

# Year 8 Parental Information Evening

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Thank you for joining the meeting. We will start at 6pm.

The presentation will cover the following areas:

1. Keeping your child safe: COVID measures still in place
2. Key messages given in this week's assemblies
3. Important dates for parents to know
4. Homework guidelines for Year 8
5. What Year 8 students will be taught this year
6. The new Gordano School Vision
7. The importance of reading



Keeping  
everyone  
safe

Our COVID-19 Measures

# These have now gone ...

- Year group bubbles and separate toilets, water fountains, dining areas, outside areas
- Year-group only clubs
- One-way system
- 4-week timetable



# These still remain ...

- Staggered break, lunch & end of school day
- PE/Dance kit on days when your child has PE/Dance lessons
- **All clubs back on as normal!**





**Student and Parent Guide to  
Extra-Curricular Options**



**Summer 2021 Terms 5 & 6**

## Welcome to Gordano Extra

Once again, we are pleased to be able to offer some additional clubs & activities to the Summer 2021 programme.

In line with current guidance, until further notice all clubs and activities will only be open to a single year group at a time.



### What can the Extra Curricular offer to you ?

- new experiences
- confidence and self esteem
- commitment to a goal
- increasing depth and width of interests
- culture a positive attitude
- learning time management and prioritising
- making a contribution

### What skills can you gain ?

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Interpersonal</b>	<b>Leadership</b>
<b>Lateral thinking</b>	<b>Persuasive</b>	<b>Teamwork</b>
<b>Practical</b>	<b>Observational</b>	<b>Creative</b>
<b>Logical</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Reflective</b>
<b>Analytical</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>

## Tuesday:

Club or Activity	Time	Location	Staff
Chess	Lunchtime 12.50pm to	E1	Mrs M Faram
Cake & Classic Book Club for	Lunchtime	E5	Mrs Crosby
Comics, Graphic Novels & Manga Club	Lunchtime week 1	LB1	Mrs Toft & Mrs McGil-loway
Christian Union	Lunchtime	H8	Sarah from Gordano
Craft Club	Lunchtime	MA3	Mrs Johnston
Girls Table Tennis	After school	Sports Hall	Mrs Rose
IFS Investor Challenge	Lunchtime	BS1	Miss Thompson
Performing arts club (Musical Theatre)	Afterschool 3.15pm to 5pm	DR1	Miss Orlans
STEM	Lunchtime Week 2	S11	Miss McKenzie-Barnes
The VIP Book Club	Lunchtime week 1	LB1	Mrs Toft & Mrs McGil-
Year 8&9 Dance Club	Lunchtime	DR2	Sixth Form Students
Year 7 Boys Football	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	Mr Bainbridge
Year 8 Boys Football	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	Mr Reddrop
Year 7 Girls Hockey	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	Miss McKenzie
Year 7 Boys Hockey	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	Mr Dickinson

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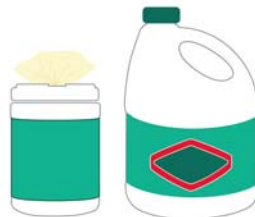
## Wednesday:

Club or Activity	Time	Location	Staff
BSL Club	Lunchtime	DT4	Mrs Hanham
GCSE Technique class	Early bird	DR2	Miss Gaze
Dr Who Club	Lunchtime	S13	Mr Taylor
GCSE rehearsals	Lunchtime	DR2	Miss Gaze
Gordano Garden Club	After school	Garden by Sports Hall	Mrs Sarah Bennett from GVC
Senior Dance Company	After school	DR2	Miss Gaze
Write!	Lunchtime	E3	Miss Wooton & Miss Pope
Year 8&9 Girls Hockey	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Mrs De-long
Youth Empowerment Society	Lunchtime	SF4	Sixth Formers (Rosa Matthews)



# COVID Measures

- A face mask can be worn if your child wishes to do so
- Cleaning at morning break, lunch and after school
- Enhanced cleaning during the school day
- Hands to be washed and/or sanitised regularly (including on the way in and out of classrooms)
- PIN code when paying for food
- Classrooms will continue to be ventilated





# Timings of the school day

Start times	Reg	Pd 1	Pd 2	Break	Pd 3	Pd 4	Lunch	Pd 5	Pd 6	End of School
Years 7, 8, 9 Mon - Thu	8:45	9:05	9:55	10:45	11:10	12:00	12:50	1:35	2:25	3:15
Years 7, 8, 9 Friday	8:45	9:20	10:10	11:00	11:25		12:15	12:55	1:45	2:35

# Messages in this week's assemblies

# Food

- Only to be eaten in designated areas:

- New Dining Hall

- Canteen

- Quad Area (outside)



# Gordano is now a Nut Aware School

- Please do not bring any nuts or products which may contain traces of nuts into school.
- We have a student who has a severe nut allergy and who could be seriously affected.



