



GORDANO SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Dream Big

Do Your Best

Give Back



Welcome

At Gordano, we believe that education is far more than just academic success – it is about nurturing the whole child, developing confident, compassionate, and curious young people who are equipped to thrive in life beyond school.

We are proud to be a high-performing school with a long-standing record of academic excellence at both GCSE and A Level. Yet what makes Gordano truly special is the richness of experience we offer every young person, both in and beyond the classroom. From the moment students join us, they are welcomed into a community that is warm, inclusive and ambitious – a place where every individual is known, valued and supported to be their very best.

Our exceptional extra-curricular offer forms a vital part of life at Gordano. As the regional leader for the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme with the highest number of new starters in the South-West for two consecutive years, we give students incredible opportunities to build confidence, resilience and independence through outdoor adventure and service. Our thriving Creative Arts programme includes large-scale school productions, a vibrant Creative Arts Festival, and regular performances and exhibitions that showcase the extraordinary talents of our students.

Beyond the arts, students can join a wide variety of sports clubs and fixtures, tackle national Maths challenges, participate in Debate Society, or explore nature and wellbeing through outdoor learning in our dedicated Nurture and Secret Gardens. These opportunities help our

young people grow as leaders, collaborators, problem-solvers and global citizens.

We understand that the transition into secondary school, and later into Sixth Form, is a significant moment for students and families. That's why we have developed extensive and personalised transition programmes to ensure every student starts their next chapter with confidence and support.

We also run an Enhanced Transition programme for Year 6 students with SEND to make the move to secondary school as smooth and positive as possible.

We are deeply proud of our inclusive approach and Gordano School has been recognised by Challenge Partners as an 'Area of Excellence' for Inclusion, highlighting the school's outstanding commitment to supporting students with SEND. As a truly comprehensive school, we are committed to meeting the needs of every young person, with expert support from our experienced SEND team and strong partnerships with parents and carers.

Our school is built around a strong pastoral system, underpinned by six caring and close-knit House communities. Each House is led by a dedicated Head of House who guides the personal development and wellbeing of every student. This sense of belonging is at the heart of our ethos.

Gordano School truly goes above and beyond with its Activities Week and year-round Trips Programme. The scale and variety on offer are unparalleled in the region. These opportunities reflect our deep commitment to enriching education and creating engaging, memorable experiences that help every student thrive.

At Gordano, we live by our values: Dream big. Do your best. Give back. These simple but powerful principles shape our culture and inspire every member of our community to aim high, act kindly and contribute positively.

I hope this prospectus gives you a sense of the vibrant, caring and opportunity-rich environment that defines Gordano. I warmly invite you to come and visit us – and see for yourself what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Warmest regards,



Ms Louise Blundell, Headteacher

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WELCOME

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Every Language Matters at Gordano

At Gordano School, we celebrate the rich diversity of languages, cultures and experiences that our students bring to our community. We are proud to support students who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), helping them to develop confidence, succeed academically and feel a strong sense of belonging from their first day with us.

We understand that learning through a new language can be both exciting and challenging. Our aim is to ensure that every EAL student can fully access the curriculum, participate in school life and achieve their potential. Through a combination of high-quality classroom teaching, targeted interventions and personalised support, we help students develop their English while valuing and maintaining their home language.

Living the Gordano Values

Dream Big

We encourage our EAL students to be ambitious and aspirational. Whether they are new to English or already fluent, we support them to set high goals, embrace new opportunities and develop the confidence to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Do Your Best

Every teacher at Gordano is a teacher of language. Through high-quality teaching, carefully planned support and a language-rich curriculum, we help students build the knowledge, vocabulary and communication skills they need to succeed. We believe every student can make excellent progress when given the right support and encouragement.

Give Back

We recognise the value of cultural diversity and multilingualism within our school community. EAL students enrich school life through their languages, experiences and perspectives. We encourage students to share their cultures, support one another and contribute positively to the wider Gordano community.

How We Support EAL Students

Our support is tailored to individual needs and informed by the Bell Foundation EAL Assessment Framework. Students may benefit from:

- Specialist assessment and monitoring of English language development.
- Targeted language interventions where needed.
- Access to digital learning platforms including Flash Academy and Lexia.
- Bilingual dictionaries and translation support.
- Opportunities to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills across the curriculum.
- A welcoming induction programme for students joining Gordano from overseas or with limited English.
- Close partnership working with families to support language development at home and school.

An Inclusive Community

We believe that maintaining and celebrating a student's first language is an important part of their identity and success. Across the school, we promote cultural understanding, celebrate different traditions and provide opportunities for students to share their experiences with others.

At Gordano, every student is known, valued and supported. Our EAL learners are an important part of our school community, and we are committed to helping them flourish academically, socially and personally.

A young male student with blonde hair, wearing safety goggles and a school uniform (dark blue blazer with a crest, white shirt, and striped tie), is lighting a large sparkler. The sparkler is mounted on a stand and is erupting with bright sparks. The background is a blurred classroom setting with a world map on the wall.

Dream Big

"Pupils relish learning a breadth of subjects at Gordano School. Students in the sixth form thrive. They value the high quality of education that they receive."

Ofsted Inspection 2024



Starting at Gordano

Our aim is for our young people to adapt quickly and comfortably to their new surroundings in September. We recognise that the transfer from primary school to secondary school can be a little daunting therefore we work hard to put in many supportive measures for students and families to help them with this transition

We visit all our new students in their primary schools as part of the transition and students have the opportunity to spend a full day at Gordano in Term 6. This gives students an opportunity to meet with key members of the school staff and to start to find their way around the school site.

We try to learn as much as we possibly can about each child before they start, through liaison with our primary school partners. 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 our students the chance to settle in and to develop new friendships and experiences.

The Elliot Hall is a dedicated space for Year 7 students, it was completely reimagined as Hogwarts last year in a legacy project created by the Year 7 students. This year we have also introduced a new canteen, exclusively for Year 7 to help them feel comfortable, confident and settled as they make the transition to Gordano.

In practice, Year 7 students love their new environment and within two weeks they feel like they have always been a part of our community. Within the first few weeks some of our students will be on our school stage talking to the next generation of new parents.



Do Your Best

"Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), enjoy learning at the school. Pupils' achievement is strong."

Ofsted Inspection 2024



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.

Our broad and exciting curriculum offer is personalised to the needs of individuals. We are able to offer one of the widest range of subject options at GCSE, A Level and in Vocational subjects 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 learn and remember through our 'Gordano Learning' pedagogical model (see website for more details). Supporting our students in how to learn effectively 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.

We work individually with students at the points where they are making choices about their curriculum to make sure that they are maximising the opportunities open to them in the future.

Give Back

"My son thoroughly enjoyed the activities week and loved the daily activities (he was buzzing when he got home) - huge thank you to everyone who was involved in organising it."

Year 8 parent



Playing & Performing at Gordano

There is a huge range of opportunities available within our extra-curricular programme (Gordano Extra). 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.

We run approximately 50 clubs each year free of charge. 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 bi-annually involving well over 100 students in a range of roles both on and off stage.

All of the major sports are played here, as well as a number of more unusual opportunities. Our sports teams have developed a regional and national reputation for their quality, competitiveness and sense of fair play.

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.

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 with over 190 students enrolling on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award alone, we also have a thriving silver and gold programme. Last academic year we were one of the largest providers of the DofE in the South-West.





Progressing at Gordano

At Gordano we encourage every student to enter all activities with great effort and we support students in being resilient through their learning. All students should know where they are in terms of their academic progress and attainment and what they need to do to get to the next level.

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 online, together with all homework and lesson resources. Further information regarding our curriculum is available on the school website.

All students are catered for through the 'universal provision' we offer in

the classroom to ensure all students can access their learning effectively. For those with strengths in an academic or performing area, teachers ensure that additional challenge actively engages students both in the classroom and outside it.

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.

Talking & Listening at Gordano

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 above the national average. This has been achieved through excellent communication with parents and

through the work of 'The Student Centre' at Gordano.

The Student Centre 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 Mentors and Careers Advisers.

In addition to our online information services, parents will receive regular parent updates.

Parents can contact staff through our email mailbox and 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 of our Year 11 'leavers' stay on into our thriving Sixth Form where well over 30 academic and vocational options exist (detailed in our separate post16 prospectus). Every year Sixth Formers from Gordano go on to gain places at a range of UK universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Others go on to take up Higher Apprenticeship places with prestigious firms including EY and the Ministry of Defence.

Our careers advisers work with each student to make sure that strong

pathways have been established and that 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. Every year we see the huge benefits of students learning so much from taking a step into the world of work.





