



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a good week and that this update finds you and your families well. It has been a busy week for sports at Gordano. I had the pleasure of accompanying our swimming team on Saturday to the Aquatics centre in London to take part in the ESSA secondary team championships where they performed brilliantly as a team. We have also seen other successes this week for the Year 10 Rugby Team who have progressed through to the semi-final of the Somerset Cup, and our girls football team won their first round of the EFL Cup. There are so many different activities taking place across the school daily and I would like to thank all those students who participate and the staff who support their efforts.

Late to School – New Procedures

We will now commence our new lates procedures from Monday 28th November. Although there are still roadworks around Portishead, these have been in place for sufficient time to allow students to adjust their departure times to school to account for this. As a reminder, the St Marys Road gate will continue to be closed at 8.40am, and any student arriving at the Clevedon Road gate after 8.45am will be noted as late by the member of staff on duty. Parents / carers will then receive a text to alert them to the fact their child has been late to school. Any child who is late to school twice in one week without a valid reason will receive a half hour after school detention on the following Monday. Parents / carers of a student who has three or more lates detentions in one term will be invited into school to meet with a member of the senior leadership team.

Parking at the end of the school day

We would politely request that parents consider carefully where they park to collect their children at the end of the school day. Parents continue to park in the bus stop close to school, and we have had some occasions recently whereby parents have parked alongside the planters and across driveways in St Marys Road, leading to other traffic being unable to flow freely down the hill. Parents are also parking in the St Marys Road gateway whilst waiting for their children. This area is clearly marked in yellow to be kept clear, and we would therefore ask parents to respect this. We have asked the local Police team to have a presence around the area in the coming weeks and they have asked us to advise parents that they will be issuing tickets as necessary.

Trying to manage the flow of over 2000 students leaving site is a challenge, and inconsiderate parking makes this even more difficult for school staff when seeing students safely off site. The coach park is open at the end of the school day, and parents are welcome to park there and wait for their children.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

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

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: 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)



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Students going home during the school day

We continue to have instances of students leaving site having spoken with their parents, but without a member of staff being aware. This causes a significant safeguarding issue. We are therefore once again urging parents NOT to give permission for their children to leave school if parents have not spoken directly to a member of staff, but to instead contact main reception or attendance to discuss the matter further. We simply cannot guarantee the safety of our students if we are unsure if they are on site or not.

Concerns in the Community

It has been very sad to hear that Homebase and Lidl have taken the decision to not permit students under 16 who are not accompanied by an adult into their stores due to recent thefts and behaviour. The incidents have been reported to the police who are investigating. If you or any of your children have any information, please do get in touch with the police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Progress Evenings

Following a few requests for key dates, please find all progress evenings for the rest of the academic year listed below:

24 th November 2022	Year 7 Progress Evening
9 th February 2023	Year 11 Progress Evening
23 rd February 2023	Year 13 Progress Evening
16 th March 2023	Year 8 Progress Evening
4 th May 2023	Year 12 Progress Evening
25 th May 2023	Year 10 Progress Evening
8 th June 2023	Year 9 Progress Evening

Safeguarding

Please see the link below for guidance on Tik Tok and how to support your child in using it safely. [Tik Tok Parent Factsheet](#)

School Trips

Further to my previous letter regarding school trips, for trips where spaces are limited due to the physical number of places available, parents will have the opportunity to register their child's interest/enter a draw for the trip via ParentPay. If the trip is over-subscribed, names will be drawn at random. This is our system for selecting places.

Caring at Christmas

This year Gordano Sixth Form is supporting Caring at Christmas, the Bristol-based charity that provides Christmas dinners for those experiencing homelessness on Christmas day. Sixth Formers would welcome donations of food, toiletries and clothing from students and staff until Monday 12th December. There are collection points in House areas and Sixth Form, and you can find more information and a list of suggested donation items [here](#). Donations can also be made through ParentPay.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher