



17th July 2026

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

What an incredible two evenings we have had at our Creative Arts and DT Festival. I have never felt prouder as Headteacher of Gordano than I did watching the extraordinary creativity, talent and dedication of both our students and staff on display. From the stunning Art and Photography Exhibition and the exceptional DT and Textiles showcases, to the captivating dance and drama performances and a truly outstanding musical programme that would have given Jools Holland a run for his money, every moment was a celebration of the arts. The staff band opened the music section of the festival in perfect style, setting a joyful and uplifting tone that carried throughout both evenings. Most importantly, the festival showcased not only remarkable talent but also the confidence, pride and happiness that creative opportunities inspire in our young people. The memories created over these two nights will stay with me for a very long time, and I would like to thank our wonderfully talented Creative Arts and DT team for the passion, expertise and commitment that made such a spectacular event possible.

As we come to the end of another academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your continued support. It has been a privilege to witness the incredible growth and development of your children—academically, socially, and emotionally. Their kindness, resilience, and enthusiasm have been a constant source of pride and inspiration for us all. From the whole team at Gordano, we wish our students and families a wonderful and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September. All the details for our September start will be sent out during the next couple of weeks to all families in our summer mailing.

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Blundell, Headteacher

LAST DAY ARRANGEMENTS

As we approach the end of term, just a reminder of the details for the last day of term on Wednesday. We start the day off with a whole school celebration assembly where we will be looking back at the academic year, celebrating so many great achievements.

Periods 2 and 3 are normal lessons, with Period 3 finishing early at 11.50am to allow students to get to their House assemblies at 12pm. School finishes for students on Wednesday 22nd July at 12.30pm.

8.45am	Students register in their tutor bases and then go to the New Sports Hall for a whole school celebration assembly
9.55am – 10.45am	Lesson 2 (normal times)
10.45am – 11.15am	Breaktime (normal times)
11.15am – 11.50am	Lesson 3 – Shortened lesson ends at 11.50am
11.50am – 12pm	Students go to tutor bases and then to their House assemblies
12pm – 12.30pm	House assemblies
12.30pm	Finish for students

START OF TERM IN SEPTEMBER – SUMMER MAILING

As you will know from previous years, I will send out our 'summer mailing' to all parents during the first two weeks of the holidays with the detailed outline for September's start and key reminders for parents to consider over the holidays.

To support in your planning, I just wanted to highlight the phased return we will operate in September.

Thursday 3rd September	INSET Day
Friday 4th September	INSET Day
Monday 7th September	Year 7 and 12 students only
Tuesday 8th September	Year 7 and 12 students come in at break time (10.55am) to allow our induction for students in Years 8-11 and Year 13 in the morning

STAFF UPDATES

Staff Leaving us this term

As we get to the end of the academic year, we will be saying a sad goodbye to a few staff who are going off on new adventures next year. We would like to wish them all the very best in the future.

Miss Breheny (English) has been with us for a year on a fixed term contract and now goes off travelling – she has been such a wonderful addition to our English team. Mrs Atkins has been covering a maternity leave for us in Languages and will be moving to a new school and role in September. Mr Dorney has been such an inspiration in music, and I know it has been a difficult decision for him to make in leaving Gordano, but I am certain he will have wonderful opportunities ahead of him. Miss Day is leaving us for a promotion so well deserved at a school in Bristol, they are so lucky to have her joining them and she will be a huge loss to the drama department next year. Mrs Bailey has been with us for 10 years and at the end of this term she will be retiring, she has had such a wonderful impact on so many young people in her care and we wish her a wonderful retirement, and finally Mrs Pogmore (our languages teacher) has been with us for 14 years and is now relocating. Mrs Pogmore has been a wonderful teacher and leader of our ITT provision; she has supported many students and staff so capably over the years. We wish her all the very best in the future.

We also say goodbye to some wonderful support staff who have been key people in some of our young people's lives in the time they have been at Gordano so a fond farewell to Mrs Verity (counsellor), Mrs Brooks (Attendance), although we are delighted she will be staying on with us as an invigilator, Miss Clements (LSA) who is going to complete her teacher training, Mrs George (Food technician), Mrs Somers (Student reception and first aid) who has supported students on a daily basis within her role, Ms Taylor who has supported many students during her time here as a Student Support Worker and our wonderful Chaplain Mrs Eastwood-Dewing who not only supported students in school but has been heavily involved in our DofE expeditions this year.

New Staff joining us in September

In September we will have the pleasure of welcoming a new group of staff into the school and we are grateful to have appointed such a strong field. I know they all look forward to working with your children over the coming years...

