



18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start this week by thanking all staff and students involved in the planning, and delivery of our incredible Creative Arts Festival which took place over the last two evenings at Gordano. The festival atmosphere was fabulous, and I hope, if you were able to attend that you enjoyed the variety and quality of talent as much as I did. The Creative Arts Team and Design Technology Team and our students have spent a significant amount of time curating the festival over the last few terms and over the last academic year in terms of the wonderful work on display throughout the evening, and I thank them for their on-going contributions which enable events like this to happen! A huge congratulations to all involved and a wonderful way to end our annual events at Gordano.

### **Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award**

A huge congratulations to all our Year 10 students who successfully completed their silver expedition last weekend! On an incredibly hot weekend our students showed determination, resilience and amazing team spirit throughout the whole weekend. Their navigation was fantastic; they were fantastic in camp and gave great presentations to their assessors. They really do deserve to be truly proud of their achievements. I would also like to wholeheartedly thank Mrs Allen and the whole staff team who spent many hours planning all the necessary mitigations required to support our young people's success on such a hot expedition weekend.

### **Staff Leavers**

The latter part of any year within a school setting involves recruiting the very best staff we can to continue to provide the best educational experience for our young people. On Tuesday we will saying a sad goodbye to staff leaving us this academic year to go onto new adventures - promotions, retirements, moving to other areas of the country. We are immensely grateful to them for the passion and dedication they have given during their time at Gordano and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mrs Hannam	Teacher of DT
Mr Olive	Teacher of DT
Mrs Lloyd	Teacher of Maths
Miss Young	Teacher of English
Miss Gaze	Head of Drama/Dance
Miss Bristow	Teacher of English
Mr Skinner	Teacher of Boys PE
Mr Rushton	Teacher of Humanities
Mrs Butcher	Teacher of Art
Mr Allen	Teacher of Humanities

### **Retirement**

I would particularly like to wish Mrs Hodge (Finance), Mr Williams (Head of Economics) and Mrs Davies (Head of Biology) a wonderful retirement. Mrs Hodge has served at the school for 19 years, Mrs Davies has been with the school for 9 years and Mr Williams for 17 years; through that extensive service they have impacted so many students past and present, and we are truly grateful for their dedication to the school over the years and wish them a very special retirement.

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### **New Staff joining us in September**

In September we will have the pleasure of welcoming a new group of staff into the school and we are grateful to have appointed such a strong field. I know they all look forward to working with your children over the coming years...

Miss Bardum	Teacher of DT
Miss Coldwell	Teacher of Maths
Miss Jones	Teacher of Maths
Mrs Luton	Assistant Head – Inclusion and Teacher of English
Mr Skuse	Teacher of History
Mr Wilson	Teacher of Physics
Ms Treanor	Teacher of DT
Mr Garland	Teacher of Maths
Miss Baldwin	Teacher of Dance
Miss Breheny	Teacher of English
Mr Newport	Teacher of English
Mr Hayward	Teacher of Boys PE

We also welcome back Mrs Bradley, Miss Meakin, Ms Lange and Miss Inman on their return from maternity leave.

### **Year 10 Mock Exams**

A huge well done to all of the students for their positive and mature attitudes towards the Year 10 Mock Exams. They approached these assessments with focus and the intention to do as well as they could, this is exactly what we would want from them. It has been great to share their results with them today through our Mock Results morning, providing the students with an experience similar to that which they will encounter next summer - please do look out for an email from the school with a copy of these results for your information.

### **Students walking through allotments**

Over the past few weeks, some students have been taking a short cut through Gertie Gale's Allotments when walking to and from school. Please be aware that there is no public right of way through the allotments and students are trespassing on private property if they access this site. Regrettably, there have also been some instances of verbal abuse and threatening behaviour towards allotment users from students crossing the site, and also some criminal damage; these incidents have been reported to the police. If your child walks to school (and especially if you live near to the allotments), please speak to them about taking an appropriate route and behaving respectfully towards other members of the community and their property.

