



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Behind the scenes our Trips team have been working endlessly to ensure our preparations for activities week next term are all in order. We are very much looking forward to the week and really hope it will be a memorable one for your child. Please see the detailed information at the bottom of this letter regarding next steps.

Yondr pouch launch

A reminder that we begin using the Yondr pouch system next term. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will attend assemblies on Monday 2nd June and Year 10 on Tuesday 3rd June. From the morning of Tuesday 3rd June, Years 7 and 8 will all be expected to use their Yondr pouches, which will be given to them on Monday 2nd, during tutor time. Whilst we embed the new system, we will stagger the end of the school day to ensure a steady flow of students from school, with Years 7 and 8 ending their lessons at 3.05pm on Tuesday 3rd June.

When we are fully reassured of a quick and easy unlocking process, Years 9 and 10 will begin using their pouches; this will likely be on Thursday 5th or Friday 6th June. You can view our new student phone policy on the school website [here](#).

Year 12 students are expected to continue role-modelling excellent behaviour and attitudes to our lower school students. At the same time, we recognise the need for greater flexibility around phone use for our Sixth Formers.

Therefore, Sixth Form students will not be required to use Yondr pouches. However, phones must be kept in bags during lessons, tutor times, and when moving around the site. Phones may only be used within designated Sixth Form areas, such as the Common Room and Study Rooms.

To support healthy screen time habits, optional phone lockers are now available in the Study Rooms.

We know that our Sixth Form students are superb at modelling responsible behaviour and supporting the wider ethos of the school and thank you for your support with this. More detail about the updated Year 12 phone policy has been provided in the letter from Mr Heysham.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

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

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

PAPAYA seminar

The seminar delivered by Dr Susie Davies on mobile phone use in adolescents on Wednesday 21st May was thought-provoking and helpful to all adults supporting young people with forming responsible and healthy phone habits.

Some tips Dr Davies shared with us were:

- Encourage young people to turn off their notifications for social media
- Remove phones from bedrooms at night
- Have screen-free spaces e.g. Mealtimes, and limit multi-screening
- Internetmatters.org is a good resource for parents
- Look out for VPNs (which allow you to circumvent any controls/restrictions) - searching in the App Store or similar for 'VPN' will let you know if your child has installed one
- Change settings so that young people cannot download apps without parental consent
- Private browsing mode, which allows someone online access with no way of tracking what they have viewed, can be turned off by selecting 'block adult content'

Year 10:

Please can Year 10 parents look out for email communication regarding Year 10 Mock Exams and other key events including:

- Exam timetables
- Content and coverage for the exams
- Work Experience
- Parent Information session (online) 4.6.25

Parent Survey:

Thank you to everyone who submitted their views to the recent Parent Survey. It has been really heartening to read of the ways in which you feel the school is supporting your child/children. It has also been helpful to identify areas from your feedback that we could address for the better, such as ensuring you receive enough information about how well your child is progressing. We will share plans in due course.

Gordano School PTA AGM - 4th June

Thank you to those parents who have expressed an interest in being a part of our new PTA and to those who were able to attend the initial meeting; we are excited at the possibility of improving the educational experience and future opportunities for all our wonderful students together.

We can now share the date of Wednesday 4th June at 6pm for our AGM. You can find the letter giving details of the meeting, the model constitution and information on roles and responsibilities on our PTA webpage [here](#).

Activities Week 2025

Medication Forms can be collected from main reception. These must be completed if you child requires medication on the day trip or residential. These must be completed by a parent/guardian and your child must give this to the trip leader/first aider at the start of each day/trip. If you need to update your child's medical and dietary information, please email datateam@gordanoschool.org.uk.

Base Students Only

We have finished putting together our programme of choices for Base activities during Activities Week, 30th June - 4th July. Information will be sent to parents of all base students with a form that will be required to be completed

The form will close on Friday 6th June to allow time to organise the groups of students. We will let students know their timetables at the beginning of Activities Week. If the form is not completed by 6th June, we will automatically allocate students to any available activities.

Year 7

For students attending the Bristol Zoo Project trip and Circomedia day during Activities Week, you will shortly find out what day you are attending, and more information will follow. For students attending the Year 7 residential trip - Ms McKenzie-Liddington has shared important information via ClassCharts.

Year 8

If you have paid for your child to attend the day trips programme during Activities Week you should have received the Information letter sent out this week which includes a link to the day trip waivers. **The trip waivers must be completed by 9th June.** Unfortunately, your child will not be able to participate if a waiver has not been completed by a parent/guardian. Staff are not permitted to sign these on your behalf without your consent. If you have not received the Year 8 letter, please email trips@gordanoschool.org.uk.

Year 9

Trip leaders will be sharing residential trip information via ClassCharts.

Useful links while school is closed:

If you have an urgent safeguarding enquiry, please contact:

safeguardingteam@gordanoschool.org.uk

If you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

- **Samaritans** - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123
- **Shout** - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7
- **Childline** - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor
- **HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends
- **KOOTH** - an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday - 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm - 10pm
- **CAMHS Crisis Line** - 0800 953 9599
- If you need to speak to **Children's Social Care**- please contact the front door service on 01275 888808
- If a life is at risk, please call **999** to access support from emergency services

Gravel Car Park Drop-off and Pick-up Area

Whilst we are happy for parents to use the coach parking area for dropping off their children in the mornings, can we please remind users that this is a 'drop and go' facility and parents should not park in the area for any length of time. When vehicles don't leave promptly this causes a high volume of vehicles parked around the area, making it difficult for other vehicles to navigate around them, and can prevent staff accessing a space to park their car for the day. We also ask that vehicles drive slowly to ensure the safety of students and staff exiting cars to walk into the school site, and minimising throwing up gravel and dust. Many thanks for using this area considerately.

MP Summer School - 31st July and 1st August

Daniel Aldridge MP is running a summer school for young people between 14 - 18 years old. There will be workshops on tech, media, politics, campaigning, technology and the creative arts.

It is a free 2-day event 10am - 5pm on 31st July and 1st August 2025 at The Grand Pier. Children will need to be able to attend both days, and will get the chance to explore new skills, unlock hidden talents and build confidence through hands on learning and fun.

The event is completely free for children and lunch will be provided. You can register your interest [here](#).

We wish you and your family a wonderful May half term and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 2nd June

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 6

Tuesday 3rd to Wednesday 4th June	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition - Group B
Wednesday 4th June	Year 12 Textiles Mock Exam
Wednesday 4th June	6pm - 7pm Year 10 Online Parent Information Session
Wednesday 4th June	6pm Gordano School PTA AGM
Thursday 5th to Friday 6th June	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition - Group A
Monday 9th to Friday 13th June	Year 10 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Monday 9th to Friday 13th June	Men's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th June	6pm Shannon House Celebration Evening
Tuesday 10th to Monday 16th June	Year 12 End of Year Exams
Wednesday 11th June	6pm Lundy House Celebration Evening
Thursday 12th June	6pm Portland House Celebration Evening

Monday 16th to Friday 20th June	Year 12 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Monday 16th to Friday 27th June	Year 10 End of Year Exams
Tuesday 17th June	6pm Fitzroy House Celebration Evening
Wednesday 18th June	School Improvement Partners Visit
Wednesday 18th June	1pm - 3.30pm Year 13 Clearing
Wednesday 18th June	Year 9 HPV vaccinations
Wednesday 18th June	6pm Biscay House Celebration Evening
Thursday 19th June	6pm Cromarty House Celebration Evening
Friday 20th June	11.30am - 2.30pm Swimming Gala
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th June	Year 12 Bridging Week
Tuesday 24th June	Year 11 Prom
Thursday 26th June	1pm - 3.30pm Year 13 Clearing
Friday 27th June	Year 12 A-level Music Recital mock exam
Friday 27th June	Year 13 Ball at Bristol Marriott Hotel
Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July	Activities Week
Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July	Year 12 Futures Week
Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July	Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition to Snowdonia
Wednesday 2nd July	6pm - 7pm Year 12 UCAS Parental Information Evening
Monday 7th to Friday 11th July	Functional Skills English and Maths Exams
Tuesday 8th July	Year 6 Induction Day
Tuesday 8th July	6pm Parent Forum
Thursday 10th July	Year 12 A-level Arranging Music mock exam
Thursday 10th July	Sports Day (pm)
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th July	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th July	5.30pm - 9.30pm Creative Arts & DT Festival
Thursday 17th July	Reserve date for Sports Day
Tuesday 22 July	Last Day of Term - students finish at 12.30pm
Wednesday 23rd July to Monday 1st September inclusive	HOLIDAY