# Uniform

- No tight-fitting trousers or jeans allowed
- Jewellery/nails etc. must conform to uniform expectations
- PE/Dance kit must be branded Gordano kit
- Shirts tucked in
- Skirts just above the knee
- Blazers on

# Behaviour & Attitude

- Remember how we expect you to behave:

**Care & Kindness** – unkind behaviour will not be tolerated

**Consideration** – school environment



**Respect** for each other and the environment

# Helping you to feel Safe & Supported

- Tutors
- Heads of Houses
- Assistant Heads of Houses
- Safeguarding Team
- Pastoral Support
- Student Support
- Student Centre
- House Captains
- Groups/Societies
- School Nurse
- School Counsellors
- School Chaplain
- Youth Hub
- Youth Centre
- Partnership with community groups – Police, RNLI, GCT, etc.





# Important Dates for Parents

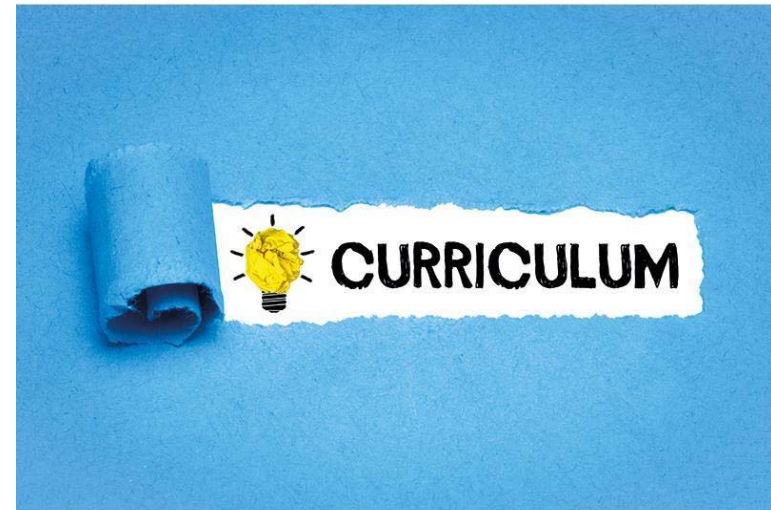
# Important Dates for Parents

<b>Friday 21 January</b>	<b>Year 8 Achievement Review 1 issued</b>
<b>Thursday 17 March</b>	<b>Year 8 Progress Evening</b>
<b>Thursday 28 April</b>	<b>Year 8 Key Stage 4 Options Evening</b>
<b>Friday 24 June</b>	<b>Year 8 Achievement Review 2 issued</b>
<b>Friday 1 July</b>	<b>Year 8 Pastoral Report issued</b>

# Important Dates for Parents

18 <sup>th</sup> November	Tutor Review (online)
14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Music Concert
11 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> February	Geography Field Trip
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School Drama Production
29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Music Concert
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Junior Maths Challenge
June	House Celebration Evenings
30 <sup>th</sup> June	English Public Speaking Competition
1 <sup>st</sup> July	House Swimming Gala
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Activities Week

# Homework and the Year 8 Curriculum



# Homework Expectations for Year 8

All homework will be set as a task on Firefly, along with any resources required for task completion.

Paper copies can be made available for any students without ICT access.

Homework tasks should take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete.

Homework deadlines should normally be one week.

English	Weekly
Maths	Weekly
Science	2 across a fortnight
French / Spanish	Weekly
History	Fortnightly
Geography	Fortnightly
Ethics and Philosophy	Fortnightly
Art	Monthly
Drama	Monthly
Dance	Monthly
Music	Monthly
DT	Fortnightly
ICT	Monthly
PE	N/A

# Keeping Track of Homework



# Keeping Track of Homework

- We have produced short guides to help parents access Firefly
- The school also has a dedicated support desk to help with any difficulties you or your child might face when using the school's IT systems. Please contact [trtict@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:trtict@gordanoschool.org.uk) if you need any guidance.
- For concerns of any other nature, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance, who will pass your query to the relevant person if they cannot help you themselves
- And please be aware that we may not be able to respond on the same day, but will get back to you as soon as we can



# The new Year 8 Curriculum

## Academic Principles

1. The knowledge that a well-informed citizen should possess in each subject, including subject vocabulary
2. The practical skills essential for success in each subject
3. An understanding of the key timelines, theories and people in each subject, from the Western tradition and also from other parts of the world

## Personal Principles

1. Learning to be responsible for our self and our future
2. Learning to be responsible for our community
3. Learning to consider our global and environmental responsibilities

# Mathematics

YEAR 8	Lessons per cycle	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Maths	7	Rounding Indices Algebra Probability	Circles Averages Equations Fractions	Area Volume Ratio Proportion	Sequences Inequalities Data Percentages	Angles Co-ordinates Graphs Powers	Pythagoras Project

# English

	Victorian Fears	War and Conflict	Dystopia
Big Question	How do writers tap into our innate fear of the unknown and desire to know?	How does perspective and viewpoint affect the way we view conflict?	How do writers explore their fears about society and the future?
Thread 1 (Literature)	<i>Dracula</i> (the play)	<i>The Bone Sparrow</i>	<i>Animal Farm</i>
Thread 2 (Language analysis)	Gothic Extracts	Battle Speeches	Dystopian Extracts
Thread 3 (Writing)	Gothic Character Writing	Letter Writing (from a soldier's perspective)	Global Issues Speech Writing

# Science

<b>September - December</b>	<b>Nutrition, Diet and Health, Reactions, Energy, the Solar System</b>
<b>January – April</b>	<b>Reproduction and Growth, Acids and Alkalis, Rocks, Density and Pressure</b> <b>Independent Science Research Project</b>
<b>May - July</b>	<b>Pollution, Populations, Climate, Acid Rain, Waste, Plastics, Heat</b>

# French and Spanish

September - December	Focus on <b>Verbs</b> within the topic 'Where I live' Focus on <b>Reading</b> within the topic 'Festivals'
January – April	Focus on <b>Listening</b> within the topic 'A Typical Week' Focus on <b>Writing</b> within the topic 'Music and TV'
May - July	Focus on <b>Speaking</b> within the topic 'Food' Focus on <b>Writing</b> within the topic 'Visiting a Restaurant'

# Humanities

<b>September - December</b>	<b>Geography:</b> Glaciation, China <b>History:</b> Bristol and the Slave Trade, the Industrial Revolution <b>Ethics/Philosophy:</b> Buddhism, Ethical Issues <b>PSHE:</b> Wellbeing, Alcohol Awareness
<b>January – April</b>	<b>Geography:</b> Tourism, Weather <b>History:</b> The First World War, Nazi Germany <b>Ethics/Philosophy:</b> The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Islam <b>PSHE:</b> Sexting, Feminism, Periods, the Environment
<b>May - July</b>	<b>Geography:</b> Division and Conflict, Africa <b>History:</b> The Second World War, the Holocaust <b>Ethics/Philosophy:</b> Healthy Values <b>PSHE:</b> Human Rights, Citizenship

# Creative Arts

**The Art course will develop students' skills through the themes of Portraits and Street Art**

**The Music course will cover various aspects of the musical spectrum; topics may include choral music through time, song writing, minimalism, samba, blues and the 'Bristol Sound'**

**The Drama course will introduce students to the genre of horror, key drama practitioners, the play *Teechers* and reviewing theatre**

**The Dance course will teach students Narrative Dance, Contact Improvisation and how to explore a stimulus**



# Design, Technology and Computing

The DT course is divided into three parts:

- 1. Design and Making Skills**
- 2. Food and Nutrition**
- 3. Textiles**

Year 8 classes will rotate between the three subjects at different times of the year. Each Year 8 tutor group will also have a weekly computing/ICT lesson.

