



8th September 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome back all our students this week and what a fantastic way to start the week we had by meeting our New Year 7 and Year 12 students – they have thrown themselves into life at Gordano so quickly and with great ease! Despite the heat our students have made a very positive start to the school year. Over this academic year one of our school priorities is to ensure that the Behaviour and Culture at our school is the very best it can be for the whole community. On Thursday morning we held year group assemblies for every year group to outline our basic expectations for all students as members of our school community. It is important that our students are all clear about our very high expectations and the fact we have those expectations because fundamentally we want the best outcomes for each individual child and because we care. Equally important to their academic education is that our students all have the opportunity to grow and develop as rounded and confident young people during their time with us at Gordano and therefore these expectations are vital in terms of ensuring this can happen.

It is extremely important that all parents are clear about the expectations that we have for our young people, so please do take time to read the [attached presentation](#) that we shared with our students as part of their introduction back to this academic year and our [Behaviour Policy](#) which can be viewed on the school website.

Mr Mailey will be sharing a termly behaviour update with the parent body to ensure that you have clarity around our behaviour and culture foci throughout the year.

As part of this work, we are starting the new school year with a focus on **'Kindness'**. This will deepen our work on respect for all members of the community and help us to further promote a safe and nurturing environment for all our students. It is easy to say our value is 'Kindness' but what does that look like at Gordano? We are keen to be explicit about the behaviours all members of the community can demonstrate (and often do demonstrate!) to develop this value in our school. The behaviours around 'Kindness' we are starting with are straightforward and clear and include:

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Hold doors open for others	Say please and thank you	Respond when someone says 'Hello/Good Morning.'
Say 'Good Morning' or 'Good Afternoon.'	Help someone if they are struggling	Speak kindly about others
Leave the classroom tidy	Smile	Listening when others are talking
Put litter in the bin	Say hello on arrival	'Sorry (I'm late)'
Engage respectfully in the lesson	Speak like you would like to be spoken to.	Wait for an appropriate time to contribute
Let someone go ahead of you	Giving a compliment	Have polite conversation with staff/visitors



We will be reminding all our students about the importance of these behaviours in assemblies and tutor time, and we are looking forward to celebrating daily acts of kindness on Class Charts, so look out for 'Kindness' merits coming soon!

As parents we would also appreciate your input into this piece of work over the year. If you would like us to develop any specific behaviours through our culture work, let us know and we may be able to build these into our programme this term and beyond. You can do this by adding your ideas to the following form. <https://forms.office.com/e/b60sD83gD0>

Parent Information Evenings

We are looking forward to welcoming parents back into school for our face-to-face parent information evenings this year. Last year we held these meetings virtually; however, whilst convenient in many ways, the virtual world for longer meetings such as these seem impersonal, and we are keen for that not to be the case. To ensure that we can manage numbers you will be required to book a space using the links below. Whilst we will be sharing the slide deck from each evening for parents unable to attend, we do encourage you to join us. The premise of each evening is to look at the year ahead and to ensure as parents you are able to fully support your child in the next steps. If you are a parent that has children in different year groups and therefore are unable to attend each meeting – then we do suggest prioritising exam year students or your Year 7 child and then using the slide decks that we will provide for the specific year group information. Due to space limitations, we do ask that only parents come to the evening/s.

[Year 12 – 13th September 6pm - 7pm](#)

[Year 8 – 18th September 6pm – 6.45pm](#)

[Year 8 – 18th September 6.45pm - 7.30pm](#)

[Year 10 – 19th September 6pm – 6.45pm](#)

[Year 10 – 19th September 6.45pm - 7.30pm](#)

[Year 13 – 20th September 6pm - 7pm](#)

[Year 9 – 21st September 6pm – 6.45pm](#)

[Year 9 – 21st September 6.45pm - 7.30pm](#)

[Year 7 – 2nd October 6pm – 6.45pm](#)

[Year 7 – 2nd October 6.45pm - 7.30pm](#)

[Year 11 – 3rd October 6pm – 7pm](#)

Year 12 Induction

It has been wonderful to induct former Year 11 students – and external students into our Sixth Form this week. We have also worked with some students who originally decided to leave Gordano but have now submitted a late application (this window is still available for some subjects; please email pholwell@gordanoschool.org.uk if you would like more information about this).

ParentPay Activation

If your child is new to Year 7 and you have not yet activated your ParentPay account, then please follow the link below to do so as soon as possible. This will ensure that you are not missing any important communications/updates.

If you are priority contact 1 for your child, you should have recently received an account activation email giving you your username and password login details. If you cannot find these details, then please email us at datateam@gordanoschool.org.uk requesting the details be sent again.

1. Navigate to parentpay.com
2. Select “For Parents” then “Parent Login” at the top right of the screen.
3. Enter the username and password provided in your account activation email and then select Login.
4. Complete the activation as detailed on the screen ensuring details are updated and your e-mail address is included.

Once your account is activated, then payments for meals can be made. Please note that you are setting up a new ParentPay account and that any credit balance does NOT transfer over from your previous primary school account.

For new parents to Gordano

We try and ensure that we share pictures of the wonderful things that our students get up to during the day and our platform for this is X (formerly Twitter) - if you would like to follow us then please do. Our ‘X’ handle is [@gordanosch](https://twitter.com/gordanosch)

Breakfast Club

Gordano School runs a daily Breakfast Club thanks to contributions from Waitrose and our parent body. Students can come along and help themselves to toast or bread and add toppings including butter and a range of jams/condiments. Gordano staff volunteer to support this club. Breakfast Club starts at 08:10 in our Dining Hall. This club is available from Monday 11th September.

Uniform Expectations

As you are aware, we relaxed the uniform expectations this week due to the hot weather. The forecast for next week sees the temperature become much more manageable, therefore we ask all students to come in full school uniform.

Managing Anxiety Workshop

A workshop on managing anxiety in children and young people will be held at the Folk Hall in Portishead on 20th September 7pm – 9pm. Further information can be found [here](#).

We wish you a restful and relaxing weekend, I will be in touch again next Friday.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Reminder of Key Dates for Term 1

Further information will follow regarding Parental information Evenings

- Wed 13th Sep: Year 12 Parental Information Evening, 6.00pm in the Sixth Form Hall
- Mon 18th Sep: Year 8 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 6.45 & 6.45-7.30 in the Main Hall
- Tue 19th Sep: Year 10 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 6.45 & 6.45-7.30 in the Main Hall
- Wed 20th Sep: Year 13 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Sixth Form Hall
- Thu 21st Sep: Year 9 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 6.45 & 6.45-7.30 in the Main Hall
- Thu 28th Sep: Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Pupils, 4.00 – 7.30pm (**school ends at 12.55pm**)
- **Fri 29th Sep: INSET DAY 3**
- Mon 2nd Oct: Year 7 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 6.45 & 6.45-7.30 in the Main Hall
- Tue 3rd Oct: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
- Tue 3rd Oct: Senior Maths Challenge (Years 12-13)
- Tue 3rd Oct: Year 11 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Main Hall
- Wed 4th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
- Thu 5th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
- Thu 5th Oct: Gordano Careers Convention, 6.00 – 8.00pm in the Main Hall
- Fri 6th Oct: Year 6 Open Morning, 9.45 – 11.00am in the Sixth Form Hall
- Tue 10th Oct: World Mental Health Day – Hello Yellow
- Tue 10th Oct: Parent Forum, 6.00 – 7.00pm in CR1
- Wed 11th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam (all day)
- Thu 12th Oct: Year 7 – 13 Tutor Reviews, 4.00 – 7.30pm, online
- Wed 18th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam (all day)
- Thu 19th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam (all day)