

# Further Information Booklet 2024/2025





## 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
Stuart Rossiter	Assistant Headteacher – Site Operations
Adam Snow	Assistant Headteacher – Director of Key Stage Three & Looked After Children
David Beesley	Assistant Headteacher - Director of Key Stage Four
Charlotte Thomas	Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion
Chris Rogers	Assistant Headteacher—Lead on Behaviour
Adam Dickinson	Assistant Headteacher—Director of Year 9, Disadvantaged Students & Learning Recovery

## 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 2024 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](mailto:admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk)

On the 6th October 2023 from 9.45am - 11.00am we will be holding an Open Morning for parents of prospective Year 7 pupils on our school site. We look forward to welcoming you into school. If you are unable to make this date it may be possible to arrange a visit on a different day, subject to staff availability.

An Open Evening for prospective Sixth Formers will be held in November.

Enquiries relating to the admission of pupils already of secondary school age should be addressed to: Sarah Vincent, Administration Manager ([admissions@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto: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, 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 entitlement 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 enhancement opportunities offered to students throughout our 'MyLife' skills 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.

## **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 the Careers, Volunteering, Extra-curricular (Electives) and tutorial programmes. Our students enter vertical tutor groups on arrival in Sixth Form, mixing Years 12 and 13 together.

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 AS 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
- School Production rehearsals
- Performing Arts
- Eco Club
- Print Club
- Karate
- Basketball
- Football
- Chess
- Rugby
- Netball
- Graffix Club
- Secret Garden Club
- Book Club
- LGBTQ+
- Pottery
- Table Top Games Club
- Badminton
- Choir and Other singing groups
- Craft
- Hockey
- Christian Union
- Photography
- Philosophy
- 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 parents or on Firefly for students. The booklet is updated every term as new clubs are made available.

## **The Student Support Faculty**

### **Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**

The student support team work with students who have a wide range of barriers to learning, achievement and progress. The team comprises of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-Ordinator (SENDCO), Deputy SENDCO, Assistant SENDCO, Teacher of Key Stage 3, Teacher of Key Stage 4 and a team of Student Support Workers. Our Student Support Workers have specialisms within SEND to guide best practice across the school. The team sits within the Student Support Faculty, which is centrally located on the school site.

The team provides a broad range of interventions for identified students at Key Stage 3 and an alternative curriculum and intervention at Key Stage 4 as required. We work closely with students, their families, staff and specialist agencies to provide enhanced support for those who need it the most.

A full and complete guide to 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) Dyslexia Statement
- 4) Exam Access Arrangements Statement

### **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.

## **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 Student Receptionist.

## **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.



Key Stage 3 Year 7, 8 and 9	Key Stage 4 Years 10-11	Key Stage 5 Years 12-13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maths</b></li> <li>• <b>English</b></li> <li>• <b>Science</b></li> <li>• <b>Humanities</b> (Geography, History, Ethics &amp; Philosophy)</li> <li>• <b>Modern Language</b> (French or Spanish)</li> <li>• <b>Technology</b> (including a Carousel of Product Design, Textiles and Food Technology)</li> <li>• <b>Computing</b></li> <li>• <b>Creative Arts</b> (Art, Music, Drama &amp; Dance)</li> <li>• <b>PE</b></li> <li>• A bespoke 'reading' lesson</li> </ul>	<p><b>Core Curriculum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSE <b>English</b> Language and Literature</li> <li>• GCSE <b>Maths</b></li> <li>• GCSE Combined <b>Science</b> OR separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics</li> <li>• Core PE</li> <li>• PSHE</li> </ul> <p><b>Options Subjects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Languages</b> (GCSE French, Spanish)</li> <li>• <b>Humanities</b> (GCSE Geography, GCSE History, BTEC Travel and Tourism)</li> <li>• <b>Creative Arts</b> (GCSE Art, GCSE Art Photography, GCSE Dance, GCSE Drama, GCSE Music)</li> <li>• <b>Technology</b> (GCSE Design Technology (including Textiles option), GCSE Food and Nutrition, GCSE Computer Science, Cambridge National Creative iMedia, WJEC Construction)</li> <li>• <b>Social Science</b> (GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Psychology, BTEC Health &amp; Social Care)</li> <li>• <b>Physical Education</b> (GCSE PE, Cambridge National Sport Studies)</li> <li>• <b>Student Support</b> (BTEC Public Services, Core Support in English / Maths)</li> <li>• <b>GCSE Religious Studies</b> is offered as a twilight course in Year 9 and 10.</li> </ul> <p>All students study four option subjects.</p>	<p>Most students study three subjects from a wide range of subject disciplines, with the option (under careful guidance) for students to complete four:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>English</b> (A Levels in English Language, English Literature, Media Studies)</li> <li>• <b>Maths</b> (A Levels in Maths, Further Maths)</li> <li>• <b>Science</b> (A Levels in Biology Chemistry, Physics)</li> <li>• <b>Humanities</b> (A Levels in Geography, Government &amp; Politics, History and Religious Studies)</li> <li>• <b>Languages</b> (A Levels in French, Spanish)</li> <li>• <b>Technology</b> (A Levels in Product Design, Textiles, Cambridge Technical in IT)</li> <li>• <b>Social Science</b> (A Levels in Business Studies, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Level 3 BTECs in Business Studies, Health &amp; Social Care)</li> <li>• <b>Creative Arts</b> (A Levels in Art, Music)</li> <li>• <b>Physical Education</b> (A Level PE, Cambridge Technical in Sport Studies)</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>		

