i> Fri 09 July 2027 <i>(all students in school)</i>	Year 11 & 13 Mock Weeks (Sports Hall) w/c 25 January 2027 w/c 01 February 2027 Year 9 & 10 Assessment Weeks w/c 23 November 2026 w/c 30 November 2026 w/c 07 June 2027 (Y9 only) w/c 14 June 2027 (Y9 only) Year 12 Assessment Week (classroom) w/c 14 December 2026 Year 7 & 8 Assessment Weeks w/c 08 March 2027 w/c 15 March 2027 Year 10 & 12 Mock Weeks (Sports Hall) w/c 26 April 2027 w/c 03 May 2027	Parents' Evenings Years 7&8 - 4:00pm – 6:30pm Year 7 L side Tues 18 May 2027 Year 7 R side Tues 25 May 2027 Year 8 L side Thurs 06 May 2027 Year 8 R side Tues 11 May 2027 Years 9-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm Year 9 Tues 26 Jan 2027 Year 10 Thurs 17 Jun 2027 Year 11 Mon 04 Jan 2027 (3-7.30pm) Year 12 Thurs 25 Feb 2027 Year 13 Thurs 19 Nov 2026 Year 12 Parent Information Evenings (6.00pm) Post-18 Options Tues 8 June 2027 Year 10 Work Experience Parent Information Evening Tues 3 Nov 2026 New Year 7 Parents' Evening Thurs 8 Jul 2027 (5.30-8pm)	Christmas Concert Thurs 03 Dec 2026 School Production Thurs 10 & Fri 11 Dec 2026 Year 10 Work Experience Weeks w/c 21 June 2027 w/c 28 June 2027 Year 11 Prom Weds 23 June 2027 Year 13 Ball Tues 29 June 2027 Year 12 Work Experience Week w/c 05 July 2027 Summer Concert & Art/DT Exhibition Tues 06 July 2027
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