



4th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this letter

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Thank you to Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your support in reinforcing our key expectations at the start of this term. In particular the starts to lessons seem really purposeful, uniform and appearance are mostly very good, and we really appreciate you starting to use the online contact form when initially communicating with the school on an issue. The support of parents and carers is crucial in ensuring the best possible learning environment.

Activities Week 2022

Activities Week takes place from 4th - 8th July 2022. In the next 24 hours letters will be going to parents of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 with an update on our plans for this.

Holiday Requests

We are seeing a rise in requests for term time holiday. Given the impact of Covid on the education of our students, it is a clear priority that students should miss as little school as possible (this includes Activities Week above). As well as the impact on their own education unnecessary absence has a significant impact on the school, mostly the teachers, as students then have gaps in their learning.

Government guidelines states that term time holiday is authorised in only very exceptional circumstances, and in most cases school will have little option but to decline such requests.

Please avoid planning holidays in school time. If requested, please expect this to be unauthorised and where necessary, a recommendation for a fixed penalty notice will need be issued. If you feel there is an exceptional circumstance where a term-time holiday may be justified then please contact the school.

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

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Absence for anxiety-related reasons

Although our attendance rates remain significantly above the national average, we are seeing more absences relating to anxiety following the Covid pandemic. If your son or daughter is struggling please be in touch with the House Team, as we have a range of ways of supporting students (and parents). This is much better done in school and through maintaining consistent attendance. Please do all that you can to encourage your child to remain resilient, come to school every day and access the support available. Our experience suggest that absence from school for this reason is often counterproductive and more likely to lead to further difficulties with school attendance in the future.

Vaping

Years 8-11 are having assemblies on the dangers of vaping this week. North Somerset Council have also asked us to share the enclosed leaflet on vaping with parents. It includes details on how to report the illegal sale or supply of these devices.

Exam Support

Kooth have produced this useful resource that parents may want to look at with the children - it includes some really useful tips on managing exam stress.

https://mcusercontent.com/d59bd9b5bcf63d9845647aa1f/files/04210810-3edf-8fbb-f940-ca60cc0d34d4/KOOTH_Exam_Tips_Digital_Brochure_1_.pdf

Covid risk assessment

The school's Covid Risk Assessment has now been 'stood down' in line with guidance. We are implementing a new 'respiratory diseases' risk assessment that we will maintain in line with other risk assessments and, should it be necessary at a later stage, we will reinstate a Covid-specific risk assessment

Early Closure, Thursday 5th May

School will finish at 3pm tomorrow, Thursday 5th May for the Year 12 Progress Evening.

Kind regards

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

Tom Inman
Headteacher