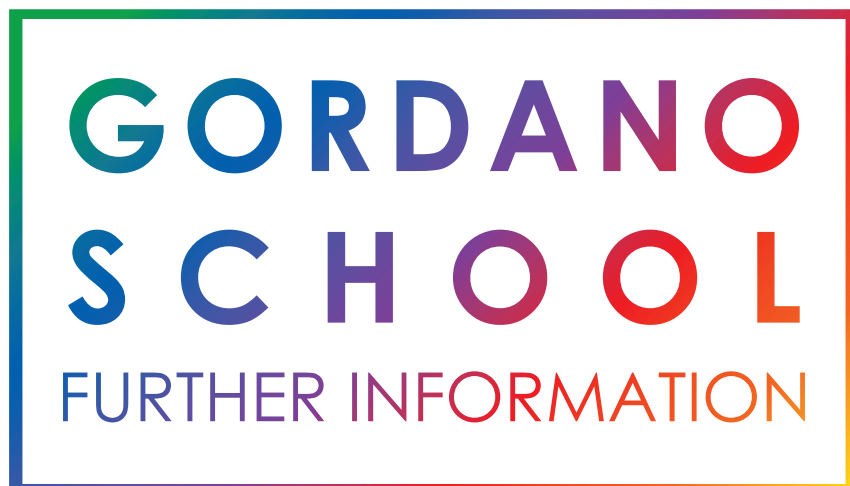
The Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP)

The 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. We have a very strong Professional Development offer at Trust and school level and a strong school improvement strategy.

Working in partnership is an opportunity that we relish, and we believe that in collaboration we can deliver 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



Dream Big

Do Your Best

Give Back

Senior Leadership Team

Louise Blundell	Headteacher
Jonathan Mailey	Deputy Headteacher - Pastoral & Behaviour
Carolyn Tipler	Deputy Headteacher - Learning & Standards
Ellie Armstrong	Finance Director
Jeanne Fairs	Assistant Headteacher - Safeguarding
Adam Snow	Assistant Headteacher - Director of Key Stage Three
Mark Tipler	Assistant Headteacher - Director of Key Stage Four
Bethan Luton	Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion Key Stage Three
Charlotte Thomas	Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion Key Stage Four & Looked After Children
Laura Harding	Assistant Headteacher - Learning and Behaviour
Julie Caswell	SENDCo

Admission Arrangements

Pupils will be admitted at age 11 (Year 7) on a non-selective basis. The number of intended admissions for the year commencing September 2027 will be 336 and this number will be admitted in each subsequent year.

Although we are an Academy, all applications for places in Year 7 should be made to:

The Admissions Department

School Admissions and Transport Team

People and Communities North Somerset Council Town Hall

Walliscote Grove Road Weston-Super-Mare BS23 1UJ

Tel: 01934 888 888

E-mail: admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk

We will be holding a series of Open Mornings between 8th - 20th October for parents of prospective Year 7 students on our school site, giving parents and their children the chance to experience the school in action. Please visit our website for more information and to book.

An Open Evening for prospective Sixth Formers will be held in school on the evening of 12th November from 5.00-7.30pm.

Enquiries relating to the admission of pupils already of secondary school age should be sent to: **admissions@gordanoschool.org.uk**

Curriculum

Rationale

At Gordano School, we are ambitious for all students to experience, develop and secure the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to progress with curiosity and confidence through school and beyond. Our aim in planning and implementing both the taught and wider curriculum is to develop lifelong learners, with the agency and desire to positively contribute to the various communities to which they belong. Students pursue a broad and balanced curriculum as they progress through Years 7-11, including Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

All pupils follow a three-year Key Stage 3 where they will take lessons in Art & Design, Design Technology (Textiles & Food and Nutrition), Drama, English, Humanities (Geography, History and Ethics & Philosophy), Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language, Music, Physical Education, Science and Computing. The Modern Foreign Language will either be French or Spanish and this is allocated on entry into the school although students are able to express a preference if they have a sound reason for doing this.

Children with special educational needs are encouraged to study all subjects and where required will receive in-class and one-to-one help from the Student Support faculty, which may include some withdrawal from lessons for specialist intervention.

Children with a particular aptitude for a curriculum area are strongly encouraged to develop their skills further. Gordano supports these children with a number of enrichment projects. Children in Key Stage 3 have the option to subscribe to extra musical instrument lessons.

All students follow a tutorial programme which provides dedicated time for reading and covers aspects of personal, social, careers and health education. They are encouraged to join in the range of extra-curricular activities that cover most subject areas of the school, including Sport, Drama and Music.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Students have two years to work towards the majority of their external qualifications and to create the learning pathways that will take them on to Sixth Form, further education or training. In Year 10 most students will continue with a Modern Foreign Language (MFL), a creative subject and a humanity subject (Geography or History) as well as their core curriculum made up of Maths, English and Science. Students are then able to pick an option choice. Most students are set in Maths and Science. Depending on the needs of the student, there is a choice of other qualifications. The qualifications may be GCSEs, BTECs or other qualifications. Citizenship, Ethics & Philosophy, Core PE, and work experience remain compulsory elements in the curriculum.

