



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start this final letter of the year by thanking you as parents for your continued support towards the school since the start of September. Especially when supporting those high expectations that we hold for our young people, but also in encouraging our work around kindness which has had a demonstrable impact day to day in the way the school operates. We will continue the kindness theme throughout Term 3. At the start of next term, we will be reminding all students through our opening assemblies of those classroom expectations and our continued drive to ensure learning is disruption free and supporting all of our young people in the classroom - thank you in advance for helping us ensure a positive and upbeat start to the new term in the new year.

Thank you also to all our parents and students who came along to our wonderful Christmas concerts this week. It is traditionally one of my favourite evenings of the academic year. This year was no different, and I left the evening full of pride over the achievements of our young people. The range and depth of talent on our stage was extraordinary, as a musician myself, I absolutely recognise the hours of preparation and practice from each individual in order to create such an accomplished and inspiring evening of music. So, a huge thank you to each student involved, and our dedicated music team (Dr Humphries and Mr Rummig) who enable and facilitate such an evening to go ahead.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your continued support with uniform. A reminder that students need to wear their blazer and not their Gordano Hoodie with formal uniform. We recognise that temperatures have been colder, however students should wear a warm winter coat over their blazer. Any student not in the correct uniform will be expected to follow our uniform correction process. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing their blazer with their formal uniform from January. Students wearing the incorrect uniform will be given an A1 and any student who refuses to follow our uniform correction process will be given an A2.

### **Year 9 Baseline Assessments**

The Year 9s will be completing a MidYis assessment during an English lesson during December or January. This one-hour assessment acts as a data set to replace the Key Stage 2 SATs which were not sat during Covid in 2021. This information supports teaching staff with Target Grades so students and staff will begin to discuss these over coming months. The first formal feedback of Target Grades and Projected Grades will be reported home in the Achievement Review 2 in May.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### **Christmas Jumper - Final Day**

A reminder that on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December students are permitted to wear a Christmas Jumper to replace their shirt, tie, and blazer. The rest of their uniform should remain the same please.

### **Early Finish Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

As usual we have asked all students to be respectful of our local community when we finish school at 12.30 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December and would appreciate your support in also speaking to your children about the importance of being respectful to staff working in our local businesses and the members of the public they may interact with in the community on their way home and throughout the Christmas period.

### **Caring at Christmas**

Thank you for your generosity in supporting Sixth Form collecting donations for Caring at Christmas. The Sixth Form team were able to take a minibus full of requested items and over £400 to the 'pop up' hostel in St Pauls on Wednesday. We are extremely grateful for all your contributions.



### **Staff Leavers**

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Robinson and Miss Dolling at the end of term. Both have made a significant contribution to the pastoral care and support of students at Gordano school. We wish them every success in their promotion to Heads of House at Winterstoke Hundred Academy. We will inform parents in due course about who the new Assistant Heads of House will be for both Portland and Shannon.

I would also like to extend our thanks and congratulations to Mr Church who will be starting a new role at a school in Bristol. We will be joined by Mr Rushton who we look forward to welcoming to Gordano School. We also say goodbye to Mrs Roberts who is moving out of the area - we wish her good luck at her new school. Mrs Roberts will be replaced by Mr Wright. We are also looking forward to welcoming Mr Farmer to our Computing and IT team.

And finally, a huge congratulations also to Miss Divine (SENDCo) who is moving to a Trust wide SEND role in the new year. We are delighted to welcome Miss Caswell who is a highly experienced SENDCo joining us from a school in Bristol.

### **Road closure 18<sup>th</sup> December.**

Wessex Water have informed us that Wetlands Lane (behind the school) will be closed to all through traffic on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, so if that is a route used to drop students at school please use an alternative. The map showing the closure and diversions is [here](#).

### **Flu Vaccinations**

Sirona Healthcare have sent this message, following the vaccination sessions held in school recently:

*Children's Flu vaccination (nasal and injection) catch-up clinics are still available for Reception - Year 11 students who did not receive their vaccinations at school. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/book> 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)*

### **Online safety**

At a time of year when young people may be receiving new devices for Christmas, we would like to take the opportunity to highlight the website [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org), which has a wealth of guides and resources for parents and carers to support their children in navigating the digital world.

### **Lost Property**

We have rather a lot of items in lost property, particularly coats, some of which were left from last year. If your child has lost any items, please ask them to come to the Student Centre. Any unclaimed items from last academic year will be donated to charity after 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

From all of the staff and students at Gordano, we wish you all a wonderful festive season and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

Yours sincerely



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

### **Key Dates for Term 2**

Mon 18th Dec: School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 - 5.30) in the Main Hall

Wed 20th Dec: Last day of term - 12.30 finish for students

## Key Dates for Term 3

### Term 3 Achievement Reviews for Year Group 7 and 11

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 10 GCSE Drama Launch Exam (lessons 1-6)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	6.00 - 7.00 A-level Certificate Evening
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 10 GCSE Drama Launch Exam (lessons 1-6)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12 Electives Launch
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 General Knowledge Quiz
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Mock Results Day (tutor time)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30 - 12.30 Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals (all day)
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 10 Employability Workshop
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	4.00 - 7.30 Year 13 Progress Evening
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9-11)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 - 4.30 Year 7 MFL Spelling Bee Final
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00 - 7.00 Parent Forum
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	4.00 - 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 - 5.30)
HOLIDAY	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February inclusive
INSET DAYS	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February & Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February