6th November 2026

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

A very warm welcome back to term two. We hope you had a relaxing half term break. Just a reminder that our annual Sixth Form Open Evening takes place next Thursday (12th November). This is one of the highlights of the year and provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the exceptional opportunities, academic provision and wider enrichment experiences available within our thriving Sixth Form.

To allow staff sufficient time to prepare for the event and ensure that prospective students and families receive the very best experience, the school day will finish early at 2.30pm. Students will be dismissed as follows:

- Years 7 and 8: 2.25pm
- Years 9, 10 and 11: 2.30pm

There will be three opportunities during the evening to hear from the Directors of Sixth Form and current Sixth Form students. These identical talks will take place at 5.15pm, 6pm and 6.45pm in the Sixth Form Hall. To book your place on one of these talks, please use this link.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their families to what promises to be another fantastic Sixth Form Open Evening.

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Blundell, Headteacher

REMEMBRANCE DAY

As we approach Remembrance Day, we invite our school community to join the nation in pausing to reflect on the service and sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces on our behalf. As 11am sits during our breaktime on Tuesday 11 November, an alarm will sound at 10.40am to mark the start of a two-minute silence, with a second alarm at 10.42am signalling its conclusion. Throughout the week, students will also take part in Remembrance Day assemblies to deepen their understanding of the significance of this occasion. Poppies are available from Main Reception for those who wish to support the Royal British Legion's appeal. In addition, students who are members of organisations such as the Scouts, Guides, Cadets, St John Ambulance or other uniformed youth groups are warmly invited to wear their formal uniform to school on Remembrance Day as a mark of respect and remembrance.

CHILDREN IN NEED

To celebrate BBC Children in Need, Year 7 are holding a special cake sale on Friday 13th November to raise money for this wonderful cause. We would really appreciate donations of cakes, biscuits, and other sweet treats. Pupils will have the opportunity to buy a tasty treat during the school day, so please remember to bring in a little change. Every penny raised will help support children and young people across the UK.

Also, on Friday 13th November pupils from all years are invited to swap ONE item of school uniform for something spotty or Pudsey-related for a voluntary donation of just £1. Thank you in advance for your support.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

The Mental Health Support Team are running an hour-long workshop aimed at parents and carers to help them understand their child and gain some tips and tricks to use at home. For more information, including how to book, please follow this link: Nov 2026 Online Parent Carer Workshops

The North Somerset Family Guidance Hub also runs in-person sessions for parents and carers. Please do drop into The Barn, Clevedon, BS21 6HB between 10am and 12pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month for support with employment, finances, mental health, SEND, housing and more.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

All Year 10 students have now attended an assembly introducing them to Work Experience (WEX) and have two extended tutor sessions to support looking for and applying to employers to secure a placement. Securing work experience takes time - although the deadline for placements being added to Unifrog is Thursday 5th March 2027, we know how much time it takes to contact more than one employer before a placement can be secured. We also know that some placements are extremely popular and that it is a competitive market to get applications in! Last year, due to their proactive engagement, nearly every year 10 student enjoyed a WEX placement which allowed them to learn about the skills needed in the workplace and how the behaviours and attitudes in work can be different to school.

Please do support your child at home with securing a WEX place. Students can come and speak to us in the careers office (in the Sixth Form building) or you can contact us on careers@gordanoschool.org.uk.

GORDANO SCHOOL RECEIVES MUSIC MARK OF RECOGNITION FOR AMBITION & QUALITY

Gordano School is celebrating after being awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for Ambition & Quality by West of England Music & Arts (WEMA), recognising the school's commitment to high-quality music education and the opportunities it provides for young people.

The recognition follows an application highlighting the strength of music provision at Gordano and the important role music plays in enriching students' education and wider school experience.

Music provides young people with opportunities to develop creativity, build confidence, work collaboratively and discover talents that can stay with them throughout their lives. At Gordano, music is an important part of creating a broad and enriching education, where students are encouraged to explore their interests, develop their talents and feel part of a community.

Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all children and young people. Its Recognition celebrates schools that demonstrate ambition and quality in their approach to music education.

The award is a welcome acknowledgement of the value Gordano places on music and its commitment to ensuring that every student has opportunities to develop, achieve and feel they belong.

ASPENS SURVEY

Our catering provider, Aspens are inviting feedback from parents and students on the current catering provision at Gordano. A link will be sent to students on ClassCharts, and parents can complete the survey here.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP: GIVING BACK TO OUR GORDANO COMMUNITY

A heartfelt thank you to the many parents and carers who have supported our Parents in Partnership (PiP) initiative through ParentPay.

Your generosity will help fund additional opportunities, resources and experiences that enrich school life and benefit our students.

At Gordano, we believe that a strong school community is built on working together. PiP is a wonderful example of this partnership in action, bringing families and school together, creating opportunities for our young people and giving back to the community we are all part of.

Every contribution makes a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Contributions are entirely voluntary, and the amount is at each family's discretion. The PiP donation option will remain available on ParentPay throughout the school year, giving you the flexibility to contribute as often as you wish, whenever is convenient for you.

Thank you for being part of the Gordano community!

Reading belongs in every subject, not just English. Our faculties are currently identifying texts they think students should encounter as part of their subject. This might be a great piece of fiction, an interesting article, a biography or something that helps students explore a topic in more depth. We'll share more of these recommendations as Read to Succeed develops.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



KS3

Welcome to Hazard. An ordinary town where strangeness is a way of life. A town where sink holes appear with no warning, where people go missing way too often and where things really DO go bump in the night ...

READING AT HOME

If your child is fascinated by a topic they are studying, encourage them to read around it. Sport, science, history, music, technology or current affairs can all be a way into reading. Reading something because you genuinely want to know more is still reading.

KEY DATES FOR TERM 2

Wednesday 11 to Thursday 19 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Thursday 12 November	Sixth Form Open Evening (school finishes at 2.30pm)
Monday 16 to Thursday 19 November	Functional Skills English Exams
Tuesday 17 November	Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam
Thursday 19 November	Years 10/11 General Knowledge Quiz
Thursday 19 November	Tutor Evening
Friday 20 November	INSET Day 4
Monday 23 November to Friday 4 December	Year 11 Mock Exams Weeks
Wednesday 25 November	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 26 November	SENDCo Surgery
Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December	Year 11 GCSE Mock Art Exam
Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December	Year 11 GCSE Mock Photography Exam
Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December	Christmas Concert
Thursday 10 December	SENDCo Surgery
Monday 14 to Friday 18 December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Tuesday 15 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16 December	Year 7 - 11 Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17 December	A-Level Certificate Evening
Friday 18 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 21 December 2026 to Friday 1 January 2027 inclusive	Holiday

SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING



ABOUT THE EVENT

Join us for our Sixth Form Open Evening and discover the wide range of qualifications, subjects and opportunities available at Gordano, including over 30 A Level and vocational courses.

Throughout the evening, you can:

- Explore our Subject Fair
- Meet the students
- Discover our extracurricular and enrichment opportunities
- Find out about our independent study support
- Meet our teachers, Heads of Year and Careers Team

There will be three opportunities to hear from our Directors of Sixth Form, with identical talks at 5.15pm, 6.00pm and 6.45pm.

Click here to book your place at one of the talks!

GORDANO SCHOOL

DATE & TIME

Thursday 12th November

17:00 - 19:30

St Mary's Road, Portishead, BS20 7QR

NHS
Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust

Mental Health Support Team

Online Parent/Carer Workshop

What is it?

It is an hour long workshop aimed at parents & carers to understand your child, and gain some tips and tricks to use at home.

There are 2 topics this month:

INTRO TO LOW MOOD

Alternate *Mondays /*

Wednesdays 12pm-1pm

Introduction to Low Mood: Learn how low mood can affect thoughts, feelings, and actions, and discover simple, practical strategies to break the cycle and improve wellbeing.

5 WAYS TO WELLBEING

Alternate *Mondays /*

Wednesdays 12pm-1pm

5 Ways to Wellbeing: Discover five key areas that have been identified to boost wellbeing: Learn practical tips to help you bring these habits into everyday life.

What happens next? Once you sign up below, you will receive an email with options of webianrs and instructions for next steps.

Topics of workshops change termly

To sign up, please complete a registration form here: MHST Online Session

The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. MHSTs were established to support schools, helping them develop ways to look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) as well as the wider school community including school staff and parents/carers.To find out where we work, check out our webpage:

https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/mh-schools/mental-health-support-team-mhst-2

This leaflet is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.

MHST
Tools to thrive

USEFUL LINKS

Contact Us

Gordano School Facebook Page

Communications to Parents

Latest School News

Termly Newsletters

Attendance

Uniform & Equipment

How You Can Support the School

Safeguarding

School Key Dates

School Calendar

Gordano Extra - Clubs Information

Careers

Trips & Activities Week

Sixth Form

Vacancies

Community Clubs & Holiday Clubs

Facilities Hire

GoShine Gordano Sports Centre Membership