



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

Our annual Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on **Thursday 12 November**, providing Year 11 students and their families with an opportunity to find out more about life after Year 11 and the excellent provision available within our Sixth Form. In order to prepare for the event, the school will close early at **2.30pm** on that day. Thank you for your support and understanding and we look forward to meeting Year 11 students and their parents at their Futures Meeting on Tuesday next week.

On Wednesday of this week, we welcomed three LSP Heads of Maths to Gordano to carry out a review with the Maths faculty, looking at support for students in Years 10 and 11. The findings echoed the thoughtful lesson planning, strong relationships and targeted support we see every day in Maths lessons, with comments such as:

“Teaching and learning priorities align closely with the whole-school focus on belonging and are embedded through the Gordano Learning Framework. Across the department, there is a strong emphasis on creating supportive classroom environments where students feel valued, confident and able to engage successfully with mathematical learning.”

“Across the department, lessons are characterised by a range of effective teaching strategies that support learning, check for understanding and enable students to successfully access new mathematical concepts. Teachers make purposeful use of modelling to introduce and develop new content, alongside opportunities for students to explain their thinking and develop mathematical oracy.”

“Strategies such as mini whiteboards, warm calling [no hands up questioning] and the use of visualisers are embedded seamlessly. These approaches increase participation, ensure students are accountable for their learning, and provide teachers with valuable opportunities to assess understanding in real time. As a result, misconceptions are identified quickly, challenge is increased, and students remain actively engaged throughout lessons.”

Congratulations to Team Maths and to the students in all the classes visited on that day.

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Blundell, Headteacher

INSET DAY

A reminder that our next INSET day is on **Friday 20th November**.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH OUR FIRST AID PROVISION

The wellbeing of our students is always our priority, and we wanted to share a little information about how our first aid team supports students throughout the school day.

Our first aiders provide care and reassurance for a wide range of concerns each day, from minor bumps and headaches to more significant injuries or illnesses. Every situation is assessed individually, and decisions are made with the student's safety, wellbeing and best interests at heart.

At times, a student may benefit from going home to rest and recover. On other occasions, although a student may feel they would like to go home, our assessment indicates that they are well enough to remain in school. We recognise that these decisions are not always straightforward and greatly appreciate the trust and support of parents when these judgement calls are made.

We are seeing more students attending first aid with minor concerns. While we are always here to help, we also need to ensure that our support remains available for students who need it most. Where appropriate, students may therefore be encouraged to return to lessons, and we are grateful for parents' support in reinforcing the message that attending school remains the expectation whenever it is safe to do so.

If your child comes to school after feeling unwell at home and is "giving it a go", it is helpful if they bring a brief note from home to share with their teacher and the first aid team. This ensures staff are aware.

As a reminder, our first aid team are trained first aiders rather than medical practitioners. While they are skilled in assessing and managing immediate concerns, they cannot diagnose medical conditions. Where further medical advice is needed, we will always recommend seeking support from an appropriate healthcare professional.

We are very grateful for the positive partnership we have with our families. Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we work together to keep our students safe, well and ready to learn.

TUTOR EVENING

Thank you for your patience and understanding when our SchoolCloud system experienced technical difficulties during Tutor Evening last week. The issue has now been resolved, and we are pleased to confirm that the event has been rearranged for **Thursday 19 November**. Please save the date in your diary and we will be in contact shortly regarding logistics

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations will be taking place on 21st and 22nd October for students in Years 7-11. If you haven't already done so, please provide consent via [this link](#) as soon as possible to assist Sirona with planning and vaccine ordering. Sirona require a response for all students, if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine please notify Sirona via the same link.

SAINSBURY'S COMMUNITY GRANT

We were delighted to welcome Toni Stuckey, Community Champion for Sainsbury's Portishead, to Gordano to see how their Good Food For Us All Community Grant is helping us create inclusive, practical learning opportunities for our SEND students, supporting them to develop confidence, independence and valuable life skills. Read more: [Gordano School - Sainsbury's visits Gordano School to see impact of community grant supporting SEND students](#)

NEW AUTUMN/WINTER MENU FROM 2ND NOVEMBER

The new Aspens Autumn/Winter menu will launch in school from **Monday 2nd November**. You can view the new menu [here](#).

For further details about the service Aspens provides, including the new Autumn/Winter menus, information on Free School Meals and sustainability, and family-friendly recipes, please visit the [Aspens page](#) on our website.

Aspens Services are working with all schools within Lighthouse Schools Partnership to support the implementation of Benedict's Law. All Aspens staff, including the operations and support teams, have completed Benedict's Law training which works alongside Aspens' existing allergen policy.

NORTH SOMERSET SUPPORT

North Somerset have recently updated their Mental Health Support Directory and other support pages. As demand for support in school continues to be high, we would encourage families to explore these resources, which offer access to a wide range of services and sources of advice.

- [Health and wellbeing - healthcare services \(SEND\) | North Somerset Council](#)
- [Find Mental Health Support for Children and Young People in North Somerset | Better Health North Somerset](#)
- [Here for your Health and Wellbeing | Better Health North Somerset](#)

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The annual Christmas card competition is now open. The winning design will be printed and sent out as the official school Christmas cards. Details are in the poster below, and entries should be submitted by Friday 6th November.

Interhouse Christmas card competition 2026

Art and Photography both welcome with a seasonal greeting

A5 size picture/artwork required to show a clear connection to Portishead. Photo options with your own photo and own edits only. No AI.

To be used by Gordano School

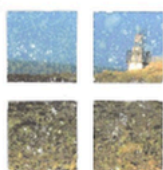
Judging by Ms Blundell (Headteacher) and Mr Mailey (Deputy Head)

There will be a prize for the overall winner and the runner-up. Plus, certificates for all winning House entries too!

Please clearly mark the entry with your name and tutor group

Entries to be given to your tutor or email photo edited entries to your tutor (in jpeg or pdf form)

By Friday 6th November



YEAR 11 PHOTOS

Year 11 individual and year group photos will be taking place on **Friday 23rd October**. Students need to ensure that they are wearing full uniform including tie and blazers. Students will be given an order slip to bring home for you to be able to register to view and order the photos.

REQUEST FOR PRIZE DONATIONS

We regularly host school events such as house championships that need prizes for winning students. If you or your business would consider supporting by donating prizes either related to your business or perhaps with a generic voucher, we'd be delighted to hear from you via marketing@gordanoschool.org.uk and would be happy to include the business in our marketing when sharing the event.

Events coming up:

Friday 23rd October - Pumpkin 'Gordano 70' Carving Competition

Tuesday 10th November - Hairstylist of the Year

Tuesday 8th December - Glow Up! Christmas Edition

If you know a local business or organisation that might be interested, we'd be very grateful if you could share this opportunity with them.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP FUND

Our *Parents in Partnership Fund*, a voluntary scheme enabling families to make donations via ParentPay, is now set up on your accounts.

From subsidising trips and supporting creative arts to improving learning spaces, the fund helps us create additional opportunities and experiences for our students. Last year, contributions helped us transform Elliot Hall into a Hogwarts-inspired space, created with and for our students.

The option will remain on your ParentPay account throughout the year, so you can contribute at any time. We'll continue to share updates on how funds are being used through our Termly News, website and social media channels.

Please do follow us on Facebook @gordanoschool to stay connected and see how your support is making a difference.

Every donation, large or small, helps us enrich student life and provide opportunities that benefit our students. Thank you for considering supporting the fund.

For more ways you can support the school, please visit:

[Gordano School – How You Can Support the School](#)

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE DAY

Health and Social Care Professionals



Can you help? Do you work in this sector or have previously been in any of these roles?



Nurses – mental health/ adult/ learning disability/ children and young people/ specialist community public health nurse



Health visitor, children's practice nurse, school nurse, occupational health nurse



Midwife



Doctor – GP/ Surgeon/ Psychiatrist



Physiotherapy/ occupational therapy/ speech therapist/ radiographer/ podiatry



Dentist/ dental hygienist



Social worker



Dietician



Care and support workers



Counsellor



Youth worker



Social prescriber



Could you come into
Gordano School
Tuesday 17th November

and discuss your job for our health and social care students from year 10-13?



