



Term 2 News 2024/25

Headteacher Welcome

Dear Gordano School Community,

A very warm welcome to our first Termly Newsletter. **We're delighted to be sharing it with our wider community** including our local primary schools and businesses as well as existing parents, students and staff and we look forward to staying in touch with you all.

As we approach the festive break, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for working extremely hard in the run up to the end of term through various activities that have enriched our students' education, supported local charities, spread joy throughout the community and created the most incredible extra-curricular opportunities. What a treat to be witnessing such musical talent at our Christmas Concert this week and I can't wait to share more on some exciting performances taking place at The Old Vic in 2025 too.

A huge well done must also be given to our Year 11 students who've just completed their mock exams. Their work ethic, progress and behaviour this term has been exemplary and we hope they enjoy their well-earned break.

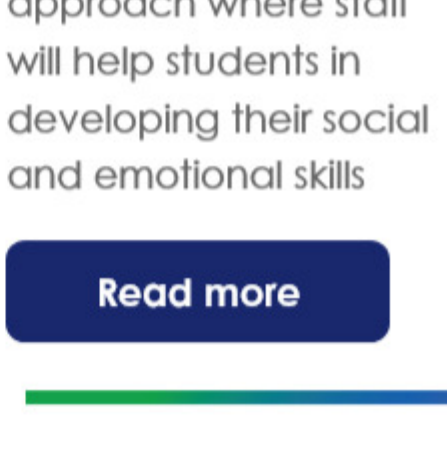


If you've been to our school recently you may have noticed our sixth form café update, beautiful new planters and the introduction of some vibrant signage which is part of a new branding project being rolled out, including this newsletter!

Below is just a snapshot of our news from this term, a true testament to our mission to provide a rich and rewarding learning journey, empowering all students to be positively engaged and contribute to their communities.

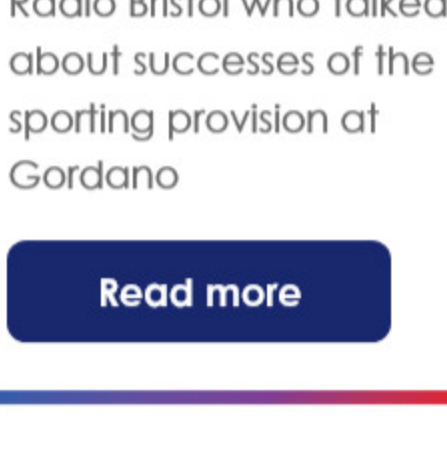
May I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Gordano School.

Louise Blundell
Headteacher



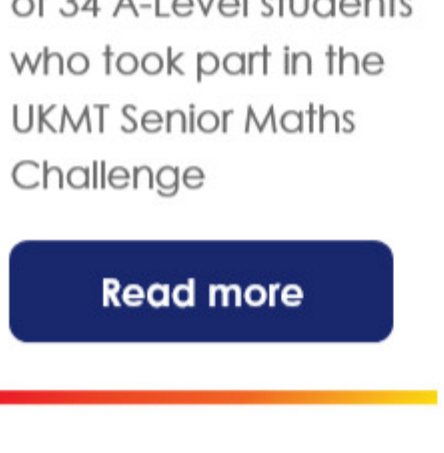
We are proud to celebrate the launch of our Nurture Hub in September

The Provision is based on a traditional Nurture approach where staff will help students in developing their social and emotional skills



ESS swimmers interviewed about the culture of sports excellence

Gordano School was thrilled to welcome BBC Radio Bristol who talked about successes of the sporting provision at Gordano



Gordano A-Level Students Excel in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Gordano School is celebrating the success of 34 A-Level students who took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

[Read more](#)

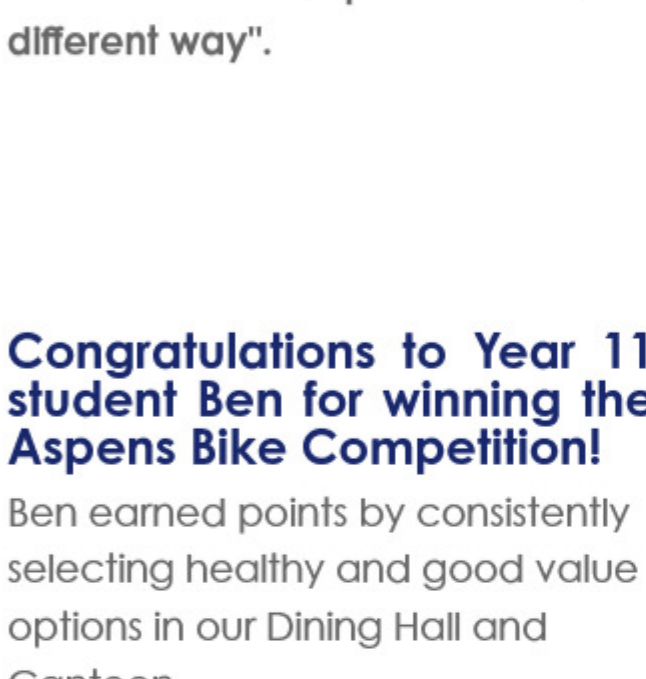
[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

The Maths Department proudly hosts the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

65 enthusiastic Year 9 and 10 students from the four secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership attended a programme hosted at Gordano School to explore different mathematical problems.

The students looked at a projectiles problem, a topic usually saved for A Level students, before energies rose as they participated in a numbers competition.



"It was brilliant, we liked the competition with the numbers as it was really interactive".

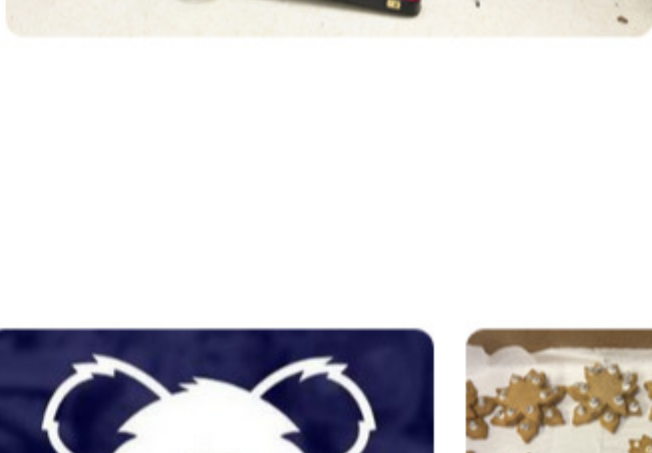
"The box problem was interesting it was fun to look at problems in a different way".



Congratulations to Year 11 student Ben for winning the Aspens Bike Competition!

Ben earned points by consistently selecting healthy and good value options in our Dining Hall and Canteen.

Ben said "It's an amazing early Christmas present!" Here is Ben with Head of House Mr. Rogers and Claire from Aspens

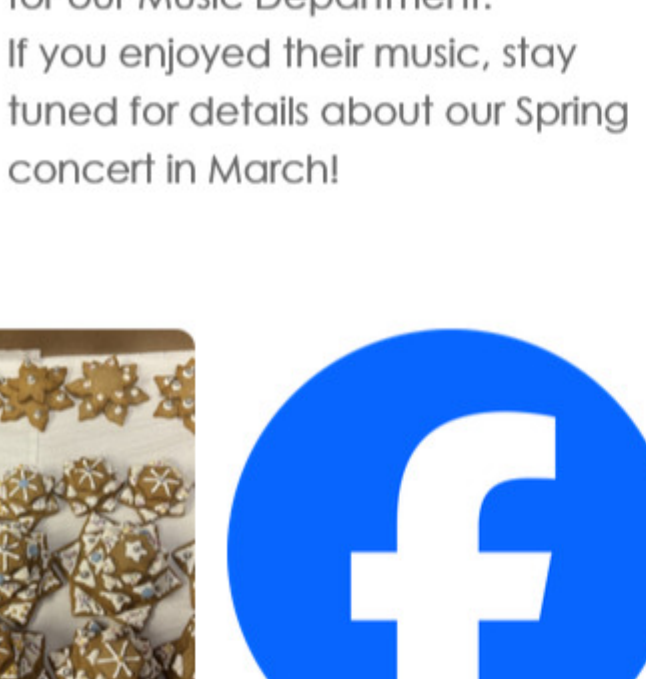


Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert was an undeniable success! All of our ensembles performed, including the Orchestra, Drumline, Flute Club, Brass Band, String Band, Jazz Band, Barbershop Choir, Senior Choir, Sixth Form Band, The Shreddies, and Senior Guitar Club, along with a fantastic range of soloists.

Dr Humphries has been at Gordano for seven years and said what a privilege it was to have taught some of Year 13 students since their first year, commenting: "I have the best job in the world".

Attendees were treated to solo recitals by A-Level students preparing for their exams, a 'GCSE worthy' composition 'Sunset' by Year 9 students, stunning rendition of the Cranberries' hit 'Linger' and more.



