



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday I sent a correspondence to all parents. I would be grateful if you could take the time to read the update that I sent regarding the incident that took place at the end of the school day on Monday.

### **Year 9 Exams - Monday 29th April - Friday 3rd May**

Students in Year 9 will be sitting the Year 9 Exams during the week beginning Monday 29th April. These will take place in classrooms during timetabled lessons and faculties are beginning to provide guidance and support to help students to prepare for these.

We wish our Year 9 students all the best with these!

### **Learning Updates for Years 7 and 8**

Mr Snow, Director of Key Stage 3 has provided some learning updates for Years 7 and 8. Please use the links below to access the information.

[Year 7 Learning Update](#)

[Year 8 Learning Update](#)

### **Uniform Shop**

The online uniform shop continues to be a remarkable success. If you have any donations of old uniform which is still in good condition, we would really welcome these. Huge thanks to families who are able to support this service.

Here is the link to access our pre-loved uniform shop: [Gordano School - Pre-loved Uniform](#)

### **Year 10 Work Experience 1st - 5th July**

Thank you for your support in ensuring your son or daughter has secured a WEX placement, we really appreciate the effort that goes into securing a place. If your child has not yet found a placement please don't panic, there is still plenty of time to get something sorted. Placements will need to be entered onto Unifrog by mid-June in order to have time for the employer and then parents to complete their parts of the process; so please keep contacting employers and using any other contacts you have to find a placement for your child. The Careers Team can also help so if you have any concerns or would like some help please email [careers@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@gordanoschool.org.uk)

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
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### **Higher Apprenticeship Evening**

It was lovely to see so many students and parents at our Apprenticeship Evening last Thursday. We do value your feedback on these events but unfortunately our QR code was not cooperating! If you attended the event, we would still value your reflections on the link below. Thank you.

[Post 18 Apprenticeship Feedback Form](#)

### **New Careers Newsletter:**

Our careers team continue to offer a wide range of career opportunities to all students, please click on the newsletter link below to find information about forthcoming events and an indication of their relevance to specific year groups.

[Careers Newsletter - March 2024](#)

### **Year 11 Celebration Day**

We have had to move the date of the Year 11 celebration day due to scheduled exams on Friday 3rd May. The celebration day will now take place on Wednesday 8th May instead.

### **Change to Cost of School Meals - update from ASPENS**

Our catering provider is committed to providing nutritious menus, catering for a wide range of dietary preferences while also ensuring good value for money and using locally sourced produce. However, after two years of frozen prices we have had to take the difficult decision to increase the cost of our school meals. From 1st April 2024, the cost of a school meal will increase to £2.65. The new price reflects a necessary adjustment to cover continued high food inflation and increasing operating costs.

We want to reassure you that this decision was made after careful consideration and understand the financial concerns this may raise for some families.

As a reminder, all children in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2, are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. If your child is in Years 3-6 in primary school or Years 7-13 in secondary school and your circumstances have changed, you may be entitled to Free School Meals. To find out more please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. If you are unable to complete the form online, please visit the school office, and a member of our office team will provide you with the necessary support. Please be assured that your application will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, and it will not affect any other benefits you may be receiving.

### **Keeping Students Safe and Supported.**

We hope that the Easter break allows students - and their families - to recharge after a busy school term. We do know that for exam year students in particular, the lack of a structured school day can impact their wellbeing; the following link may be useful in this respect:

[Staying mentally healthy during exams | Resources | YoungMinds](#)

We also share the following contact details for families to access while school is closed for the Easter break. If you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

**Samaritans** - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123

**Shout** - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7

**Childline** - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor.

**HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm

weekends.

**KOOTH** - an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to [kooth.com](http://kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday - 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm - 10pm.

**CAMHS Crisis Line** - 0800 953 9599

If you need to speak to **Childrens Social Care**- please contact the front door service on 01275 888808.

If a life is at risk, please call **999** to access support from emergency services.

### Staffing Updates

As we draw to the end of this term, we have staff who are leaving, and I want to take the opportunity to wish them all the very best in their next steps.

Firstly, I would like to wish Miss Grindey (Humanities) and Miss Morris (Maths) all the very best as they go on maternity leave after Easter. We are delighted to welcome Miss Bibi in Maths and Mr Loughlin in Humanities. We are also pleased to welcome Mr Cousins to our Geography department. We also say goodbye this term to Mrs Tincknell who has secured the Head of Science role at Bridgwater Academy. We wish her all the very best. Joining the Science team after Easter will be Mr Chiweshe.

Yesterday we welcomed back Mrs Harding from maternity leave, who will step back into her role as Assistant Headteacher, with oversight of Year 9. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Dickinson for so ably stepping into this role whilst Mrs Harding was on maternity leave and Mr Reddrop who stepped in as Head of Portland during this time. Mr Dickinson will now resume his role as Head of Portland House.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher

### Key Dates for Term 5

Wednesday 17th April	Year 13 A-level music composition arrangement exam
Thursday 18th April	4pm - 7.30pm Year 9 Progress Evening
Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st April	Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Training Days
Monday 22nd - Friday 26th April	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Exams
Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th April	Year 13 A-level textiles exam
Tuesday 23 April	1.30pm Year 12 UCAS Convention
Tuesday 23rd - Wednesday 24th April	Year 11 GCSE dance exam
Thursday 25th April	Junior Maths Challenge (Years 7-8)
Thursday 25th April	6pm - 7pm Year 6 Parental Information Evening
Friday 26th April	Sixth Form May Day Challenge
Friday 26th - Sunday 28th April	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

Monday 29th April - Friday 3rd May	Year 9 Mock Exam Week
Monday 29th April	Dance Showcase technical rehearsal
Monday 29th - Tuesday 30th April	Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
Tuesday 30th April	Year 9 MenACWY/DtP Vaccinations
Tuesday 30th April - Wednesday 1st May	7pm - 9.30pm Dance Showcase
Wednesday 1st - Thursday 2nd May	GCSE Art Photography Exam
Thursday 2nd May	4pm - 7.30pm Year 12 Progress Evening
Monday 6th May	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 7th May	Year 7 General Knowledge Quiz
Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th May	Year 13 A-level MFL Speaking Exams
Tuesday 7th - Thursday 9th May	Year 13 A-Level Art Exam
Tuesday 7th - Wednesday 8th May	Year 12 Mock Art Exam
Wednesday 8th May	3.30pm - 5pm Teatime Careers Networking Event
Wednesday 8th May	Year 11 Celebration Day (Y11 students leave school at midday)
Friday 10th May	Year 13 Leavers' Celebration
Monday 13th - Friday 17th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
Tuesday 14th May	6pm - 7pm Parent Forum
Tuesday 14th - Wednesday 15th May	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition - Group 1
Thursday 16th May	4pm - 7.30pm Year 10 Progress Evening
Thursday 16th - Friday 17th May	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition - Group 2
Monday 20th May	7pm - 9pm Drama Performance: Wonderland
Wednesday 22nd May	LSP UWE Leadership Conference (Year 12)
Thursday 23rd May	6pm - 7pm Year 7 Celebration Evening
Friday 24th - Sunday 26th May	Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Monday 27th - Friday 31st May	HOLIDAY