



15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter

- Remote learning and parental 'check ins'
- Access to devices and internet
- Sanitary items for students
- Parent forum – spaces available
- Critical worker provision

Remote learning and parental 'check ins'

We have been delighted to hear that the arrangements for remote learning largely seem to be going really well. Student 'attendance' is very high (as we'd hoped) and we're really pleased with the way that students are engaging with their teachers and with their learning.

It is important that students complete their work to the best of their ability by the 'due date' set on Firefly. In most cases this should be during the lesson time, but may sometimes require a little extra time over the next day or so. This is why the due date will usually be set on a date after the lesson itself.

Please keep an eye on Class Charts to see merits awarded and any incomplete work notifications. Where there are any concerns arising from the completion of work or engagement in lessons, staff will make contact with parents to discuss why a student may be struggling.

Staff will also be making calls to all families to 'check in' from time to time with how remote learning is going. The member of staff will be able to pass on any issues to the relevant people, to get back to you if they are unable to help themselves. Please note that staff may be making these calls from home, if so the call would likely come up as 'withheld number' on your phone.

Access to devices and internet

During the lockdown period, we want to be able to support any family whose child does not have access to a laptop or appropriate device at home, so that every Gordano student is able join the remote learning lessons on Teams. At the start of term, we made a successful application for some more laptops from the Department for Education. As yet these laptops have not arrived, but we hope to receive them very soon and will be in touch with those families who have requested support as soon as we can.

If there are any issues in terms of access to internet connection / WiFi, please contact Adam Snow, Assistant Headteacher (adamsnow@gordanoschool.org.uk) and we will endeavour to support with this as well.

Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

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

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: 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)



Sanitary items for students

If any family is experiencing financial difficulty, we have a large stock of sanitary items in school for students. If this could be helpful to your family, please do not hesitate to contact Charlotte Thomas, Assistant Headteacher (cthomas@gordanoschool.org.uk). This will be treated in confidence.

Parent Forum

In further developing our working relationship with our parent body, we have been running our Parent Forum for the best part of two years now. The purpose of the forum is to share our thoughts and ideas on how we continually work towards serving our students and the school community across all aspects of their experience at Gordano School. Meetings occur approximately five times per year.

The forum is made up of a maximum of thirty parents from across the age range of our students, to allow it to be effective and representative. We now have some vacancies within the forum and would welcome expressions of interest.

Should you wish to be part of the forum, can you please declare an interest by replying to parentforum@gordanoschool.org.uk. The deadline for declaration of interest will be Thursday 21st January. Following this, we will contact those parents who will be offered a place on the forum.

Critical Worker provision

We will continue to send a weekly survey link to enable Year 7-9 parents to book critical worker provision. If you have not received a link (via Parent Pay) by Thursday morning to book for the following week, please contact mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk.

Next week we hope to be in a position to know a bit more about the plans for the exam year groups and the grading of qualifications this summer, which should be of some reassurance to Year 11 and 13 students (and parents) in particular. In the meantime, we remain hugely impressed by the engagement of the vast majority of students. It's going to be a 'long haul', so I would keep urging them to get into good routines and maintain that really healthy balance between school work, other worthwhile activities and time away from the screens. We're really proud of them and send them all our best.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Inman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Inman
Headteacher