



12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

What a calm and purposeful week it has been. I have had the pleasure with different members of my senior team and Natalie Wilcox (Director of Secondary Education - LSP) of visiting many, many lessons across the school this week. In line with our whole school development plan, it has been wonderful to see clear starts to the lessons, exceptional behaviour throughout, focus on learning and wonderful contributions to the lessons made by students. I will be thanking students for their contribution to such a positive start to the year through my Monday broadcast next week.

As you are aware, we are hosting a variety of parent information evenings across the term. Thank you to all our Year 7 parents who attended on Wednesday night. As promised, the presentation from the evening is viewable following [this link](#). The presentation for Year 12 will be shared with parents in due course. As a reminder about the sessions still to take place...

We will walk through our goals for the year and school expectations for all parents during our parental information evenings that take place over the next few weeks. To ensure that we can manage numbers you will be required to book a space using the links below. Whilst we will be sharing the slide deck from each evening for parents unable to attend, we do encourage you to join us if you are able. The premise of each evening is to look at the year ahead and to ensure as parents you are able to fully support your child in the next steps. **If you are a parent that has children in different year groups**, we are not expecting you to attend every meeting, please prioritise attending the meeting of any child you may have in exam years or your Year 7 child. We will then share all of the year group slides with you after the events so you can catch up on any missed information. Due to space limitations, we do ask that **only parents** come to the evening/s. Each session starts at 6pm.

Information Evenings		
Year 8	29 th September 2025	Book here
Year 9	15 th September 2025	Book here
Year 10	16 th September 2025	Book here
Year 11	30 th September 2025	Book here

Parents of students in Year 13 are welcome on the following evening, and we will be running one session in the main hall between 6pm and 7pm. There is no need to book for this meeting.

Year 13	18 th September 2025
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Headteacher: Ms L Blundell, BA

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

Tel: 01275 842606 Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

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Open Evening Arrangements

On Thursday 25th September we will be hosting our annual information evening. As in previous years, the school will close early for students on the day to enable staff to set up for the evening ahead. To ensure that students can have lunch on the school site we will have a slightly shorter Period 4 lesson, which will end at 12.35pm, then lunch. Students will be registered at 1.05pm and then will have a staggered release from school at approximately 1.10pm. This is then followed by our 3rd INSET day on Friday 26th September.

Open Evening Student Helpers

We are delighted that so many of our students want to support our Open Evening by helping in subject areas and/or acting as a tour guide for our visitors. We always need a large number of tour guides, so if your child is in Years 8-11 and would like to take part, please complete the Open Evening Parental Permission Form that can be found on the parent page of the school website, using [this link](#).

If your son or daughter is in Year 7, please note that while we are always very pleased to see our new Year 7 students volunteering to help out in a subject area, this is by invitation, in order to manage numbers - teachers will give out Year 7 helpers' letters to take home. Please note that we only allow tour guides from Year 8 upwards. This is because the older children know the school better and are able to talk to visitors about their experience of being a student at Gordano for a full year or more.

If your child is volunteering, please ensure they are wearing full school uniform. PE kit should only be worn if they are assisting in the PE or Dance faculty where it is specifically required. They should report to the Sixth Form Common Room by 4.10pm at the latest. Anyone who is not able to make the first tour should arrive by 5.10pm for the second tour. If they are helping in a Faculty area, they should go to the relevant Faculty classrooms (or Sports Hall for PE) where staff will meet them.

Although we will provide some refreshments for the tour guides in the form of drinks, we are unable to provide any food. Your son or daughter is therefore welcome to bring snacks to eat between tours but if they do so, please ensure that any snacks do not contain nuts or traces of nut. Finally, a huge thank you to all the students who have been willing to give up their time to support the school. It is very much appreciated.

Open Mic Gordano 3

'Open Mic Gordano 3' will be the grand finale of this year's ArtPort Festival! Auditions are at lunchtime on **Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th September**, and we'd love to see as many students as possible try out. The show takes place at the **Workman's Club, Portishead, on Sunday 28th September 7-9 pm** – a brilliant opportunity to celebrate our students' talent on stage.

Elliot Hall Transformation

The Elliot Hall – designed to be a haven for Year 7 students as they transition into life at Gordano School – has undergone a magical transformation, now resembling a space straight out of Hogwarts. This enchanting makeover is thanks to the creativity and hard work of last year's Year 7 students (now in Year 8), generous donations from parents via ParentPay (*donations can still be made to help finish the project*), and the dedication of teacher Mr Earle. You can read more about the project and see some photos on our website [here](#).

Shine Holiday Clubs

[Haunted Holiday Clubs](#) for children aged 5-11 are running throughout October Half Term at Gordano School and Portishead Town Football Club as well as at locations across Bristol. Choose from Monster Mash-Ups, Freaky Football Fundays, Creepy Creative, Dance with K-Pop Demons, Forbidden Forest Adventure, Cursed Cookery, Jinxed Gymnastics & more! **For a limited time, you can receive 20% off your booking by using the code Early Booker when you checkout.** See the [poster](#) for more details.

Supporting Your Child's Mental Health

As noted during our Year 7 Information Evening, we are delighted to host the following free event from Full Circle Mental Health on Wednesday 17th September at 6.30pm in the Sixth Form Common Room. Entry to this informal event is for Year 7 parents and carers and is ticketed; please follow the link below for additional information and to confirm attendance:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gordano-school/t-jzeyevk>

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 1

Monday 15 September	6pm Year 9 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 16 September	6pm Year 10 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 17 September	Sixth Form Autumn Electives Begin
Thursday 18 September	6pm Year 13 Parental Information Evening
Friday 19 September	Year 12/13 Music trip
Monday 22 September	6pm Bronze DofE Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 23 September	6pm Silver DofE Information Evening
Thursday 25 September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 25 September	Year 6 Open Evening (Finish time TBC)
Friday 26 September	INSET Day
Sunday 28 September	7pm Open Mic Gordano - Workmens Club Sports Bar
Monday 29 September	School Photographs for Year 11
Monday 29 September	Year 13 Design & Technology Amalgam modelling trip
Monday 29 September	6pm Year 8 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 30 September	Senior Maths Challenge
Tuesday 30 September	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 2 October	6pm - 8pm Gordano Careers Convention
Friday 3 October	9.45am - 11am Year 6 Open Morning
Monday 6 October	Year 10 River Holford Geography Trip 1
Monday 6, Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 October	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
Tuesday 7 October	Year 10 River Holford Geography Trip 2
Tuesday 7 October	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 8 October	Year 10 River Holford Geography Trip 3
Thursday 9 October	World Mental Health Day

Friday 10 October	Hello Yellow Day
Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Wednesday 15 October	Weston College Visit (Learning Hub)
Thursday 16 October	Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Minehead
Tuesday 21 October	Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 21 October	Year 11 Futures Evening
Wednesday 22 October	SEND Evening
Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October	Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam
Thursday 23 October	Year 11 BTEC Trip - Geography
Friday 24 October	Year 10/11 photo mop up session
Monday 27 to Friday 31 October inclusive	Holiday