# Physical Education

Students will continue to experience a variety of sports and games. These will include:

<b>General Fitness</b>	<b>Cross-Country</b>	<b>Rugby</b>	<b>Netball</b>	
<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Hockey</b>	<b>Rounders</b>	<b>Gymnastics</b>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	<b>Badminton</b>	<b>Tennis</b>	<b>Cricket</b>	<b>Athletics</b>

# A new school vision...

~~pride • achievement • community~~

# New School Vision



***Mission: "To provide a rich and rewarding learning journey, empowering all students to be positively engaged and contribute to their communities"***



**Our 'Big 5':**

- **Care** - we know and care for students as individuals
- **Equity**—we seek the same opportunities in life for all students
- **Consistency** - we maintain high expectations & support for all
- **Partnership**— we work together, in school and at home / with families
- **Communication**—we inform and listen

# To provide a rich and rewarding learning journey, empowering all students to be positively engaged and contribute to their communities

- *To allow you to learn a wide range of things and skills from experiences in and outside the classroom*
- *To make those experiences interesting and give you a feeling of success*
- *To encourage you to make the difference you can, in and out of school, to help and support other people and the place you live in*

## **'DREAM BIG'**

Ambition  
Engagement  
Leadership

- To want to do well in life (fulfil your potential)
- To make the most of your skills
- To learn to lead your lives and those of others

- ✓ *To attend a Careers event to help you think about your possible career path*
- ✓ *To read more widely around an interesting topic in a subject, or enter a subject competition*
- ✓ *To get involved in an after-school club to develop a different interest or skills*

## **'DO YOUR BEST'**

Enthusiasm  
Resilience  
Independence

- To work hard
- To be willing to get involved
- To keep going when it gets hard or feels like you're not doing very well
- To make your own choices, for you

- ✓ *To produce your best work, not just 'get it done'*
- ✓ *To get into the habit of getting your homework done on time*
- ✓ *To make the decision to attend a catch-up session or ask a teacher for help on something at the end of the lesson*



## **'GIVE BACK'**

Kindness  
Role modelling  
Contribution

- To treat others as you'd like to be treated  
*(think about them)*
- To set a good example for other students
- To do things that help others

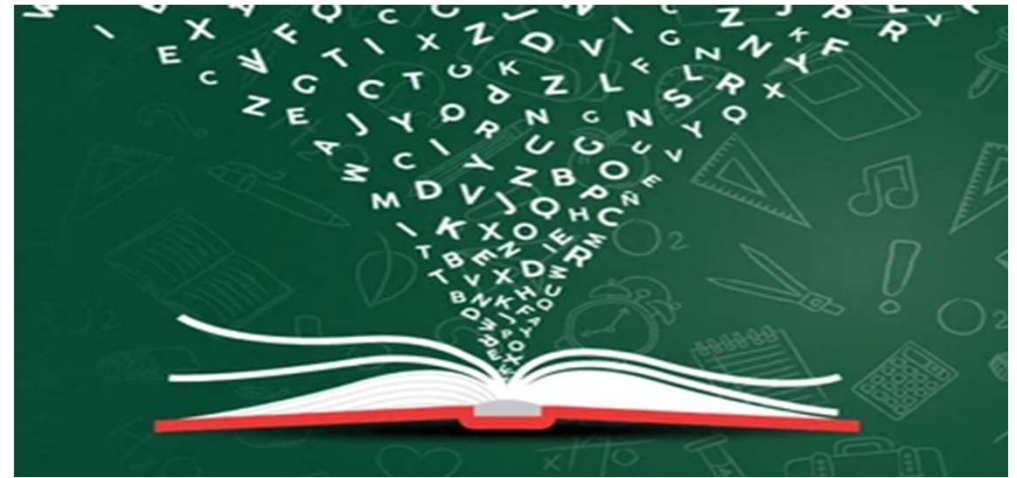
- ✓ *To help a student (or member of staff!) who's looking lost, or opening a door*
- ✓ *To volunteer to help at Open Evening*
- ✓ *To get involved in a community project*

Watch your *thoughts*; they become *words*.  
Watch your *words*; they become *actions*.  
Watch your *actions*; they become *habits*.  
Watch your *habits*; they become *character*.



# Reading

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# Why is reading so important?

- The ability of young people to do well academically depends on their reading ability and personal 'word hoard' - put simply, the number of words they recognise and understand
- The curriculum makes increasing demands on young people's vocabulary as they move up through year groups
- Our students have missed a significant amount of reading in lessons (although many will have continued to read at home)

# Stark facts ...

1 in 11 children do not have a book of their own at home

25% of 15-year-olds have a reading age of **12** or lower

Most GCSE papers have a reading age of **16**

Year 10 students who read regularly know 26% more words than those who never read

*Regular readers will recognise and understand significantly more words than those who never read*

# A Gordano perspective

Last year, we asked two hundred Year 7 and Year 8 students about their reading habits.

- How many said they read every day?
- How many said they read at least once a week?
- How many said they read only occasionally?
- **How many said they never read on their own for enjoyment?**

# A Gordano perspective

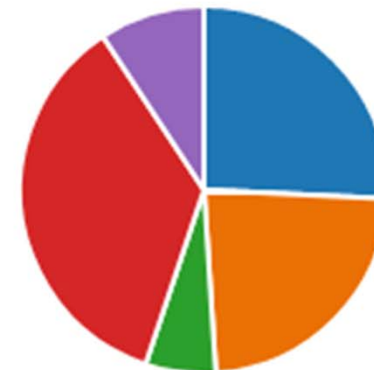
Last year, we asked two hundred Year 7 and Year 8 students about their reading habits.

26% read every day, 23% read weekly, and 36% read only occasionally.

**9% said they never read on their own for enjoyment**

11. How often do you read when it is YOUR choice (not assigned by school)?

● Daily	50
● Weekly	45
● Monthly	12
● Occasionally	69
● Never	18





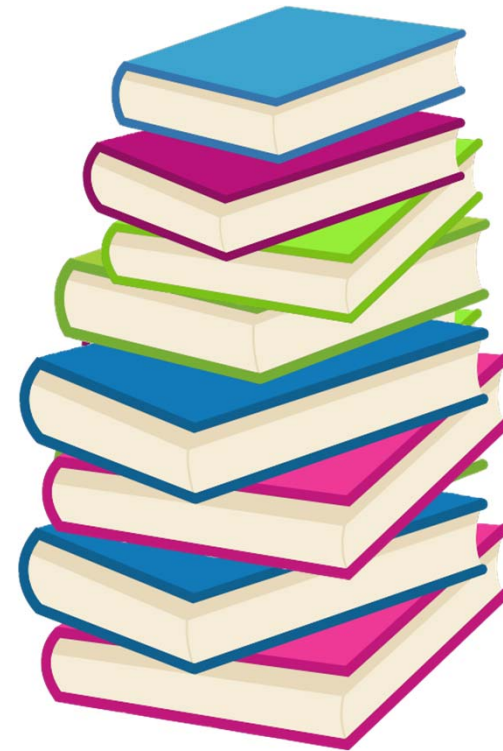
# A Gordano perspective

Over 40% of students wanted either:

- more dedicated reading lessons
- more reading in subject lessons or tutor time
- compulsory reading homework

# Year 8 English Homework

- This year, Year 8 students will be completing 30 minutes of reading every week for their English homework.
- Students can choose a non-fiction or fictional text to complete this homework. This can be a text from home; however they are also encouraged to borrow books from the school library.
- They will be supported during their monthly library lessons, to ensure they have a text that is an appropriate level of challenge and that they will enjoy reading!
- Once they have completed their 30 minutes of reading, they will then need to log this using a Microsoft Forms document. They will be shown how to do this by their teacher. This will be set as a weekly Firefly task for students every Tuesday.



If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact Sophie Dawson (KS3 English Lead) – email: [sdawson@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:sdawson@gordanoschool.org.uk)

# Reading

Create a culture of reading for pleasure that extends beyond school hours

Library expertise and provision: with guidance for students and parents

Reading opportunity: Dedicated time for individual reading in the library, in lesson time and in tutor time  
Reading homework (English)

Create opportunities for academic reading in class

Including teaching essential vocabulary

Support the least confident readers

Reading mentors  
Inclusion support

What is the % of words that need to be known in a text to ensure reading comprehension?

50%   55%   60%   65%   75%   80%   85%   90%   95%



What process is being described?

\_\_\_\_\_ is marking a \_\_\_\_\_ on a measuring \_\_\_\_\_. This involves \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_ of a measuring \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ which must be \_\_\_\_\_. For example, placing a \_\_\_\_\_ in melting ice to see whether it reads zero, to check it has been \_\_\_\_\_ correctly.