### **Derelict Property**

The local police have noted that they have been called out to derelict/unoccupied properties by landlords sharing CCTV images of young people. Please do have conversations at home about the dangers of trespassing - both from a legal and a health and safety perspective.

### **Yondr Pouches**

Please support your children in putting their Yondr pouch in a safe place for the summer, ready to return to school in September. Our mobile phone policy details that all students must use the pouches and parents are liable for the cost of a new pouch in the instance of a lost pouch.

## **Safeguarding and Wellbeing over the Summer Break**

### **Useful links 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](https://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

### **ChatHealth**

Young people, aged 11-19, can get support from [Sirona Care & Health's School Nurses](#) through the summer holidays. The [ChatHealth](#) text messaging support service is open 9am - 5pm during weekdays, except bank holidays.

School Nurses can offer support on a range of topics including emotional support and relationships, sexual health, sleep, smoking/vaping and healthy eating and exercise. Text 07312 263093 to get confidential support from a health professional.

### **Resources to support kinship carers**

A kinship carer is a friend or family member who raises a child when their parents can't. Kinship, the national charity for kinship carers, offers free online and in-person workshops and peer support groups open to all kinship carers, regardless of their legal arrangement. Visit [Kinship's website](#) for more information.

We will monitor the safeguarding inbox over the school holidays for non-urgent information sharing: please contact: [safeguardingteam@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@gordanoschool.org.uk)

### **Last Day arrangements**

As we approach the end of term, just a reminder of the details for the last day of term on Tuesday. We start the day off with a whole school celebration assembly where we will be looking back at the academic year, celebrating so many great achievements.

Periods 2 and 3 are normal lessons and the day finishes with House assemblies. School finishes for students on Tuesday 22nd July at 12.30pm.

### **Start of term in September - Summer Mailing**

As you will know from previous years, I will send out our 'summer mailing' to all parents during the first two weeks of the holidays with the detailed outline for September's start and key reminders for parents to consider over the holidays.

To support in your planning, I just wanted to highlight the phased return we will operate in September.

Tuesday 2nd September	INSET Day
Wednesday 3rd September	INSET Day
Thursday 4th September	Year 7 and 12 students only
Friday 5th September	Year 7 and 12 students come in at break time (10.55am) to allow our induction for students in Years 8-11 and Year 13 in the morning

### **Lost Property**

Just a reminder to encourage students to collect any lost property from Student Centre Reception before the end of term.

### **Summer Reading Recommendations**

If your child is looking for something to read over the summer holidays, take a look at our librarian's suggestions for books that students might enjoy [here](#).

### **Music lessons at school**

Alongside music curriculum lessons, instrumental and vocal lessons at school can be provided by teachers from West of England Music and Arts (WEMA). Individual, paired, or group lessons are available, and instruments can be hired from WEMA music hub. Take a look at [this flyer](#), or for more details go to [Learn to Play - WEMA](#).

### **Portishead Youth Centre Summer Activities**

Bookings are now open for the Youth Centre's Summer Programme 2025. School holiday activities for young people in school year 6 and above include ice skating, cooking, crafts, gaming, escape room, Thorpe Park, raft building, water parks and much more. You can find the full programme and details of how to book on the Portishead Youth Centre website [here](#).

### **Portishead Netball Club**

The club welcomes players from school year 4 and above to join them at their training sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Parish Wharf Leisure Centre and Gordano School. Please see [this flyer](#) for contact details and information on session times, including beginners' sessions.

As we come to the end of another academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your continued support. It has been a privilege to witness the incredible growth and development of your children—academically, socially, and emotionally. Their kindness, resilience, and enthusiasm have been a constant source of pride and inspiration for us all. From the whole team at Gordano, we wish our students and families a wonderful and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September. All the details for our September start will be sent out during the next couple of weeks to all families in our summer mailing.

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
**Headteacher**