



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, we are busy preparing for our end of term celebrations and looking forward to our final morning of festivities and Christmas assemblies with our students before they leave for their Christmas break at 12.30. It has been a very busy week with our Post 16 Christmas Lunch and our whole school Christmas lunch (thank you to our catering team for their efforts in delivering this for students). I would also like to thank our Sixth Formers who organised the collection of donations from all year groups to support Caring at Christmas in St Pauls. The charity was delighted to receive £1000 and a minibus full of food and clothing to support the homeless in Bristol this Christmas (Parents can still donate financially to this charity). A huge thank you to all our families who have supported by sharing donations.

Key Dates for Next Term

Just a reminder for all parents of the key dates coming up in Term 3

Monday 2nd January: Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3rd January: INSET Day (*Mock exams start for Year 13 students – the Learning Curve will be open for silent study. Year 13 students are on study leave until January 13th, but teachers will be available in their timetabled lessons if students wish to access support or study space during this exam period*)

Please note that some Year 12 and Year 13 students have external vocational exams and have timetables for these.

Wednesday 4th January: Start of Term 3 for students

Thursday 9th February: Year 11 Progress Evening

Friday 10th February: INSET Day (Shared LSP secondary schools)

Year 13 Certificate Evening

Just a reminder that if you had a child who left Year 13 last year, we will be celebrating their successes on Thursday 5th January (an Eventbrite link has been shared to book families a place at this event). Any queries please contact Pholwell@gordanoschool.org.uk

Year 11 Mock Examinations

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 students for their resilience and conduct throughout their mock examination series. They were a credit to the school.

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Flu Vaccinations – Years 7 to 9

Just a reminder that Sirona Care & Health's Immunisation Team will be visiting Gordano School on 12th January 2023 to administer the flu vaccination nasal spray for Years 7 to 9.

Students will not be vaccinated without a completed consent form. If you wish your child to be vaccinated and haven't already submitted your form, please do so by Friday 6th January using the link below:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2022/consent?v=1>

Pastoral Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that Miss Player has been appointed as Temporary Head of House for Fitzroy from January. I know she is very much looking forward to meeting her House in the New Year.

Staff Goodbyes

We will be saying goodbye to Mr Yau, Mrs De Long, Miss Moore, Miss Davies, Miss Collis, Miss Whipp and Mr Johnson at the end of this term and wish them all the very best in their new roles and adventures. On behalf of Gordano School, I would like to thank them for all their contributions and dedication to Gordano School during their time with us.

Family Wellbeing at Christmas

We know that the Christmas break can be a welcome recharge for students, parents and staff, but that it can also trigger more negative feelings when the distraction of the structured school day and the support of the school community is not available. You may find the information on the Youngminds website useful in this respect:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-at-christmas/>

We also reshare advice from the NSPCC about keeping our young people safe on line:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

It just leaves me thank you for your on-going support this academic year and to wish you all, on behalf of everyone at Gordano School a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Wednesday 4th January 2023**

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher