



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy week at Gordano with our Year 11 students completing their mock examinations and doing so with continued drive and commitment, so a huge well done to the year group for their efforts over the last two weeks. Students have also been busily preparing for our two Christmas concerts which are taking place next week. It promises to be two wonderful evenings (Tuesday and Wednesday) packed with a variety of music and a range of talent from our young people – tickets are still available via parentpay if you haven't got one already.

In the run up to the holidays, the kindness agenda at Gordano continues. Students are currently busy making paper chain links to bring joy to the residents of local care homes. The deadline to submit these is 15th December, so there is still time to encourage your children to participate! Other activities taking place include Caring at Christmas. If your child can donate any of the items on the list below, they would be gratefully received. The deadline for donations is Monday 12th December.

Key Dates for Term 3

Please see the bottom of this letter for key dates coming up in term 3. Also, a reminder that the first two days in Term 4 are INSET days.

Mock Exams

Well done to all of Year 11 (*and Year 10 – Religious Studies students*) for their approach to the mock exams over the last fortnight. The students have been brilliant, and I hope all their hard work revising pays off.

The mock exams are designed to show a snapshot in time, and inform staff about the content that students know, along with their exam technique. We can then plan appropriately moving forward to support students after the break. Students will have the opportunity to feedback on the experience via the link shared on ClassCharts.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Scores will be shared with students and feedback taking place in lessons, then grades will be released to students on **Friday 12th January**, on the Mocks Results Day.

Learning Information

Our Directors of Key Stage will be sending out their next learning newsletter for each year group before Christmas, detailing the topics students will be learning next term. In the meantime, you can find curriculum information on our website (continually being updated!) including the ways in which we support literacy across the school [Gordano School - Curriculum](#)

Student Centre

We welcome your continued support in reminding students to use the Student Concern form so that our pastoral team can triage the requests they receive for student check-ins. We have reminded students that they can go to the Student Centre or log a concern so that the House team can then follow up with all students – we cannot always offer students direct access to the Assistant Heads of House offices and would not want them to be unsupervised or miss valuable learning time waiting to see their requested member of staff; the SLT on Call link can respond to an immediate concern should it arise during the day via our Student Reception desk, or students can approach any member of the staff team who are on duty during break and lunch.

Parking

We have received some concerns from our neighbours about parking in the morning and particularly in the afternoon around the end of school. We would like to remind parents to please be considerate when waiting to pick students up. Although we are happy to discuss any issue with our neighbours that may be of concern (or celebration), these issues are not always ones we can solve for them, but we hope as a community we would all want to be part of a positive way forward. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch

The **Sixth Form** will be having their **Christmas lunch** in the dining hall on **Tuesday 12th December**. This will mean that students in **years 7-11** will only be able to access grab and go food from the canteen. On this day we will be staggering year groups for lunch collection in the canteen. **Students in years 7 and 10** will leave for lunch at **12.45pm** all other year groups will come down to lunch at **12.55pm**.

Wednesday 13th December, the dining hall will only be open to those students who have booked a Christmas lunch. Therefore, students who have not booked a Christmas lunch will need to go to the canteen for lunch on this day. On this day we will be staggering year groups for lunch collection in the **canteen**. **Students in years 7 and 10** will leave for lunch at **12.45pm** all other year groups will come down to lunch at **12.55pm**.

World Challenge Fundraising

In July of 2025 a handful of Gordano students will be travelling to Ecuador for a four-week trip of hikes, community work, camping, exploration and sightseeing! As part of their trip they need to fundraise their way there so as one of their efforts, Joseph Welsh, Ruby Parsons and Clara Mackintosh all from year 12 will be selling refreshments at the Christmas Concert on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. As well as refreshments they will be running a raffle to win a hamper full of prizes donated by the shops of Portishead high street. If you cannot make the concerts, you can pay for raffle tickets on ParentPay so you still have the chance to enter. Tickets cost 50p each or 5 for £2. Please include your phone number in the notes so that we can contact you should you be the lucky winner.

Safeguarding

We would ask parents to have a conversation with students about the use or distribution of any herbal 'remedies' - such as Ashwagandha root herb. We have received some information that students may be supplying herbal tablets to 'enhance cognitive function'; clearly there is a risk for anyone self-prescribing, but also a risk for students sharing tablets that can be purchased in retail outlets and online that are not contained in their original packaging. We will continue to share this messaging in pastoral updates but would welcome parent engagement in this conversation.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Tue 12th Dec: Sixth Form Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Tue 12th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Year 7 – 11 Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Mon 18th Dec: School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 – 5.30) in the Main Hall

Wed 20th Dec: Last day of term – 12.30 finish for students

Key Dates for Term 3

Term 3 Achievement Reviews for Year Group 7 and 11

Thursday 4 th January	Year 10 GCSE Drama Launch Exam (lessons 1-6)
Thursday 4 th January	6.00 - 7.00 A-level Certificate Evening
Friday 5 th January	Year 10 GCSE Drama Launch Exam (lessons 1-6)
Friday 5 th January	Year 12 Electives Launch
Tuesday 9 th January	Year 9 General Knowledge Quiz
Friday 12 th January	Year 11 Mock Results Day (tutor time)
Tuesday 16 th January	Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 17 th January	8.30 - 12.30 Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Wednesday 17 th January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Thursday 18 th January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals (all day)
Thursday 25 th January	Year 10 Employability Workshop
Thursday 25 th January	4.00 – 7.30 Year 13 Progress Evening
Wednesday 31 st January	Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9-11)
Monday 5 th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Monday 5 th February	3.30 – 4.30 Year 7 MFL Spelling Bee Final
Tuesday 6 th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Tuesday 6 th February	6.00 – 7.00 Parent Forum
Wednesday 7 th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Thursday 8 th February	4.00 – 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 9 th February	School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 - 5.30)
HOLIDAY	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February inclusive
INSET DAYS	Monday 19 th February & Tuesday 20 th February



Caring at Christmas

This year Gordano Sixth Form are supporting Caring at Christmas as we have done in many previous years. In order to support them, we need donations from you!

There are boxes in each house area and the year 7 common room for you to put your donations in.

Donations that Caring at Christmas are looking for:

Toiletries + clothes:

- Warm good quality winter clothing
- New underwear + socks
- Jumpers, coats (especially waterproofs)
- Rucksacks and bags
- Trainers + boots
- T-shirts
- Sleeping bags + blankets (no duvets)
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorants)
- Laundry powder
- Arts and crafts supplies

Food donation list:

- Instant coffee, tea, squash
- Long-life juice
- Crisps (multipack)
- Soft drinks (multipack)
- Chocolate bars (multipack)
- Confectionary (multipack)
- Biscuits (multipack)
- Rice and pasta
- Jams, peanut butter, chocolate spread, marmite
- Cereal (the more sugary the better)
- Condiments (ketchup, mayo)
- Sandwich pickle
- Tinned meat
- Long-life milk
- Mince pies



Please donate anything that you can do to help support those less fortunate.

We will be delivering your donations to Caring at Christmas on Wednesday 14th December so the deadline for your donations is **Monday 12th December.**

THANK YOU!
