



20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

What a week it has been. A huge congratulations to Sixth Formers and the Sixth Form team for running an exhausting but brilliant week of RAG activities to raise money for Mend the Gap (supporting our twinned schools in Kenya) and Cancer Research. We look forward to sharing the total sum raised after half term, this has already topped £1000 (Any parent donations still welcome!). The week has involved quizzes, dressing up, staff vs student dodge ball, an all-years Rag Fayre and a musical Rag Fest for our older students. Thank you for sending students in with cash to support these events. This week absolutely demonstrates the essence of what we want to see from our students in terms of kindness, respect and giving back – our Sixth Form have been exceptional role models this week and we very much look forward to seeing the future of RAG week continue next year.

I would also like to thank all of our staff and students involved in our Thursday lunchtime 'secret' dance flashmob! What a lovely way to end a lunchtime and to spread a little joy and kindness! #kindnessevenwhennooneislooking – do have a look on our [X page](#) (formerly Twitter)

Mr Mailey has also written a short update on our Behaviour and Culture expectations which you can see at the bottom of this update.

### **Term time holiday and lates to school**

We have unfortunately seen a rise in requests for term time holiday recently. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that the government is clear on the fact that students should not be missing learning for family holidays. We appreciate that there could be a cost implication, however this does not alter the fact that Gordano School is bound by the government guidelines, and we will continue to enforce fixed penalty notices where term time holiday is taken. There are also a significant number of occasions where students are reported as ill in the days running up to a school break, and we are notified through friends that they may in fact be on holiday. Please be aware that, in accordance with our attendance policy, we will follow up in situations where this may be the case, including asking the Education Welfare Officer to complete house visits where necessary.

We have not seen a reduction in the number of students arriving late to school and are in the process of reviewing our procedures and sanctions around this. If your child is regularly late to school, you may well receive a phone call or letter from us over the coming weeks. Students should be onsite no later than 8.40am, and at their tutor bases by 8.45am. If they are late to school after registers close (9.15am), this will impact on their overall school attendance figures.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

## Reporting Absence

Just a reminder to parents that if you need to report your child's absence, please do so by filling in this contact form which is available on the front page of the school website

[Reporting your child absent from school \(office.com\)](#)

## Year 7 and 8 Homework Intervention – now Thursdays

From 30<sup>th</sup> October our day for Homework Intervention is changing from a Tuesday to a Thursday. All new ClassCharts notifications will reflect this, and any previously set notifications will have been changed to reflect the new day. We really encourage students who are struggling to meet deadlines to come along to these interventions – staff will be on hand to guide and support.

## Wellbeing

We know this has been an exhausting – and rewarding – term for students and staff; it has been encouraging to see students engage in our focus on care and kindness in our community – particularly in the way students are supporting their peers. We hope that half term allows time for a recharge, however we also understand that without the structure of school, holidays can be a challenging time for some families. 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](http://kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday – 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm – 10pm.

**CAMHS Crisis Line** - 0800 953 9599

If you need to speak to **Childrens 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

## Safeguarding

Social media continues to be the greatest source of concern for our young people, and we continue to educate students in how to stay safe online. Can I take this opportunity to ask parents to continue to work with school by checking students are accessing age-appropriate sites and know not to share personal information online. Many organisations, such as the NSPCC, also advise parents and carers not to allow their children to have devices in their bedrooms overnight. We would strongly encourage this practice, as it does reduce the amount of issues that can arise.

We will continue to share parent fact sheets with you. The link below is advice on use of Snapchat – a platform that continues to have the potential to be misused by students.

[Snapchat - Parent Fact Sheet](#)

### **November 5<sup>th</sup> and Fireworks**

We ask parents to remind students that it is illegal to set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places. We have had some intelligence that this behaviour is happening in some Portishead parks. Police will continue to monitor and we will continue to remind students of the risk involved.

### **Remembrance Services and Parade in Portishead**

Please see [this poster](#) for details of Remembrance events happening in Portishead on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**.

From all the staff at Gordano, we wish you all a relaxing half term break and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Yours sincerely



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

### **Key Dates for Term 2**

Tue 31st Oct: Year 11 Futures Evening, 2.00 – 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Hall

Thu 9th Nov: Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.00 – 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Hall (school finishes at end of P5)

Tue 14th Nov: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Wed 15th Nov: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Fri 17th Nov: Children in Need: non-uniform day

Wed 22nd Nov: INSET DAY 4

Thu 23rd Nov: Year 8 Progress Evening, 4.00 – 7.30pm

Mon 27th Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 28th Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 5th Dec: Parent Forum, 6.00 – 7.00pm in CR1

Wed 6th Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Thu 7th Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 12th Dec: Sixth Form Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Tue 12th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Year 7 – 11 Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Mon 18th Dec: School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 – 5.30) in the Main Hall

Wed 20th Dec: Last day of term – 12.30 finish for students

## Behaviour and Culture update - Mr Mailey

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide some highlights of the first term. As you will know by now, we have had a big focus on our Values of Kindness and respect and the launch of our classroom and community expectations. We have seen some fantastic examples of students demonstrating kindness through our weekly focus, and other examples such as litter picking, peer mentoring, holding doors open for others, charity work and donations. All of this has helped develop and establish a positive culture both inside and outside the classroom where the ratio of merits to demerits is 25:1. Below is a breakdown of the number of incidents where many of our students have demonstrated kindness or giving back to their school community.

CATEGORY	Kindness Merits
YEAR 7	965
FITZROY	767
BISCAY	591
SHANNON	349
LUNDY	286
PORTLAND	270
CROMARTY	225
SIXTH FORM	32
TOTAL	3485

CATEGORY	Give Back
YEAR 7	2690
CROMARTY	1818
FITZROY	1497
BISCAY	1365
LUNDY	1358
SHANNON	1356
PORTLAND	1171
SIXTH FORM	63
TOTAL	11318

Mr Rogers has been working hard at developing our rewards system and the Gordano rewards shop was opened last week, much to the excitement of many of our students. We recognise that there is still much to do around rewards, and we met with parents on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October to discuss this and how we can improve areas such as the end of year celebration events.

The number of students being exited for disrupting learning has reduced significantly in the past few weeks due to the strategic focus of teachers, faculties, pastoral team, and SEND team. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in speaking with your child if they have received an exit or behaviour points. This makes a huge difference in helping reinforce the behaviours we want to see and ensure that your child's academic progress and the progress of others are not impacted by disruptive behaviour.

We will continue our focus on Kindness next term, and you will see below the areas we will be asking staff and students to focus on each week.



Even when no-one is looking.

Week 1	Say please and thankyou (for a lesson, for support given, to borrow things) Remind others to do so.
Week 2	Respect personal space around school - Hold doors open for others, let someone go ahead of you, let people through
Week 3	Address people respectfully- smile, greeting, use correct pronouns, polite conversation, use a kind tone
Week 4	Apologise (for being late, for offence caused, poor behaviour)  Show forgiveness when others apologise
Week 5	Leave the classroom tidy, ask to help in classroom, tuck your chair in, return items borrowed
Week 6	Make an effort with people (those next to you in seating plan, if anyone looks upset/lonely, people outside your friendship group)
Half term	
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Accept a warning and change behaviour, model respectful engagement in learning</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Show patience - ask and then wait. Wait for the end of the lesson to discuss behaviours,</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Help around site - litter in bin, help to carry things, hand in lost property, respect the toilets</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Listen to others, take time to respond,</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Share positivity: use humour, notice good things in others, celebrate other people's successes</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Give a compliment/encouragement to someone</b>