



GORDANO
SCHOOL

Prospectus



pride • achievement • community

Welcome



Gordano is a very successful school with high academic standards, a strong and caring pastoral system and an excellent range of extra-curricular opportunities. I am very proud of this school and its young people and staff. We achieve a lot together. Ofsted recognised this when they judged us to be outstanding in every category in our last inspection, describing lessons as “frequently exciting, challenging and enjoyable, characterised by rapid progress”. That hasn’t changed in recent years, as evidenced by our consistently excellent results.

We believe in the values of community and we hope that our students see Gordano as a place where they belong and are valued and respected. I expect all of our students to live up to those values too in the way that they treat other people and we have high expectations of effort, behaviour and courtesy.

Although we are a large school in numbers, in many ways Gordano feels like a small school where students are known as individuals. In Year 7 students have their own base for break and lunchtimes and are looked after by our Transition team. Our six Houses are friendly and caring communities of around 220 students each and the House Heads take charge of the welfare, development and progress of the members of the House. Our Sixth Form has impressive accommodation and a team of specialists headed by an Assistant Headteacher.

We are proud to be a comprehensive school and value every single young person. We have excellent provision for students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and for those who are most academically able. At Gordano there is a close partnership with parents to ensure that we respond to every student’s changing needs in education and personal development.

I hope that these pages will give you a flavour of the caring, successful and vibrant community that we are. You will find more information on our website and I would like to extend an invitation for you to visit and see for yourself.

Tom Inman
Headteacher



“
Everyone is friendly, people are nice and easy to talk to, always welcoming.
”
Jess, Year 8 student, Fitzroy

achievement

Starting at Gordano

Helping you adapt quickly and comfortably.

Transfer from primary school can be a nervous time. We understand this and many supportive measures are in place to help families adapt quickly and comfortably.



We meet every new student individually in their own school before transfer and there are opportunities at an induction day for meeting with key members of the school staff. We try to learn as much as we possibly can about each child before they even come to the school.

On arrival, students are allocated to Houses but spend the first five terms of Year 7 together. The Year group are looked after by the Year 7 team and this gives the chance to settle in away from older students and for many new friendships to blossom.

In practice, Year 7 students love their new environment and within two weeks they feel like old hands at the school. Within the first few weeks some will be on our school stage talking to the next generation of new parents.



“

The extra-curricular options give us chance to explore our favourite subjects. I joined a photography club and used it to look into aspects of Geography.

Jack, Year 10 student, Lundy

”

pride

Learning at Gordano

Learning is at the centre of everything we do at Gordano – and that applies to the adults at the school as well as the students.



“ Positive relationships and high levels of engagement make a significant contribution to learning across the school.

Challenge Partners Review, November 2018.



Our broad and exciting curriculum offer is personalised to the needs of individuals and is seen as an example of innovative and best practice. We are regularly visited by other schools looking to understand what we have achieved in our subject areas. We are able to offer one of the widest range of subject options at GCSE and A Level that you will find, enabling students to truly find the pathway that suits them.

Year 7 will immediately come into contact with the full breadth of our curriculum offer, giving them the most diverse experience possible from Day One. As well as this, the carefully planned pastoral programme introduces them to the range of tools that they will use throughout their time at Gordano to become independent and resilient learners.

We help students identify what type of learner they are and we discuss the emotional intelligence behind learning and building effective relationships. Learning how to learn is as important at Gordano as the subjects that are followed.

As they progress through the school, our aim is to allow each student to succeed at GCSE and to plan study pathways that will leave them, as 16 or 18 year olds, with the greatest possible advantage as they look at the next step beyond school.

With this in mind, our students will make GCSE option choices at the end of Year 8 and will start their GCSE's in Year 9. This allows an extra year to study GCSE courses so that students have the time and capacity to prepare themselves for their exams. It also allows them to explore their chosen subjects in greater depth, make stronger links with other subjects and develop wider skills that will benefit them as they progress to post 16 study.



The best thing about Gordano is how diverse the lessons are, always fun and enjoyable.

James, Year 8 student, Lundy



community

Playing & performing at Gordano

The range of opportunities available for extra curricular provision is remarkable. We firmly believe that experiences beyond the classroom are as valuable as those within in developing the skills and qualities that prepare them for the next stage of their lives.

Well over 200 students receive music tuition in school - most of these will perform regularly in our wonderful concerts. We stage regular large Drama and Dance performances, including a Whole School Production most years involving well over 100 students in a range of roles on or off stage.

Gordano sports teams have developed a regional and national reputation for their quality, competitiveness and sense of fair play. All of the major sports are played here, as well as a number of more unusual opportunities. In recent years we have reached (and won) national finals and featured strongly in regional level competitions. Gordano students have also won national age group honours in gymnastics, hockey, women's cricket, rugby, rowing and many other sports. But sports at Gordano are for everyone, as demonstrated by our inter-house competitions, sports day and annual swimming gala, all contributing to our overall House Sports Cup.

Outdoor Education is thriving at the school. We are one of the largest Duke of Edinburgh's Award centres in the South West with over 150 students enrolling on their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards annually. We were delighted to receive a visit from HRH Countess of Wessex in February 2019 in recognition of this.



