



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this update finds you well. Since I joined in September, we have been evaluating and developing the offer at Gordano across a broad range of areas at the school. We would now like to share our journey with you as parents so you are clear about our offer, our areas of development and how you as parents can support us on the journey.

We are therefore launching our '*Gordano – An evening with..*' programme which will be a series of evenings at the school where parents are able to book a place to come in and hear about what the school offers in person. We will also record the content for those parents not able to join and share the recordings with parents in our weekly updates over the next few terms. Places for each evening will be capped at 200 and you will require a ticket to attend. We will be sending out booking information at the start of next week, but I wanted to share the dates with you in advance.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5.30-6.30 – Ms Blundell and Mrs Tipler**

Our Vision, Curriculum (current and future) and our approach to learning

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5.30-6.30 - Ms Blundell, Mr Mailey and Ms Fairs**

The Pastoral system, supporting positive behaviour and students' mental health

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – 5.30-6.30 - Mrs Tipler and Mrs Harding**

The Importance of Reading

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 – 5.30-6.30 - Ms Divine and Ms Blundell**

Supporting students with SEND – Our universal provision

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 5.30-6.30 - Ms Blundell, Ms Fairs, Mr Swift**

Personal Development – The Gordano Approach (Careers, Enrichment, wider opportunities including student leadership)

We are also currently planning for the next academic year. During the opening term of the new academic year, we will be inviting parents of each year group/ key stage into school for an information evening which will allow us to continue the levels of communication you need as parents around our key priorities at the school. We will send this information out to you nearer the time.

---

**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](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk) [www.gordanoschool.org.uk](http://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

### **New student absence reporting form for Years 7 to 11**

We will be trialling a new way of reporting student absences for two weeks from Monday 20th until Friday 31st March. Please use [this form](#) which is also available on the homepage of the school website. Following the trial period, we will let you know whether we plan to continue using this form.

Please report all student absences by 9.30am so that we can ensure all students are accounted for, and only use the absence phone line or attendance email during this period if you have any problems with using this form. Full reasons for the child's absence should be given – reporting a student “not well” or “ill” will result in the school having to contact you for further details. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **DEAR and Guided Reading**

Thank you for your support with our reading programmes at school. We will be running Guided Reading during two tutor time slots a week with Years 7-10 from Term 5 onwards as part of our work on promoting and sustaining a culture of reading within the school. Buying tutor group sets of books in a school of our size is a significant financial outlay and we are only able to fund 5 copies per tutor group. The tutor will have a copy on the visualizer for students to follow along with, but we know students would benefit from having individual copies in front of them.

If you feel able to, we are asking families if you would like to make a one-off donation of £6 to support this initiative so that we can purchase a larger number of books per tutor group. If you can support us, you can find this item on ParentPay.

Years 7-9 students have a weekly Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) session in their timetabled lesson, where everyone - including the teacher - gets 20 minutes to enjoy their current book. While having a reading book is a key part of students' equipment, we are in need of more books available across the school during DEAR. If you have any Young Adult books that your child has already read and you feel are ready to go to a new home, please do bring them in. We will have boxes at main reception for book donations, or you could send the books in with your child and they can deliver them to the student centre. This will allow all Gordano students the chance to have a book they enjoy for DEAR.

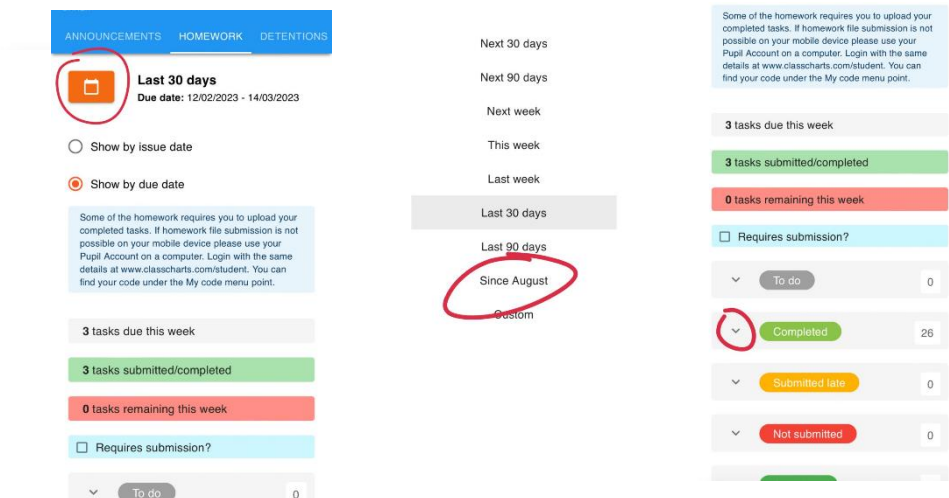
### **Feedback on the new Homework system**

Thank you so much for your feedback on the new Homework system. Whilst we know that there will never be one system that suits everyone, on the whole, the changes have been well-received. Heads of Faculty will be working over the coming weeks to act on the four main threads of feedback, which were:

- Homework should be set by all teachers on the correct day
- The instructions on homework should offer clarity
- The deadlines for submission should be staggered between 7 and 14 days
- Homework merits should be given for each piece of submitted and completed homework

When we initially set the system up, we stated that homework intervention would run once a fortnight – we have decided to move this to once a week (on a Tuesday for years 7 and 8 and on a Friday for years 9, 10 and 11) to ensure that we are offering support more regularly to students.

There were quite a few queries around accessing archived homework. Clicking on the calendar icon within the homework tab on the app allows you to change the date range you are looking at and will allow you to view previous homework set.



### Breakfast Club

We successfully applied for a grant from the Portishead Waitrose Community Fund to set up a Breakfast Club. We will offer free self-service toast and a range of condiments from 8am in the New Dining Hall for any student who would like it and will stop 'serving' at 8.35am to ensure that students are on time to tutor registration.

We are going to trial this for the final two weeks of this term and will update you on how it will run for the remainder of the year. It will be supervised by members of staff who are volunteering their time to enable it to run.

### Portishead Youth Centre - Easter holiday activities

The Youth Centre are running a holiday scheme and trips during the Easter holidays. You can find more information and booking forms [here](#).

### Higher Apprenticeship Evening 23<sup>rd</sup> March 5.30 pm

We look forward to welcoming you to this event. It will commence at 5.30pm in the Main Hall for a short talk about Degree Apprenticeships and Post A-Level schemes (including an alumni speaker) and will be followed by a mini careers fair in the Dining Hall. We have a range of employers including Airbus, Avon and Somerset Police, Ernst & Young and BT attending, and it will be a great opportunity to explore a range of current and future opportunities.

### Non-Uniform Day 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

There will be a non-uniform day on the last day of this term, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Students are currently voting on which charities they would like to see the proceeds donated to.

### Behaviour Policy update

We have updated our anti-bullying rationale and procedures (including Child on Child abuse), you will find the information in the appendix of our [updated behaviour policy](#). We will share this information with all students in our Monday Broadcast.

**Science Week**

Finally – I would just like to thank the Science Team and all of the students who have participated in our science week activities during lunchtimes this week. It has been brilliant to see such active engagement from so many students across the school. I would also like to thank our Post 16 students who have been supporting the activities daily.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', with a small flourish at the end.

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