

SHELDON Standard

Wishing Everyone A Happy Easter



Spotlight on Careers

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is aimed at providing pupils and parents with occupational guidance and vocational advice, helping pupils to think about what they want to do with their lives and about the sort of people they wish to become. We believe that

co-ordinated provision is central to developing these aims with curriculum subject areas, tutors and external agencies where appropriate make significant contributions. I am the school independent careers advisor who is available to pupils in Years 7 – 13. I provide guidance interviews for pupils and participate in specific lessons in the Year 11 Careers Education programme. As the Careers Advisor I also attend relevant Parents' Evenings and am available to discuss relevant issues with parents and their children. There is an overview of the careers programme available for parents, employers, members of staff and other stakeholders available by clicking on the Careers Overview tab on the school website.

A reminder that there is a Careers "Drop-in" on Thursday and Friday lunch times, where no appointment is necessary! Just come along to the Careers Hub for help.

A recent highlight so far this year has been National Apprenticeship Week (6 - 12 Feb) and National Careers Week (6 - 12 March) where we welcomed lots of employers and training providers into school during lunch times where they operated "pop-up" stands in a central area where students could stop and talk to them and find out more about training opportunities and careers within that job sector.

The feedback from our visitors was lovely and they really enjoyed their time coming into Sheldon and interacting with our students.

Giving the students first hand experience of interacting with employers is really vital in helping them to understand their options, as well as prepare themselves for future next steps post 16 or 18.

It was lovely to see so many students taking the time to stop and chat with them and ask lots of interesting questions about what opportunities they could offer them in the future.

Kate Witchell, Careers Advisor

Team Zambia Training Weekend

The Zambia 2023 team spent a wet weekend in Wales to prepare for 3 weeks in Zambia in the summer... Whilst the climate was potentially quite different, the camping skills of planning and executing a suitable menu and entertaining themselves with no electronic devices were certainly necessary. They rose to the challenge and had an excellent time meeting our expedition leader, walking 30000 steps then finding the reigning Dobbie champion. Not much sleep was had, but they proved themselves to be a fantastic team in all regards - roll on July!

Miss Libby



Flying Start Challenge

Two teams of four budding engineers from Sheldon qualified for the Flying Start Challenge, Regional Finals on Monday 20th March. There was much excitement, and some trepidation as the teams took their gliders to compete against entries from 24 other schools at Aerospace Bristol. The event required students to launch their prototype gliders in the hall containing Concord (!); present and discuss their designs; construct a free-standing structure that could withstand an earthquake; and parachute an object safely to earth. The students performed brilliantly - Team Balsa Dart (Abraham Jones, Rob Patient, Ben Goldsmith and, in absentia, Nia McIver) flew over 12m and built the tallest, most stable structure, while The Plummers had first place for their flight and came second place overall (only 2 points behind the winners.) A resounding success altogether from the whole group. Well done, in particular, to Maisie-Grace Almadi, Arthur Ellis, Benjamin Harvey and Chloe Sopp who have qualified for the Grand Final! Chocks away for the Southwest Competition!

Dr Aicken



Head-itorial

Unfortunately, this piece begins negatively, but it is something that needs addressing. There have been isolated incidents of student misbehaviour to and from school, with members of the public feeling strongly enough to report it to us. This has been much more than high-spirited messing around and has on occasion involved using discriminatory language and/or been of an intimidating nature. This is absolutely unacceptable. Fortunately, the vast majority of our students behave in an exemplary fashion, but the actions of a minority are tarnishing them all with the same reputation. Even if students are out of school, if they are in Sheldon uniform and we can identify them as being involved in anything unpleasant, we will sanction them, and I feel it is important that we make this clear.

To provide balance, I would also like to highlight some of the many positives at the school, which significantly outweigh the negatives. You'll have seen some of this elsewhere in the newsletter, but it would be remiss of me not to mention. In different ways, these events highlight what is very special about this place. Firstly, congratulations to all of the athletes who qualified for the National Cross-Country Championships, no mean feat in itself, but for Harry Maxwell to come 5th overall and secure an England vest is phenomenal. Secondly, well done to our Year 9 students who took part in the Magistrates Mock Trial in Swindon last weekend; they did brilliantly in the competition, defending and cross-examining other teams. More importantly, it was fantastic to see us represented again after such a long-enforced break. And finally, what a treat for the assembled audience on Monday night at 'Step into it', in which over 60 dancers showcased their amazing talents. We've not seen a dance show like it – such a great way to end the term.

