



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome colleagues from the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (CEO Gary Lewis and Director of Secondary Education Natalie Wilcox), alongside our Chair of Governors, Helen Hall, for a School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit. The focus of the day was on how well we support our priority learners, including pupils with SEND and those eligible for pupil premium funding. Visitors spoke very positively about how well staff know their students and recognised inclusive practice as a real whole-school strength. They noted the consistent use of adaptive teaching and thoughtful “micro-adaptations” in lessons, alongside strong relationships, effective questioning and regular checks for understanding. Inclusion beyond the classroom was also highlighted as an area of excellence, with targeted support continuing to improve attendance, engagement and a strong sense of belonging, particularly for our younger pupils.

During the visit, Year 7 pupils spoke confidently and positively about the support they receive and clearly understood how this is gradually stepped back as they become more independent. They valued the additional transition visits, which helped them settle quickly, and commented on the benefits of being mobile-phone free in helping them build friendships and communicate well. Year 11 pupils were equally positive, feeling well supported and well prepared, with the only suggested improvement being more walking, talking mock examinations.

I would like to thank all of the students who contributed so thoughtfully to the visit, whether through student voice panels or by welcoming visitors into their lessons. Their openness, confidence and positivity were a real credit to the school.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Blundell, Headteacher

THE MASKED SINGER

Wow! Thursday lunchtime was an absolute showstopper, with our first ever staff Masked Singer event proving so popular that we (sadly!) had to turn students away because the room was completely full. As part of our inter-house competition, each house fielded a panel of detectives, eagerly trying to guess the identities of the mystery singers hidden behind some truly brilliant costumes. The atmosphere was buzzing, the performances were hilarious and impressive in equal measure, and the costumes were unforgettable — if you haven't spotted them on our Facebook page yet, they'll be appearing very soon! Huge thanks go to the fearless staff performers (Mr Thomas, Mr Hutchinson, Mr Earle, Mrs Bernard and Mr Hemmings) for throwing themselves into the fun, and an extra-big thank you to Mrs Pope for organising such a joyful, memorable event.

TERM DATES AND INSET DAYS 2026-27

The term dates and INSET days for the next academic year have now been confirmed.

Term dates: [School term calendar 2026 to 2027](#)

In September 2026 arrangements for students returning to school will be:

- Monday 7th September - Years 7 and 12 only in school
- Tuesday 8th September - All students in school

INSET days are as follows:

- Thursday 3rd September 2026
 - Friday 4th September
 - Friday 25th September
 - Friday 20th November
 - Monday 4th January 2027
 - Monday 22nd February
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PARENT FORUM

This is a reminder that our next Parent Forum will be on Tuesday 10th February 2026 where Mr Mailey will be joined by Ellie Armstrong - Finance Director and Kelly Harmer - Marketing and Business Development, to discuss the following:

- Presenting new and improved communication
- Introduction to Gordano Community Partners
- Fundraising projects

The forum will be held in conference room one in Main Reception 6-7pm, please confirm your attendance [here](#).

YOUNG DRIVER AWARENESS WORKSHOP

The Neighbourhood Policing Team has arranged a Young Driver Awareness Workshop on 2nd February 2026 at 5.30pm. It will be held at Portishead Youth and Community Centre and will run for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Students aged 15–18 (Years 10, 11 and 12) are invited to attend. Parents are also welcome.

This will be an interactive session covering key topics such as:

- Drug and drink driving
- Speeding
- Careless and inconsiderate driving
- Seat belt safety
- Driver distractions

To book your place please email the names of those attending to:
Chloe.howell@avonandsomerset.police.uk

ONLINE RESPONSIBILITY, CONSENT AND RESPECT

Please remind your child that they are legally responsible for what they post online, including content created with AI. Sharing images, videos, messages, or AI-generated material about someone **without their consent** can be harmful and may break the law.

Posting false statements that damage someone's reputation can be **defamation**, and content targeting someone because of race, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation may be considered **harassment or hate-related behaviour** under UK law. Using AI does **not** remove responsibility.

Talking with your child at home – as we do at school - about **consent, respect, and protected characteristics** is vital in helping them make safe and responsible choices online.