Name	Subject/Role
Mr Haywood	English
Mr Jones	History
Ms Owen	Music
Mrs Stacey	Drama
Miss Bromley-Holleyoake	Geography
Miss Melson	Attendance Administrator
Mrs Ridsdale	Student Support Worker
Miss Williams	Assistant Head of House

We also welcome back Ms Fawcett Walsh on her return from maternity leave.

LSP PARENT BULLETIN

The summer edition of The Beacon, the Lighthouse Schools Partnership newsletter for parents is now available:

[Lighthouse Schools Partnership Parent Portal - The Beacon - LSP Parents Newsletter July 26](#)

PLANNED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON CLEVEDON ROAD

Traffic management will be in place on Clevedon Road for the planned maintenance on the Gordano School pedestrian bridge from Monday 27th July until Monday 10th August.

Clevedon Road will remain open throughout the duration of the works; however, traffic management will be in place, and the road will operate with a single lane under temporary traffic control under the bridge.

Please note that these timings are subject to change and may be extended should any unforeseen delays occur. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding whilst these maintenance works are completed.

YONDR POUCHES

Please support your children in putting their Yondr pouch in a safe place for the summer, ready to return to school in September. Our mobile phone policy details that all students must use the pouches and parents are liable for the cost of a new pouch in the instance of a lost pouch.

LOST PROPERTY

Just a reminder to encourage students to collect any lost property from Student Centre Reception before the end of term.

SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

If your child is looking for something to read over the summer holidays, take a look at our librarian's suggestions for books that students might enjoy [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING OVER THE SUMMER BREAK

USEFUL LINKS WHILE SCHOOL IS CLOSED:

If you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

- **Samaritans** - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123
- **Shout** - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7
- **Childline** - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor
- **HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am–10pm weekdays, 2pm–10pm weekends
- **KOOTH** – an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday – 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm – 10pm
- **CAMHS** Crisis Line - 0800 953 9599
- If you need to speak to Children's Social Care - please contact the front door service on 01275 888808
- If a life is at risk, please call 999 to access support from emergency services

To report a police concern anonymously:

[Fearless: Anonymous Reporting for a Safer Community | Crimestoppers](#)

0800 555 111

YONDR POUCHES – PHONE-FREE SCHOOL

We're proud to be leading the conversation on phone-free schools, recently welcoming education leaders from across the South West to share our experience and the positive impact the approach is already having on our students. The event was also featured by ITV News:

[Gordano School - Gordano School shares phone-free success with South West schools](#)

['There's nothing to distract you': Students reflect on 12 months of going phone free at school - Latest From ITV News](#)

JUNIOR DANCE COMPANY SHINES AT HIGH DOWN SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR

The Gordano School Junior Dance Company delivered two outstanding performances at High Down School's Summer Fair.

Performing outdoors in temperatures of over 30°C, our talented dancers demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm, professionalism and resilience. Despite the challenging conditions, they captivated the audience with two energetic and polished dance routines, showcasing both their talent and dedication.

The performances were a wonderful opportunity for the dancers to represent the Gordano School Dance Department and share their passion for dance with the wider community. Giving up their Friday evening to perform, the students were exceptional ambassadors for the school, demonstrating pride, commitment, and positivity throughout the event.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to High Down School for the invitation and warm welcome.

Louise Blundell, Headteacher said: "As a valued partner within the LSP Trust, it was fantastic to strengthen our partnership while celebrating creativity and community through the arts."

A special thank you also goes to Miss Baldwin for organising the event and for her creativity, dedication and hard work in choreographing both performances. Her commitment helped ensure the dancers could perform with confidence and excellence.

Congratulations to every member of the Junior Dance Company on a fantastic achievement. We are incredibly proud of everything you accomplished and look forward to many more opportunities to share your talents with the wider community.

SHINE SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS



**STEP
INTO
SUMMER**



With Shine Holiday Clubs



**Book Now
20% OFF
MyShine.co.uk**

Use Code:
Early Booker



Offer ends 19/07/2026 *Conditions apply

PORTISHEAD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE SUMMER ACTIVITIES

YOUTH SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOL YEAR 7+ (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026)