Neil Spurdell
Headteacher | *N. Spurdell*

Sheldon Sporting Achievements...Rugby

Excitement built up for the rescheduled final game of the 2022/3 schools' rugby season to decide the winners of the County Cup which had finally been arranged for 22 March at 1.30pm on the artificial grass pitch at Chippenham RFC.

Rain stopped play earlier in the year for Y11 students from Sheldon School, Chippenham and Devizes School waiting to compete in the final, due to an unusually wet January. Unfortunately the weather wasn't kind to us, meaning the pitches were all waterlogged at the beginning of the year, and since then the students have had to concentrate on preparing for exams, so the final County Cup game had to be postponed. This was really disappointing for our 1st XV who continued training whenever possible.

One change for the team was the new kit gifted by local housebuilder, Redcliffe Homes, which is a very welcome replacement for our previous rather tired shirts.

Final Score of the Final County Cup game:
Chippenham 47 Devizes 12.

Well done to all the Sheldon Team - we are very proud of you all!!

Congratulations to ex-pupil Thompson Cowan who has recently earned a call-up to the Wales Under-20s squad for the upcoming U20 Six Nations.



...Football

Year 7s reach the County Cup final!! The Year 7 football team overcame a very strong St. Laurence side in the county cup semi-final. Sheldon was second best in the first half and were lucky to keep the score at 0-0. The second half was a far more even and end-to-end. Sheldon took the lead through Alford-Baker only for St. Laurence to equalize 10 minutes later. With time running out, and penalties looming, Cabell's low strike from distance found the bottom corner of the goal to send Sheldon to the final with a 2-1 win.



...Cross Country

Huge congratulations to Harry Maxwell Yr 11, coming 5th in the National Cross Country Championships in Nottingham recently. With it comes an England vest...amazing!



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, Lego robotics, Spanish theatre event, dissection club and the riding club. We were pleased to additionally offer our Year 11 and Year 13 students £10 per student this year towards the cost of their prom ticket.

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/>



Silver Practice Expedition



Thirteen year 10 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver practice expedition at the weekend. They endured some challenging conditions camping and walking with heavy winds and rain but also enjoyed some sunshine. This was a great opportunity to fine tune their navigation skills and assess their fitness levels before the qualifying expedition in May. The two groups camped Friday night, west of Pewsey. They spent Saturday walking between 15 and 17km (plus a bit more for one group), through some of Wiltshire's finest countryside. A second night was spent camping near Burbage before heading north through Savernake Forest towards Marlborough. We now look forward to the qualifying expedition in the Quantocks with hope for some drier, warmer weather. Many thanks to Mrs Porter and Mr Foo for helping out this weekend. Well done silver group!

Miss Langdon

The Great Sheldon Cook Off

Over the past two weeks 78 Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students took on their final practical challenge. After nearly two years the students faced a three-hour practical session where they had to prepare three different dishes within a set three-hour period.

In smaller groups of six or seven and with a full kitted mini kitchen each the challenge was accepted. Both Miss Owen and I were very impressed with the organised approach the students applied to their sessions and they certainly proved that they have developed some excellent skills and techniques during their GCSE studies.



Students had to choose from three briefs: Cuisine of the Americas, A Good Source of Calcium or A plant Based Diet. A variety of different dishes were presented, ranging from individual Sherry Trifle to Mushroom Wellington, Key Lime Pie to Meatball New York Hoagies and Salted Caramel Eclairs to Traditional Rough Puff Pastry Cornish Pasties.

Though tired after their hard work all the students should be very proud of their efforts - well done to all those involved.

Congratulations to the Sheldon School Dance Company who competed in the South West heat of the Great Big Dance Off at the Wyvern Theatre and finished fourth.
Well done!