There are a range of curriculum opportunities offered to students throughout our PSHE programme, field trips and extra revision sessions outside of normal school lessons.

We strongly encourage students to make the best use of these opportunities. As in Key Stage 3, Gordano values sports, music, drama, debating and public speaking alongside the variety of other extra-curricular activities available to students. Children that would benefit from Learning Support or the Challenge Programme will continue to be supported. The extra music lessons also continue for those who subscribe.

Curriculum

Sixth Form Years 12 and 13

The Sixth Form is really a seamless extension of a student's school experience. By law, pupils need to continue in Education or Training until at least their 18th birthday, although this does not necessarily need to be within a school environment. The majority of our students start Advanced Level (Level 3) courses in Year 12.

The Sixth Form curriculum, as well as offering formal qualifications, includes our Careers, Volunteering, Extra-curricular (Electives) and tutorial programmes. Our students enter Year 12 tutor groups on arrival in Sixth Form and are well supported by an experienced team of tutors

We offer a choice of over 30 Advanced Level courses including Cambridge Technicals and Level 3 BTEC Award Programmes. Most students will study 3 full A Levels (or equivalent) courses. This will prepare them for entry to University, further training, apprenticeships or employment. Many of our students also choose to study for the Extended Project Qualification.

The standard entry requirement for most A Level courses is a grade '5-7' at GCSE and students are expected to have five GCSEs, including English, Maths and Science to enter into the Sixth Form. Please read the Sixth Form prospectus carefully to take note of subjects that require a grade 7 or above. By law, any student who has not passed English or Maths GCSE, will need to retake these exams during their time in Sixth Form.

Students continue to receive learning support as and when appropriate in Sixth Form, and have access to a Learning Mentor and Careers Adviser. All students are supported with university applications and those choosing Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science or Law, receive specialist advice. Our Careers Adviser will also support employment, apprenticeships and internship applications.

Homework

In KS3 students will be set homework activities by their subject teachers. These tasks will complement the learning in class and all resources will be available through our online platform, ClassCharts. Activities are designed to be accessible, to support in class learning and to prepare students for lifelong, independent learning.

Year 10 marks the start of Key Stage 4, and so students will be set homework to fulfil the requirements of their GCSE courses.

In order for students to be rewarded for excellent effort in their progress checks, they need to meet deadlines and organise their time effectively - homework is essential to students' progress and success and is a requirement. Failure to complete tasks will be treated seriously, with a clear support and intervention procedure in place.

Homework is an integral part of school work and the amount set will vary depending on the age, ability and needs of individual students.

All tasks are set via ClassCharts. It is vital that parents track what has been set and help reinforce the value of this work.

Gordano Extra

Gordano School aims to enrich the school experience for pupils through 'Gordano Extra', this programme is a big part of the Gordano experience. We encourage pupils to take up new hobbies and sports, develop leadership and teamwork skills while also learning new skills and enjoying a range of inspiring activities. Our clubs and activities include:

- STEM
- School Orchestra
- Dance
- Performing Arts
- 3D Printing Club
- Basketball
- Football
- Chess
- Rugby
- Netball
- Book Club
- LGBTQ+
- Table Top Games
- Badminton
- Choir and Other singing groups
- Craft Club
- Hockey
- Christian Union
- Photography
- Table Tennis
- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme ... and more!

We are fortunate to have such a wide range of committed staff and a number of external volunteers from the wider Portishead community to deliver our ever-evolving programme.

Details of clubs available can be found in the 'Gordano Extra' booklet, which is available to view on the Extra Curricular pages of the website for students. The booklet is updated every two terms as new clubs are made available.

Activities Week

Each year, during the summer term the school organises an Activities Week. This is a key component of the curriculum and during this period the regular timetable is put on hold and students have an opportunity to step away from the classroom, try something new, challenge themselves and build friendships through a wide range of exciting experiences. Students can choose to either take part in the day trip or residential packages or be part of our extensive base activity programme on the school site.

Year 7 have the opportunity to participate in a science-focussed trip to Bristol Zoo Project, take part in the circus skills workshop on site and end the week with a two night residential trip to PGL Osmington Bay.

Students in Year 8 are offered a 5 day package of activities including paddleboarding at West Country Water Park, high ropes at Adventure Bristol, Ninja Warrior, Bowling, and on-site activities with MOJO Active.

Year 9 students can choose from a range of residential trips which include theatre visits in London, water sports on the Isle of Wight, survival skills in Gloucestershire, surfing in Falmouth, adventurous activities in North Wales and theme parks in the West Midlands.

The Student Support Team

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

At Gordano School, high quality adaptive teaching is the Universal Provision for all students. This approach ensures that teaching and learning is scaffolded to enable students of varying abilities to be able to access the learning. Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do with a school culture that embraces diversity and ensures that all students, including those with SEND, feel welcome, valued, and supported to participate fully in school life. SENDCos and the Inclusion Team work collaboratively with the wider school team to ensure that all students have access to a positive experience at Gordano School.

We prioritise being available to our students in order to support their development into happy and independent adults. Challenge Partners have accredited Gordano School for its inclusion as an area of excellence stating that 'students talked about how much help and support they get in and outside the classroom including the extensive pastoral support on offer and within the SEND provision'. 'Students feel listened to and cared for, which makes it easier for them to learn.'

Student Support Faculty

The Student Support Team is made up of a team of dedicated, experienced and trained staff. This consists of a Lead and Deputy SENDCo, both with many years of experience of SEND and both hold the National Award for SEN Coordination accreditations.

Our SEND specialist teachers are highly skilled and qualified. These teachers are responsible for delivering highly scaffolded literacy and numeracy to pupils with a range of SEND needs who require support in addition to the Universal Provision.

The Support Staff Team consists of higher-level Teaching Assistants, each with specialisms in one of the four areas of SEND (Social, Emotional & Mental Health, Cognition & Learning, Communication & Interaction, Sensory & Physical). These staff members deliver targeted support and interventions for pupils. In addition, in class support staff specialise in the needs of individual students and support their learning with the classroom.

The Provisions

In response to the growing number of students attending mainstream school with a variety of SEND needs, Gordano continues to develop the SEND provision offer to ensure that current and future student's needs are supported for them to flourish.

Student Support currently consists of:

Core Support: SEND provision for numeracy and literacy by SEND experienced teachers.

Student Support: A classroom available for SEND students to access throughout the school day to receive the support they require from dedicated SEND staff.

Student Support 2: An area for students to access when they require a sensory break or quiet time. This room is equipped to support sensory difficulties and wellbeing.

The Student Support Team

Learning Support 3: A dedicated classroom with staff to support students with a range of SEMH needs. Support and interventions take place within this calming environment.

All the above rooms are open every break time for students to access a range of activities to promote social skill, wellbeing and support from the dedicated staff of the SEND team.

The Secret Garden: A dedicated, woodland area featuring a seating area, winding paths, tree swings and a fire pit. This wonderful resource provides a magical experience for students and supports all areas of SEND.

The Compass: This provision is initially a specialised provision for Year 7 students with EHCPs. Students will be taught non practical subjects within a small group setting by specialist subject teachers and supported by a TA. This ensures that students receive the highest quality education while supporting their SEND needs within a nurturing environment. The provision will be equipped with a Sensory Room to support students' wellbeing, and they will receive targeted interventions individualised to their SEND needs.

The Harbour: This is a new specialist provision for students with autism, which opened in September 2026 for the initial intake of students in Year 7. Admissions for this specialist SEND provision is via the Local Authority, work on this bespoke space is due to be completed in January 2027 and will consist of 5 classrooms, a sensory space, breakout room, social area, kitchen and outdoor space. The base will provide individualised support to students from specialist staff to address each student's unique learning style and needs.

A full and complete guide of our SEND learning provision and our approach to supporting students can be accessed on our main school website. Important documents include:

- 1) Gordano School SEND Policy
- 2) Gordano School SEND Information Report
- 3) Exam Access Arrangements Statement

The Student Centre

As part of our commitment to including every single child, we have established an integrated Student Support Centre where all professionals engaged in supporting young people work together. Included in this team are our Designated Safeguarding Lead, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Education Welfare Officer (External), Engagement for Learning Lead, Pupil Premium Coordinator, Attendance Officer, School Counsellors, Careers Adviser, Work Experience Coordinator and Assistant Heads of House.

Gordano School Academic Curriculum 2027-28

Key Stage 3 Year 7, 8 & 9	Maths English Science Humanities (Geography, History, Ethics & Philosophy) Modern Language (French or Spanish) Technology (Including a Carousel of Product Design, Textiles and Food Technology) Computing Creative Arts (Art, Music, Drama & Dance) PE A bespoke 'reading' lesson
Key Stage 4 Years 10-11	Core Curriculum GCSE English Language and Literature GCSE Maths GCSE Combined Science OR separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics Languages (GCSE French or Spanish) Core PE PSHE Options Subjects: Additional Languages Humanities (GCSE Geography, GCSE History, BTEC Travel and Tourism, Citizenship, RE) Creative Arts (GCSE Art, GCSE Art Photography, GCSE Dance, GCSE Drama, GCSE Music) Technology (GCSE Design Technology (including Textiles option), GCSE Food and Nutrition, GCSE Computer Science, Cambridge National Creative iMedia) Social Science (GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Psychology, BTEC Health & Social Care) Physical Education (GCSE PE, Cambridge National Sport Studies) Student Support (BTEC Public Services, Core Support in English / Maths) GCSE Religious Studies All students study four option subjects

