

Sheldon Standard

Year 7 Settle into Sheldon Life

After one full week of Sheldon life, I am very pleased to say that Year 7 have shown themselves to be a fantastic addition to the school. They have shown enthusiasm and passion for learning in classrooms and have made an excellent impression on their new teachers. In their first assembly in turnaround week I spoke about "You only get one chance to make a first impression". The first impression they have made has been outstanding. Well done Year 7.

Focus now moves towards preparation for Year 7 Camp which takes place next week. On the camp, they will take part in 5 different activities over two days and sleep under canvas. Thank you in advance to the staff, prefects and sixth formers who are giving up their time to support this trip. The leadership skills and tutor group bonding that takes place on camp is a key part of developing into a "Sheldon Pupil".

Well done Year 7 – keep up the good work!

Mr Rumble, Head of Year 7

Year 12 Enjoy Team Bonding Day



A busy week of induction for Year 12s culminated in a team building day on Friday 7 September. The event, run by a company called Wise Up, was designed to help students get to know each other, especially those who have joined us from other schools...and countries!!

They were faced with a number of problem solving tasks - some physical and some mental. The students really threw themselves into the challenges and a lot of fun was had by all.

Hopefully the students learned a lot about themselves and acknowledged the importance of the skills that they had to utilise throughout the day.

It was certainly a worthwhile exercise for myself and the Year 12 tutor team watching the students interact and learning a lot about the various characters that make up the new Year 12 cohort.

Mr Humphreys, Head Year 12



Criminology comes to Sheldon Sixth Form!

The new criminology diploma course has started at Sheldon. We have 25 students that have started the course and this term they are learning about types of crime and why crimes are unreported. We have arranged for a variety of speakers to come and visit our students over the next year including members of the Wiltshire police, the Wiltshire crime commissioner and agencies including victim support. Although these presentations and Q and As are primarily for criminology, psychology and sociology students we will welcome students in year 10 and 11 with an interest in the criminal justice system. If you have any questions about the talks or criminology course please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Nicola Butterworth. Look out for dates of key speakers in the standard and on the website. Our first speaker is on Monday October 15th from 3.15 - 4.15pm in the school library with Wiltshire Police.



HEAD-ITORIAL

What a good start to the year we have had. The new Year 7s have made an extremely positive impression and it has been wonderful welcoming them properly to the school; all year groups in fact have returned with real purpose and we are confidently looking forward to a really good year ahead. Possibly contributing to the feel-good factor is the transformation in the library: students have commented that they can't believe that it is the same space, such is the difference, and the investment is clearly worth it. You'll be aware that we have several strands of fundraising to develop things further in this area, largely to equip it with more modern furniture and additional learning resources that befit such a splendid space, and the first of these events is the Ball taking place on October 20th. Tickets have almost sold out and those who are going can look forward to a great evening in a really good cause. In addition to the library, through a central government fund, we have invested well over £200k in the sports hall, with toilet and changing facilities upgraded along with many other hidden essential works. This area too is unrecognisable from what it was before. To complete the works, we have also laid a new floor, donated from a previous Commonwealth Games, which will improve the experience of our students and our external users for many years to come. Continual improvement of all varieties is something we are always looking at and to this end we have written our intentions in a detailed school development plan taking us to 2021. A summary is now available on the website for parents to read under the section 'Ofsted and School Improvement', which I hope you will take a look at and which should give you a flavour of our ongoing commitment.

Neil Spurdell, Headteacher

e-safety – Youtube - Mr Shaw

The holidays are over, and my son is reunited with his pals on Fortnite. He suffered a genuine bout of withdrawal during a week on a remote channel island – but he seemed to be able to ease the pain by watching his favourite players playing Fortnite on Youtube. I watched with him once or twice, and I found myself actually quite entertained (at times).

However, I couldn't help but notice some of the most foul and offensive comments were quite plain to see, relating to the video being watched. I investigated and found a way to limit the comments from appearing with the video content: "restricted mode".

This is a way of pre-moderating content that your children are seeing on YouTube; it's a parental control to help you attempt to stop your children seeing videos that may be inappropriate. It also filters out comments on videos; some of those comments are appalling. But note that it needs to be enabled on each device that your child uses.

Holly joins Wimbledon 'Greats'!

Over the summer, Holly Bryan (now Year 10) competed in and won the local, then the Wiltshire County Final of the annual 'Road to Wimbledon' Tennis Tournament (a National 14 and Under Tournament). This meant she qualified to play in the Finals, held on the courts at Wimbledon in August. This was an amazing experience for Holly, playing at such an iconic venue against stiff competition from around the UK.

In addition to competing, she was able to have a 'behind the scenes' tour of Wimbledon, including walking in the players' entrance and seeing where they hold their press interviews and of course, Centre Court - where the new grass has already been planted (looked after by 12 people) to make sure it's in perfect condition for next year's Wimbledon!



MFL Exchanges 2018 - 2019

After our visit way back in March this year to Germany, our Exchange partners are going to be arriving for a return visit on 22nd September. The Year 9s will be meeting up with their partners in school on Thursday and the Year 10s will be able to show their German partners the amazing things that go on in English school lessons.

It is also nearly time to launch our Exchanges for 2019. Pupils will be talked through these exciting opportunities in lessons in the near future. The German Exchange will be in March and the French Exchange in April/May.

Mrs Jordan-Barr

The library is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from Tuesday 2nd October - Monday 9th October. Many fantastic new books at fantastic prices. Also watch out for details of competitions in the coming weeks to win book vouchers that can be used at the book fair. For more details see Miss Punter in the Library and look out for more info in your registers.

Miss Punter, Librarian

Groove on the Green

On a very lovely and warm summer evening on Saturday 14th July, Sheldon School hosted a fundraising event to raise money for both the mental health charity MIND and also the school library. It was a very successful evening and most enjoyable with attendees bringing some fantastic picnics! Year 13 students returned to play in the school band alongside Mr Sparrow and Mr Douglas who span some nifty tunes before the band opened and during the musical interlude. Thanks to all who attended and to those involved.

Mr and Mrs Sparrow



Mr Douglas and Mr Sparrow 'spinning the tunes'!

Congratulations to Poppy Daly Year 13 who has just been awarded Distinction for her grade 8 singing exam... scoring 96 out of 100!!

Sheldon Pupil Cyclists

Could pupils who cycle to school please use the Bike Sheds at the rear of the Maths Block to store their bikes .. not the Staff Bike Pod at the front of Learning Support ..