We also welcomed a new ensemble to the line-up: the Languages Choir, who performed "Feliz Navidad" in Spanish and French thanks to Mrs. Bernard, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Sanchez Garcia.

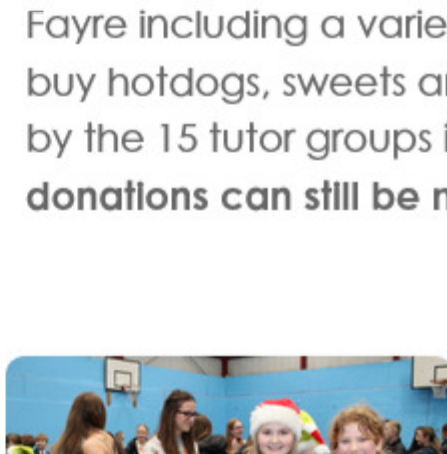
It was a wonderful evening filled with festive favourites, sing-alongs, and outstanding musicianship!



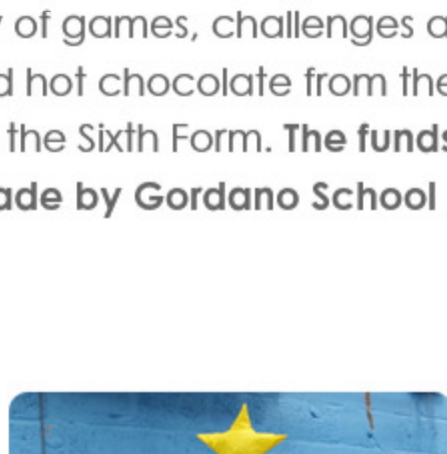
Carols at Waitrose

Throughout December, our talented music students brought joy to shoppers at Waitrose in Portishead with their delightful carol performances. They spread Christmas cheer while raising funds for our Music Department.

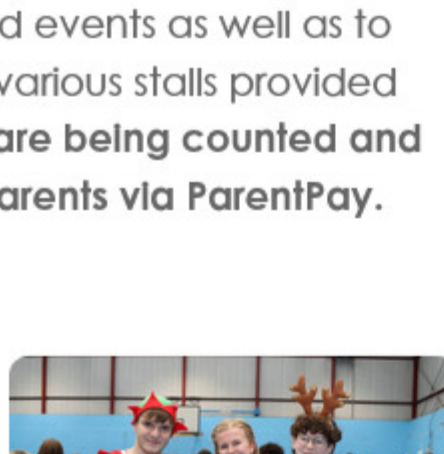
If you enjoyed their music, stay tuned for details about our Spring concert in March!



Catch an interview with Jake Heenan of Bristol Bears Rugby during their visit to Gordano



Gordano Students Raise over £1000 for Multiple Charities through Fundraising Activities



Stay up-to-date with news stories, events other announcements via our Facebook page

[Watch here](#)

[Read more](#)

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Sixth Form News

RAG Week

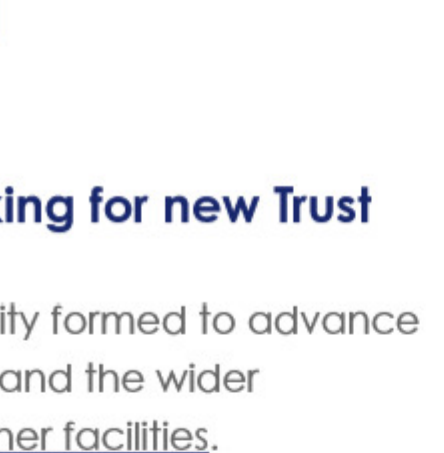
Monday marked the start of RAG week in the Sixth Form. The week began with a staff versus students Dodgeball match. A number of games were played, and spirits were high! The staff were boosted by Santa joining their team as a special guest. By the end of the match, the students just about prevailed but to be honest everyone was having so much fun, no-one was really counting the score.