Gordano School Academic Curriculum 2027-28

Key Stage 5 Years 12-13

Most students study three subjects from a wide range of subject disciplines, with the option (under careful guidance) for students to complete four:

English (A Levels in English Language, English Literature, Media Studies)

Maths (A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Core Maths)

Science (A Levels in Biology Chemistry, Physics, Applied Science)

Humanities (A Levels in Geography, Government & Politics, History, Ethics & Philosophy, BTEC Travel & Tourism)

Languages (A Levels in French, Spanish)

Technology (A Levels in Design Technology, A Level Computer Science, Textiles, Cambridge Technical in IT)

Social Science (A Levels in Business Studies, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Level 3 BTECs in Business Studies, Health & Social Care)

Creative Arts (A Levels in Art, Music, Extended BTEC in Creative Arts, Photography)

Physical Education (A Level PE, Cambridge Technical in Sport Studies)

We also seek to offer an opportunity for students to add further breadth to their academic profile and develop high level academic research skills through offering the Extended Project Qualification.

Whilst this curriculum will be followed by the majority of pupils there may be some for whom a more personalised approach is more suitable and a modified curriculum may be arranged.

Gordano School Academic Curriculum 2027-28

Relationships & Sex Education

Sex education occurs at stages throughout the school curriculum starting in Year 7. Some lessons are structured and explicit, others are more informal and implicit. Students are given every opportunity to ask questions.

Careers Education

Careers Education and guidance is seen as an integral element of the curriculum. It is regarded as essential that impartial careers advice is offered to every student whether they are seeking Employment, Training, Further Education or Higher Education.

The school is well equipped with computer databases and video information and has a team of staff who coordinate the careers education programme.

Students participate in a comprehensive programme to develop their employability skills through tutor led activities, visits, career briefings and mock interviews.

Work Experience & Work Shadowing

Work experience provides an opportunity for students to gain a valuable insight into industry, the professions, business and commerce. Students spend one week in a placement in Year 10 and complete an online record and reflect on their learning. Students also participate in job application processes, resulting in interviews with employers. Students on conventional courses in the Sixth Form also take advantage of the Work Experience scheme. Work shadowing is offered to all Sixth Form students.

Equal Opportunities

The School is concerned with achieving equal opportunities by promoting harmony and eliminating discrimination in all aspects of the students' education. In particular, we actively encourage the breaking down of stereotypes and we ensure that the curriculum does not contain any form of bias.

Ethics and Philosophy and Collective Worship

Ethics and Philosophy is taught as part of the Humanities Curriculum. At KS3 students study issues and themes within Christianity and other world religions. In KS4 all students follow an Ethics and Philosophy programme, in which they explore a variety of moral and philosophical topics ranging from marriage and family life through to beliefs about God and life after death.

At all times it is our aim to foster in students a critical awareness of their own spiritual beliefs and values, and a greater understanding of those of others.

Gordano School Academic Curriculum 2027-28

Examinations

The School enters all students for examinations in the subjects they have studied. We are proud of students who achieve their own potential regardless of ultimate grade. However, our expectations are high and we expect to challenge and extend all learners.

The schools most recent published results can be found on our website.

Curriculum Complaints

Any parent who wishes to make a complaint about the curriculum is asked to contact the House Team in the first instance. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher (Learning and Standards) will be involved if appropriate. If the matter cannot be resolved then parents should refer to the schools complaints policy (available on the website).

Monitoring Compliance

Our school maintains a high standard with regards to school uniform and as such has a strong sanction policy for students who do not comply.

The tutor will play an important role in monitoring uniform and helping to resolve any problems e.g. financial, or applying sanctions where it is appropriate.

Tutors will contact parents to resolve any recurring problems. If a student arrives at school with incorrect uniform their Head of House may send the student home to change, having first contacted the parents, or send the student to the Focus Room until a suitable alternative can be found.

Students who persist in wearing jewellery, other than that allowed, will have these items confiscated. Parents will be asked to collect any confiscated items from reception. The School takes no responsibility for jewellery which should not have been brought into the School, and is subsequently lost or stolen. However, once confiscated, the School and its staff are responsible for ensuring its security.

