



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this weekly update finds you and your families well. It has been a pleasure welcoming our students back to school this week and I would like to extend my thanks to you as parents for your support in ensuring that students have arrived on time and in uniform from the start of the term. I have had the pleasure of walking across the school site this week on many occasions and I have been really pleased to see a calm and purposeful working environment. It has also been a privilege to finally meet all our students through our year group assemblies at the start of term.

I will be writing to you weekly over the first two terms just to keep you updated about life in school and to ensure that you have relevant information to hand regarding key events. We will review this at Christmas in terms of how effective and useful the weekly bulletin is for you as parents.

### **Student/Parent Handbook to replace Journals**

We have made the decision not to have student journals this year as they were not being used as regularly as they had been in previous years. To ensure that you still have key information at your disposal, we have produced a digital handbook which can be accessed on Firefly or our website by following the links below. Please take the time to read through the handbook early into the new term and refer to it through the year as necessary.

Firefly: <https://gordano.fireflycloud.net/resource.aspx?id=939300&officeint=on>

Website: <https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/parents/student-parent-handbook>

### **Mental Wellbeing Course**

Wellspring counselling are offering a free 8-week mental wellbeing course for young people in Portishead. It starts on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at St Barnabus Children's Centre, 7-8pm and is open to those aged 14 and over. Please visit their Facebook page, e-mail them at [reception@wellspringcounselling.org.uk](mailto:reception@wellspringcounselling.org.uk) or telephone them on 01275 810879.

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**Headteacher: Ms L Blundell** BMus(Hons) MA

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: [mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk) [www.gordanoschool.org.uk](http://www.gordanoschool.org.uk)

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

## Gordano Parent Network

Last term we held our first Gordano Parent Network session. This was an opportunity for parents to get together and discuss the challenges around school attendance and social media issues. Parents shared helpful hints and tips with each other, and the feedback on being able to chat to others in similar situations was overwhelmingly positive.

The next session will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 5:30pm in the Dining Hall. These sessions are facilitated by parents and the topic will be "Feelings of anxiousness and worry in your child". Coffee and tea are provided, and after a brief introduction, there will be around an hour for parents to discuss and chat to each other.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the Microsoft Form by following this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/LVc41ynYFb>

## Student safety

We have been made aware of the concern below regarding stick and poke tattoo's and felt it was important to share this information with you as parents so that you can be vigilant.

Can you do a stick and poke tattoo at home?

If you can't afford a professional tattoo or you don't have access to a tattoo parlor, **you can give yourself a tattoo at home without a tattoo gun**, using what is sometimes called the "stick-and-poke" method. This process can be dangerous, however, and if it turns out badly, you're left with a permanent reminder.



## Uniform correction process

Can we thank parents for supporting your child to be in the correct school uniform since the start of term. Generally, standards of uniform have been extremely high, and we are very keen for this to continue throughout the year. Please be aware that over the course of the first two weeks we will continue to work with you to ensure all uniform is correct in preparation for the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> September. After this point any student wearing the incorrect uniform or missing a uniform item will be given two options:

1. Offered spare uniform to put on for that day
2. Parents/Carers will be contacted to either bring in the correct uniform/give permission for the student to go home and put on the correct uniform

If a student doesn't take one of the above options, they will be placed in the focus room for a full day and will be expected to complete a 20 minute after school detention on the same day. Please do get in touch with your child's pastoral team if you need any assistance in ensuring that your child is in the correct uniform. Please refer to the [letter](#) sent out prior to the summer holidays which will provide clarity on our expectations around uniform and appearance. We'd like to thank you in advance for your co-operation and support.

### **Parent Information evenings**

Parent information evenings will start next week. You will have received further information about how to access these virtual sessions and we look forward to meeting you and taking you through the plans for the academic year.

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September Year 8 (online)
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September Year 9 (online)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September Year 13 (online)
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September Year 10 (online)
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September Year 7 (online)
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September Year 11 (online)

*All presentations will begin at 6pm. Links have been sent out in advance of the online events. If you feel you have not received the details, please contact the appropriate Director of Key Stage via the online contact forms on the school website.*

And finally...

This morning I shared an assembly with all students across the school to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Students were very respectful during this period. I will of course keep you updated once the arrangements for schools have been confirmed.

I wish you a restful and relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



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