



20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

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End of Term

It has been an incredibly hot end to the term, but we have finally made it. It was a shame that Year 7 and 8 needed to be 'remote' for the last couple of days, but we're really pleased with the engagement that they showed, especially in this extreme weather.

One technical glitch this morning resulted in the Whole School Broadcast (for Years 7-10) being delayed. We have emailed all students with a link to the video, and added as a task on Firefly, and would encourage students to watch this to mark the end of the year.

Sustrans and North Somerset Parent Travel Survey

The transport team at North Somerset have asked if parents would help them, and us, understand the possible barriers and solutions to enabling more young people to travel actively to school. To do this please complete the survey linked below by Midnight on the 1st August 2021.

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/north-somerset-parent-survey>

We are working with the transport team on several projects around road and cycle safety that we will develop in the next academic year. Our thanks for all your support around travel issues this last year.

School Uniform

Please see the attached letter from Mr McGilloway giving a reminder of the uniform expectations for September and a list of suppliers.

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Summer Water Safety

Please see the accompanying letter from the RNLI regarding water safety over the summer, and especially around the Portishead marina.

Communication over the Summer Holidays

You will be relieved that we are going to be taking a break from email for the next month. However, as we gear up for the return to school in September we will send out a number of update emails to ensure that you are fully informed of the plans to return to school.

On Site Covid Testing and return in September

As you are probably aware, Secondary schools are required to carry out on-site Covid testing for students on two occasions on return to school in September.

Schools are not required to gain consent for students where consent was previously gained for on-site testing in March. As such, if consent was given at that time, then we will consider that you have given consent for on-site testing. Although we would encourage all students to be tested (to protect the community and help maintain continuity of education), if you wish to withdraw that consent then please complete this form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wwKbEeKstEKPNgL1svSOdB8DNO_TFvhPuBLCahIOvTRUQlhEUjQ0WlpSWEFJTk1XOERTWktXQ005Qy4u

For students new to the school since March, we will write to you separately with the link to the consent form and we would ask that you complete this as soon as possible.

We are likely to start testing on Thursday 1st September, with all students having one test before returning to the classroom and another once back. Our current plan for the return to school is as follows:

- Years 7 and 12 8.45am on Monday 6th September
- Years 8, 11 and 13 10.45am on Monday 6th September
- Years 9 and 10 8.45 am on Tuesday 7th September

This is dependent on us finalising our testing plans, and we'll confirm in the latter part of August.

And Finally

In some ways I can't quite believe we've actually got to the end of term. It has been some year, and we all need some good time away to take stock and recharge our batteries.

I'd like to recognise the immense contribution of my colleagues (teaching and support staff) over this last year, and we've been bombarded by the messages of thanks that many of you have written to us to share with staff.

In particular, I'd like to mark the contribution of those that are leaving, and will mention the three teachers that are leaving us after more than five years of service at Gordano and who have made a very significant contribution to the place:

- Mr Guerrini, for his inspirational leadership of Music
- Mrs Palmer, who has been a wonderful Maths teacher and Head of Shannon House
- Mr Wilson, who has led the Design & Technology Faculty with incredible dedication and skill over the last 18 years

I'd also like to thank you, as parents, for your brilliant support of the school; it makes a huge difference to what we are able to achieve together.

And finally, to the students, who make even years like the one we've just finished worth it with their enthusiasm, character, commitment and for what they give back to us.

Enjoy a lovely summer break, and we'll be in touch on the other side.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher