

Gordano Learning

Year 7 Learning Update

Director of Key Stage 3: Mr Snow

A STRONG START TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

It has been a pleasure to visit Year7 lessons and speak with students about the work they are doing. Year 7 students have been getting to grips with some exciting topics, including learning a new foreign language, conducting practical experiments in Science, using tools in the DT workshops and learning the ukelele in Music. Over 50,000 merits have now been awarded to students in Year 7 and the 49-1 ratio of merits to sanctions speaks for itself. It is very encouraging to see Year 7 students making such a strong start to their Gordano journey and we look forward to seeing them continue to flourish as they progress through Year 7.

Year 7 students have told us that they feel that they have coped with the transition from their primary school very well and are enjoying life at Gordano. They like learning 'new and interesting things' and giving their opinions, and they say that their teachers are challenging them to think hard about each of the topics.

I was very pleased to hear this!



YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

A recent highlight for Year 7 students was the Geography field trip to Street in Somerset. Our students collected data on Clarks Village and the High Street concerning their environmental quality and people's shopping habits. They were then guided to analyse and report their findings in school. Students I spoke to said that they really enjoyed the chance to work as a team to carry out their own investigations in a real-life setting outside school. For a review of the day, written by two Year 7 students, please see the next page.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 22nd November
Tuesday 12th/Wednesday 13th December
Wednesday 13th December
Wednesday 20th December

INSET Day for staff: school closed to students
Christmas Concerts
Christmas lunch
Last day of term

Friday 2 February
Monday 5 February

Year 7 Achievement Review 1 issued to parents
Year 7 French/Spanish Spelling Bee final

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YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO STREET

To start the day, we went to the Humanities block and began by completing an activity where we carried out a predicted field sketch of what we thought Street would look like and had a debrief on how we were going to collect our data and what data we were collecting throughout the day.

We finally departed the school after much anticipation at 09:45 and the 55-minute long coach journey commenced. We spent the drive down looking out of the windows at all the scenery; however, the same cannot be said for the boys that were singing 'Shake It Off' by Taylor Swift at the back of the coach!

When we arrived, we were surprised at Street. We all presumed that it would be primarily the modern, clean aesthetic of Clarks Village, but it was a little older. Our first task was to venture into Clarks Village and count how many shops there were and put them into categories of what they sold and their size. We recorded these results in a tally table as this makes the results easy to evaluate and analyse. Throughout the day we had the exciting task of counting how many pedestrians we could see in 30 seconds within a set distance at multiple different times. We also recorded these results in a table in our green booklets.

Repeating this multiple times meant that we could see the shopping patterns that happen during the day. Next, we rated the appearance of the sites and buildings with an emoji scale. In addition to just their looks, we rated the atmosphere, for example loudness. This developed our understanding of whether these factors contribute to shopping patterns.

After this, we finally got to have our lunch and had some well-earned free time that meant people could go and buy food and drink if they wanted. Many of us paid a visit to the Lindt shop and returned with handfuls of yummy sweets and chocolate. Some other popular shops included M&S, Superdry, Next and other beauty outlets around the village.

Our final task was to go around and ask random shoppers to complete a quick questionnaire about their opinions on whether Clarks Village has helped or destroyed Street and we also asked them questions about their shopping habits and patterns. Sadly, we left street at 2:30 and returned safely back at school at 3:20. We enjoyed our trip and liked Clarks Village and will hopefully go back soon!

Callia and Thea

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