



9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, and a very happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. Although this is a shorter term (six weeks), it is set to be a very busy and purposeful one, with many activities, events and learning opportunities planned for our students over the coming weeks. Please do take the time to look carefully at the key dates for Term 3, which can be found at the bottom of this letter, to help you keep track of what promises to be a full and exciting term. I would also like to share how impressed I have been with the focus, effort and positive attitudes shown by our students this week. Following our expectations broadcast on Tuesday morning, it has been a real pleasure to see pupils returning to school with such enthusiasm and commitment to their learning across many classrooms.

Sixth Form Applications

Just a final reminder to all Year 11 students that our Sixth Form application deadline is on Friday 16th January. Our current Year 11 students will have received an email from 'Applicaa' containing their unique username and password, along with a link to the application website. Students will need to log into Applicaa to apply. For those students new to Gordano, please [click here](#) to apply. If you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Sixth Form team at sixthform@gordanoschool.org.uk or go to our website [here](#) where you will find all the relevant information.

Year 9 Options

Thank you to all our Year 9 parents and students who attended our Options evening on Tuesday evening. We hope you found the evening useful, and we look forward to working with your children over the next few weeks to support them in making their decisions. A reminder that the deadline date is Monday 9th February. Students should hand their completed Options Forms to main reception. For further detailed information please look on our website [here](#) to view our Options booklet. An online options presentation will be running this Tuesday at 6pm for any parents/carers who couldn't attend the evening; a link for joining has been sent to all Year 9 families.

Severe weather planning

Over this week we have seen some very cold temperatures and whilst the long-term forecast looks brighter, I did want to share with parents what would happen in the case of severe weather.

- Our aim is always to remain open but in the event of disruption caused by severe weather the prime concern of the school will always be the safety of students and staff.
- The decision will be made after considering the safety of students walking to school, the safety of staff travelling to school and the condition of the school site, and I would hope to make a decision by 7am so that this can be communicated to parents.
- In instances of severe weather, the decision will be whether to close the school for the day or whether a later start to the school day is appropriate. Once a decision has been made parents and students will be communicated with via ClassCharts, we will also update the school website and social media pages.
- Staff will set work for students for each lesson on their timetable and this work will be shared as soon as possible. The work will be focused on securing curriculum content already covered. This work will be set via ClassCharts.

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Year 10 Work Experience

Thank you to everyone who added their work experience details to Unifrog during the Christmas holiday. There is still plenty of time to find a work experience placement, but this becomes more difficult as we make our way through the Spring term. If your son or daughter would like any help to research possible opportunities, please email careers@gordanoschool.org.uk or ask them to pop into the Careers office.

Wellspring Listening Service

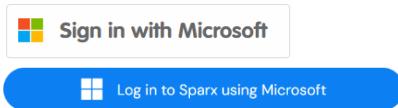
Please see [this poster](#) advertising Wellspring's Free Listening Service for children and young people aged 11-16 years old. They currently have short waiting lists following the Christmas break so they may be able to give a young person the support they need if they are having a difficult time.

Student Login Guidance

Here's some useful guidance if your child has any difficulties logging into their school accounts:

If your child knows their school email and password, see [this guide](#) in the first instance. This will help with both Sparx and Educake, as well as other services.

Students use Microsoft's single sign-on service which means they only need to know their email and email password to log in to their accounts (except Class Charts, see below). This is the same password they use to log in to computers at school. Instead of typing in an email and password, look out for "Sign in with Microsoft" icons.



If your child needs a new code for Class Charts, they should ask their tutor for their code in tutor time. We can't email these codes to parents for GDPR reasons.

If your child needs their email password reset, they should ask their IT teacher in their next IT lesson, and/or go to IT1 at lunchtime where Mrs Webster can help.

Sanitary Products

We have taken a further delivery of period pants and other sanitary items. Students are welcome to come and collect a pair of period pants from the Student Centre if they would like to try them out or need an additional pair. School can also provide supplies of towels and tampons should any of our families be experiencing difficulty in purchasing these items. Please [email Mrs Thomas](#) in confidence regarding this.

February Holiday Clubs

Shine Holiday Clubs are now taking bookings for February Half Term. Activities on offer include Forest Adventure, Gymnastics and Cheerleading, Drama, Basketball and Netball. Book before 8th February to claim a 20% early booker discount. For full details and booking information please see the [flyer](#).

North Somerset Youth Violence Consultation

North Somerset Council have asked us to share the following link with our parents and carers to gather views to help them shape the future strategy of the Violence Reduction Unit. Please do consider completing the short survey: [Violence Reduction Unit - 2025/26 Consultation](#)

EasyFundraising

A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported us by using easyfundraising - every donation really does make a difference and costs you nothing extra. Please remember, easyfundraising isn't just for Christmas; you can continue to use it all year round, especially when shopping the January sales and doing your food shops - retailers include John Lewis, Amazon, Sainsbury's and M&S.

You can also help Gordano School WIN a £500 donation prize this month as will get a FREE entry each time a new supporter signs up before 29th January! It only takes a moment and it's completely free, so please get involved if you haven't already - this would really boost our 2026 fundraising.

Simply shop online as normal, and the retailer will donate to the school. Thank you again for your continued support! <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/gordano-sch/gfv5ip/s2s/E7OVWoL0/PMC01>

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 3

Tuesday 13 January	6pm Options Evening Online Briefing
Wednesday 14 January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Wednesday 14 January	Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Thursday 15 January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals
Monday 19 to Friday 23 January	Functional Skills English Exams
Tuesday 20 January	Year 10/11 Geography BTEC Trip to Manchester Airport
Tuesday 20 January	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 21 January	5.30-6.30pm Year 12 New York trip parent information meeting
Thursday 22 January	Year 13 Progress Evening
Friday 23 January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Monday 26 to Friday 30 January	Functional Skills Maths Exams
Monday 26 January	Year 11 Geography River Holford fieldwork trip 1
Tuesday 27 January	Year 11 Geography River Holford fieldwork trip 2
Wednesday 28 January	Year 11 Geography River Holford fieldwork trip 3
Wednesday 28 January	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 29 January	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Thursday 29 January	Year 12 HE+ Programme trip to Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar
Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February	Weekend rehearsals for school production
Monday 2 to Friday 6 February	School Production
Thursday 5 February	3.35pm Year 8/9 General Knowledge Quiz
Saturday 7 February	Silver and Gold DofE Training Day
Monday 9 to Friday 13 February	National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9 February	Deadline for Year 9 Options
Monday 9 to Wednesday 11 February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Monday 9 February	3.35pm MFL Spelling Bee Final
Monday 9 February	Year 7 Street Trip 1
Tuesday 10 February	Year 7 Street Trip 2
Tuesday 10 February	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 11 February	Year 7 Street Trip 3
Wednesday 11 February	Post-18 Apprenticeship Evening
Thursday 12 February	Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 13 February	INSET Day
Monday 16 to Friday 20 February	HOLIDAY