## **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 expect to challenge and extend all learners.

The school's most recent results may be found on the school website. Most GCSE students take a minimum of nine public examination subjects for which the School pays the entry fee.

## **Curriculum Complaints**

Any parent who wishes to make a complaint about the curriculum is asked to contact the House 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 school's complaints policy.

## **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.

## **2023/2024 UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS: YEARS 7-11**

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, tight lycra/ tight-fitting trousers or pockets on legs, zipped pockets, very narrow or very wide bottomed trousers. Belts must be plain black and pass through loops on trousers. Trousers should not be tight fitting from the knee down.**

**SKIRT:** Charcoal knee length pleat skirt. **No tube, lycra, skater style or elastane skirts. Skirts must not be shortened 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).

**TIGHTS:** Black, natural or navy opaque.

} Socks or tights must be worn at all times. Socks must not be worn over tights.

**SHOES:** Plain smart leather 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.**

**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** in Year 7-9 is not permitted. Only students in Year 10 & 11 may wear discreet makeup but nail varnish, false nails, or false eyelashes are not permitted in any year group. Students with excessive makeup 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** 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 center 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 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.

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

## KIT NEEDED FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT GORDANO

Students may wear any combination of the kit listed below:

### Clothing

- A white polo shirt with embroidered Gordano badge (compulsory)
- A navy blue reversible rugby top (compulsory for boys)
- A navy blue  $\frac{1}{4}$  zip sweatshirt with embroidered Gordano badge (compulsory)
- A pair of navy blue shorts with embroidered Gordano badge
- A pair of navy blue joggers with embroidered Gordano badge
- A pair of navy blue leggings with embroidered Gordano badge
- A pair of navy blue shorts with in-built cycling shorts with embroidered Gordano badge
- A pair of navy blue football socks with white hoops

### Footwear

- 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*)
- A pair of soccer/rugby boots (compulsory for boys)

### Accessories

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

**ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED**

PE kit may be purchased from:

The Sport Shop, 39 High Street, Portishead, Somerset, BS20 6AA

## 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**

As a school, we are committed to raising the educational achievement of all pupils attending Gordano. School attendance is crucial to this aim and we value your help in ensuring that your child attends school regularly. As of Sept 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. The requests relating to exceptional circumstances are extremely rare. I would like to remind you that if your child is absent and the absence has not been authorised, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and could result in a Penalty Notice Fine being issued.

### **GORDANO SCHOOL LOCAL GOVERNING BODY 2024/25**

Gordano School is a member of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership. The Trustees details are available on the LSP website [www.lsp.org.uk](http://www.lsp.org.uk)

Gordano Local Governing Body details can be found here on the Gordano website [www.gordanoschool.org.uk](http://www.gordanoschool.org.uk)



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 Tel: 01275 842606  
 email: [mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk)  
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