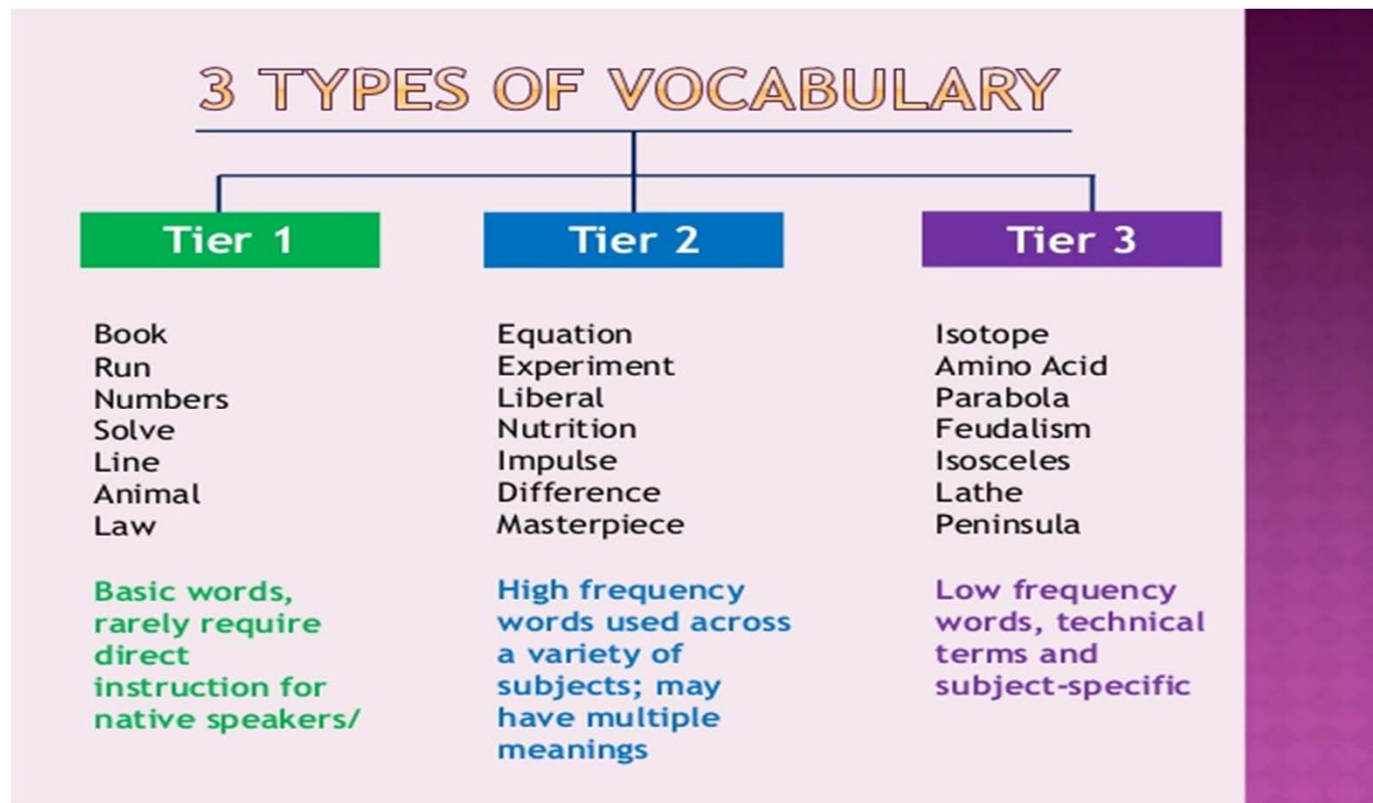
\_\_\_\_\_ is marking a scale on a measuring instrument. This involves establishing the relationship between indications of a measuring instrument and standard reference values, which must be applied. For example, placing a thermometer in melting ice to see whether it reads zero, to check it has been \_\_\_\_\_ correctly.



*'It is the most pertinent words in academic texts that are typically unknown to students' Quigley*

Calibration is marking a scale on a measuring instrument. This involves establishing the relationship between indications of a measuring instrument and standard reference values, which must be applied. For example, placing a thermometer in melting ice to see whether it reads zero, to check it has been calibrated correctly.

# Three Types of Vocabulary





# In answer to your questions ...

- The Gordano Extra booklet for Autumn 2021 will be made available shortly in the Gordano Extra section on Firefly
- There are a number of recommended reading lists in the School Library section of Firefly
- We are hoping that a greater range of trips will be open to your children this year, but we will need to follow the advice given to schools by Public Health England and ensure that all associated Covid-related risks can be confidently addressed.
- The Year 8 Progress Evening is likely to be on Zoom again this year
- All members of the school community are being asked to take a lateral flow test twice a week (Monday and Thursday), beginning on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September

# Year 8 Parental Information Evening

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Once again, thank you for joining the meeting.

I hope you found the presentation informative and that I will see you later in the year at some of our school events.

**Adam Snow – Director of Key Stage 3**