

The Salad Project

A small group of the Year 9 science ambassadors have undertaken the Salad Project supported by a Tesco Community Grant. Austin Harker, Abraham Jones, Faye Withers and Ethan German have all demonstrated great commitment and dug, weeded and watered their way to a good crop of lettuces that are being sold in order to plough back into the project and make it sustainable. We have planted pumpkins for the autumn and intend to continue over the winter with some brassica and onions among other crops. It has been a really rewarding enterprise altogether which we are looking forward to growing and developing in the future!
Dr. Aicken



Sustainability and the Environment Solar Electric Generation – Sheldon Sixth Form block



Sheldon School 6th Form block has enjoyed the benefits of a Solar Panel Array – generating electricity since 2013

The solar panels were installed by Centrica (formally British Gas) and is a joint venture between Centrica & Sheldon School. The solar panels fill the roof space facing the playing/sports field and generates on average 45,000 kWh of electricity per annum to the benefit of the school. The electricity generated that is not used by the school is fed into the National Grid and supports the nations drive to provide renewable power generation and supply.

This means that the school has used 450,000 kWh of energy generated by the sun - this has therefore reduced our impact on the Environment and has improved our Sustainability credentials over the last 10 years. The school has a plan to add to its Solar Generation capacity and we will tell you more about this in the 2023/24 Academic Year.

Mr Westlake, Facilities Manager

England Schools National Athletics Finals

Six Sheldon athletes got through to the England Schools National Athletics Finals in Birmingham on the weekend of the 1st July. Ciaran Merrett (Junior Boys Hammer), Adam Merrett (Inter Boys Hammer), Josh Maxwell (Inter Boys 1500m steeple chase), Harry Maxwell (Inter Boys 3000m), Otis Poole (Inter Boys High Jump) and Peter Krunity-Salako (Senior Boys High Jump).

Two of the students were the Merrett brothers - photographed - Ciaran (the only Year 8 in the Wiltshire team) came 15th out of 18 competitors and Adam came an incredible 4th of 12 with a throw of 51.12m, less than a metre behind the bronze medal.

They both thoroughly enjoyed the experience and feel very privileged to have been selected to represent Wiltshire Schools. The boys are already talking about next year! Congratulations must also go to all the competitors. Sheldon have never had 6 athletes compete at the English Schools athletics before. Just to put it into perspective these athletes are now in the top 20 in the whole country for their event. The English Nationals competition is actually one of the largest athletics competitions in the world for junior sport and we are incredibly proud of these pupils representing Sheldon there.



**Congratulations to Luca Dowson on passing his Grade 5 Piano with Merit
Mrs Johnson**

Head-itorial

This is the final Sheldon Standard of the year and with it comes my last headitorial – 140 of them and out. There would have been a good 50 more had it not been for the Covid pandemic, but those of you who were with us at the time had enough correspondence to more than make up for that. As I approach the end of my time here, it has given me an opportunity to reflect, and inevitably as each day passes, I have found myself doing another 'last'. We have had the Olympic Fun Run, in which British Modern Pentathlete and Olympic silver medallist, Heather Fell, addressed the students – always a great occasion, despite the heavy rain that accompanied the end of the event this year; we have had the summer concert where it was wonderful to see the hall full and the audience entertained by a whole raft of talented musicians all the way from Year 7 to some Year 13s returning after their A levels; and, talking of exam years, we have had two lovely evenings celebrating at Grittleton with Year 11 and Wellington Barn with Year 13. There have been other 'lasts' and there will be more to come: sports day, Turnaround, and celebration lunches just three of them.

Also approaching the end of his time here is Mr John Chettleburgh, one of our longest-serving teachers who has clocked up 32 years at Sheldon. For 27 of those years, John was a central figure in the life of the school, taking successive year groups through in his role as Head of Year. As he stepped away from that position five years ago, a number of parents and students (and even recently-appointed staff) would not necessarily know what a massive contribution John has made to the school, so I would like to pay tribute to him now and thank him for everything he has given; certainly, all of the students who were fortunate enough to be in his year group will testify to just how good he was and how much being led by him helped them. We wish John all the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

It is normal for me to look ahead at what's to come – and to do so positively. I can still do that, both for me and for the school. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of this wonderful community and I have loved it (most of the time). The vast majority of our students are fantastic, the staff here are second-to-none, and we are supremely fortunate to work in uplifting and pleasant surroundings.

I would also like to thank you, our parents, who have been overwhelmingly supportive in my 11 years at the school. Working together for the benefit of your children makes the outcomes for them much stronger and healthier – and I am not simply talking about exam results here. Sometimes, however, all of the good can be forgotten or get lost when things don't work out quite as one would have hoped. I appreciate that this can cause some frustrations, and sometimes we may have got the odd thing wrong. Our staff do everything possible in support of our young people and do an incredible job, so, in line with one of the three values that the new headteacher, Pete Lynch, will be focusing on when he arrives, I appeal for kindness from everybody towards each other in the months and years ahead – during the good times and the more challenging periods. Everybody deserves respect, but sadly, a small minority seem to have lost sight of that. I do not wish to finish on a downbeat note, but I felt that needed addressing.