Talk about your role and career journey



Share what a typical day looks like



Give advice on routes into the profession



Inspire the next generation of health and social care professionals



If you can help or would like more information,

please get in touch!

mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk



GORDANO70 - DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

On Thursday 26 November, our catering partner Aspens will launch our first Gordano Through the Decades themed lunch, celebrating the 1950s and 1960s, when Gordano School first opened its doors in 1956. The menu, available from the Dining Hall, will feature homestyle cottage pie or traditional shepherdless pie, served with buttered carrots and savoury peas, followed by steamed jam sponge pudding with vanilla custard. A delicious taste of the past as we celebrate 70 years of Gordano School!

[Gordano School - Gordano School serves up a taste of history to celebrate 70th anniversary](#)

Through the Decades...

1950'S & 1960'S

Join us on 26th November for the first of our very special theme days dedicated to all the decades since Gordano School was founded.

First up, step into the 1950's and 1960's when Gordano School was first opened by Sir Phillip Morris.

Enjoy a typical school lunch from those decades which is sure to send your taste buds back in time with some retro classics.

ASPENS

STREATERIES

**26th November 2026
Lunch Menu**

Mains:

Homestyle Cottage Pie
or
Traditional Shepherdless Pie

both made with maris piper mash and served with buttered carrots & savoury peas

Pudding:

Steamed Jam Sponge Pudding with Vanilla Custard

WORK EXPERIENCE - REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

Could you or your business help open a door for a Gordano student? We're looking for local businesses and organisations able to offer work experience placements next summer; if you, your employer or a business you know could support a young person, please contact our Careers Team at Careers@gordanoschool.org.uk.

[Gordano School - Gordano School calls on local businesses to offer work experience opportunities for students](#)



As part of Read to Succeed, all Year 7 students complete an NGRT reading assessment. This helps us understand each student's reading strengths and identify anyone who may benefit from some additional support. We can then make sure the right intervention is put in place where it is needed.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



KS4

The mind-blowing new novel full of mystery, conspiracy and dark secrets from bestselling Holly Bourne, for fans of Kathleen Glasgow and e. Lockhart.

READING AT HOME

Keep it enjoyable.

Reading at home doesn't always have to be a novel. Graphic novels, magazines, non-fiction and books linked to hobbies and interests all count. The important thing is finding something they want to read.

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1

Tuesday 20 October	Year 11 Futures Evening
Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Friday 23 October	Year 11 Photographs
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October inclusive	Holiday

KEY DATES FOR TERM 2

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

NEXT WEEK IS FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK IN PORTISHEAD

A flood-resilience display will be available at Portishead Library from Wednesday 21 October and on Saturday 24 October the Flood Risk Team and Portishead Town Councillors will be available to talk to you.

You can also join a guided walk of the Portishead flood defences, which can be booked using this link - www.ticketsource.com/portishead-town-council

FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK

21 - 24
October

Discover practical advice on reducing the risk of flooding to your home at the information display in Portishead Library, available from 21 to 24 October.

Got questions about flooding in Portishead?

Join the Flood Risk Team and Portishead Town Councillors on **Saturday 24 October** at **Portishead Library** for an opportunity to chat, learn more and share your views.



Join a guided walk of the Portishead flood defences on Saturday 24 October at 1pm meeting at the Marina Lock Gates. Please book your space using this link - <https://bit.ly/4xORuTP> or scan the QR code



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+
26th October
8am-midnight



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



Faberge pumpkin workshop
6-10s
27th October



Clay pumpkin workshop
6-10s
27th October



Nerf battle games
6-10s
28th October



Halloween costume alterations and embellishment session
School year 6+
27th October



Seen You Dance SEND music & movement session
Age 8+
28th October



Hungarian cuisine open fire cooking workshop
School year 6+
28th October



Noah's Ark Zoo Farm trip
8-12s
29th October



Diplomacy Megagame
School year 6+
29th October



Nightmare Before Christmas workshop
6-10s
30th October



Mixed media special effects makeup workshop
School year 6+
30th October



Jewellery workshop
6-10s
30th October

More details and book your space at www.portisheadyouthcentre.co.uk/events

PORTISHEAD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Funded spaces are available for young people who are not in receipt of benefit related free school meals but who are living in hardship (e.g. adoption, fostering, stretched family finances, SEND, etc).

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



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](#)