

13<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

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#### Whole School Production - 'Bring It On'

This last week has seen the most amazing performances of our Whole School Production, 'Bring It On', to Year 6 students and then on four sold-out nights. After two years when we just haven't been able to provide the sorts of 'beyond the classroom' experiences that we hold so dear at Gordano, it was pretty emotional watching so many students involved in something so special. The quality was unbelievable for a school production, and testament to the incredible commitment of all the students (on stage or off) and the dedication of our Creative Arts faculty. Huge congratulations to all those involved on a magnificent showpiece event.



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## **Interruption to telephone system**

Unfortunately our telephone system was 'down' on Thursday and Friday due to a 'BT' issue. They are now back up and running as usual. Apologies for any inconvenience that this caused.

## **Ukraine Crisis**

As a school we have been eager to ensure that students are aware and informed about the tragic conflict in Ukraine. The History and Politics team have run an online assembly to explain the situation to students, with further reinforcement in History lessons. There is also a lunchtime History Society meeting planned that will be open to all yeargroups with a specific focus on Ukraine and Russia, which any students will be able to attend to learn and discuss more. As the conflict goes on, we continue to consider how best to ensure that students engage with the significance of this moment in the history of Europe; please do also talk about it at home.

Sixth Form students raised nearly £800 from a tutor group 'Bake Off' event on Friday, which will be donated to the British Red Cross in their support of the victims of the conflict. We are currently planning a way to involve lower school students in raising funds in addition to their contribution to Red Nose Day below (a proportion of the proceeds from which will go towards supporting victims of the conflict).

## **Non-uniform day - Red Nose Day - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be holding a non-uniform day for students on Friday to support fundraising for Red Nose Day. Further information will follow during the week from the Pastoral Team.

## **Uniform**

With thanks to parents for their support to ensure that uniform expectations are met at all times. There has been a clear improvement since half term and the vast majority of students have got it right, but a small number of students are still not complying with our uniform expectations. We will continue to apply consequences and call parents to resolve where we need to. Please do all that you can to ensure that your child(ren) is / are meeting our expectations every day.

We continue to review the position relating to PE kit and will be discussing this further with students this week.

## **Class Charts Attendance**

We are not currently using Class Charts to record attendance due to technical issues with the product. If you wish to review your child's attendance record, please do so using your Firefly parent login.

## North Somerset Parents Carers Working Together (NSPCWT)

NSPCWT have various coffee mornings and training events covering a variety of issues available to parents. Please follow the link to view upcoming events that may be of interest to our families.

<https://mailchi.mp/517a740be700/check-out-our-training-events-and-coffee-mornings-planned-this-term>

### Covid Update

Despite the ending of legal restrictions over half term, schools (and communities as a whole) are still seeing high rates of infection. After a 'dip' below the national average in February, our student attendance rates are back above the national average, which is a reassurance. However, staff absence due to Covid and other illness remains very high, and the availability of supply teachers is minimal. Although our staff are going out of their way to cover colleagues wherever possible on top of their already heavy workload, there is still a risk that we could have to close to a yeargroup on any particular day. We hope it won't happen, but I'd rather be clear at this stage that the possibility still exists.

We are expecting a change in government guidance for schools from 1<sup>st</sup> April, and will update you as soon as we know more.

### 3pm finish Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

School will finish at 3pm on Thursday for the Year 8 Progress Evening.

With best wishes, as ever.



Tom Inman  
Headteacher