



Year 8 Parental Information Evening

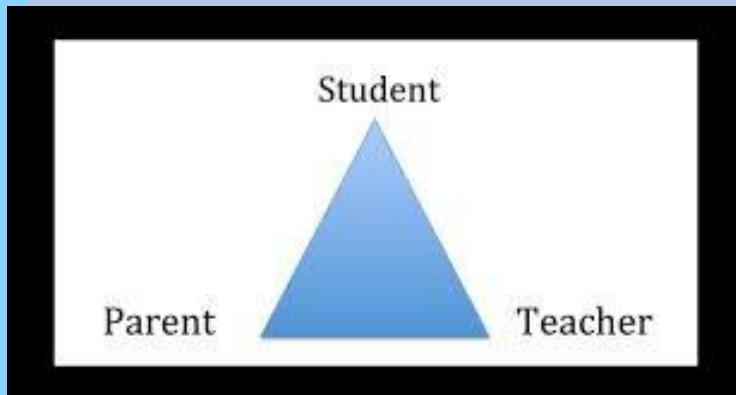
Monday 29th September 2025

Thank you for joining us this evening.
The presentation will cover the following areas:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. The Year Ahead**
- 3. Key Dates 2025-26**
- 4. Year 8 Curriculum and Homework**
- 5. Safeguarding**
- 6. Themes: Kindness and Resilience**
- 7. Rewards and Expectations**
- 8. Activities Week**



The Journey Ahead





Year 8

The year ahead



NEW YEAR – FRESH START!



NEW CLASSES



NEW TEACHERS



HIGH EXPECTATIONS



**ESSENTIAL
CURRICULUM
CONTENT**



A great start for Year 8 so far

- **21,309 merits – over 4 merits a day for each student**
- **Keep it up!**





Key dates for Year 8

Thursday 9 October	Tutor Reviews
February	Year 8 Achievement Review 1 issued
Thursday 23 April	Year 8 Progress Evening
July	Year 8 Achievement Review 2 issued



Other Dates of Interest

2/3 December	Christmas Music Concert
30 April	Junior Maths Challenge
June	House Celebration Evenings
19 June	Inter-House Swimming Gala
29 June – 3 July	Activities Week
9 July	Sports Day



