



19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw Term Two to a close, it is a pleasure to reflect on the many successes our school community has enjoyed over recent weeks. It was particularly special to revisit so many of these moments during our celebration assemblies this morning, where our fantastic House Captains shared their two-term updates. They highlighted the wide range of positive activities that have taken place and reminded us all just how proud our students should be of their focus, commitment, and effort since September.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our wonderful Sixth Form RAG team, who have delivered an outstanding week of fundraising events. The highlight for me was the incredible level of engagement at the RAG Fayre on Wednesday lunchtime, with the sports hall packed full of creative and vibrant stalls run by Sixth Form tutor groups. It was a wonderful example of our community coming together to support such worthwhile causes.

It is now, however, time for a well-deserved break. After two incredibly busy terms, this is a welcome opportunity for everyone to rest, recharge, and enjoy some festive time with family and friends before returning refreshed and ready for the new term ahead.

Get Caught Reading! - Christmas Competition

2026 has been designated by the Department for Education as the National Year of Reading, and we're kicking things off with a festive challenge! Over the Christmas break, we'd love to see our students "get caught reading" in creative ways. Students can snap a photo of themselves reading or listening to an audiobook in any setting—at home, outdoors, or somewhere unusual and email it to the Library Team. You can find full details of the competition and where to send entries, and a list of recommended reads from the school's librarian [here](#).

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

The Year 8 HPV vaccinations will be taking place on Thursday 29th January 2026. An email with further information was sent earlier this week. Please complete the [consent form](#) as soon as possible to assist Sirona with planning and vaccine ordering. Please also complete the form if you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine as Sirona require a response for all students.

Young Driver Awareness Workshop

The Neighbourhood Policing Team has arranged a Young Driver Awareness Workshop on 2nd February 2026 at 5.30pm. It will be held at Portishead Youth and Community Centre and will run for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Students aged 15-18 (Years 10, 11 and 12) are invited to attend. Parents are also welcome.

This will be an interactive session covering key topics such as:

- Drug and drink driving
- Speeding
- Careless and inconsiderate driving
- Seat belt safety
- Driver distractions

To book your place please email the names of those attending to PCSO Kylie Howard:

Kylie.Howard@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell, BA

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

Tel: 01275 842606 Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

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Wellspring Counselling Listening Mentors

This is a free service for ages 11-16 offering locally based face-to-face weekly sessions with listening mentors, giving young people a safe space to talk. See the [flyer](#) for details of how to book.

Mental Health Signposting

While we hope that the school holidays allow students to recharge, we also recognise that this can be a difficult time for families. While school is closed, 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, 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.

Seasonal Illness Guidance

We hope everyone enjoys good health over the Christmas break, but here's a reminder of the guidance available to help manage seasonal illnesses should you need it.

- [Education Hub Blog](#): Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance
- [NHS Guidance for Parents](#): Is my child too ill for school? - a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- [Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance](#): Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- [Managing Specific Infectious Diseases: A-Z](#): Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.

Lost Property

Lost property has a variety of miscellaneous items such as water bottles, glasses and umbrellas. If your child has lost such an item, please ask them to check with Student Centre during the first week of Term 3 as these items will be disposed of after Friday 9th January.

Staff Leavers and Joiners

At this time of year, we say farewell to several colleagues who are moving on to new opportunities and experiences. As you already know, Dr Humphries will be leaving us to take up a new role as Head of Composition at Millfield School, and we wish him every success in this exciting next step. We are absolutely delighted to welcome Miss Rachel Hinchliffe, who will be joining us in January as our new Head of Music.

Mrs McDermott (Maths) will also be leaving us in January to take up a permanent position at a new school in Bristol. We thank her sincerely for the dedicated support she has provided during her maternity leave cover here at Gordano and wish her the very best in her move. We are pleased to welcome Mr Grange, who will be joining the Maths team in January.

Our reception staff are highly valued members of the school community, and we are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Rouse, who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Finally, Miss Barrett in Geography will be leaving us in January to pursue her travelling ambitions, and we wish her all the very best for the future as we welcome Miss Hutchings to the department.

From all the staff at Gordano, we wish our families a wonderful festive season and a happy new year and thank you for your on-going support over the first two terms of 2025-2026. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 3

Monday 5 January	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 January	Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 9 January	Year 9 Taster Sessions
Wednesday 14 January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Wednesday 14 January	Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Thursday 15 January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals
Monday 19 to Friday 23 January	Functional Skills English Exams
Tuesday 20 January	Year 10/11 Geography BTEC Trip to Manchester Airport
Tuesday 20 January	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 21 January	5.30-6.30pm Year 12 New York trip parent information meeting
Thursday 22 January	Year 13 Progress Evening
Friday 23 January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Monday 26 to Friday 30 January	Functional Skills Maths Exams
Monday 26 January	Year 11 Geography River Holford fieldwork trip 1
Tuesday 27 January	Year 11 Geography River Holford fieldwork trip 2
Wednesday 28 January	Year 11 Geography River Holford fieldwork trip 3
Wednesday 28 January	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 29 January	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Thursday 29 January	Year 12 HE+ Programme trip to Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar
Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February	Weekend rehearsals for school production
Monday 2 to Friday 6 February	School Production
Thursday 5 February	3.35pm Year 8/9 General Knowledge Quiz
Saturday 7 February	Silver and Gold DofE Training Day
Monday 9 to Friday 13 February	National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9 February	Deadline for Year 9 Options
Monday 9 to Wednesday 11 February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Monday 9 February	3.35pm MFL Spelling Bee Final
Monday 9 February	Year 7 Street Trip 1
Tuesday 10 February	Year 7 Street Trip 2
Tuesday 10 February	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 11 February	Year 7 Street Trip 3
Wednesday 11 February	Post-18 Apprenticeship Evening
Thursday 12 February	Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 13 February	INSET Day
Monday 16 to Friday 20 February	HOLIDAY