



28th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter

- Covid update
- Christmas Lunch
- Social Media Use
- PSHE Parent Workshop No.2 - Puberty & Periods
- Helping Our Young People to Flourish - Tuesday 7th December 6-7pm

Covid Update

I know that we'll all be concerned about the new variant that has been discovered and the impact that this could have on Covid measures and, potentially, schools. It's really early days, so we will watch this very carefully.

In the meantime our Covid rates in school continue to reduce; they are now at the same rate as we were seeing in September (about 0.6% of the school population). It is likely that we are now starting to see the impact of vaccinations kick in, but we remain cautious and want to ensure that we safeguard students' education and the wider opportunities that offer, so will be maintaining the wearing of face coverings indoors for the foreseeable future.

If your child has not yet received a vaccination and you are intending for them to do so, please do seek to get them vaccinated as soon as possible via this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Christmas Lunch

As we approach the end of November, it seems reasonable to start talking about Christmas! Please be advised that our date for Christmas lunch for years 7 - 11 is Wednesday 15th December. Our Christmas lunch will be served in the New Dining Hall and will be available via pre-order only. Students wishing to purchase a Christmas lunch can pre-order from tomorrow (Monday 29th November).

The Sixth Form Christmas lunch is on Tuesday 14th December (most students have already paid for this as part of the Sixth Form Fund).

Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

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

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk 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)



Social Media Use

Please be aware that some students, particularly in Year 7, are part of 'Tutor Group' chat groups on certain social media platforms.

We do not have any involvement in these groups being set up and would not support the setting up of these groups given the age restrictions that many are breaching by having certain social media accounts (please see guidance in the links below).

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-on-social-media-services>

A number parents have expressed concerns regarding the language and behaviour of some students on these platforms. Whilst we share concerns around the nature of some communications on social media, we are simply unable to 'police' all social media behaviour.

We will always advise and support where we can, and there may be instances where it is appropriate to become involved (for example, where it relates more specifically to school matters), but in general, it must be the responsibility of the parent/carer to monitor social media use and to address any issues or concerns. Please ensure that you are monitoring your child's social media use in supporting them to learn how to conduct themselves online. It's going to be a very important life-long skill for them!

Should parents be concerned that any language and behaviour could be considered against the law then it should be reported to the police.

PSHE Parent Workshop No.2

We invite parents/carers of Years 7 & 8 students to our second PSHE workshop of the year on Thursday 2nd December at 5.30pm.

The workshop will focus on Puberty and Periods and will be delivered by our PSHE Lead - Mr Horner. The workshop will take place in our Main Dining Hall. Please do take the opportunity to come.

Please be advised that we are able to support some families with the provision of sanitary items. If you feel that this could be of benefit to you, please contact Mandi Davies via the e-mail mdavies@gordanoschool.org.uk .

**Helping Our Young People to Flourish (A Parent Forum Event) - Tuesday 7th December:
6 - 7pm, Sixth Form Common Room**

As a parent or carer, it is natural to worry about the wellbeing of our young people and how best to support them. The Gordano Parent Forum would like to invite you to a talk by Fabienne Vailes, local author, educator, wellbeing expert and parent; Fabienne will be sharing her learning from 7 years of action research and hours of conversations with experts and young people on what makes young people flourish and languish in education and in life. Fabienne will share practical tips and information on how best to support your child.

We aim for this to be an onsite event and there will be an opportunity to purchase Fabienne's books, *How to Grow a Grown Up* and *The Flourishing Student*.

Please book places on the Eventbrite link below (registering by midday on December 7th).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-our-young-people-to-flourish-a-parent-forum-event-tickets-217828058587>

Finally, the very best of luck to Year 11 students who embark on their mock exam fortnight tomorrow. They have been working really hard towards these. I hope that the experience is a largely reassuring one; it should, in any case, be a really useful one in preparation for exams next summer.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher