



7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you as our annual Activities Week comes to a close. It has been a very busy time with many activities, day trips and residentials taking place across the different year groups. Organising this week is a huge undertaking and I would like to thank all staff who have supported the vast majority of the week, enabling activities to go ahead as planned.

I would also like to offer a huge thanks to the staff who gave up so much of their time to help make the week possible, and especially to the 'trip leads', all those on residential visits and day trips, and all those staff who provided such a wide range of on-site activities.

I hope our students have enjoyed their experiences, it has been wonderful catching up with students daily to talk through their experiences and I have particularly enjoyed talking to trip leaders and following the @gordanoschooltr twitter account throughout the week. We hope after such a busy week that all our students have a lovely relaxing weekend, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday to complete the last few weeks of term.

### **Activities Week – future planning**

We recognise the need to review the pre-organisation of Activities Week next year in terms of early communication with parents at the start of the academic year and I will keep you updated in the autumn term regarding our planning. We also know that with so many activities taking place across the week, reviewing the programme is crucial in terms of our continued development; if you can spare any time to complete the following [survey](#), I would really appreciate it.

### **'Thank you' messages for Gordano staff**

If you and/or your child would like to thank a member of the school staff as we reach the end of the academic year, you can provide us with a short message on the form below (by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July). We will make sure that staff receive their messages on post cards by the last day of term.

Thank you!

<https://forms.office.com/e/M4issKEMzk>

### **Student toilets**

We have continued to address the issues around toilet facilities throughout the year. The student council brought the thoughts of all students back to the school leadership team last week, and we are working these into both our existing and future plans to improve the facilities in school. There is an opportunity for those attending the Parent Forum on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July to hear about these and contribute their thoughts.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

## 2023 Creative Arts & DT Festival – 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> July

Following the information in my previous letter, we are excited to announce that there will be a licensed bar, an ice cream van and food cart selling pizza, hot dogs and mac & cheese at our Creative Arts & DT Festival next week. Enjoy an evening of art and entertainment plus some delicious food and drink on what will hopefully be a balmy summer evening! Tickets are selling fast but still available from our website [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.



**GORDANO**  
SCHOOL

The  
**Creative Arts  
& DT  
Festival**

An evening of  
creative collaboration:  
Art, Drama, Dance, Food,  
Music, Photography,  
Product Design & Textiles!

**Weds 12<sup>th</sup> July & Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
**5.00 - 9.30 pm**  
Visual Arts Exhibition from 5.00 pm  
in Sixth Form Common Room  
Fashion show & performances from 5.45 pm

Tickets available on the school website

## Last Day of Term Arrangements

The last day of term this academic year is **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. During the day the students will have normal lessons and end of term celebration assemblies. The school day ends for students at 12.30pm.

## Arrangements for the start of the academic year 2023-2024

At the start of next academic year, we will be running a similar 2 days to the days we ran in September last year. Further details will be shared with you in the summer mailing that I send out, but just to ensure you are aware of the outline, please see below:

**INSET Days:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 7 and Year 12 only

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 8-11 and Year 13 in for 8.45am. There will be a late start for students in Years 7 and 12 on this day (10.45am)

### **Vaccination catch-up clinics**

Vaccination catch-up clinics are available for:

- Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 students who did not receive their [HPV Vaccination](#) at school
- Year 9, 10 & 11 students who did not receive their [Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio Vaccination](#) at school

Clinics are running throughout the summer holidays, and you can book an appointment using the links above. If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email [sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net).

### **Drop off/Pick up**

Our thanks to all the parents that followed our request not to use the coach park for drop off and pick up during activities week. This really helped us keep students, staff and coach contractors safe as we loaded and unloaded the coaches. We hope that you all understood safety was of paramount importance in making that request.

In the last fortnight of term, we are happy for parents to use the coach park space again but remind you all that care is still needed to ensure safety for all. The following extract comes from an email we received last week from a resident living close to school:

*"Lately we have had several incidents with cars pulling out of your coach turning area during school drop off time. My son of only 6 years old has had to emergency stop his scooter twice on the pavement to not hit a car pulling out and last week a car pulled out in front of me and stopped for traffic. I confronted the parent and they explained they had seen me and that I should walk around their car."*

While we recognise there is still work to do with students on their road safety on route to and from school, we do need to ensure that we all act in the best interests of all the members of our community.

### **Year 8 Guided Choices**

We will be confirming the allocations to courses for September 2023 to students and parents by the end of next week (Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July).

### **Breakfast Club**

Due to the use of our dining hall for the LSP Business Breakfast there will be no breakfast club available on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Summer Holiday Events and Activities**

Visit our [webpage](#) to find local events and activities over the summer holidays.

We wish you a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
**Headteacher**