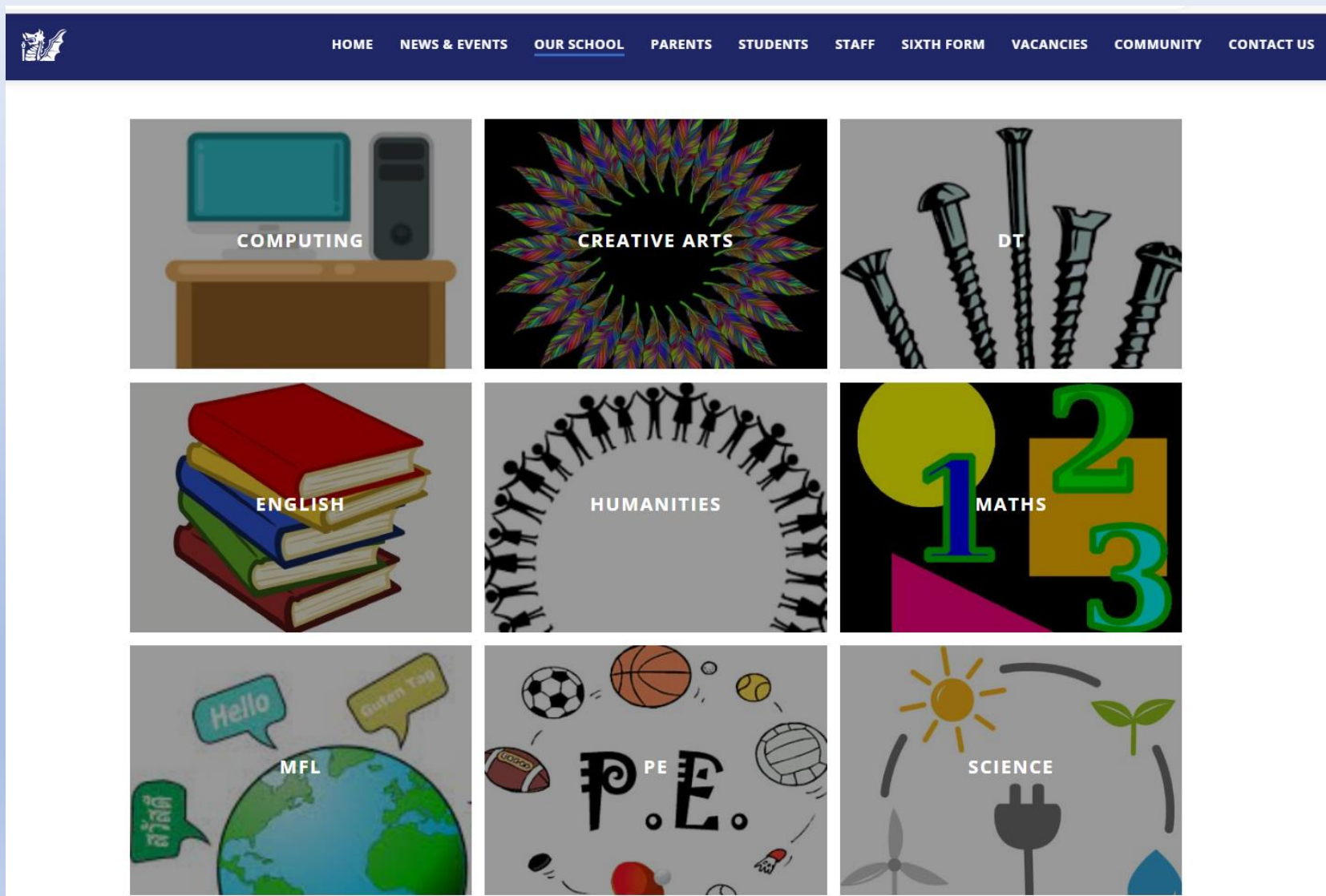
The Year 8 Curriculum

Delivered through Gordano Learning



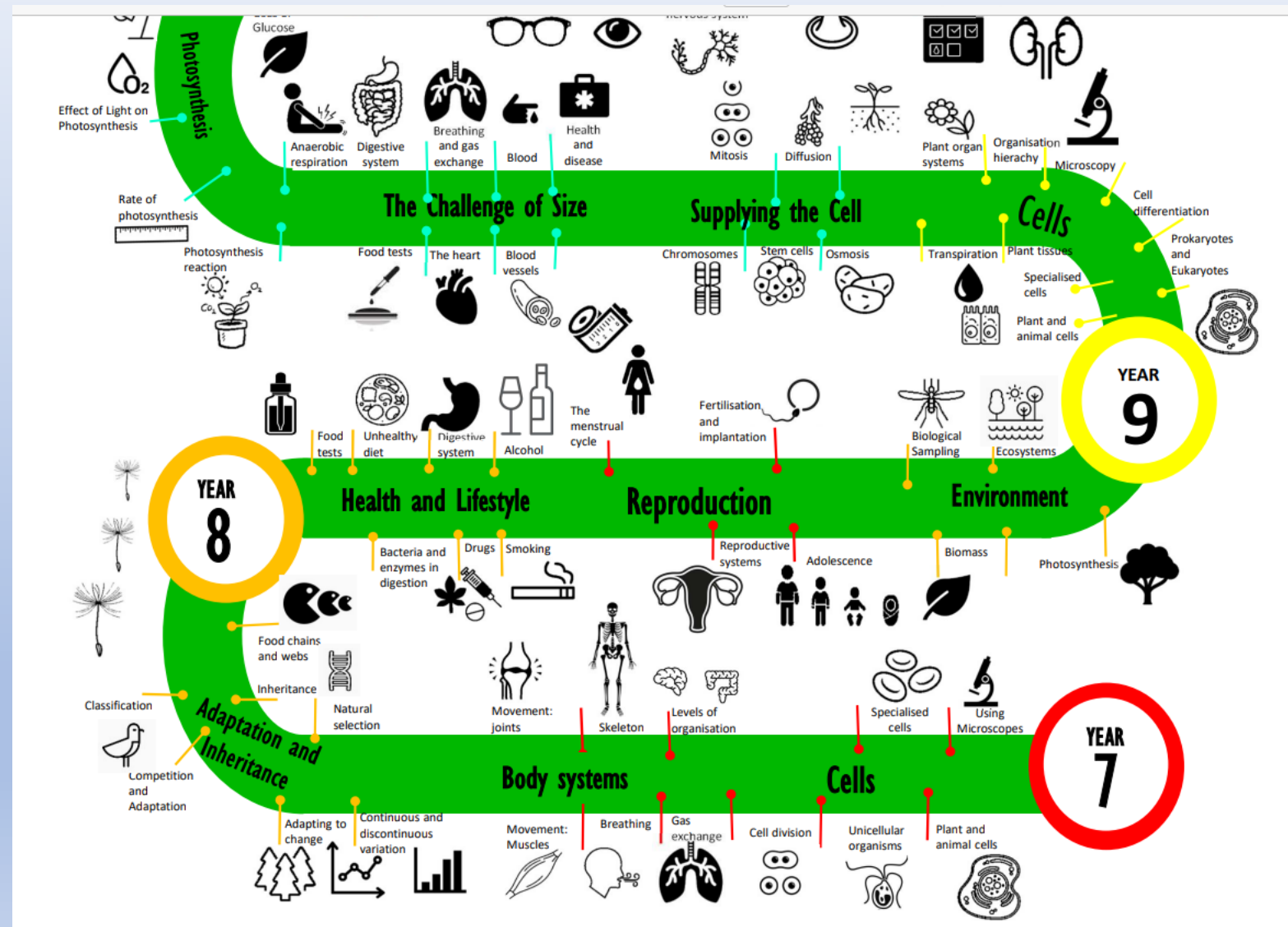


The Year 8 Curriculum






The Year 8 Curriculum



Year 8 Homework

- Homework will be set every two weeks on **Thursdays of Week 1.**
- All homework will be set on  **ClassCharts**
- Subject deadlines will vary over the fortnight (no less than 7 days to complete)
- A homework task should normally take **30-40 minutes** to complete
- Homework support: Wednesday after school



GORDANO EXTRA



A student and parent guide to the
Gordano Extra Curricular offer

CONTENTS

<u>3D Printing</u>	<u>GCSE Art Support</u>
<u>Chess</u>	<u>Christian</u>
<u>Cipher Club</u>	<u>Coding</u>
<u>Craft</u>	<u>Dance</u>
<u>Design Ventura</u>	<u>Diabetic</u>
<u>Drama</u>	<u>Duke of Edinburgh</u>
<u>Eco</u>	<u>Feminist</u>
<u>Flying Start Challenge</u>	<u>Games</u>
<u>History</u>	<u>Homework</u>
<u>Karate</u>	<u>Library & Book</u>
<u>LGBTQ+</u>	<u>Model United Nations</u>
<u>Music</u>	<u>Philosophy</u>
<u>Photography</u>	<u>Pottery</u>
<u>Sport</u>	<u>STEM</u>
<u>Warhammer</u>	



Our Safeguarding Team



Deputy Head (Pastoral):

Johnny Mailey (Strategic Safeguarding Lead)

Office: Student Centre

jmailey@gordanoschool.org.uk



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Jeanne Fairs (Assistant Head)

Student Centre Office

jfairs@gordanoschool.org.uk



Our Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding our students in the building

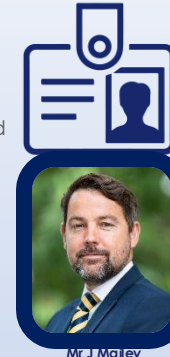
All visitors to the school must sign in at main reception, where they will be issued with the appropriate 'Visitor's lanyard' (see below) and key safeguarding information. Please report to reception if you have misplaced the lanyard given to you on arrival.

