



## DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to thank all students, staff, parents and carers for their continued support. It has been a wonderful few weeks, and what a fantastic way to finish by judging our 70th Anniversary Pumpkin Carving House Competition. It was a real pleasure to see so many students taking part and to witness the creativity, effort and imagination on display across all the entries. There will no doubt be more details and a video to share with you soon.

I would also like to apologise for including the incorrect date for our Sixth Form Open Evening in last week's parent communication. The correct date is Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. To allow us to prepare for this important event, the school will close early at 2.30pm on that day. Thank you for your understanding and support.

A further reminder that our rescheduled Meet the Tutor event will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, and parents/carers should already have received communication regarding this.

This week we were also delighted to welcome our Year 11 students and their parents/carers to school for discussions about their future plans and aspirations beyond Year 11. It was encouraging to hear so many positive conversations focused on next steps, post-16 opportunities and the progress students are making in their studies. These partnerships between home and school are invaluable in helping our young people make informed decisions about their futures.

We wish you all a restful and relaxing half term break and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Ms L Blundell, Headteacher**

## CAREERS NEWSLETTER

It has been a full term of careers-related activity at Gordano. Thank you if you have supported us with this – and we would love to hear from you if you are able to do so in the future.

Our careers newsletter is here: [Careers newsletter](#)

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## HALLOWEEN & FIREWORK SAFETY

As we approach Halloween and Bonfire Night, the police have reminded us of the importance of speaking to the children in your care about staying safe and respecting our local community.

- **The Law & Safety:** It is **illegal for anyone under 18** to possess or set off fireworks in public. Fireworks are explosives that cause life-altering injuries; even sparklers burn hot enough to melt metal.
- **Community Respect:** Loud fireworks and unexpected knocks can deeply distress elderly neighbours, vulnerable residents, and pets. Please remind your child to never knock if a house is dark or displays a "No Trick or Treat" sign.
- **Staying Safe:** Encourage your teen to stay in groups, wear something visible in the dark, and know they can call you immediately if a situation feels unsafe or reckless.

Thank you for working with us to keep our community safe for everyone.

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## GORDANO EXTRA

From the beginning of Term 2, you will be able to see the clubs that your child has signed up to in the MCAS app, under the heading 'Clubs' and then the sub-heading 'Enrolled'. If your child has signed up to a club that is over-subscribed, we are operating an internal waiting list, and they will take priority in the term when the club next runs. Most of our sporting clubs have no maximum limit and students are encouraged to just drop in and give it a go; no need to be 'enrolled' on the app. We will also be launching a very exciting Pottery Club; more details to follow.

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## FLU VACCINATION CATCH UP CLINICS

Children's Flu vaccination (nasal and injection) catch-up clinics are available for Year 7 to Year 11 students who did not receive their vaccinations at school. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2026/book?v=3>

If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email [sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net)

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## POPPY APPEAL

We are also pleased to once again support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be available from Main Reception when we return after the break for any students who wish to make a contribution to this important cause. In addition, on Remembrance Day, 11 November, students who are members of organisations such as Scouts, Guides, Cadets, St John Ambulance or other uniformed youth groups are warmly invited to wear their organisation's formal uniform to school as a mark of respect and remembrance. We are proud to support this opportunity for our students to reflect on the service and sacrifice of others and to take part in this important national act of remembrance.

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## SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING OVER THE AUTUMN BREAK - USEFUL LINKS WHILE SCHOOL IS CLOSED:

If you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

- **Samaritans** - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123
- **Shout** - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7
- **Childline** - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor
- **HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am–10pm weekdays, 2pm–10pm weekends
- **KOOTH** – an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to [kooth.com](https://kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday–10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm–10pm
- **CAMHS Crisis Line** - 0800 953 9599
- If you need to speak to **Children's Social Care** - please contact the front door service on 01275 888808
- **Bereavement Support:** Child's Bereavement UK (former Winston's Wishes) 0800 02 888 40 (8am-8pm Monday - Friday. WhatsApp 07418 341800)

If a life is at risk, please call **999** to access support from emergency services.

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## SEND EVENING - SAVE THE DATE

☀️ **SAVE THE DATE!**

# AN EVENING OF SEND

## CALLING ALL ORGANISATIONS!

We warmly invite you to **exhibit at our Evening of SEND**, a special event offering information, guidance, and resources to **parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**.

Join us in empowering families and **showcasing the incredible support available across our region**. The evening will feature a broad range of exhibitors and an opportunity to connect directly with the community.

