



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very busy week at Gordano. I would like to thank the Cromarty House Team for all the fundraising activities that have taken place this week. I thoroughly enjoyed being challenged by Mrs Harradine in the Cromarty charity table tennis match this week (a test of resilience indeed!) alongside all the other fundraising opportunities organised by our students. We will keep you updated with the final totals after our final event which is our dance session at lunch time today. All the proceeds will go towards The Macmillan Cancer Trust

Thank you also to all our Year 11 parents who attended our information evening on Tuesday; we hope you found the session helpful. Mr Beesley has shared the presentation via ClassCharts and it is on the website for you in case you were not able to join us. We do encourage you to have a look at the information at this vital part of your child's journey.

<https://mrdbeesley.wixsite.com/gordanoschool/yr11parents>

### **Year 8 Guided Choices**

We will be starting the exciting journey of taking Year 8 students through the Guided Choices process (formerly known as Options) from next week, starting with a letter to Year 8 parents/carers explaining how the process will work and sharing a timeline of guidance and support. Please look out for this communication in your inboxes next Friday. We will also add information to the Guided Choices section of the school website where you can see last year's subject booklet if you wish to get a head start in understanding the process [Gordano School Guided Choices](#)

### **Year 8 students HPV vaccinations**

The Human Papillomavirus vaccinations for boys and girls protects against several types of cancer and will be taking place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Please complete the consent form here <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/hpv/2023/consent> by 1st February even if you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccine. Please see the parent letter sent earlier this week for full details.

### **Accessing Audio books**

We have just renewed our annual subscription to **Wheeler's Audio books** which is available to all students; please see guidance here for how login [download.asp \(gordanoschool.org.uk\)](download.asp(gordanoschool.org.uk)). It's well worth perusing the library section in general in the Literacy section of the website where there are lots of great book recommendations to cater for all interests! [Gordano School - Approaches to Supporting Literacy and Library resources](#) (scroll down the page for the library resources).

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### **Year 9 Visiting Speaker, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

We are excited to be welcoming the Olympian, Vernon Samuels to Gordano on Monday morning, to speak to Year 9. His family history places him in an excellent position to speak to our students about race and civil rights in Bristol and the UK, which links to the Modern Britain, Protest and Civil Rights topics in the Year 9 History curriculum.

### **Change in daily spending limits in Gordano Canteens**

We have been looking at this with Aspens our catering suppliers, and have also had input from the student leadership group who felt that they were not able to get as much food as they needed with the cap at £4 per day. We feel it is important to ensure that the catering offer meets these needs and that Aspens can deliver on this too.

We are therefore going to do the following:

- raise the daily spending cap from £4 to £5 from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- work with Aspens to ensure that the food offered is as healthy and nutritionally balanced as possible, and that within the £5 cap all students will be able to access a nutritionally and calorifically balanced diet.
- ensure that better information on the menus and their nutritional content is published via the [school website](#).
- survey parents and students on their opinions on the food offer and service provided by Aspens and build the responses to this into a plan with Aspens, reviewed at our regular meetings with the company management team.

We will be sending out links to survey forms to both parents and students in the coming weeks. Please take a few minutes to complete these when they are published, we will use your responses in our regular meetings with Aspens to improve the food and service in school.

### **Year 10 Employability Day**

We are exceptionally proud of the maturity and commitment to personal and professional development demonstrated by our Year 10 students during their Employability Day on January 24<sup>th</sup> which provided our students with valuable insights into essential career-building elements, including CV writing, skills development, and interview techniques. These activities are carried out to provide our students with the knowledge and confidence needed to excel in the upcoming mock interviews; these will be taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> February and we have a host of external employers attending to carry out the interviews. We know our pupils are looking forward to this opportunity!

### **Year 9 & 10 MidYis**

Year 9s complete these assessments this week and a small group of Year 10s will complete a catch-up session which is scheduled for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Parental Feedback regarding homework**

An announcement through ClassCharts was sent to parents/guardians on 9<sup>th</sup> January in readiness for the Homework Policy review. Please follow the link to have your say <https://forms.office.com/e/0tKC9s7bCs>

### Sixth Form students driving to school

Can we please remind parents that if their child in the sixth form is driving to school:

- they cannot park on the school site; we simply do not have capacity for student cars given the need for staff parking.
- they must park legally and considerately in the streets around school. We are getting an increasing number of complaints from neighbours of the school, and we will be talking to students in assembly on Monday morning.

Wishing you a relaxing and restful weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell

Headteacher

### Key Dates for Term 3

#### Term 3 Achievement Reviews for Year Group 7 and 11

Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9-11)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 - 4.30 Year 7 MFL Spelling Bee Final
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00 - 7.00 Parent Forum
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	4.00 - 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 - 5.30)
HOLIDAY	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February inclusive
INSET DAYS	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February & Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February



# PORTISHEAD'S SUSTAINABILITY EVENT



**Saturday 3 February 11am - 3pm**  
**The Poacher, High Street Portishead**

- 🌍 Y2K, Adults and Children's Clothes Swap
- 🌍 Turn the Tide
- 🌍 Portishead's Sewing Bee
- 🌍 Fairtrade Portishead
- 🌍 Toy Swap
- 🌍 Recycling Advice
- 🌍 Reflexology

Plus lots of handmade and recycled items for sale

For more information contact [projectmanager@portishead.gov.uk](mailto:projectmanager@portishead.gov.uk) / 01275 404 658