This is to protect you and our students.

If you believe a person is on site and not authorised to be so, please ask them to report to main reception or contact a member of SLT immediately. School staff and Sixth Form students should wear their lanyard and photo ID at all times.

General Safeguarding of Students

If you feel vulnerable at any time you must tell a member of staff. This could be anyone you feel comfortable talking to. You should tell someone about any risk of harm from an adult whether that is at school, at home, on a school trip or on a work placement or in the community. All of our staff have been trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection.



Mr J Maley
Strategic
Safeguarding Lead

Our specialist Safeguarding team are:



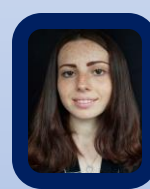
Mrs J Fairs
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



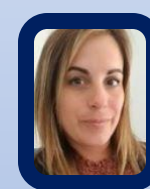
Mrs C
Thompson
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs N Curme
Child Protection
Officer



Miss K
Birkenhead
Child Protection
Officer



Miss K Hodge
Child Protection
Officer



Ms M
Georgiou
Child Protection
Officer



Miss K Hayden
Child Protection
Officer



Mrs C Thomas
Child Protection
Officer

Are you wearing the correct lanyard?



Dream big • Do your best • Give back



Keeping You Safe

☰

Explore Student Concern and Well-being

○

Student Concern and Well-being

•


Book a well-being chat

Create


Student Concern and Well-being

Immersive Reader


Student Concern and Well-being




Year 7




Biscay




Cromarty




Fitzroy



Lundy




Portland



Shannon

[Book a well-being chat LINK TO FORM](#)



+ safe spaces and staff wearing High Visibility jackets at break times.

No recommendations [Recommend Page](#)



Attendance and Punctuality

- Students should be on site by 8.35am and at tutor bases ready for 8.40am
- Students should aim for attendance of 96% and above
- Good attendance and punctuality lead to stronger academic progress, disruption-free learning for all and build a strong foundation for life beyond school
- We ask for daily contact through Microsoft Forms (link on website) if your child is absent
- We ask parents to work with the school where there are issues with attendance
- From 1st September 2024 we adopted the LSP attendance policy (available on our website)
- Term-time holiday can be approved only in exceptional circumstances



Why do we launch the year with an assembly on expectations?

- It acts as a foundation for a successful and productive year ahead
- It sets a clear tone and understanding of behavioural, academic and cultural expectations for students and all members of the community
- It provides an opportunity to align everyone's understanding of the values, goals and standards of our school community
- It allows us to provide a positive and cohesive environment from the very start



- High expectations of behaviour are crucial because they create a positive and structured learning environment that benefits both individuals and the community as a whole
- This year, **Kindness, Resilience and Teamwork** will sit at the heart of everything we do



Classroom Expectations

Be ready for learning then
Do Your Best!

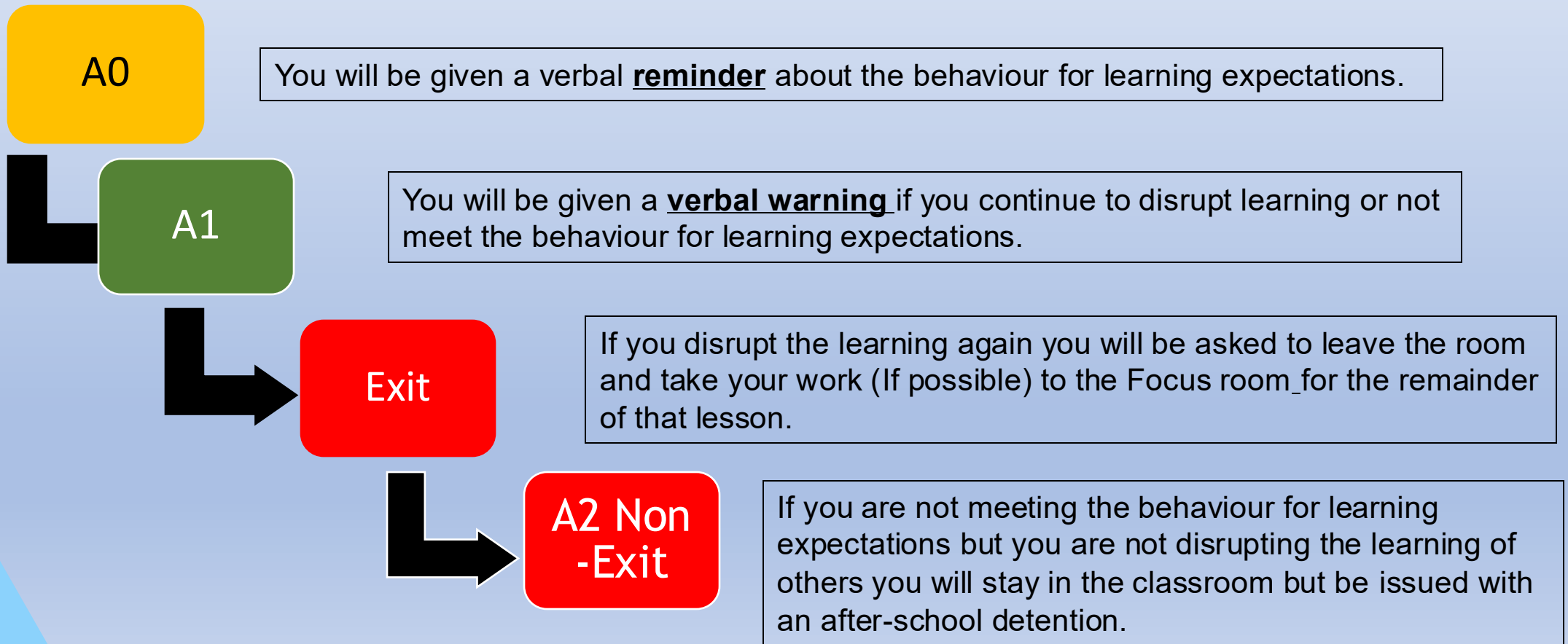


Positive start	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Arrive on time✓ Wear uniform correctly✓ Line up sensibly✓ Sit in the correct seat✓ Coat off✓ Equipment out✓ Start the 'Do Now'
Quality Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Silent when asked (3-2-1)✓ Listen in silence✓ Focus on the speaker✓ Respect others' opinions✓ Speak when appropriate
Follow instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do as asked the first time✓ Question politely if the instruction is unclear
Do your best	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Attempt task straight away✓ Stay focused✓ Complete as much as you can✓ Ask for help if you need it✓ Be resilient✓ Stay in the lesson
Pride in presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Titles and dates underlined✓ Work neatly laid out✓ Books/folders free of doodling

Disruption-free
learning for ALL



Failure to Meet Classroom Expectations





Community Expectations



Uniform

- ✓ Wear it correctly and with pride
- ✓ Shirts tucked in
- ✓ Skirts and shorts appropriate length

Moving around the site

- ✓ Stay in appropriate areas for social times (not in stairwells, upstairs or wings)
- ✓ Hands off others
- ✓ Indoor voices when inside
- ✓ Move around calmly and quietly when inside - be thoughtful of others
- ✓ Keep left in corridors and avoid contact
- ✓ Go straight to your lesson



Break and lunchtime

- ✓ Place litter in the bin
- ✓ Eat in the Designated zones
- ✓ Tidy up after yourself
- ✓ Have fun and stay safe
- ✓ Use this time to go to toilet
- ✓ Use this time to fill up your water bottle

Talking to staff

- ✓ Listen to and follow staff instructions, the first time
- ✓ Be respectful when communicating with staff

To and from school

- ✓ Leave room for others when using the pavement
- ✓ Cycle on the road/cycle lanes
- ✓ Be respectful to all members of the public including staff in shops and takeaways



Uniform – thank you!

