



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday we welcomed a significant number of our business partners into school to lead our Year 10 mock interview process. It was a busy day with high quality conversations taking place all day. The feedback we had from our business partners was so positive with comment after comment about how wonderful our students were throughout the day. Whilst I look forward to thanking our Year 10 in the broadcast on Monday, please do pass on my thanks over the weekend for their organisation, kindness and respect shown throughout the day.

Over many months our cast, crew and staff have been crafting, rehearsing and planning for our bi-annual school production - and suddenly it is upon us. I cannot wait to see the Hunchback of Notre Dame on Friday night next week - please do buy tickets and come and support our fantastic young people who have put their heart and soul into making this a wonderful night of entertainment. You can order your tickets [here](#).

If you have been following our twitter pages (X pages) of late you will have seen the fantastic achievement of our Under-14 girls football team who have progressed to the semi-final of the national cup. This competition started with almost 500 teams. A win over Weydon School has sent them through and we are extremely proud of them - keep following our @GordanoPE twitter page to follow their journey.

Consultation of 32.5 hours per week from September 2024

Overview

We would like to obtain your views on proposed changes to the timings of the school day from September 2024.

A Summary of the Consultation

The change of school day timings is a direct response to the Government's expectation that schools are open for 32.5 hours per week from September 2024. Please see the [DFE guidance](#) here. From September 2024 we wish to extend the school day 4-days a week so that our students will start at 8:40am instead of the current time of 8.45am Monday through to Thursday. Friday's timings will remain the same. An additional 5 minutes will be added to tutor time in order to deepen the quality of our pastoral care as well as maintain our tutor reading programme. If you would like to respond to the consultation, then please give your feedback using [this form](#).

Responses to the consultation will be collated and discussed. The consultation runs for a 6-week period, from 1st March 2024 to 12th April 2024.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

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

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Pastoral Update from Mr Mailey

Please find attached an update from Mr Mailey regarding some key changes to some of our pastoral systems: [Pastoral Update Letter](#)

World Book Day - 7th March

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. All students in Year 7 and 8 will be given a printed token during their reading lessons. Students in older years can come to collect one from the library. Alternatively, there is a digital copy of the token available ([Digital Tokens - World Book Day](#)). You can print the token or download it onto your phone, although some retailers will only accept them if printed. The book token can only be used in participating bookshops, which includes Max Minerva's in Portishead, and some supermarkets; they cannot be used online. We will also be accepting them at the book fair which will be held in the library in the week beginning 18th March. The tokens can be used until Sunday 31st March.

On Thursday we will be distributing some of the 2024 World Book Day books at lunchtime in the library. We have a limited number so only one per student will be permitted, while stocks last.

More information about the tokens, World Book Day books and competitions the library is running for World Book Day is available on Firefly in the library section: <https://gordano.fireflycloud.net/school-library/world-book-day-2024>.

Lots of the Gordano staff will be dressing up on this day and talking about their character and their favourite books.

Keeping Students Safe Online

We welcome the conversations you are having with your children at home about their safety online and your monitoring of their social media use. The following link may support some of these conversations:

[Parenting, Media, and Everything in Between | Common Sense Media](#)

Greenfield Park

We have had some correspondence from our neighbours in Greenfield Park, asking if we can draw your attention to the very clear parking restrictions that exist on that road. There are signs at the entrance to Greenfield Park that show the restrictions and we ask parents to respect these please.



Year 11

We have been so impressed by the numbers of Year 11 students attending subject revision sessions (over eighty in English after school on Wednesday for example!) the way they have been revising independently or in groups in the Hive after school and their general engagement with the support we are offering. We look forward to being able to celebrate their efforts after the forthcoming core subject mocks, along with giving them really focused guidance once these papers are marked.

Year 8

We will be moving into an important part of the Year 8 Guided Choices process next week. On Wednesday 6th March Year 8 students will have an extended assembly launching the process, at which Mrs Tipler will give a detailed explanation of the various features of the process and run through the timeline. Year 8 students will also be able to sign up for taster sessions in new subjects that do not form part of the curriculum in Years 7 and 8, but which are offered at Key Stage 4. We look forward to seeing you and your child at the Guided Choices Evening on Thursday 14th March.

Portishead Youth Centre 'Meet a Publisher' Event

The Youth Centre are holding a drop-in session on Friday 8th March where young people can meet experts from the publishing world. Find more information [here](#).

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 4

Monday 4th - Friday 8th March	Year 13 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Monday 4th March	Year 11 Mock Exams begin
Monday 4th March	School Production to Primary Schools
Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th March	School Production
Wednesday 6th March	Year 13 Biology Electrophoresis Trip
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Monday 11th March	Year 13 A-Level Music Recital Exam
Thursday 14th March	4pm - 7.30pm Year 8 Key Stage 4 Guided Choices Evening
Friday 15th March	Sixth Form Photo
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March	Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March	Book Fair in the School Library
Tuesday 19th - Wednesday 20th March	Easter Concert
Thursday 21st March	5.30pm - 7pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Meeting

Friday 22nd March	Year 11 School Photos
Friday 22nd March	Sixth Form option choices confirmed to Year 11 students
Friday 22nd March	A-Level Music Trip to BBC Concert (all day)
Sunday 24th March	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training Day
Monday 25th - Wednesday 27th March	Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 26th March	6pm - 7pm Parent Forum
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term - Non-uniform day for students
Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April	EASTER HOLIDAY