



24th March 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this update finds you and your families well. It has been an extremely busy week at Gordano with lots of different events and activities taking place. Congratulations to the Music Department and our fantastic students who gave two wonderful nights of performances at our Easter concerts, it was an absolute pleasure to watch, and I recognise all the hard work and preparation that goes in to creating such impressive performances. Thank you also to our Careers team for hosting our Apprenticeship Evening last night – it was great to see so many ex-alumni speaking to our current students.

I explained in my parent update last week, we are looking forward to hosting a series of evenings at the school looking at different aspects of our core offer at Gordano.

If you would like to join us in person, you can book a seat through the links below. As we have a limit of 200 spaces for each presentation, we will also be recording our presentations and sharing them in our weekly updates over the next few terms.

- 29th March – [Our Vision, Curriculum](#)
- 30th March – [The Pastoral System](#)
- 18th April – [The Importance of Reading](#)
- 3rd May – [SEND, our universal provision](#)
- 16th May – [Personal Development](#)

Twitter

Over the past few weeks, we have been busy sharing updates on school life via our Gordano Twitter page. For me it is important that parents get a flavour of the variety of different activities that happen in school day by day. If you don't already follow our twitter account and would like to, then the link is here [@gordanosch](#)

Senior Student Announcement

This week I had the pleasure of being part of the interview panel for our Senior Student roles for next academic year. I was incredibly proud of each student involved in the process, all of whom spoke so eloquently about their experiences of being a student at Gordano and wanting to *give back* to our community through these leadership roles – I look forward to working with all the candidates over the next year whether as a Senior Student or in different leadership roles within the Sixth Form team.

Our Senior Students for the academic year 2023-2024 are Jonty, Casey, Mia and Evie-Grace. A huge congratulations to you all!

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Bertie, Imogen, Millie and Sophie for all their support throughout this academic year in their role as Senior Students.

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Book Fair in the Library

We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library from Monday 27th until Friday 31st March. You can get a preview of the books available to buy on the [Scholastic website](#). The Book Fair will be open for all students to browse during break and lunchtime.

There are 3 ways to purchase books:

- by bringing cash;
- by buying [book fair vouchers](#). Students then bring the voucher and use it as payment at the fair;
- by using the [online payment system](#) (up until 12pm on Friday 31st March). This is particularly useful if students have brought a wish list home. Wish lists are designed to allow your child to make a note of the books they would like to purchase from the bookcases. If you use this method, please make sure your child returns the wish list with the transaction details and books ordered to the library so we can allocate their books to them.

Every purchase from the Book Fair earns free books for the school library. All the information can be found [here](#).

Tutor Guided Reading

Further to last week's letter to you, a reminder that Year 7-10 tutor groups will be engaging in tutor-led reading for two tutor sessions a week from Term 5 onwards. Thank you so much to the parents who have made a contribution to this to enable us to (hopefully) purchase more than five copies of each book per tutor group. There is a payment item on ParentPay for anyone who still wishes to make a contribution of £6 to do so.

Vaccination Catch-up Clinics

MenACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio vaccination catch-up clinics are available for Year 9 students who did not receive their vaccination at school. Please book an appointment [here](#).

If you have any queries, please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net.

Non-uniform day Friday 31st March

We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 31st March. Students are currently voting on which charities they would like to support. We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 to take part, and would ask parents to pay via [ParentPay](#) where possible, as this significantly reduces the administration time involved in counting a large number of coins. The deadline for payment by ParentPay is Wednesday 29th March, but there will be an opportunity to pay on the day if this is missed.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask parents to remind students that their non-uniform attire should be appropriate for school, e.g. no cropped tops. If an outfit is deemed unsuitable for school, we may contact parents / carers and ask them to bring in alternative items of clothing, or to seek permission to send the student home to change.

Thank you in advance for your support of our charity efforts.

Follow up from the Chris Hemmings' Talks

The talks from Chris Hemmings have ignited much discussion and debate in school; it feels like the start of important conversation as part of the process to addressing key issues concerning students (and parents too). Since the talks, the following has happened:

- We have provided Chris with feedback. We value the way his talks have been a catalyst for discussion. We also recognise that for some, his core message got lost in amongst the more anecdotal or provocative aspects of his delivery.
- Sixth Form Senior Students discussed the talks at their council meeting and fed back to Governors and SLT: they gave us some excellent suggestions about what should happen next (which included ensuring we have a diverse range of speakers: we are on to this!)
- We have carried out student, teacher and parent voice and are responding to the feedback shared. There is now a teacher group and student group who are looking at ways to address the issues raised through this debate; this is really just the beginning.
- Students have had an assembly on Healthy Debate and how we engage with different viewpoints in a positive way.
- We are carrying out a two-week project called 'Overheard at Gordano' for staff to log anything they hear in relation to sexism, positive or negative, to capture an aspect of the culture.
- We are planning staff training to support us in being even better at tackling sexism when we see it or hear it.

Equipment Checks

After Easter we will be doing more regular equipment checks in tutor time. Whilst students are still expected to have the full equipment list (highlighter, glue stick, ruler, eraser, scientific calculator, pair of compasses, protractor and a water bottle), we will be checking they have four key items each morning. These items are a pen, a pencil, a ruler and a calculator. On every second occasion that a student does not have all four of these items at the start of the day, a Class Charts notification will be sent to parents asking them to support their child in ensuring they have the essential equipment for school. If you are having any difficulties in purchasing equipment for school, please contact your child's Assistant Head of House in the first instance.

Updated Changes to Detentions for A2s

The new system has been in place for three weeks, we will be making some adjustments which will start Monday 27th March. These adjustments are highlighted below. A reminder that A2 detentions are for 15 minutes unless students accumulate three or more A2s in a week.

- If a student receives an A2 Exit in lesson 1 or 2 they will have a break time detention **in the Focus room**
- If a student receives an A2 Exit lesson 3 or 4 they will have a lunch time detention **in the Focus room**
- If a student receives an A2 Exit lesson 5 or 6 **they will have a detention after school in the Focus room**
- If a student receives an A2 non Exit/other A2 **their detention will take place at lunch time the following day in IT2**
- If students **do not attend this detention**, they will be **referred to the SLT 1 hour detention** on a Friday after school
- Students who receive three or more A2s in a week will be referred to the **SLT 1 hour detention on a Friday after school**
- If a student **fails to attend the SLT detention**, they will need to **complete a minimum half day in Focus** (Internal Exclusion) the following week.

Wishing you a relaxing and restful weekend

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', with a small flourish at the end.

Ms L Blundell
Headteacher