



5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that this first parent update of the year finds you well and that your family had a wonderful summer holiday. As we prepare to start welcoming students back to school this week, I am writing to just update you on a few key areas to enable a smooth start to the academic year.

### **Arrangements for the start of the academic year**

As we begin to welcome back our student body – please ensure that you have familiarised yourself with the [full guidance](#) regarding the start of the school year for each year group, which was sent out at the beginning of the summer holiday.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school and establishing our expectations and priorities for the year.

**Please note:** the only change to the guidance in the summer mailing is the change to uniform expectations for this week only – see the guidance below. This change is purely due to the forecast high temperatures this week.

### **Hot weather and uniform**

Due to the increase in temperatures this week, we have agreed to make the following adaptations to uniform:

- **Wednesday** - Year 7 to wear formal uniform, ties and blazers can be placed in bags but must be worn when they have their photographs taken.
- **Thursday and Friday** - All students (year 7-11) are able to wear their Gordano PE kit due to high temperatures expected. Year 10 students will have their photos taken on Thursday, we're happy for students to wear PE kit for this, but if you would prefer your child to be in uniform for their photo please ensure they bring their shirt, tie and blazer to change into.
- **From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September** students should be in the correct uniform
- Please be aware that our **uniform correction procedures** will apply from the start of the academic year, please see below for details.

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### **Uniform correction process**

Here are our uniform correction procedures when a student is missing or wearing the incorrect uniform/PE kit. Students will be given two options:

1. Offered spare uniform to put on for that day
2. Parents/Carers will be contacted to either bring in the correct uniform/give permission for the student to go home and put on the correct uniform

If a student doesn't take one of the above options, they will be placed in the focus room for a full day and will be expected to complete a 15 minute after school detention on the same day. Please can we also remind you that you can also purchase uniform from our second-hand shop, please click on the link for more details [www.uniformd.co.uk/gordanoschool](http://www.uniformd.co.uk/gordanoschool). We'd like to thank you in advance for your on-going co-operation and support.

### **RAAC**

As you are aware, yesterday we had structural engineers in school. As a result of structural engineers' investigations, we have established there are two small areas of RAAC in the Gordano school buildings. The use of the material is in **cladding only**, and not in any structural elements of the buildings. We are completing a plan of action to deal with this and therefore will be closing off a small area of outside space in a walkway not used by students, and a corridor at the rear of the food rooms while we complete the work. We anticipate this work may take up to a month to get completed. It will have a very limited impact on lesson delivery for students.

### **Attendance Policy**

As per my 14<sup>th</sup> July communication, we have now moved to the new Lighthouse Schools Partnership attendance policy. It is particularly important for parents / carers to refer to pages 23 – 27 of the policy, which can be found [HERE](#).

We are also now asking parents / carers to use only the [Microsoft Form](#) when reporting daily absences. You can also access this form on the homepage of the school website. Whilst we appreciate that this may take a minute or so longer than telephoning, it significantly reduces workload for the attendance team, and enables us to account for, and therefore safeguard, all students much earlier in the day. I am sure that you will agree this is a very important step. For other queries, such as notifying us in advance of medical appointments, please continue to use the [attendance@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@gordanoschool.org.uk) email address.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Parents and carers are politely reminded of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Students should be on site no later than 8.40am (St Mary's Road and the back gates will be closed promptly at this time) and students should be in their tutor bases no later than 8.45am. If any tasks are required before school (e.g. dropping off food ingredients), students should plan for this in their morning routine to ensure they are not late to tutor.

### **Travelling to and from school**

We all know that the times around the start and end of school are inevitably busy both on site and on the roads and pavements around the school. As ever, we all need to be mindful of safety and the impact on the community at these times. To help with this we would like to remind you of the following points:

- Students are representing the entire school on their journeys to and from the site and must be respectful and aware of the others using the roads and pavements.
- If students are being driven to school, please ensure that they are dropped off safely. The neighbourhood policing team has asked us to remind you that the bus stop at the St Mary's Road gate is strictly no stopping. We are happy for parents to drop and go in the rear coach turning park, off Clevedon Road, but again please respect all the other parents and staff using this space and be really aware of other motorists and pedestrians on entry and exit from the site.
- We do get messages from the public celebrating the behaviour of students on their journeys but also some concerns. A lot of these are in relation to where parents are parking to drop off and pick up, so please be aware of this and ensure that you are considerate of the local community.

Yours sincerely



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

### **Reminder of Key Dates for Term 1**

#### ***Further information will follow regarding Parental Information Evenings***

Wed 13th Sep: Year 12 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Sixth Form Hall

Mon 18th Sep: Year 8 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Main Hall

Tue 19th Sep: Year 10 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 20th Sep: Year 13 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Sixth Form Hall

Thu 21st Sep: Year 9 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Main Hall

Thu 28th Sep: Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Pupils, 4.00 – 7.30pm (school finishes at end of P5)

Fri 29th Sep: INSET DAY 3

Mon 2nd Oct: Year 7 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Main Hall

Tue 3rd Oct: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Tue 3rd Oct: Senior Maths Challenge (Years 12-13)

Tue 3rd Oct: Year 11 Parental Information Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 4th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Thu 5th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Thu 5th Oct: Gordano Careers Convention, 6.00 – 8.00pm in the Main Hall

Fri 6th Oct: Year 6 Open Morning, 9.45 – 11.00am in the Sixth Form Hall

Tue 10th Oct: World Mental Health Day – Hello Yellow

Tue 10th Oct: Parent Forum, 6.00 – 7.00pm in CR1

Wed 11th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam (all day)

Thu 12th Oct: Year 7 – 13 Tutor Reviews, 4.00 – 7.30pm, online

Wed 18th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam (all day)

Thu 19th Oct: Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam (all day)