My Child at School (MCAS)

We believe that clear, efficient communication is vital to supporting your child's educational journey. We use **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)**, an online portal and mobile app that gives you secure, real-time access to your child's school information. Details of how to access this will be shared when your child starts school and through the app or website, you will be able to:

- **Access Attendance:** View your child's attendance records.
- **View Timetables:** Your child's timetable will be shown.
- **Track Reports:** Access academic reports and assessment data.
- **Update Contacts:** View and request changes to your contact information.

Uniform Requirements: Years 7-11

Uniform can be purchased from Price and Buckland via their website price-buckland.co.uk/gordano-school-bristol or from The Sports Shop, Portishead, BS20 6AA.

Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your child's name and tutor group.

Jacket/Blazer:	Navy with white piping/navy lining to be worn at all times whilst on the school site or during a school trip unless staff have given permission not to wear it. Only School Award pin badges are permitted to be worn on the blazer.	
Clip-On Tie:	House coloured clip-on tie which must be worn appropriately at all times whilst on the school site or during a school trip , i.e. clipped onto the shirt to cover the shirt, with the top button fastened properly at the neck.	
Shirt:	Plain white shirt (long-sleeved or short-sleeved) with no fashion elements, and a button collar, with the top button fastened and shirt tucked in at all times. Wearing of coloured T shirts under shirts is not permitted.	
Trousers:	Charcoal grey and of a length, material and style appropriate to an academic working environment with no fashion elements. No cords, chinos, jeans, leggings, jeggings, tight Lycra/ tight-fitting trousers or pockets on legs, zipped pockets, very narrow or very wide bottomed trousers. As a guide, trousers should not be tight fitting from the knee down. Fit does differ from child to child, so please ensure your child tries on the garments and these criteria are met before purchasing.	
Belts:	Must be plain black and pass through loops on trousers.	
Skirt:	Charcoal knee-length pleated skirt. No tube, Lycra, skater style or elastane skirts. Skirts must not be shortened/rolled up at any time.	
Shorts:	Charcoal knee-length shorts. Shorts must not be rolled up.	
Our suppliers for skirts and trousers are Price and Buckland (online) and The Sports Shop (on Portishead High Street). If you wish to buy skirts and trousers from another supplier, please check that they conform exactly to the same colour and specification as those available from our official suppliers.		
Jumper (optional):	Grey with contrast navy blue V-neck stripe.	
Socks:	White, black or grey ankle socks (no colours).	Socks or tights must be worn at all times. Socks must not be worn over tights.
Tights:	Black, natural or navy opaque.	
Shoes:	Plain smart leather/leather-effect black shoes of a suitable design that can be polished. No high heels/ sling-backs or open toes. SHOES WITH CANVAS OR FABRIC UPPERS ARE NOT PERMITTED.	

Uniform Requirements: Years 7-11

Hair Styles:	Must be neat and tidy. Extremes of fashion must be avoided. Use of hair dye to achieve an unnatural, two-toned, streaked or bleached coloured look is NOT permitted.
Makeup or nail varnish:	Only students in Years 10 and 11 may wear discreet make-up but nail varnish, false nails or false eyelashes are NOT permitted in any year group. Students with excessive make up will be asked to remove it.
Jewellery:	Maximum of 1 pair of earrings (1 stud or sleeper no bigger than 5 mm in diameter in each ear lobe), 1 necklace, 1 bracelet, 1 ring on each hand, 1 watch. No other facial piercings, spacer style or spiked earrings allowed. Students are not permitted to wear nose studs, and this includes clear retainers. Expensive jewellery should not be brought to school. Staff reserve the right to ask students to remove jewellery that they consider to be inappropriate for school.
Outdoor Coats:	Outdoor coats are allowed to be worn over the blazer and should be predominantly one colour. They should NOT have large badges or logos. They should be plain in style and not made from denim material. Coats may be worn as additional items of clothing – not instead of the school blazer. Hoodies are not permitted as outdoor coats, including the school PE hoodie/¼ zip. Hoodies and inappropriate coats will be confiscated, returned to students at the end of the school day, and parents/guardians informed.

If a student arrives at school with incorrect uniform their tutor will send them to the Student Centre to correct their uniform. Students will be expected to change into the correct uniform, or an agreement made for either parents/carers to bring in the correct uniform or for the student to go home and change. In certain circumstances the school will issue a uniform slip to allow the student time to get the correct uniform item or items. Please contact your child's tutor in advance or write a note if your child will not be in the correct uniform.

Students may wear PE/Dance kit on the days they have PE or Dance, but they may change at the end of the lesson should they choose to. This will be reviewed again during the coming academic year. PE/Dance kit consists of a Gordano branded top and plain navy shorts (or Gordano branded), jogging bottoms, or leggings. Students are not permitted to wear cycling shorts or similar as part of their PE kit. Please see our website for examples of suitable shorts.

