

# Sheldon Standard



## Sheldons Young Musician of the Year

A fantastic evening of musical entertainment was witnessed at Sheldon's Young Musician of the Year competition held on Tuesday 20th February. From over 50 talented musicians in the school who auditioned, 16 finalists were selected to compete in each of the three age groups in performances stretching to nearly two hours. In all, eight different musical instruments featured, but for the first time ever, the audience was treated to an electric guitar piece and in the sixth form section, there was a splendid rendition on the bassoon. Miss Venn said "I didn't envy the task of the adjudicator, Jack Curnow, who had to distinguish between exceptional talent on some very different instruments. It has been a huge privilege witnessing the students performing their pieces and it has been an absolute pleasure to be in a school with so many musically gifted youngsters."

Runner up in the Upper School category was Will Templeton who in less than 18 months playing the piano impressed with his diploma-level rendition of Mozart's 'Ah vous dirais-je, Maman'. Luke Hazeltine, Year 9, working towards his grade 7 won the lower school section with his violin piece 'Invitation to Dance'; Harmony Thomas, Year 11, won the upper school section with her own composition 'Once Again' on voice and guitar; and in the sixth form, the victor was Madeline Brunt on the flute performing Mozart's 'Allegro Maestoso'. Runners up in the Lower School and Sixth Form sections were Lucy Wang and Olivia Gabriel. In giving his feedback, Mr Curnow, himself a music teacher in Bristol, commented, "I have been so tremendously impressed by the consistently high standard of performance I have seen from all of the performers tonight. I have visited many schools and this has been the best I have seen from a group such as this. Even if they did not win or come second tonight, the students should be immensely proud of their accomplishments. I am in awe of what I have seen and heard."

**We would like to remind you to please ensure that the contact details we have for you are up to date.**

**We are sending an increasing number of communications by e-mail so it is essential that we have an up to date e-mail address for at least one parent of each student.**

**Similarly please could you ensure we have one or two current mobile phone numbers for adults we can contact in an emergency.**

## Robyn crowned British Schools Gold Medalist 2018

On Sunday 18th March Robyn Ward, Year 7, and her family ventured through the snow to go to the English Institute of Sport Sheffield to compete in the British Schools Judo Final. Robyn competed in five fights, winning all five. Giving her the Gold medal in the British Schools finals competition 2018. Very well done Robyn!!

*Robyn with her Gold medal  
2nd from the left*



## Internet Safety Tips

The NSPCC and mobile phone company O2 have teamed up to help parents (and teachers) understand the ever-changing challenges of keeping a child safe online.

For instance, they run a well regarded helpline. So if you want to talk to someone about online safety, set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks, you can call experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5002

## Women in Engineering

On Friday 23rd February, ten year 10 girls took a trip down to Chippenham College to celebrate Women in Engineering. We were inspired by all the workshops that were available including: paper aeroplane experiments, cosmetic science, coastal engineering, Network Rail challenge and Airbus.

Whilst doing the workshops we had an insight of what it would be like in the work place. Our first activity was the paper plane experiment where we had to design the perfect paper plane to reach the longest distance. We carried out a full investigation into how the weight of the plane affected the distance it travelled.

Each workshop was full of new and interesting activities, and goodies donated from all the different companies. Overall the day was jam-packed with fun activities and new experiences.

**Sienna Burton and Abbie Owen, Year 10**

## GB Schools Modern Biathlon Championships

Congratulations to the three Sheldon athletes who made it to the GB Schools Modern Biathlon Championships at Crystal Palace in London this past snowy weekend. Adam Graham 10CGP put in a top performance to finish in 8th place for the Under 15 Boys, Molly Dunstone 8LXJ was 42nd for the U14 Girls and Erica Dunstone 7CIG came 54th for the Under 13 Girls. These are great results at a national level - well done!

## Industrial Cadets Awards

Sheldon School was nominated as a finalist in the Industrial Cadets Awards on the 7th March. This is in recognition of all the hard work the Year 12 and Year 9 engineering teams have put in through the several years we have run the schemes. Photographed is the 2017 EES engineering team during their assessment day after completing their 9 month project, an exceptional feat. The idea of the schemes is to engage students into the field of engineering, whilst working with real engineers on extensive projects. Well done to all our past engineering teams.

