



5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Our two Christmas concerts this week were truly outstanding, showcasing a rich and eclectic programme of music that created a wonderfully joyful, festive atmosphere. Students from every year group performed brilliantly across both evenings, and it was especially uplifting to see our newest Year 7s sharing the stage with our experienced Year 13 musicians. The theatre was full of energy, and we are grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the events so memorable. A huge thank you to all the students involved for the dedication and many hours of preparation that went into producing such an impressive repertoire. This year's concerts were particularly poignant as they marked Dr Humphries' final performances before he moves to his new role as Head of Composition at Millfield School in January. Dr Humphries has built an exceptional legacy in Music over the past eight years, and we are deeply appreciative of his passion and leadership. We wish him every success in the next chapter of his career. We are also delighted to be welcoming Miss Rachel Hinchliffe as our new Head of Department in January, bringing with her extensive experience in music education.

Please take the time to read a separate letter I have written this week with regards to our considerations around school finances.

Student Christmas Lunch - Years 7 to 11 - Wednesday 17th December

Our catering provider Aspens are pleased to offer students in Years 7 - 11 a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 17th December in the Dining Hall at a cost of £2.75 per person.

To book their meal, students are invited to collect a ticket from any till in the Dining Hall or the Canteen from Monday 8th December (please specify a meat or vegetarian option at this time). Please keep the ticket safe and write the FULL NAME and TUTOR GROUP of the student on the back of the ticket.

Students must bring their ticket with them on the day in exchange for a Christmas Lunch.

Payment for the meal will be deducted in the usual way from ParentPay on the day upon receipt of the ticket, therefore please be aware of the daily spend limit. If there are not enough funds, the account will go into debit.

The cost of the meal is the same for students in receipt of free school meals.

Please note that Christmas lunch cannot be guaranteed for students who have not pre-booked.

The New Dining Hall is for Christmas lunch only on the day, but there will be a varied service in the Canteen for those who do not wish to have a Christmas lunch.

Year 11 Mock Exams

We have been delighted with the mature and focused approach being taken by the students towards their Mock Exams as we end the first week. Staff are busy marking the exam papers and preparing the incredibly valuable follow up lessons to support addressing misconceptions and filling in knowledge gaps before the summer. We will be sharing the grades with students as part of our Mock Exam results day on Friday 23rd January 2026.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell, BA

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

Tel: 01275 842606 Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

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We are also delighted to offer an after-school revision space for Year 11 students. This is located in MA8 (Maths computer room) and will be available for supervised study at the following times:

Tuesday: 3.20pm - 4pm

Wednesday: 3.20pm - 4pm

Thursday: 3.20pm - 4pm

'Our House' school production - props needed

Our cast and crew are busy rehearsing and preparing for our school production of 'Our House' taking place 2nd to 6th February 2026. We're looking for some props, listed below, and if parents have any of these items at home that could be used in the production please let us know via the [Gordano School Mailbox](#).

- Wedding photographer style camera (80s/90s)
- A gavel or similar
- Hiking/rambling/"posh-looking" outdoorsy gear
- A collapsing magic flower wand
- Landline phone (80s/90s style)
- Tray of champagne glasses (plastic)
- Feather boas, pom poms, and feather fans (Las Vegas style)
- Decorations for a ball
- A cardboard TV
- A fake bouquet of flowers
- Union Jack umbrellas
- White bed sheets

Many thanks from the Props Team.

Roblox Security Changes - South West Grid for Learning

The introduction of the Online Safety Bill earlier this year has brought welcome controls over what we and our children can access online.

Although some internet services initially resisted tighter regulation, for children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.

Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

You can read more about these checks on the [SWGfL website](#).

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 8 December	Year 9 & 10 Bristol Bears trip to Ashton Gate
Thursday 11 December	Music A-Level trip to see BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Cardiff
Friday 12 December	Year 13 History trip to Hampton Court Palace
Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Monday 15 to Friday 19 December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Monday 15 December	Year 13 Caring at Christmas Charity Delivery
Tuesday 16 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	5pm - 6pm A-level Certificate Evening
Friday 19 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January inclusive	HOLIDAY

Key Dates for Term 3

Monday 5 January	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 January	Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 9 January	Year 9 Taster Sessions
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	Y12 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