Kit Needed for Physical Education at Gordano

**Students may wear any combination of the kit listed below:
All Clothing must be clearly named.**

Clothing:

- o A white polo shirt with embroidered Gordano badge (compulsory)
- o A navy blue ¼ zip sweatshirt with embroidered Gordano badge (compulsory)
- o A pair of navy blue shorts
- o A pair of navy blue joggers
- o A pair of navy blue leggings
- o A pair of navy blue football socks

Footwear:

- o A pair of training shoes (The same pair of training shoes may be used for both indoor and outdoor activities provided they have non-marking soles)
- o A pair of football/rugby boots

Accessories:

- o A pair of shin pads (advisable for hockey and football)
- o A gum shield (compulsory for competitive rugby and advisable for hockey)

PE kit may be purchased from: The Sport Shop, 39 High Street, Portishead, Somerset, BS20 6AA

Mobile Phones and YONDR Pouches

Whilst for some years Gordano has been a 'phone-free' school we have recently introduced the use of Yondr pouches for all students in Years 7 - 11. The aim is to limit the negative impact of mobile phones and social media on young people's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

On arrival at school, all students are required to place their mobile phone, smart watch, and earphones into their secure pouch. These pouches remain locked throughout the school day.

At the end of the day, students can unlock their pouches at any of the unlocking stations, which are conveniently located near the school gates. Full details of how this policy works can be found on our website.

Gordano School All Weather Pitch Footwear Policy

It is **essential** that the correct **clean** footwear is worn **at all times** to protect the lifetime of the all-weather pitch, which is why we have produced this clear and simple guide. The pitch surface at Gordano is a sand dressed surface, this is different to a 3G, 4G or a sand filled pitch and therefore has different requirements to ensure your safety and enjoyment of sport.

Due to the shorter pile length on a sand dressed artificial pitch this makes football and rugby studded footwear unsuitable. Wearing them increases the risk of turning over on your ankle, additional stress on your knees and will also **significantly** reduce the lifetime of the pitch surface. Wearing a flat soled trainer will compress the carpet pile, and provide insufficient grip for the player, therefore increasing the risk of injury.

Regular inspections of footwear will take place and anyone wearing incorrect footwear will be asked to leave the facility.

RECOMMENDED		NOT PERMITTED	
	Astro Trainer Dimpled Sole Yes		Football Boots Blades no
	Astro Trainer Dimpled Sole Yes		Football Boots Studs no
	Astro Trainer Dimpled Sole Yes		Football Boots Rubber Studs no
PERMITTED (not recommended)			
 	Training Shoe Flat Sole		

Term Time Holiday Authorisation

FIRST DAY CONTACT

First day contact is an integral part of our Attendance Policy. Parents and students must realise that whenever possible a student's absence will be noted and acted upon swiftly. First day contact sends a clear message that attendance is very important and enables us to quickly determine that a student who is absent is genuinely ill and safely at home.

Parents should contact the school by 9.00am on the first morning that their child is absent and reasons for the child's absence should be given. You are asked to contact us every following morning unless you have informed us in writing in advance.

For Years 7 - 11

- o Please email attendanceteam@gordanoschool.org.uk to report illness and planned absence such as medical appointments and attendance queries

For reasons of safety and safeguarding, any student who needs to leave the school site during the school day (to attend a medical appointment, for example) must sign out with the necessary parental permission and be picked up on site at Main Reception by a parent or carer. Students are not permitted to walk out of school unattended without prior agreement of a parent/carers.

For Sixth Form

- o Please email 6thformattendance@gordanoschool.org.uk to report illness and planned absence such as medical appointments.
- o Sixth Form office: 01275 841380
- o For Sixth Form attendance queries please email 6thformattendance@gordanoschool.org.uk

HOLIDAYS / LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

With effect from the 1st September 2013, the law no longer gives any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time and Headteachers can no longer grant any extended leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If you are going to request a leave of absence under exceptional circumstances you are asked to complete a **Leave of Absence Under Exceptional Circumstances Form** (follow the link on our website) and return it to the Attendance Officer. Please refer to the Gordano Attendance Policy for more detailed information regarding taking holidays in term time.

On occasions, parents have reported their child as ill when, in fact, they have been on a family holiday. When we have reason to believe this may be the case, we will follow this up so we encourage your honesty in these matters to save putting families in an embarrassing situation.

If the Headteacher does not authorise an absence, but the child is still absent, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and may result in a Penalty Notice Fine being issued.



Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk

Website: www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR.
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales
(company number: 07662102)