



24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Whilst we have almost completed Term 1, the last week of term could not have been a busier one. This week we have hosted five mornings of school tours, met with Year 11 students, parents and carers for our Year 11 Futures Evening, welcomed our School Improvement Partner (SIP) for a visit on Wednesday, ran our SEND evening on Wednesday night and held our English Faculty review day on Thursday.

The focus for our SIP visit was on the quality of learning in lessons across the curriculum and across all year groups, alongside exploring whether high expectations were held in lessons, consistent routines for learning were in place as well as student effort in lessons being high. During the visit, which involved our Director of Secondary Education, Natalie Wilcox and a Director of Secondary Education from another local Trust, the feedback was exceptionally positive with visitors seeing calm, focused classrooms without exception across the school with a clear drive on students being challenged and supported effectively in lessons. Students in all classrooms were seen working hard and focusing well on a variety of tasks in place to support their development of knowledge.

The English Faculty review on Thursday was equally positive, with Heads of English from the three other LSP secondary schools sharing feedback such as *"all of your classrooms are fully inclusive and students feel so safe in your hands"*, *"students speak about their learning journey across the curriculum so eloquently and clearly"* and *"your curriculum delivers challenging topics that are crucial for preparing students in how they 'read' the real world"*. Well done to Team English and to all the students who shared their thoughts so openly and articulately with our visitors.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Gordano Sixth Form is inviting Year 11 students and their families to its Open Evening on Thursday 13th November, 5pm - 7.30pm. Visitors can explore the school's vibrant and inclusive Sixth Form community, meet specialist subject teachers, and learn more about the wide range of over 30 A-level and vocational courses available. The evening will also showcase the exceptional pastoral support, enrichment opportunities, and dedicated facilities that make Gordano an outstanding place to study and grow. Find more information and book your place at one of the talks [here](#).

Request for Tools

If you have any of the following being unused in your home/business we'd really appreciate donations of the following for our exciting new bricklaying facility being created:

- Pointing Trowels
- Bricklaying Trowels
- Shovels (not spades)
- Wheelbarrows

Please email mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk 'FAO Mr Earle - Bricklaying Tools' if you are able to help. Thank you so much in advance.

Aspens Autumn/Winter Menu

The Aspens [Autumn/Winter menu](#) launches on Monday 3rd November, featuring new dishes and regular themed days offering students the opportunity to try different foods and make lunch times fun. For more information, including tariffs and nutritional information please visit our [Dining webpage](#).

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell, BA

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Help improve school vaccination services

The NHS is asking for feedback about school vaccination services and would like to hear about your experiences when you've had your vaccinations.

Here is a link to the survey that students or their parent/carer can complete: [BNSSG Parent/Carer/Student Survey](#). Your responses are completely anonymous, and they will help to make vaccination sessions work better for families and schools. Please complete the survey by Friday 21st November 2025.

If you need the survey in a different language or easy-read format, please email england.swvast@nhs.net. Your feedback is very important to the NHS and will help to improve vaccination services for school communities.

Help with food during the school holidays

During the school holidays Rev Lindsay of Portishead Church can issue lunch bags and food bank vouchers. The Portishead Food Bank is run by volunteers and is open on Fridays from 12pm until 2pm. To request a voucher, call or email Rev Lindsay Smith on 07483 932608 or pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk, all conversations are confidential.

Youth Band Night - 24th October

Portishead Youth & Community Centre are hosting a youth band night on Friday 24th October featuring local band '90 Seconds'. Doors open at 5pm with live music from 5.30pm until 6.30pm. Take a look at the [poster](#) for more information.

Community Behaviour

The police have asked us to share the following with parents and carers to ensure our young people stay safe over the holiday.

- Fireworks - a reminder that it is illegal to buy fireworks if under 18, and that students need to be mindful in the community about their use.
- Halloween - while this is an exciting event for many students, some members of the community find this a difficult time. Again, please have conversations about 'appropriate' Halloween behaviour.
- The Bird Hides on the Portishead Nature Reserve - the police have asked parents to encourage their children to avoid this area due to ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour Reports.

Mental Health Signposting

While school is closed, If you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

- **Samaritans** - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123
- **Shout** - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7
- **Childline** - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor
- **HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends
- **KOOTH** - an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to kooth.com, available Monday to Friday midday - 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm - 10pm
- **CAMHS Crisis Line** - 0800 953 9599
- If you need to speak to **Children's Social Care** - please contact the front door service on 01275 888808
- If a life is at risk, please call **999** to access support from emergency services

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful autumn break.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 3 to Friday 7 November	GCSE Maths and English exams (Year 12 re-sits)
Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Thursday 6 November	Bristol Old Vic KS4 Drama trip
Thursday 6 November	Ski Trip Parents Meeting
Thursday 6 and Friday 7 November	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
Friday 7 November	Year 10 UPS Trip to Weston Fire Service
Monday 10 to Friday 14 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10 to Friday 14 November	Learning Hub Functional Skills English Exams
Tuesday 11 November	Bristol 6th Forms Maths Competition
Tuesday 11 November	Year 10-12 trip to Easton Jamia Mosque
Wednesday 12 November	Year 13 Worcester Cathedral Ethics Conference
Wednesday 12 November	Year 7 visiting author
Thursday 13 November	5pm - 7.30pm Sixth Form Open Evening (school finishes at end P5)
Monday 17 to Friday 21 November	Learning Hub Functional Skills Maths Exams
Tuesday 18 November	Knife Crime Awareness Police Pop Up
Tuesday 18, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 19 November	INSET Day 4
Thursday 20 November	3.35pm Years 10/11 General Knowledge Quiz
Monday 24 to Thursday 27 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 26 November	Year 11 City of Bristol College Visit (Learning Hub)
Wednesday 26 November	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 27 November	Year 12/13 English Conference trip
Friday 28 November	Year 9 Eden Project trip 1
Monday 1 to Friday 12 December	Year 11 Mock Exams (two weeks)
Monday 1 December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Tuesday 2 December	A-level DT and Art trip to London

Tuesday 2 December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December	6.30pm Christmas concert
Friday 5 December	Year 9 Eden Project trip 2
Monday 8 December	Year 9 & 10 Bristol Bears trip to Ashton Gate
Thursday 11 December	Music A-Level trip to see BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Cardiff
Friday 12 December	Year 13 History trip to Hampton Court Palace
Monday 15 to Friday 19 December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Tuesday 16 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	5pm - 6pm A-level Certificate Evening
Thursday 18 December	Year 13 Caring at Christmas Charity Delivery
Friday 19 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January inclusive	Holiday