

SHELDON Standard



After a disrupted few years due to the pandemic, the world of work is settling into its new normal. With this in mind, we are planning that the Year 10 students will be able to secure a placement for their work experience. The dates for the work experience programme are w/c 5th June or w/c 12th June. Many of the students have managed to organise a placement already with a wide variety of employers, both local and further afield. This week is about gaining an understanding of life beyond school, not necessarily a chosen future career. Last year 100% of the students said work experience was worth doing, with 95% of students enjoying their week in the working world.

If students and families are finding it difficult to obtain a placement, the career's hub is open every lunch-time for drop in sessions or email: ttillotson@sheldonschool.co.uk

SHELDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ICE CityZen Civil Engineering Award



Year 12 Product Design students have all completed the Institute for Civil Engineering (ICE) CityZen Award after producing well-researched group work looking at improving the facilities and infrastructure of Chippenham town centre.

Working with an industrial mentor from September to December, students developed their understanding of civil engineering completing a series of scenarios using the CityZen platform. After working together to solve problems including sustainable housing, bridge development, improving leisure facilities and preparing for natural disasters, students turned their attention to exploring and tackling problems in the local area.

The two teams from Sheldon (pictured above) worked incredibly hard to research, design and present their ideas with both teams receiving very positive feedback from the ICE and their mentor. It was fantastic to see them grow in confidence throughout the project, gain an insight into new potential careers and work alongside industry specialists. I am proud of all of the students who were great ambassadors of Sheldon school and who I am sure all have the potential to be civil engineers of the future.

Mr England, Head of Design and Technology

Guitars Wanted

Do you have a guitar in your home collecting dust?

Would you like to support the music department by donating your guitar to equip our very keen Y7's who would love to learn guitar as part of our new EAL Club?

Guitars must be in good working order but broken strings can be replaced by us.

Electric guitars and amps also welcome.

We are really excited about a new music club that has been started on Tuesday's to create a safe space for our younger EAL Pupils and after our first gathering the pupils are keen to learn guitar.

Any further questions feel free to contact me: djohn@sheldon-school.co.uk

Notice to Yr 11 and Yr 13 Leavers

If you have a school laptop for home use can you please ensure that it is returned to the IT department or Reception before you leave.

Head-itorial

Two bank holidays in two weeks gives the term an unusual balance, with the rare event of the King's Coronation providing an extra day's holiday for everybody next Monday. Some of the country will tune in with relish on Saturday, others will tune in out of interest, and some will not tune in at all – but probably the vast majority will enjoy the bonus lie-in once the spectacle is all over. Last weekend saw the more conventional first May bank holiday, during which Sheldon had two very big activities going on. For the first time in four years, we had students visit Berlin led by our History department, and at the same time, three intrepid teams were completing the demanding Ten Tors Challenge in Dartmoor. In their own very different ways, both provide powerful and memorable experiences for the students taking part – and I am sure that they will have thoroughly enjoyed being there.

The past week and a half has also seen more days of industrial action taken by some members of the National Education Union (NEU). This is likely to be the last disruption during this academic year, but you may have read or heard that we will see more of the same once the academic year 2023/24 begins. Recently, I responded to a parent who had written in asking why the industrial action was happening and I thought that my reply (now amended for the wider parental audience) might be of interest to others. You can find this and an associated article containing more information by clicking [here](#).

Neil Spurdell
Headteacher | *N. Spurdell*

Ten Tors Challenge 2023

Last weekend 18 Sheldon students took part in the annual Army run Ten Tors Challenge on Dartmoor. Sheldon had three teams aiming to complete the 35 and 45 mile challenges. Having been training since October, this was the culmination of a lot of hard work, dedication, time, sweat, mud and tears, with the 18 toeing the start line having been whittled down from nearly 60 who began the training.

Having spent the week before prepping their kit and planning their assigned routes, students travelled to Okehampton Army Camp on Friday, spending the remaining day completing last minute route planning and the final checks of their kit. On Saturday, having been woken to the sound of Chariots of Fire at 5am, students were on the start line at 6.30am. After a brief

address from Colonel Professor Sir Van-Tam (of Covid briefing fame) the teams set off into the Dartmoor fog at 7am. As the day progressed the weather cleared and all three teams made excellent progress through Saturday! Sunday provided trickier conditions, with more widespread hill fog causing some navigation challenges for the teams. This, combined with tiredness and sore feet, led to a drop in pace. Nonetheless they all ploughed on making good time and completing without any dropouts. It was a delight to see the teams embrace the spirit of the event and, cross the finish line not only as a team, but in a variety of wonderful fancy dress - although I'm still not convinced by the Mr Page masks!

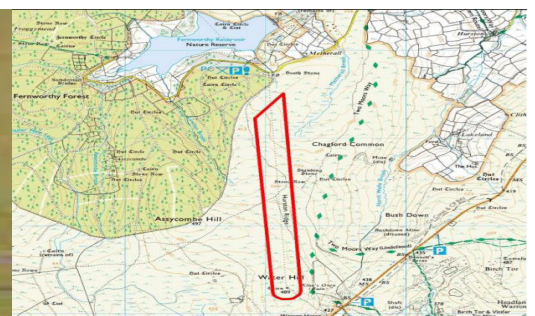
All three teams were a real credit to Sheldon School and a

pleasure to have worked with over the last months.

Completing the 35 Mile Challenge were Benjamin Hardy, Zara Bucknell, Libby Towse, Dylan Paroussi Dawkins, Alistair Freeman and Sofia Callinan in one team. Anneka Batty, Alexa Ballinger, Sylvie Ellis, Callum McIver, Hannah Gordon and Rowan Warne in the second. Completing the 45 Mile Challenge were Will Hardy, Ned Blackman, Rufus Pike, Tom Batty, Mac Bishop and Callum Forrest-Davidson.

If any year 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 students think this might be a challenge they would like to tackle, look out for the launch information for the 2024 challenge in late September.

Mr R Page



Sporting News

On Wednesday two Sheldon football teams played in the Wiltshire Schools County football finals. These were our Year 7 boys and our Year 8/9 girls teams. To even get to the finals is an incredible achievement. The girls won every game in their Mid Wiltshire league and followed this with a 6-1 win in the quarter finals and a 10-1 win in the semis. Unfortunately, South Wiltshire Grammer School in the final put an end to our winning streak in the last game of the season! Sheldon played brilliantly though and should be proud of their performance.



The Year 7 boys were also unbeaten throughout their previous rounds. Their final was an utter thriller. Abbeywood started incredibly strongly and by half time Sheldon were 4-0 down. The fighting spirit of the Sheldon boys came through in the second half with them pulling it back to 5-4 with just a couple of minutes to go. Abbeywood scored again in the final minute but what a positive comeback from the Sheldon boys. Both teams thoroughly deserved their medals and what an achievement to be named 2nd in Wiltshire.



A fitting way to end their school football journey with a hard fought 3-1 win over Lavington in the Mid Wilts Final recently. Over the last 5 years they have won this title 3 times. A huge congratulations to the Year 11 football team.