## INTERESTED IN EXHIBITING?

Email:  
[SEND@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:SEND@gordanoschool.org.uk) to  
secure a place.

The event will be open to the public  
from 17:30 - but we ask that you arrive  
from **16:30** to set up!

We are looking forward to seeing you  
on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2027.



17:30 - 19:30

**11<sup>TH</sup>**

FEBRUARY  
2027

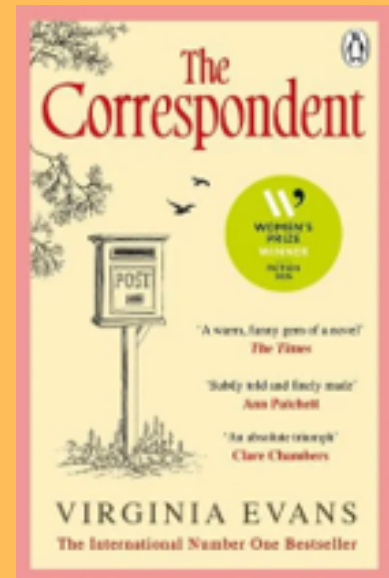
**GORDANO  
SCHOOL**

STMARY'S ROAD,  
PORTISHEAD, BS20 7QR



Students in Years 7 and 8 have a dedicated reading lesson every fortnight. These lessons give students protected time to read and help them develop the confidence, fluency and stamina they need when tackling longer texts.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK



### KS5/Adult

A quietly charming novel full of soul, *The Correspondent* introduces readers to an utterly unforgettable protagonist – Sybil Van Antwerp, who for decades has been living her life primarily through letters, until one day a message from someone in her past turns her orderly world upside down.

## READING AT HOME

Try asking your child what they are currently reading, what has happened so far or whether they would recommend it. It doesn't need to feel like a quiz. A quick conversation shows that reading is valued at home too.

## COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

A huge thank you to **Portishead Town Football Club (PTFC)** for generously donating two sets of family tickets for their Firework Night as prizes for our House Championships Pumpkin Decorating Competition. Our House Championships are all about bringing people together and building a strong sense of belonging across our school community. Having the support of local organisations like PTFC makes these events even more special.

We're incredibly grateful for their generosity and for the way our local community continues to support our students. If you can help, please email [marketing@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:marketing@gordanoschool.org.uk)

PORTISHEAD TOWN FC PRESENTS

# FIREWORKS NIGHT



DJ, BAR, FOOD, SWEET TREATS & MORE  
**6TH NOVEMBER**  
**GATES OPEN 5:30PM STARTING AT 7PM**



Adult £7  
Kids £3  
Family £17  
(2 adults 2 kids)

Take a screenshot - open photos - hold down QR

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 2

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| Thursday 5 and Friday 6 November<br>Wednesday 11 to Thursday 19<br>November<br>Thursday 12 November<br><br>Monday 16 to Thursday 19 November<br>Tuesday 17 November<br>Thursday 19 November<br>Thursday 19 November<br>Friday 20 November<br>Monday 23 November to Friday<br>4 December<br>Wednesday 25 November<br>Thursday 26 November<br>Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December<br>Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December<br>Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December<br>Thursday 10 December<br>Monday 14 to Friday 18 December<br>Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 December<br>Tuesday 15 December<br>Wednesday 16 December<br>Thursday 17 December<br>Friday 18 December<br>Monday 21 December 2026 to Friday<br>1 January 2027 inclusive | Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day<br>Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams<br><br>Sixth Form Open Evening (school finishes at<br>2.30pm)<br>Functional Skills English Exams<br>Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam<br>Years 10/11 General Knowledge Quiz<br>Tutor Evening<br>INSET Day 4<br>Year 11 Mock Exams Weeks<br><br>Careers Teatime Networking<br>SENDCo Surgery<br>Year 11 GCSE Mock Art Exam<br>Year 11 GCSE Mock Photography Exam<br>Christmas Concert<br>SENDCo Surgery<br>Sixth Form RAG Week<br>Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam<br>Sixth Form Christmas Lunch<br>Year 7 - 11 Christmas Lunch<br>A-Level Certificate Evening<br>Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students<br>Holiday |
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## IMPROVING HEALTH IN THE WINTER MONTHS

A special health event is being held in Weston-Super-Mare next Tuesday. The event is running from 10am-2pm at the Healthy Living Centre, BS23 3SJ. There will be a range of free advice and support for families including blood pressure checks, flu jabs, covid vaccinations, weight advice, Healthy Start information, mental health information and stop smoking advice.