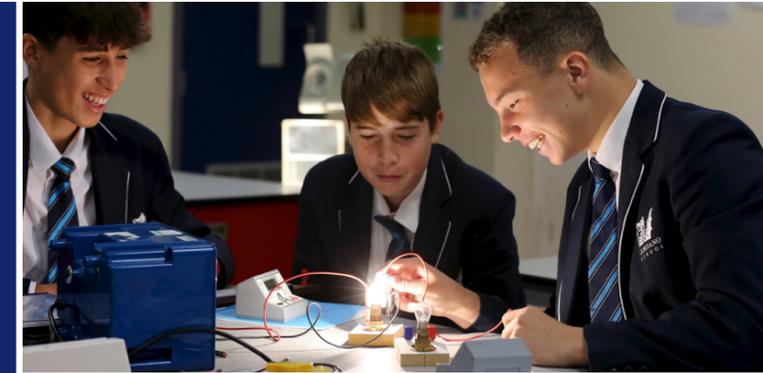
“ Earlier in the year I played rugby, and we got onto the Somerset Cup Finals and won, the fact that we were able to achieve that was a really proud moment for the team.

Tom, Year 10 student, Portland



Excelling at Gordano

Excellence is a habit and we try to encourage every student to push themselves. Targets for progress are set and sent home on a regular basis. Every student should know where they are and what they need to do to get to the next level and students are taught how to reflect on their skills and effort as well as their academic achievement. That information, along with attendance data is available to parents on-line, together with all homework and many lesson resources.



Our outstanding curriculum offer is personalised to the needs of individuals and seen as an example of successful and innovative practice.

All students are 'special' but some have needs beyond the normal spectrum that can be accommodated by excellent teaching and well differentiated resources. Every year a significant number of our students try for places at the very top universities and we believe that this cohort need some special mentoring and an early sense of what is needed to succeed at the top level. For those with particular talents in an academic or performing area, teachers ensure that additional stretch and challenge is put into teaching.

In addition to this, the Student Support Faculty works closely with primary schools, Gordano School staff, parents and students to identify Year 7 learners who may require additional support to access the curriculum in Key Stage 3.

We work closely with students and parents to ensure that the right pathway and support is available throughout their school experience to enable them to thrive, whatever their needs.

“ There is a rich menu of opportunities to experience life in other countries including visits exchanges and trips.

Elin, Year 12 student, Biscay



Talking & Listening at Gordano



“ Tutor time gets us involved and gives us chance to see people we otherwise wouldn't interact with. ”

Jemma, Year 10 student, Lundy

We can only be successful at Gordano if we listen to the views of our students and their parents.

A key contact point will be the Head of Year 7 and our six Heads of House (Years 8 – 11) who take a close overview of the progress being made by members of their House. However, the first point of contact should always be your child's Tutor who will refer issues on if needed.

It is important that children attend school regularly and our attendance rate is consistently the highest in the Local Authority. This has been achieved through excellent communication with parents and through

the work of The Centre at Gordano. The student reception area includes professional and key workers who support student welfare. Parents and students can access help here from our Attendance Officer, Educational Welfare Officer, our Progress Mentors and Careers Advisers.

In addition to our on-line information services, parents will receive regular newsletters. Each student will have a journal that contains a wealth of key information and can be used as a channel of communication between tutors and home.

All teachers are accessible by email and parents are welcome to contact the school by telephone whenever difficulties arise.

At Gordano and Beyond

Over 90% of our Year 11 leavers continue into some form of further education.

Many stay on into our very popular Sixth Form where well over 30 academic and vocational options exist (detailed in our separate post-16 prospectus). Every year Sixth Formers from Gordano go on to gain places at a range of the UK's top universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Others go on to take up Higher Apprenticeship places with prestigious firms including EY and the MoD.

Our careers advisers and progress mentors work with each student to make sure that strong pathways have been established and those leaving school continue to be tracked and given access to the best possible advice. Our work to prepare our young people for success in the future is supported by our Business Partnership. More than 100 local and national employers work with us to provide work shadowing, practice interviews and information about their businesses to our students. We have also taken the deliberate decision to maintain a full week of Work Experience for students in Year 10, unlike many schools. Every year we see the huge benefit of students learning so much from taking a step into the world of work.



“ We just wanted thank you and your team for another amazing Gordano year. As parents we continue to be inspired by Gordano - the energy we see and feel whenever we come to school is quite exceptional and to maintain this year in year out is so impressive. ”

Parent of Year 8 & Year 13 students

The Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) was founded in 2016 and is an 'all-through' Academy Trust based in the West of England. We are a cross-phase Multi-Academy Trust with schools across the age range from Nursery to Sixth Form. Our Trust includes both community schools and Church of England schools and we also have two Teaching Schools amongst our number so that we can have the professional development of our staff as a top priority. We have a burgeoning Professional Development offer and a strong school improvement strategy.

Working in partnership is an opportunity that we relish and we believe that in collaboration we can deliver more fully the aims to which we were committed as individual schools. Yet the real identity of each school remains its own, so although we might have common systems to deliver quality and efficiency the Trust does not seek to standardise the ethos of its schools. We promote a culture in which openness to peer and external scrutiny are balanced by an expectation that we share our talents and strengths across our schools. Our vision statement talks about operating in a spirit of professional generosity.



**LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**



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