



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The 2023 Sports Day winners are Portland House! What a wonderful afternoon we had at our annual sports day (and my first!). Over 1,000 competitors in years 7-10 have battled it out in a range of track and field events over the last three days which culminated in a very exciting, warm and sunny sports day afternoon.

The curtain raiser was the ever-popular staff relay which was won by Portland House who obviously inspired the Portland students to continue their winning ways.

Two school records were broken. Martha H added the Year 8 girls 200m record to the Year 7 100m record she broke last year, with a time of 27.47 secs. The Year 10 Portland girls smashed the 4x100m relay record which had stood for 22 years, with a time of 55.08 secs, knocking over 3 seconds off the previous record. Final event for this week is the inter house swimming gala. A huge congratulations to everyone involved!

#### **Final Sports Day Results**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Portland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cromarty
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Biscay
- 4<sup>th</sup>= Fitzroy
- 4<sup>th</sup>= Shannon
- 6<sup>th</sup> Lundy

#### **Reintroduction of biometric payments for school meals**

The school will be reinstating the biometric payment system from the start of the new school year in September. In preparation for this we will be arranging fingerprint scanning for all students whose parents/carers have consented. If you have previously consented to your child's fingerprint being scanned, your child will be asked to attend the scanning sessions. If you have previously refused consent your child will not have their finger scanned. If you would like to change your previous decision around consent, please email our [Data Team](#) to amend your child's record.

Scanning for Years 7 to 10 will take place during the week commencing 10th July. Year 11 students who are attending Bridging Week prior to starting Sixth Form and also Year 12 will be scanned during the week commencing 26th June. Further information about biometric identification finger scan technology is available [here](#).

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### **Drop off and pick up**

We need to remind parents that they must not come onto the school site to drop off students in the morning or pick them up at the end of the day. This is presenting some concerns about safety currently. We appreciate that parking around the school can be difficult and would encourage all students that can to walk or cycle to and from school.

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June we will be changing the arrangements for opening gates at the end of the school day. The main gates will remain open, as will the gates to St Mary's Road and Greenfield Park. The pedestrian gate onto Clevedon Road next to the coach park, and the pedestrian gate into the coach park from the field will remain locked. Students will need to access the coach park from the front car park next to the English block. Any students that would normally have left via the pedestrian gate on to Clevedon Road must now leave via the Greenfield Park gate please. We will be making students aware of this on Monday morning in their weekly briefing.

Our thanks for your cooperation with this, and for refraining from parking in the bus stop next to the St Mary's Road gate which, the Neighbourhood Police Team remind us all, is an offence.

### **Higher Education Evening**

It was lovely to welcome so many Year 12 students and parents to Higher Education Evening on Wednesday. Just a reminder that Year 12 students will receive more information about all Post 18 pathways during Futures Week. Students on Gold Duke of Edinburgh and HE+ visits will be walked through UCAS and Apprenticeship applications separately. All careers-related opportunities are shared in our termly Careers Newsletter which goes to all year groups and their parents. (Email [lgardiner@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:lgardiner@gordanoschool.org.uk) with any queries).

### **Year 13 Prom**

We look forward to sending our Year 13 students off to their last school event on Thursday. Parents are welcome to arrive early and send their sons and daughters off in all their finery (we ask that parents do not park in the top coach car park, to allow the coaches to depart easily!)

### **Recruitment Opportunity for Year 13 Students**

If you are a parent of a Year 13 student who has not yet made plans for the next academic year, we have an excellent track record in employing former students as student support workers during their 'gap year'. Please see our [current advert](#) on the Gordano School website.

### **Event to Celebrate Pride Month – 30<sup>th</sup> June**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Gordano School is celebrating Pride month by allowing students to either swap one item of clothing from their school uniform for an item of clothing that is more colourful than usual, or wear a colourful item of clothing in addition to their school uniform. This item of clothing could be multi-coloured, or a colour from the rainbow pride flag. Please ensure items worn are appropriate for school, e.g. no cropped tops or offensive logos.

This is a free event to allow all students to take part in celebrating Pride. However, if you or your child would like to offer a donation, we will be raising money on the day for Wellspring Counselling. This charity has been chosen by students in the LGBTQ+ club because of the important work that it does in the local community, and to raise awareness about the importance of mental health support for all. They also wanted to raise awareness about some of the particular challenges faced by LGBTQ+ people when it comes to mental health. You can find out more about Wellspring [here](#).

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so on [ParentPay](#) from Monday.

In addition to the above, students from the LGBTQ+ club will also be running stalls in school on the day. These stalls will be selling cakes and craft items that have been made by the students. All money raised this way will go to Wellspring Counselling, so please encourage your children to bring a few coins to spend!

### 2023 Creative Arts Festival

The Gordano School Creative Arts Faculty is delighted to bring you the final event of the year - The Creative Arts Festival on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th July. Don't miss this taste of Art, Drama, Dance and Music in a festival styled, fun-filled evening. Tickets for this event are now available [here](#) priced at £8.50 each. All proceeds from ticket sales will go towards funding our school production in 2024. Watch our [showreel](#) to find out more.



We wish you a relaxing and restful weekend.  
Yours sincerely

**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher