



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a positive and busy week at Gordano. The senior leadership team have really enjoyed walking the school and seeing the range of learning happening across the curriculum as well as the engagement from our young people across the school; such a brilliant start to the academic year. We look forward to this continuing through the term - so far students across the school have amassed 45,000 merits since the start of the academic year!

It was good to meet with Year 12 parents at our information evening last night. I hope you found the information useful, and we will be sure to make the presentation available to all parents as soon as possible. Just a quick reminder that we are continuing with our information evenings next week. Please see below for details:

To ensure that we can manage numbers you will be required to book a space using the links below. Whilst we will be sharing the slide deck from each evening for parents unable to attend, we do encourage you to join us if you are able. The premise of each evening is to look at the year ahead and to ensure as parents you are able to fully support your child in the next steps. If you are a parent that has children in different year groups and therefore are unable to attend each meeting - then we do suggest prioritising exam year students or your Year 7 child and then using the slide decks that we will provide for the specific year group information. Due to space limitations, we do ask that only parents come to the evening/s.

[Year 7 - Thursday 17th October](#)

[Year 8 - Monday 30th September](#)

[Year 9 - Monday 16th September](#)

[Year 10 - Tuesday 17th September](#)

[Year 11 - Tuesday 1st October](#)

There are 2 sessions for each year, 6pm and 6.45pm with 200 seats available at each.

Parents of students in Year 13 are welcome on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September where we will be running one session in the main hall between 6pm and 7pm. There is no need to book.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### **Open Evening Arrangements**

On Thursday 26th September we will be hosting our annual information evening. As in previous years, the school will close early for students on the day to enable staff to set up for the evening ahead. To ensure that students can have lunch on the school site we will have a slightly shorter Period 4 lesson, which will end at 12.35pm, then lunch. Students will be registered at 1.05pm and then will have a staggered release from school at approximately 1.10pm. This is then followed by our 3rd INSET day on Friday 27th September.

### **Gordano School Careers Convention: Thursday 3rd October 6-8pm**

We are delighted to be hosting a wide range of employers and educational providers again at our annual Careers Convention. This event is open to all year groups **but is particularly important for students in Years 9-13** as they think about their GCSE, Post-16/18 options and work experience.

In addition to the stands in the Main Hall and Dining Hall there will be a series of talks on Apprenticeships, College and University in the Sixth Form Hall throughout the evening. We will prioritise these talks to Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form students and their families but there will be lots of information and future opportunities for students in lower years to learn about these options.

We would highly recommend travelling on foot to this event as parking is limited on site.

### **Year 7 Reading and Spelling assessments**

From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, your child will be completing a reading and a spelling assessment (the NGRT and NGST respectively) within their English lesson. There is nothing your child can do to prepare for these assessments and nor do we expect them to. The results from the assessments will inform any interventions we put in place as part of our Improving Reading strategy, details of which can be found [here](#).

### **Start of the school day**

As you are aware, at the start of this academic year we slightly changed the school day timings. As such the school day starts 5 minutes earlier than last year. Please can you ensure that your child arrives in school at 8.35am, ready for lessons/tutor time to start at 8.40. We will be starting our late detentions from the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September, this is for students who are late twice or more in a week. Your support in ensuring your child is in school on time would be greatly appreciated.

### **Jewellery and Body Piercings**

The uniform and appearance of students has been pleasing so far; thank you for your support with this. However, we do need to take this opportunity to remind parents and students about our expectations around jewellery and body piercings to avoid any upset. Expensive jewellery should not be brought to school. Staff reserve the right to ask students to remove make-up/jewellery that they consider to be inappropriate for school. Students can wear 1 necklace, 1 bracelet, 1 ring on each hand, 1 watch. No other facial piercings, spacer style or spiked earrings allowed.

For Health and Safety reasons, the school does not permit body piercing apart from one pair of small (maximum of 5mm in diameter) stud or sleeper earring in the ear lobe. We reminded parents before the summer break that body piercings usually take at least 6 months to heal and recommend that students did not get any piercings over the summer that cannot comfortably and easily be removed for school come September. The expectation is that any visible body piercings will need to be removed during school hours, regardless of whether they are fully healed. Students are not permitted to wear nose studs, and this includes clear retainers.

### **Safeguarding**

Just a reminder to parents to be aware of the law on vaping: i.e. it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under the age of 18 and illegal for under 18s to be using these products. Since the start of term, we have had an increase in reported concerns regarding students vaping in the Portishead community and the use of balloons. We continue to educate our young people regarding the impact of using these products. As such, if any such product is brought onto the school site this would be crossing a 'red line' which students are fully aware of. The school will significantly sanction any student breaching this school rule. We encourage you to also have these discussions at home and to contact the safeguarding or pastoral team if you have concerns about your son or daughter.

### **Election for Parent Governors**

There are currently 2 vacancies for elected parent governors on the school's Local Governing Board (LGB), and we're inviting parents to stand for election or to nominate another parent to do so. For more information on the role of governors and details of the election process please see the letter and nomination form on our [school website](#). The closing date for submission of nomination forms is Friday 20th September.

### **ArtPort24 - The Portishead Arts Festival - 27-29 September 2024**

There will be a variety of workshops for children and young people at this year's ArtPort24 festival, for the programme of events and booking details please visit the website: [WELCOME TO ARTPORT - ArtPort Portishead Arts Festival](#)

### **Emergency Services 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

On Saturday 14 September the Police & Fire Headquarters will open their doors to the public, visitors are set to enjoy an action-packed day with displays from Avon and Somerset's Police Dog, Mounted and Firearms sections, and car cutting and animal rescue demonstrations from Avon Fire and Rescue.

As well as an opportunity to demonstrate how the Emergency Services work together to keep our communities safe, it is also a chance to showcase the wide range of careers and volunteering opportunities on offer. To find out more visit the [event website](#)

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher

## Key Dates for Term 1

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|--|---|
| Monday 16th September                      | Year 9 Parental Information Evening                             |
| Tuesday 17th September                     | Year 10 Parental Information Evening                            |
| Wednesday 18th September                   | Sixth Form Autumn Electives begin (lessons 5 & 6 on Wednesdays) |
| Thursday 19th September                    | Year 13 Parental Information Evening 6pm                        |
| Thursday 26th September                    | European Day of Languages                                       |
| Thursday 26th September                    | Year 6 Open Evening - school closes for students at 1.10pm      |
| Friday 27th September                      | INSET Day   |
| Monday 30th September                      | Year 8 Parental Information Evening                             |
| Tuesday 1st October                        | Year 11 Parental Information Evening                            |
| Thursday 3rd October                       | Gordano Careers Convention 6pm - 8pm                            |
| Friday 4th October                         | Year 6 Open Morning 9.45am - 11am                               |
| Monday 7th October                         | Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 1)                         |
| Tuesday 8th October                        | Parent Forum 6pm  |
| Wednesday 9th October                      | Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 2)                         |
| Thursday 10th October                      | World Mental Health Day   |
| Friday 11th October                        | Hello Yellow Day  |
| Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October         | Year 11 GCSE History Trip to Munich                             |
| Monday 14th October                        | Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 3)                         |
| Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October    | Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam                              |
| Thursday 17th October                      | Year 12 Geography Fieldwork Trip to Minehead/Porlock Weir       |
| Thursday 17th October                      | Year 7 Parental Information Evening                             |
| Tuesday 22nd October                       | Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam                                      |
| Tuesday 22nd October                       | Year 11 Futures Evening 2pm - 7.30pm                            |
| Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October   | Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam                          |
| Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November | HOLIDAY   |