As a 'glass half-full' person, my closing remarks will be more upbeat. Sheldon is a great school. The people within its community make it thus, and it will continue to be so. I am immensely grateful that it has been central to my life since 2012 and I will carry innumerable happy memories with me. I always said that Sheldon would be my last school – and it is. It is also the place I have stayed the longest; had it not been such a special school, I would have departed far sooner. As someone who enjoys planning, and who by nature is very organised, it is something of an unknown to step away without having everything mapped out. It is also extremely liberating and exciting. I know that I will be travelling more, enjoying more sport, and spending time with my family who have had to take a back seat whilst I have been doing this job, but all of that will slot into a very haphazard itinerary, free from alarm clocks and school bells.

The long summer holiday lies ahead, so I hope that you enjoy time as a family and that our youngsters come back refreshed for the exciting year in front of them. The school will move forward, as will they; and from afar, I will keep a keen interest on how it is all going.

With very best wishes,

Neil Spurdell
Headteacher | 

Year 8 Campack Stationery Pack project

In Design & Technology, we have had a very successful first year in partnership with Campack, a local packaging company based on Bumpers Farm Industrial Estate.



We want to say a massive thank you to Campack who have been incredibly generous with their time and resources over the year. All students in Year 8 have been able to focus on a live project brief as part of their graphics rotation. The project has been launched in school by Lauren from Campack, presenting to classes, addressing customer demands and explaining environmental concerns. Students have had the opportunity to develop their own subscription-based stationery pack, suitable for home delivery, and have their own graphics printed at Campack.

All boxes and printing have been provided by Campack, free of charge, to ensure students gain an insight into local manufacturing in an inclusive and engaging project.

We really appreciate all of the time, effort and support over the year from Lauren, Nathan, Kevin and everybody else at Campack who have helped with the project.

Mr England, Head of Design Technology

German Exchange 2023

After a four year hiatus due to covid, the German Exchange was able to successfully relaunch last week and continue its' long established relationship with Schiller Gymnasium in Hameln. Fifty Year 8 students took part in a range of activities, including a visit to a museum, a theatre show, a toboggan run and a theme park, with the trip ending with experiencing a day in a German school with a German partner. Many students were able to continue connections made with partner students during Schiller's visit to Sheldon School in October, as well as being able to make new connections with new students that they met. Students practised their German, absorbed new cultural nuances and embraced all that Germany had to offer.

<https://ukgermanconnection.org/>

Mrs Shapcott



A day spent at Schiller Gymnasium in Hameln

The Fairways Care Home



Over the past academic year, we have volunteered at MHA The Fairways (a local care home - within Chippenham) on a Friday afternoon to spend time with the residents and to gain experience within the healthcare industry. During our time there, we have joined in with fun activities such as: making collages, playing card games, dominoes and who wants to be a millionaire, dancing and singing with the residents, completing puzzles and much more. We have had lots of conversations

and enjoyed listening to the residents and hearing about their past experiences. Throughout the year Mike, the activities co-ordinator, has been welcoming, supportive and encourages us to move out of our comfort zones and to build a relationship with the residents, which we really appreciate. From this opportunity we have learnt to develop skills such as patience and empathy to help us in our future careers. We have really enjoyed our time there so far and look forward to continuing throughout the summer and the next school year.

Issy and Alice - Year 12 students from Sheldon Sixth Form



The Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund Committee met this term to look at requests for financial support for enrichment opportunities. Money was given to a variety of extra-curricular activities e.g. Ten Tors, Year 7 camp, Bletchley Park trip, theatre productions, visits to parliament, mock trial and Lego robotics. We were pleased to additionally offer our new Year 7 students a book through the book buzz scheme. If you wish to find out any more about the Opportunity Fund – how to donate or join please view the page on our website.

<https://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/home/our-community/sheldon-student-opportunity-fund/>



A WARM WELCOME FROM



SHELDON'S NEW CATERING COMPANY

We are delighted to partner with the students, teachers, and staff of Sheldon School

Our aim, along with the school, is to provide all students with an exceptional catering experience. Our very talented Executive Chef and the fantastic catering team will be serving exciting menus packed with healthy ingredients that are full of variety, and with loads of interesting new things to try. It's important that the food tastes as good as it looks, and we are sure you won't be disappointed.

Whats on the Menu?

A huge selection of 'grab and go' items including baguettes, paninis, burritos and salads to name a few, all now using our barcode system to help speed up queues.

A variety of healthy, tasty main meals prepared fresh every day from carefully selected ingredients. The menu will follow a similar weekly pattern so you know what to expect, providing **over 35 choices each day in addition to the ever popular chef specials, fortnightly themed events and loyalty scheme.**

Our Street Vibes range, global street food that tours the world.

It's always changing, from Korean fried chicken, Chinese bao buns to Greek Souviaki, there's always something new to try!

A salad bar bursting with homemade healthy salads such as pomegranate quinoa, roasted sweet potato and rocket, or chilli, orange and beetroot. All pre-boxed and ready to collect.



Theme days...Meal Deals and much much more.

Staff from Innovate will be in the refectory next Tuesday (18th July) with information on the menus and service for September and to introduce themselves.