A vibrant poster for a health event. The top section is dark green with white text and logos. The middle section is a lighter green with large white text. The bottom section features a colorful illustration of a community scene with people engaged in various activities like cycling, walking, and sitting in a wheelchair, set against a backdrop of houses and trees. The overall theme is promoting health and community well-being.

**Better Health** North Somerset

Healthy Start

North Somerset Council

# Wellness in action!

## Improving health in the winter months

### Pop in to one of our events in Weston

Thursday 8 October (10am to 2pm)  
The Sovereign, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HL

Tuesday 27 October (10am to 2pm)  
Healthy Living Centre, Weston-super-Mare BS23 3SJ

**FREE advice and support to help you take control of your health**

- blood pressure checks
- flu jabs
- Covid vaccinations
- losing weight
- Healthy Start information
- health walk information
- mental health support
- stop smoking
- blood pressure checks and much more

A colorful illustration at the bottom of the poster depicts a healthy community. It shows a person cycling, a person in a wheelchair being assisted, a person sitting on a bench, a person running, and a person walking a dog. There are also large fruits like an apple and a banana, and a heart with a pulse line. The background shows houses and trees.

## BIKEABILITY HOLIDAY COURSE AT GORDANO SCHOOL

**Life  
Cycle**



**Gordano School**  
**October 2026**  
**Bikeability**  
**Level 3**  
**Price: Free**

# Bikeability Holiday Courses

Unlock your child's cycling potential!

Cycling confidence, road safety, and planning skills –  
taught by Life Cycle's qualified, DBS-checked instructors.

Scan to  
book



**Book now!**

**<https://bit.ly/4p5tMn2>**

Registered Charity Number: 1077575



Active  
Travel  
England

# HAUNTED HOLIDAY CLUBS



**BOOK NOW AT**  
**MyShine.co.uk**

- ▣ **Creepy Creative**
- ▣ **Descendants Dance**
- ▣ **Gymnastics & Cheer**
- ▣ **Mini & Mega Monster Mash-Ups**
- ▣ **Forbidden Forest Adventure**
- ▣ **Make a Musical**
- ▣ **Football at Portishead Town**

  
**Shine**  
HOLIDAY CLUBS



PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE  
OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY SCHEME

# OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6-17

 Alton Towers Scare Fest trip  
School year 6+  
26<sup>th</sup> October  
8am-midnight

 Capcut Halloween  
themed workshops  
6-10s 26<sup>th</sup> October &  
28<sup>th</sup> October  
School year 6+ 27<sup>th</sup>  
October

 Faberge  
pumpkin  
workshop  
6-10s  
27<sup>th</sup> October

 Clay pumpkin  
workshop  
6-10s  
27<sup>th</sup> October

 Nerf battle games  
6-10s  
28<sup>th</sup> October

 Halloween  
costume  
alterations and  
embellishment  
session  
School year 6+  
27<sup>th</sup> October

 Seen You Dance SEND music  
& movement session  
Age 8+  
28<sup>th</sup> October

 Hungarian cuisine  
open fire cooking  
workshop  
School year 6+  
28<sup>th</sup> October

 Noah's Ark Zoo  
Farm trip  
8-12s  
29<sup>th</sup> October

 Diplomacy  
Megagame  
School year 6+  
29<sup>th</sup> October

 Nightmare Before Christmas  
workshop  
6-10s  
30<sup>th</sup> October

 Mixed media special effects  
makeup workshop  
School year 6+  
30<sup>th</sup> October

 Jewellery workshop  
6-10s  
30<sup>th</sup> October

 More details and book your space at  
[www.portisheadyouthcentre.co.uk/events](http://www.portisheadyouthcentre.co.uk/events)

**PORTISHEAD  
YOUTH & COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**

## USEFUL LINKS

[Contact Us](#)

[Gordano School Facebook Page](#)

[Communications to Parents](#)

[Latest School News](#)

[Termly Newsletters](#)

[Attendance](#)

[Uniform & Equipment](#)

[How You Can Support the School](#)

[Safeguarding](#)

[School Key Dates](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Gordano Extra - Clubs Information](#)

[Careers](#)

[Trips & Activities Week](#)

[Sixth Form](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Community Clubs & Holiday Clubs](#)

[Facilities Hire](#)

[GoShine Gordano Sports Centre Membership](#)