AI does not remove responsibility

- Using AI tools to generate images, text, or videos does not make content anonymous or consequence-free.
- Young people are responsible for how AI tools are used and for the impact of what they share.

Why conversations at home matter

- Many young people do not fully understand that online actions can have **real legal, school, and personal consequences**.
 - Talking at home about consent, respect, and protected characteristics helps young people make safer choices online.
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MIND AID STARTING 4TH FEBRUARY

OTR Bristol's new online Mind Aid group is starting on Wednesday 4th February via Zoom, 16:30 – 17:45 and takes place weekly for six weeks (not including half term week). This group explores topics like low mood, anxiety and stress, teaching young people how to understand these emotions and their physiology, and giving them lots of self-help and coping strategies. Any young person who lives, studies or works in North Somerset, aged 11-19, can sign up here: [Mind Aid - OTR - North Somerset](#)

MANAGING WINTER ILLNESS

Now that students have returned to school after the Christmas break, it's important to be aware of the winter illnesses currently circulating and the best ways to protect your child and others. There are some simple actions that parents of school age children can take to help protect their families and those around them, see the link below:

[Back to school – 5 things to do to help manage winter illness – UK Health Security Agency](#)

WEST OF ENGLAND MUSIC CREATE DAY

WEMA and [Future Talent](#) are joining forces to bring young people in the West of England their Create Day on Sunday 8th February at Trinity Academy in Lockleaze, Bristol. This exciting event is an opportunity for all young people who play an instrument, all ages, abilities and instruments welcome! The day will be a fun day of exploring new ways of creating music, led by Siobhan Clough from Paraorchestra. See the [flyer](#) for more information.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SHAPE WELLBEING AT GORDANO SCHOOL

Fabienne Vailes, a PhD student at the University of Bristol, is researching **how schools can better support student wellbeing** and we are recruiting students and staff to co-create this research.

Who can take part?

We are looking to recruit Students in **Years 7–11**. Their experiences make them experts on what helps or gets in the way of wellbeing at school.

What is involved?

- Students will be invited to join **three Talking Circles** (about 1 hour each) to share their thoughts.
- Later, students will help to discuss their ideas with **school staff** and contribute to a plan to improve wellbeing in our community.
- A **final meeting** will review what we have learned - and we will also share the final published research with parents.
- **Student privacy is protected:**
Sessions are recorded securely, but names and details will not be used in any reports.
Participation is completely voluntary, and students can withdraw at any time.

Benefits:

- Students will have a say in our school
- Students will build skills in sharing ideas, oracy and thinking deeply
- Students will receive **£5 per Talking Circle** (up to £15 total)

Questions?

We will be inviting students to some lunchtime information sessions to publicise this project (the first is lunchtime on Wed 28th January. A parent information sheet is linked [Parent Information Sheet](#) to answer any questions you may have about your child's involvement. If you have any further questions or queries, Fabienne is also happy for you as a parent to contact her as well as her supervisors:

- Dr Lucy Kelly – lucy.kelly@bristol.ac.uk
- Dr Kate Carr-Fanning – kate.carr-fanning@ucd.ie

If your son or daughter opts into this research, we will be in touch to ask for your consent. Our aim is to run the sessions in Terms 3 and 4 and so avoid important Year 10 and 11 exam dates.

OUR HOUSE - THE MUSICAL

If you haven't yet booked your tickets to the school production of Our House, don't miss out! There are still some tickets left for this vibrant and joyful musical featuring the timeless songs of Madness. With high energy performances, engaging choreography and a talented student cast, this is an evening of entertainment not to be missed.

🎫 Book tickets here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gordano-school/e-lorxaz>



EASYFUNDRAISING

You can help raise vital funds for Gordano School at no cost to you by shopping online through our link, where participating retailers donate a percentage of your purchase to the school. Sign up before 29th January to give us the chance to win £500.

[Gordano School - Please Support Gordano School Through Your Online Shopping](#)



2 chances to
WIN
£500



Ends Thursday 29th January!

Sign up today to give us a FREE entry



KEY DATES FOR TERM 3

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
Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February	Weekend rehearsals for school production
Tuesday 3 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