



27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this letter

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End of National Lockdown and Tier 3 Restrictions

As you will be aware, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset will be placed in 'Tier 3' from next week. This highlights that the prevalence rate in our local area remains higher than the national average, and reinforces the responsibility that we all hold in supporting a reduction in transmission, with the hope this will lead to reconsideration of the Tier 3 status as soon as possible (with the next review date being on 16th December).

A few parents are still asking whether all household members have to isolate when one person has possible symptoms. This is the case, and the whole household must self-isolate until the test result is received. Please do not send your child to school if another member of the household has symptoms and is waiting for a test result.

Please ensure that, if asked to self-isolate, your children are not leaving the house. We know that it's a real challenge being so stuck at home for up to two weeks, but it is important that the risk of further transmission is reduced as much as possible.

Finally on this issue, if a positive test result is received between 8.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday, please call the school or e-mail attendance@gordanoschool.org.uk . Outside of these times, please e-mail cthomas@gordanoschool.org.uk .

Extra-Curricular Sport

Following the end of the national lockdown the PE faculty will be starting to introduce some extra-curricular sports activities from Weds 2nd December.

Students will have the opportunity to play football and/or hockey after school on the new Astro from 3.15-4.15pm. Please note that PE kit and correct footwear for the Astro must be worn, otherwise students will not be able to take part.

Year 7 and 8 will have access on Wednesdays, Year 9 and 10 on Thursdays.

We plan to run a more comprehensive sports programme when we return in January but hope this offer will be well-received by both students and parents in our efforts to support physical health and wellbeing at this time.

Times of the School Day from Monday 7th December

From Monday 7th December (the beginning of the next timetable cycle) we will be moving the times of the day forwards by five minutes in the mornings to increase the length of lunchtime by five minutes. The updated times of the day will be as follows:



Year	Start Time - Mon	Start Time - Tue to Fri	End of School
7-8	8.35am	8.50am	2.50pm
9-10	8.45am	9.00am	3.00pm
11, 12 & 13	8.30am (no change)	9.10am	3.10pm

Remote Learning 'Trial' - Thursday 10th December

On Thursday 10th December students and teaching staff will leave the site at lunchtime in order to trial a 'live' remote learning lesson from home. This will enable staff and students to test out their access to IT and engagement with a 'live lesson' from home in the afternoon so that we can pre-emptively tackle issues in case one or more year groups are required to learn from home for a period of time. We have recently had some experience with Year 13, which was largely very successful, but we feel that it is important to be in the best possible position should this occur with another year group. We will send further details in due course; please wait for that information before raising any queries with staff.

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 11th December

Despite the ongoing challenge of Covid we do not want to lose the Christmas spirit of generosity and good will. We will, as usual, be celebrating 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Friday 11th December. This is a national initiative supporting Save The Children. At Gordano we will be splitting the funds equally between this and Mend the Gap, who support our twinned schools in Kenya who are really struggling through Covid closure. Students will be asked to contribute a donation of £1 per student.

Yeargroup specific messages

Year 13

- Assessment Week next week - please see separate communication from the Sixth Form

Year 12

- Year 12 December Parental Update: Zoom 6pm Dec 7 - please see separate communication from the Sixth Form.

Year 11

- Sixth Form Applications - deadline Friday 4th December
- Meet the tutor evening - Thursday 3rd December. Please ensure that you have signed up. It would also be very useful to watch Mr Beesley's recent 'video' update (from 19th November) which may pre-empt a number of queries.
- Year 11 Mock schedule January 2021 - please see communications that have been shared this week.

With ongoing thanks for your ongoing support, and wishing you a restful weekend,

Best wishes

Tom Inman

Headteacher