



5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter:

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Screen-Break Day, Wednesday 3rd February

Many thanks for all the positive feedback regarding the Screen-Break Day on Wednesday. It has been lovely for us to hear of the range of wider educational activities that students engaged in. One lovely example has been the sharing, on social media, of some of the recipients of ‘acts of kindness’ from Gordano Students, such as finding chocolate bars and bunches of daffodils in random places around Portishead, with little notes explaining that they were part of the ‘kindness challenge’ from Wednesday’s menu of activities. What better illustration of positive community action to lighten these tough times?

Review of Remote Learning

We are delighted that over 1,200 students have responded to our Student Survey on Remote Learning in Term 3. You can see a summary of some of the responses at the bottom of this letter to give you a flavour of their feedback. We are also very grateful to members of the Parent Forum, who met last week to give some really useful feedback from a parent perspective, and we have also been gaining feedback from school staff this week.

It is clear that, despite remote provision generally going really well (and with continued thanks for all the positive feedback that you’re sharing), ‘remote learning fatigue’ has been a growing challenge for all of us! We know that much of this is out of our control (teaching through a screen is definitely not what we came into teaching for!). Nonetheless, we have been considering carefully how we might ‘tweak’ the experience for students going into Term 4, where we know we have at least two more weeks of remote learning. This will not be a significant change to the structure from Term 3, but we do think that there are a few minor changes that will, overall, benefit students and staff, and we will share the detail of this next week.

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Online Safety - Radicalisation

Further to last week's information on online safety, the Police have asked us to share the following with all parents/carers and have asked that parents/carers are vigilant and to report anything of concern.

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/assistant-commissioner-calls-for-vigilance-amid-new-lockdown/>

Inset Day and Half Term

Please note that there is no onsite provision for students for the Inset day on Friday 12th February and over the Half Term break. Please accept our apologies that the critical worker survey for week commencing Monday 8th February included an option to book provision for Friday 12th February. This was an error, and all those who requested a place for that day have been notified.

For those families eligible for Free School Meals the government's Winter Grant Scheme is providing a voucher for £45.00 per child. Eligible families should have received this. Any queries, please contact Mandi Davies (mdavies@gordanoschool.org.uk)

Parent and Student Information Sessions next week

A reminder for Year 11 and 13 Parents that we will be holding the following information sessions for parents and students next week:

Year 11 - Tuesday 9th February, 6pm

Year 13 - Wednesday 10th February, 6pm

The Zoom links will be shared separately to each year-group and their parents.

With one more week to go until a much-welcomed break, I'd really like to emphasise my praise for our students and the perseverance that they are showing, week in and week out. I have 'dropped in' to a number of remote lessons this week and I have been so impressed at the level of engagement that students are maintaining despite the challenges of remote learning. It is scant compensation for having them back in school, but it is of some reassurance that they are, very largely, engaging so well with their teachers and their learning from home.

With every good wish for a relaxing weekend.

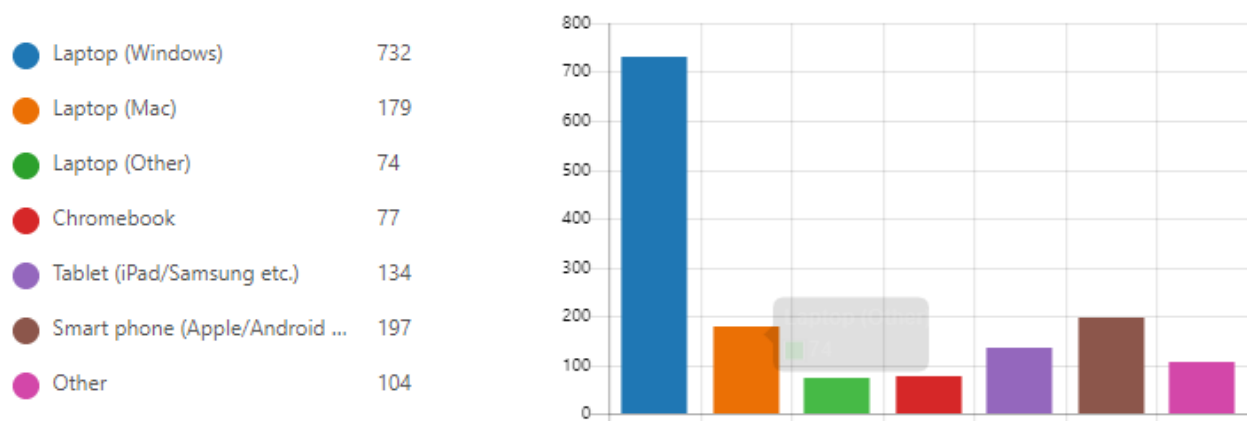
Best wishes,



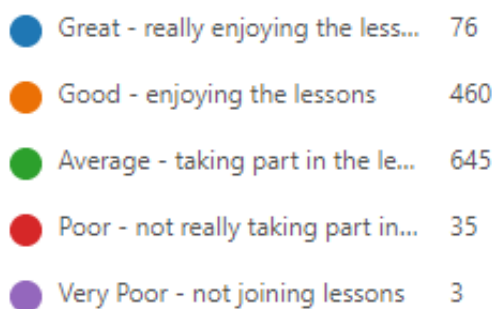
Tom Inman
Headteacher

Summary from Student Survey - January 2021

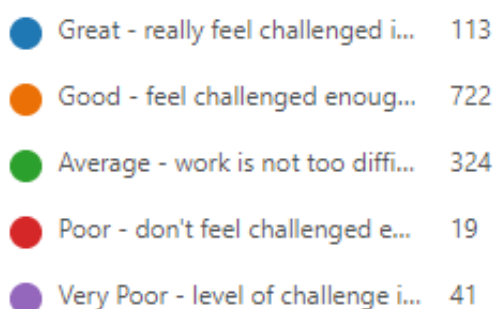
What device(s) are you using to access your remote learning?



. How would you describe your experience of online lessons?



. How would you describe the level of challenge in your lessons?



. How would you describe your engagement in your lessons?