**Mr Oxenham**



# HEAD-ITORIAL

We have finally made it to the end of another term. It might have been a short one, but all that has done has condensed everything into a tighter period of time...and with a bit of excitement thrown in with some snow, it has certainly kept everyone on their toes. This term has also been incredibly productive, with some significant appointments made in staffing for next September. Three weeks ago after an extremely intensive process, we were delighted to appoint Mr Eugene Spiers to the post of Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form to replace Mr Seeley who is retiring at the end of the year. Mr Spiers is currently an assistant headteacher in another Wiltshire school and we look forward to him leading our sixth form on to even greater things when he arrives. Last week we followed up one major appointment with another, this time Mr Chettleburgh's successor as Head of Year. Again the process was rigorous, but ultimately, Mr John Rumble was appointed to the role. John was actually a student here until 1994, so it is great to see a product of the school returning in such a high profile capacity – and whilst we are disappointed that Mr Chettleburgh is stepping down after 27 years in charge, we are extremely pleased in the appointment we have made.

Sandwiched between these events was the annual exchange visit to Hameln. This year I was able to move things in my diary sufficiently to be able to accompany the team of teachers going with the 47 Year 8s and 9s on what proved to be an excellent week in northern Germany. The Year 9s had a truly enlightening experience living with their host families and the Year 8s who were in the hostel with staff were fantastic ambassadors for the school everywhere they went and in everything they did. Visits such as these have been phased out in many schools due to increasing bureaucracy, but I am thrilled that our students can still access such opportunities. My German saw some marginal gains, but the students practised theirs and made much more progress than I did. Frohe Ostern to you all.

*Neil Spurdell, Headteacher*



**Sheldon Associates**  
Our featured Associate this week is PSP, whose profile is below. If you would like to know more about Sheldon Associates, please visit the webpage which can be found under information on the school website or e-mail [associates@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:associates@sheldonschool.co.uk)

We are professional Insurance Brokers and Independent Financial Advisors. In this capacity we have been providing solutions for more than a quarter of a century, assisting both individual and corporate clients to identify and solve their needs. Whether it's protection of assets or maximising investments our business ethos puts the needs of our clients at its very heart. This is not altruism, but rather recognition that, without the long standing client relationships we have proudly built up over the years, we have no business.

## My Visit to Cambridge University by *Molly Ghinn Year 12*

Recently I had the experience of visiting Cambridge University as part of a 3 day residential scheme organised by Cambridge Student Union. As an 'access' scheme, the programme was exclusively for students from state schools and aimed to improve social mobility through education, as similar programmes by charities, such as the Sutton Trust, aim to do. I got the chance to shadow a student and in doing so attended lectures, took part in supervisions, stayed in student accommodation and went to formal dinners. I found it incredibly motivating to be surrounded by people from similar backgrounds, all passionate about their own subjects and eager to be successful in gaining a place in a good university. There are many free summer schools, taster courses and shadowing schemes available to students from schools like Sheldon and they're brilliant to take part in. With something available for all ages, they not only allow you to aspire to greater things but also encourage you to form friendships and challenge your beliefs and opinions. I strongly urge all students to get involved and help to eradicate the archaic belief that only privately educated students get to attend top universities.

## Sheldon School's BBC School Report

Pupils in Year 9 were immersed into the wonderful world of journalism last week as they prepared their own news broadcast. Alongside the expertise of Mr. Gamble, students gathered global, national and local news and produced a fantastic feature. They can be incredibly proud of their efforts as they worked tirelessly on this project.



## Sheldon does "Football in the Trenches"

As part of World Book Day Celebrations on March 1st, boys in Years 7 and 9 had the opportunity to work with Stuart Butler, a local poet and writer. Stuart introduced the boys to what life was like for soldiers in the trenches of World War 1 and they explored some interesting literature written about soldiers' experiences. The boys went on to write their own football inspired poems during what proved to be a creative, inspiring and entertaining morning spent in Stuart's company.

*A very happy Easter to everyone and we look forward to seeing staff and pupils back at school on Monday 16th April 2018*