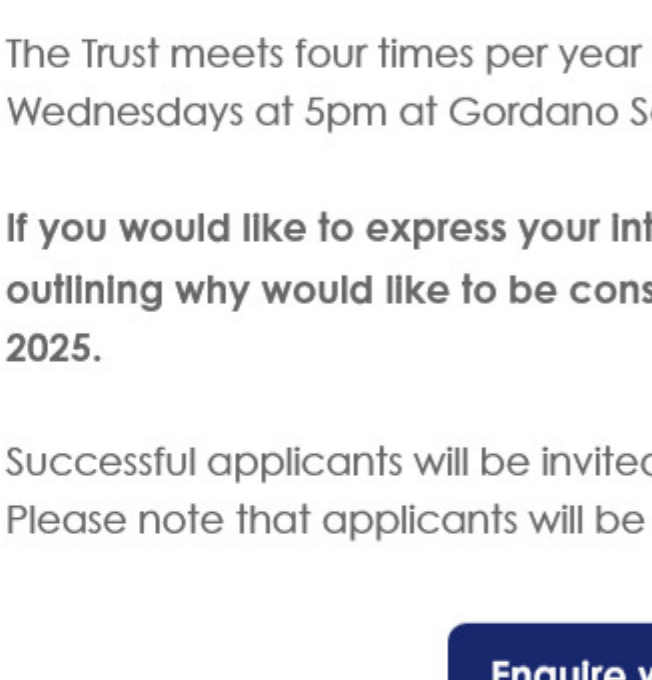
Caring at Christmas

Students have been busily raising money for two charities: Carling in Bristol (specifically its Carling at Christmas arm) and Cancer Research. We are incredibly thankful to everyone for their generous donations; our collection boxes are overflowing! More details about the amount raised will be shared in the new year.

In addition, lower school students came along to partake in the RAG Fayre including a variety of games, challenges and events as well as to buy hotdogs, sweets and hot chocolate from the various stalls provided by the 15 tutor groups in the Sixth Form. The funds are being counted and donations can still be made by Gordano School parents via ParentPay.



Community News



Thank you to Viper Innovations Ltd

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Viper Innovations Ltd for their generous donation of the wonderful Christmas tree that now graces our main hall. This beautiful addition was enjoyed by all at our Christmas Concert and for those using the space throughout December. Viper have said "We are thrilled to see the tree bringing joy during the holiday season, wishing the school a festive Christmas!"

We would love to collaborate with more local businesses

[Please get in touch!](#)

Join our fitness community at Gordano Sports Centre



Our state-of-the-art gym on our school site boasts the latest equipment and we offer a range of exercise classes, including Pilates, Zumba, Indoor Cycling, Dance Fusion, Circuits, and more. We also have badminton and squash courts and pay per session as well as membership opportunities.

[Learn more](#)

Did you know you can hire our facilities?

You can hold business meetings or conferences on site in our comfortably equipped rooms. The largest is suitable for up to 30 people.

We also have a large hall with staging and state of the art lighting and sound system that can hold up to 500 people, and a Lecture Theatre with sprung flooring, staged seating and sound system to hold up to 250 people.

[Enquire with Gordano Community Trust](#)

Gordano School Community Trust is looking for new Trust Board members

Gordano School Community Trust (GSCT) is a charity formed to advance the education of the students of Gordano School and the wider community through the provision of sports and other facilities.

We are looking for new Trustees to join the existing Board to help promote the use of the Schools facilities for recreation, sport, culture and other leisure activities within the local community.

Becoming a Trustee is a rewarding and enriching opportunity to offer your personal and professional experiences in order to help shape the future of our facility. We are keen to hear from individuals, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are willing to commit to our vision and values and who are excited about improving sports facilities for young people and the local community.

The Trust meets four times per year and meetings are held on Wednesdays at 5pm at Gordano School.

If you would like to express your interest, please send us an e-mail outlining why would like to be considered no later than 19th January 2025.

Successful applicants will be invited for interview late January 2025. Please note that applicants will be subject to the relevant DBS checks.

[Enquire with Gordano Community Trust](#)

Careers News

Careers Convention

We were proud to host our Careers Convention in collaboration with various businesses and higher education establishments.

Students explored potential career paths and post-GCSE as well as A-Level options.

One Sixth Form student said: "I'm so pleased that I now know which universities offer the courses I am interested in"

Teatime Networking

We welcomed South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, Bristol City Robins Foundation, and Portishead Academy of Gymnastics at our 'Sports' Teatime Networking event earlier this term.

It was a fantastic event and the students truly benefited from the wealth of expertise shared in the room!

Our next one will take place on 27th January and focus on Law

Year 13 Early Applicant Day

We were proud to host the first Lighthouse Schools Partnership Early Applicant Event.

Year 13 students from Chew Valley, Churchill and Backwell Sixth Forms joined us to prepare for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applications.

Thank you to the experts from Cambridge and Bristol Universities as well as the Royal College of Psychiatrists

The Careers Department webpage has helpful links and information as well as their latest newsletter with details about future events:

[Visit Careers](#)

House News

Kindness Cup Winner Term 2

Congratulations to Shannon!

Resilience Cup Winner Term 2

Congratulations to Portland!

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

