

# Sheldon Standard

## Huge congratulations to Aiden!!



On 11th February Aidan Bloomer (Year 9) was presented with the Grand Prior Award at the Chippenham Unit of St John Ambulance.

The Grand Prior Award is the highest award that a cadet in St John Ambulance can achieve. Aidan had to complete 24 subjects including First Aid, communication, and learning about the St John organisation. Subjects also covered the creative, personal development, lifestyle, opportunities for service and discovering how to support your community.

The Award recognises a self motivated and capable young person's commitment, compassion and support.

Well done Aiden!!

## Pupils go to Court

On Monday 4th February a group of twelve Year 8 and 9 Sheldon students took the train to Swindon with Miss Frater, to spend the day at Swindon Magistrates Court in preparation for Mock Trials – a competition involving over 4,000 students from over 270 schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We've been meeting every Friday afternoon since September, learning how to take on the various roles in a trial and try a case against another school. On Monday we saw the layout of the court and got to see a real court case in progress. We spoke to magistrates and were given good advice. It was all in all a great day. We all felt better prepared for the Regional Heats which are on Saturday 23rd March at Swindon Courts of Justice.

**Beau Brentnall, Year 9**

## Internet Safety

### MOMO Challenge - Hoax or a real threat?

Many parents and students may have seen recent wide-spread news articles regarding a viral internet based threat- The MOMO Challenge.

Reportedly, the viral scare featured a very spooky looking character appearing in YouTube content, or directly in social media messaging apps. The messages contained within were apparently aimed at daring children to commit violent acts towards others or themselves. The apparent or reported alarming nature of the content and the method of delivery has meant that news of the threat spread far and wide.

However, more recent news items have balanced the alarm with some fact checking - and it appears that the MOMO Challenge is more of a malicious hoax or rumour rather than an actual threat. Both the Samaritans and the NSPCC have dismissed the hoax, saying that while there is no evidence that the Momo challenge has initially caused any harm itself, the ensuing media hysteria could now be putting vulnerable people at risk.

Many sources, such as the UK Safer Internet Centre, have stressed to parents that this sort of event is an ideal time to talk to children about their internet experiences. They are keen to stress that there is very little actual factual evidence of any videos or messages appearing, and that the well-intended discussion and worry has in fact created the problem itself.

The general advice is to talk to your children about the rumours and controversy, but also to help stop the spread of it by emphasising the facts. The organisations mentioned above have lots more detail on this topic.

## Industrious Year 9!

The whole of year 9 took part in the annual Industry Day last Friday. The event has been organised and run by the Design and Technology Faculty and again turned out to be a fantastic success. This year's year 9 really threw themselves into the many activities on offer and won lots of praise for their enthusiasm and creativity.



The day was chiefly designed to help pupils choose their options for GCSE in Design and Technology which has the most number of 'subjects within a subject' on offer and so it's important that students make the right choice. To help them in their choice and to make the whole experience more relevant to future career choices, local industrialists were invited in to run workshops for each subject area.

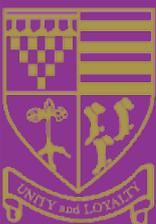
So for Resistant Materials with Systems we had Siemens who sent along a team of apprentice electronics engineers to help pupils build and race prototype buggies. Food and Nutrition were involved in



demonstrating batch production and creating a real life working environment where they were allowed to fire people! Resistant Materials were aided and abetted by Wavin Plastics in the production of phone docking stations and Textiles enlisted the help of Amy Williams an ex Sheldon School pupil who is now going on to forge a new and exciting career in the Textiles industry. Last, but not least, a local firm of architects teamed up with the Graphic Products area to run a most impressive series of workshops with a very real life activity involving designing houses and buildings. The pupils especially liked the fact that they had become architects working on actual projects for the day.

It was an exhausting day, (not least for the staff involved) but the end result in terms of an informed and enthused year 9 is worth the effort! WELL DONE YEAR 9!!