Blazers – To be worn all the time

Grey school jumpers – can be worn underneath, but not instead of a blazer

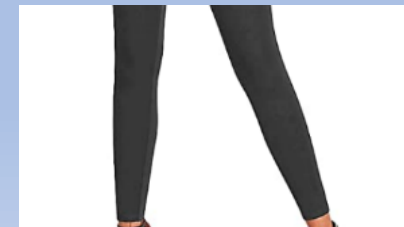
Trousers can be fitted, but must not be tight fitting around the lower leg (please see photos below for guidance).

Shoes must be black and polishable. Cloth material footwear / black trainers are not permitted.

Skirts/Shorts must sit just above the knee. It is not permitted to roll up skirts or shorts. If wearing school uniform shorts/skirts, socks/tights must be grey or black.

Shirts **must be tucked in at all times**

Coats – should be OFF in lessons





We are a proudly phone-free school

In June 2025, we became a phone-free school, using Yondr pouches to ensure this, to great success

If students choose to bring a phone to school, it is locked in a pouch each morning and unlocked at the end of the day, when they leave. They are responsible for bringing their pouch each day, storing it in their bags locked.

Your children have taken to the system like ducks to water!

Pouch Forgotten	-1 behaviour point; phone kept in the Student Centre for the day and a 10 minute detention at the end of the day.
Student found with phone out of pouch	-3 behaviour points and a day's internal suspension
Student who does not bring a phone to school	Please put a signed note in their pouch confirming that they do not bring a phone to school.



Overview of Rewards

Student Rewards

Top 5 Students of the Week

House Celebrations

Inter - House Championship

Dream **Big** | Do Your **Best** | Give **Back**



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE



Working together to create a 'happy and cohesive' community at Gordano

TEAMWORK





Parental Communication

Student related queries

The contact forms have now been replaced by our central email address for student related queries mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk. This mailbox will be monitored during normal school hours, and we aim to respond within 3 working days, during term-time.

To help us deal with your query as efficiently as possible, please include the full name of the student, tutor group and the name of the staff member you wish to contact (if known).

We would also like to remind you that key parental communications and information relating to term dates, uniform, catering etc can be found on the [school website](#).

SEND:

To contact the SEND/Student Support Team please email SEND@gordanoschool.org.uk





Parental Communication

Updating student contact and medical information

If you need to update your contact details that we hold for you or your child, or their medical information, please contact the data team by email on datateam@gordanoschool.org.uk
Please note that we are unable to make updates over the phone.

Attendance

To notify us that a student is unwell, or of a planned absence such as a medical appointment, please use the relevant form below (also linked on our website).
Years 7-11 [here](#)
Sixth Form [here](#)



Gordano is a NUT-AWARE School



- Please do not allow your child to bring any nuts or products which may contain traces of nuts into school.
- We have students and staff with nut allergies who could be seriously affected, so we appreciate your co-operation and understanding.



YEAR 8 ACTIVITIES WEEK



Mon 29th June – Fri 3rd July 2026

We are excited to announce that we will be offering five fun-filled days for the Year 8 Activities Week.

Cost: approx. £225 (tbc)

Day trips include:

- West Country Water Park
- Adventure Bristol
- Ninja Warrior & Hollywood Bowl
- Planet Ice and Vue Cinema
- MOJO active

For students who decide not to sign up there will be a FREE onsite programme with teacher-led activities designed to be fun, engaging, and inclusive.