PORTISHEAD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

24th July
Sip and paint workshop with mocktails



27th July
Cake and crafts workshop



30th July
Podcast workshop



29th JULY
HIKE PEN Y FAN TRIP



5th AUGUST
19th AUGUST
CAP-CUT VIDEO WORKSHOPS



3rd August
Japanese cooking workshop



7th August
Youth drop in



10th AUGUST
DEN OF WOLVES MEGA ROLE-PLAY GAME



11th August
French cooking workshop



13th August
Thorpe Park trip



14th August
Roller Disco trip



17th AUGUST
RAP & LYRIC WRITING WORKSHOP



20th AUGUST
SPLASH DOWN WATER PARK TRIP



21st August
Make your own beauty products workshop



24th August
Warhammer gaming workshop



25th AUGUST
ENGLISH CUISINE COOKING WORKSHOP



27th August
Aqua Park obstacle course trip



1st September
Live Music jam session



2nd September
Bowling and meal trip



3rd September
Clay modelling self-portrait workshop



BOOK AT WWW.PORTISHEADYOUTHCENTRE.CO.UK/EVENTS
FULLY FUNDED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN RECEIPT OF BENEFITS RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING - ELIGIBILITY MUST BE CONFIRMED BY YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

6-10s SUMMER ACTIVITIES

23rd July
Nintendo Switch tournament



27th JULY
WET & WILD WATER GAMES



31st July
Beach themed activities



31ST JULY
NEON CRAFTS & DISCO



5th August
Aardman inspired stop motion film workshop



6th August
Disney themed craft workshop



13th August
Jellycat inspired workshop



14th AUGUST
SUPERHEROES THEMED WORKSHOP



18th August
Bee themed arts and crafts workshop



21ST AUGUST
SPORTS FUN & GAMES



24th August
Baking workshop



25th August
Glitter & fancy face paint workshop



28th AUGUST
AFRICAN ANIMAL ENCOUNTER SESSION



1st September
Crabbing at the Marina



3rd SEPTEMBER
GARDENING INSPIRED WORKSHOP



4TH SEPTEMBER
LEGO WORKSHOP



8-11s SUMMER ACTIVITIES

28th July
Blaise Castle outdoor sports & games trip



4th AUGUST
NINJA WARRIOR & MEAL TRIP



10TH-13TH AUGUST
SO SO DANCE LUSH LIFE DANCE WORKSHOP DAYS



20th AUGUST
SPLASH DOWN WATER PARK TRIP



11th & 12th August
Beginners skateboarding & photography workshop days



12th August
Crealy theme park trip



27th August
Aqua Park obstacle course trip



TO BOOK VISIT WWW.PORTISHEADYOUTHCENTRE.CO.UK/EVENTS

PORTISHEAD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

FULLY FUNDED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN RECEIPT OF BENEFITS RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING - ELIGIBILITY MUST BE CONFIRMED BY YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

SCHOOL AGED IMMUNISATIONS DROP IN CLINICS

Drop-in vaccination events this summer



Our School Aged Immunisation Team is running drop-in vaccination events (no need to book) on:

Thurs 23 July 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Easton Community Centre – BS5 6AW

Wed 29 July 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – For All Healthy Living Centre W-S-M – BS23 3SJ

Tues 4 August 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Hungerford Road Community Centre – BS4 5EX

Wed 12 August 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Hanham Community Centre – BS15 3EJ

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations – Years 8-13

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations – Years reception-13

Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations – Years 9-13

Contact the team using 0300 124 5515 or sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or find out more or by using the QR code.



KEY DATES FOR TERM 1

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September	INSET Days
Monday 7 September	Years 7 and 12 only at school for 8.45am
Monday 7 September	School Photographs for Year 7
Tuesday 8 September	Years 8 to 11 at school for 8.35am
Tuesday 8 September	Year 13 at school for 8.55am
Tuesday 8 September	Years 7 and 12 at school for 10.45am
Tuesday 8 September	School Photographs for Year 10
Wednesday 9 September	6pm Year 12 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 10 September	6pm Year 7 Parental Information Evening
Monday 14 September	6pm Year 9 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 15 September	Early UCAS Applications Day
Tuesday 15 September	6pm Year 10 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 16 September	Year 12 and 13 Electives Launch
Thursday 17 September	6pm Year 13 Parental Information Evening
Monday 21 September	6pm Bronze DofE Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 22 September	6pm Silver DofE Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 23 September	Sixth Form Autumn Electives Begin
Thursday 24 September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 24 September	Year 6 Open Evening (students finish at 1.15pm)
Friday 25 September	INSET Day
Monday 28 September	School Photographs for Year 11
Monday 28 September	6pm Year 8 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 29 September	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 30 September	5.30pm – 6.30pm Read to Succeed Parent Evening
Thursday 1 October	6pm – 8pm Gordano Careers Convention
Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 October	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Days
Tuesday 6 October	6pm Parent Forum
Thursday 8 October	World Mental Health Day
Friday 9 October	Hello Yellow Day
Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Thursday 15 October	Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Weston-super-Mare
Thursday 15 October	SENCO Surgery
Friday 16 October	Year 10/11 photo mop up session
Tuesday 20 October	Year 11 Futures Evening
Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October inclusive	Holiday

USEFUL LINKS

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