**Mrs N McElwee**



# HEAD-ITORIAL

It is not often that I am completely flabbergasted, but on Wednesday evening this week I was...in a very good way. Many of you will know how much we value the Arts at Sheldon and we are proud of the profile they have within the school. Before Christmas, led by Miss Moss, we had a very successful postcard auction of various art pieces as part of our library fundraising and were delighted to amass over £800, generously supported by a number of parents. One donation that we had to hold back was that from renowned artist Sir Antony Gormley who, in our plea for artwork, gave us 'Wait' to sell off. I've never been to an auction of art before and there was no way I could get to Bonhams in New Bond Street, London for 5pm, so had to resort to a live feed instead where Sir Antony's piece was Lot 39 in the bidding under the title of Post-War Contemporary Art. One of the first to sell was a piece by Josef Albers – 'Contented Green' for a cool £362,562; this was the great showpiece and much larger than the A5 drawing by Sir Antony, but I am delighted to report that shortly before 6:30pm, the hammer went down on 'Wait' at £11,312 – significantly higher than the top estimate of £6,500. This almost completes our campaign to secure monies to refurbish the library space – and we have had a lot of fun along the way. We will now have a great deal of fun purchasing equipment and furniture that will properly do justice to this new magnificent space.

*Neil Spurdell, Headteacher*

## Calling all 'A' level students with an interest in Crime

Two opportunities for A Level students with an interest in crime, policing and forensics.

**Monday March 18th** - Dr Ian McKim head of criminology at USW is talking about criminological theories with a focus on his specialism of terrorism.

**Tuesday 19th** - Wiltshire police are running a session on Crime Scene investigation. This will be an interactive session about how the police and other agencies deal with the crime scene. S13 is going to a crime scene for the afternoon. More details from Mrs Butterworth.



## Vacancy for a Parent Governor

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor on Sheldon's Board of Governors, and we would like to invite parents, foster parents and guardians to put their names forward.

We would particularly welcome nominations from candidates with an interest in Special Educational Needs.

If you wish to stand for election you will need to complete a nomination form. The form and information on becoming a School Governor is on the Sheldon website under Information - Governors. <http://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=13>

Completed forms should be returned to school reception addressed to the Clerk to the Governors, or emailed to [jhawtin@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:jhawtin@sheldonschool.co.uk), by midday on Friday 22nd March. If there is more than one nomination there will be an election by secret ballot.

If you would like to find out more the Chair of Governors, Megan Jones, ([chairforgovernors@sheldonschool.co.uk](mailto:chairforgovernors@sheldonschool.co.uk)) would be happy to discuss this with you.

## Sheldon Ski Visit - Montgenèvre 2019

The Sheldon PE Ski visit returned to Montgenèvre on the French / Italian border after a break of a number of years. The resort is part of the Italian Milky Way area that hosted the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics but Montgenèvre is located just in France above the highest walled City in Europe Briançon.

Montgenèvre is a very attractive old ski village with an excellent range of skiing for skiers of all abilities. The Sheldon group of 88 students were accompanied by 12 staff and our aim was to develop and improve their skiing. The beginner students (36 pupils) had all done a session at Gloucester in preparation for the visit and they made excellent progress with many of them progressing to red runs by the end of the week. The more experienced

skiers were able to ski all over the area including visiting the Italian resort of Claviere which was included on the lift pass.

We were fortunate enough to experience fantastic weather with six days of unbroken sunshine - suncream and lots of water to drink was the order of the day for students and the snow conditions were excellent.

The students were an absolute credit to the school and everyone who had contact with them from the bus drivers and hotel staff to the ski instructors had nothing but praise and compliments for the group.

The Sheldon staff enjoyed their company and skiing with them as well as helping with the evening activities, including a quiz night, bum boarding, the luge, iceskating, Valentine meal and disco. An amazing week was had by all!!

*Mr Douglas, Head of PE*



## Sheldon Stars of Public Speaking

Well done to our senior public speaking team (Bea Baddeley-Chappell, Alex Sutton and Freya Webb) for making it to the district semi-finals of Rotary Youth Speaks even though this is their first year in this tough and more advanced age category. In the end, they came close second to the winning team, showing us their best performance yet. An extra well done should go to Freya Webb, who won 'Best Speaker' for her confident, measured and engaging vote of thanks. Congratulations to all pupils who have been part of public speaking events over the last few months. You have all been excellent ambassadors for Sheldon and we look forward to working with you next year.

*Alex Sutton, Freya Webb, Bea Baddeley-Chappell pictured with the Mayor of Chippenham who came to watch the competition*