Please note that this is still a school week and students are expected to participate in either the Activities Week or base programme.



Free School Meals

Qualifying benefits for Free School Meals

- Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you get any of these benefits:
- **income Support**
- income-based **Jobseeker's Allowance** (JSA)
- income-related **Employment and Support Allowance** (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the **Immigration and Asylum Act** 1999
- The guaranteed element of **Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on**, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- **Universal Credit** with annual take home pay/met earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) - benefits not included



How to Apply

Google Search: *Free School Meals North Somerset*


The screenshot shows the North Somerset Council website. The top navigation bar includes links for SERVICES, BUSINESS, MY COUNCIL, DO IT ONLINE, CONTACT US, and NEWS. A search bar is prominently displayed. The breadcrumb trail reads: HOME > MY SERVICES > SCHOOLS AND LEARNING > LOCAL SCHOOLS > FREE SCHOOL MEALS. On the left, a sidebar menu lists: Local schools (with a graduation cap icon), Becoming a governor, Bullying in schools, Crossing patrols, Expansion of Baytree School, and Find your local school. The main content area is titled 'Free school meals' and features a highlighted section for 'Free holiday provision during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays'. This section includes an information icon, a paragraph stating that children on benefit-related free school meals can access holiday provision, and a link to 'find out how your child can access free holiday provision through the Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF) programme'. Below this, it states there are two schemes for free school meals: universal infant free school meals and free school meals for people on qualifying benefits. A final note mentions that children entitled to universal infant school meals should still apply for free school meals.

Food Bank Informat... Kindness at Gordano Dashboard — Gord... Gordano Internal C... Expert HR Solutions... ESS - Login LSP Gateway | Welc... Login | ParentZone Forest School - Tue... Log in | Learning Pla... Login - CPOMS Evouchers | Simplifi...

North Somerset Council SERVICES BUSINESS MY COUNCIL DO IT ONLINE CONTACT US NEWS

What are you looking for? **Search**

HOME > MY SERVICES > SCHOOLS AND LEARNING > LOCAL SCHOOLS > FREE SCHOOL MEALS


Local schools

Becoming a governor

Bullying in schools

Crossing patrols

Expansion of Baytree School

Find your local school

Free school meals

Free holiday provision during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays ⓘ

Children receiving benefit related free school meals can access free holiday provision during the holidays.

[find out how your child can access free holiday provision through the Holiday, Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#)

There are two schemes for free school meals:

- universal infant free school meals for all children in reception year, year 1 and year 2 – you don't need to apply as they're automatically given at the school
- free school meals for people on qualifying benefits – you'll need to apply for these

If you claim qualifying benefits and your child is entitled to universal infant school meals, you should still apply for free school meals so:



- Scroll down the page and click the blue button
- Answer the questions
- Immediate response
- If eligible, send the reference code to the school parent mailbox address
- It will take 2 working days for Aspens canteen account to be activated

- If your child stays in the same school, you don't need to do anything at this time. Your free school meals will continue until the end of Year 6 for Primary Schools and the end of Year 11 for Secondary Schools. Please do not reapply as you may lose your entitlement.
- If your child moves from primary to secondary school in North Somerset in September 2024, you don't need to do anything. Your free school meals will continue and we will update the new school – please do not reapply as you may lose your entitlement. The exception is if your child moves from a non-North Somerset school to a North Somerset school, then you will need to apply on our free school meals system so we can transfer your eligibility.
- If your child moves school during the school year, please email us and we will update your free school meals record for you – please do not reapply as you may lose your entitlement.

Children do not receive free school meals in college.

If your child has free school meals at a school outside of North Somerset and they are changing to a North Somerset school, you will need to reapply on our system so we can transfer your eligibility.

We will update this page in January 2025 to give further details on the government changes to free school meals that are due in April 2025.

free school meals

✉ fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk

apply for free school meals on the Citizen's Portal >



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