



17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last week we have thoroughly enjoyed opening the school each morning for prospective parent tours. I would personally like to thank our Year 10 students who have conducted these tours over the week. They are a credit to the school and the feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to continuing with our morning tours next week.

SEND Open Evening - Wednesday 22nd October

All parents and carers of current and future pupils are invited to the SEND open evening this Wednesday from 5.30pm until 7.30pm in the main hall. There is no need to book, simply come along on the evening to access information, guidance and resources for families of children with SEND. You can find more information on our website [here](#).

National Reference Test 2026 - Year 11

Gordano School has been selected by Ofqual to take part in the National Reference Test 2026, a one-hour test taken each year by a representative sample of Year 11 students. You can find more information in this [letter to Year 11 parents](#).

Student absence for appointments

Just a reminder to let the school know in advance where possible if your child is going to be absent for a medical appointment, and to provide evidence of the appointment for our records. If the planned absence is already logged this avoids any delays in your child signing out and being collected for their appointment. Please also let us know if you wish your child to walk home for an appointment so that there is no need for staff to call you to check before allowing your child to leave. For safeguarding reasons we're unable to allow a student to leave the school site without permission from parents/carers. Thank you for your assistance in making this process run smoothly.

Curriculum Update

Our Directors of Key Stage will be sharing Term 2 curriculum information with you for the start of the new term (please see below for Year 11). Now that the three-year Key Stage 3 structure is running through Years 7, 8 and 9 with the new two-year Key Stage 4 starting next September, we are in the process of re-writing and updating the Curriculum pages of our website to reflect current and planned delivery.

We have really enjoyed seeing the way Year 9 have embraced their new curriculum during Term 1; lesson visits and student voice show that students are finding their projects both engaging and appropriately challenging. Preparations for the new Options process for this year-group are underway; we will communicate full details of this process with students, parents and carers during Term 2, in readiness for the Options process in January.

Year 11

We have been incredibly impressed by the focus and application to learning from so many of the students. It has been great to see them 'leaning in' to the step up and really operating in their stretch zones in lessons, this will stand them in great stead for the next challenges to come.

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Already in Year 11 we have had:

- Year 11 photos
- Ready to Work reports
- Meet the tutor evening
- Our Year 11 Parents Information Evening
- The first round of our Year 11 Rewards Strategy
- Our Careers Convention
- A talk from City of Bristol College

Year 11 Mock Exam - Content and Coverage document

The linked document provides information regarding the content students will be assessed on through their Mock Exams. There are also a number of links to helpful revision materials. The students found this resource very valuable last year.

[Year 11 December Mock Exams content and dates](#)

Year 11 Futures Evening

We look forward to seeing lots of Year 11 parents/carers and students at our Futures Evening on Tuesday 21st October. It is always a really positive evening, with conversations focused on Post-16 studies and how to get there successfully. Please do take the opportunity to sign up if you haven't already.

Flu Vaccinations - Years 7-11

The flu vaccinations will be taking place on 5th and 6th November. If you have not already done so, please provide consent via [this link](#) as soon as possible. Please complete this form even if you do not wish your child to have the vaccine, to assist Sirona with the planning and vaccine ordering for these sessions.

Clevedon District Foodbank

The local foodbank is looking ahead to Christmas and is welcoming donations to help make the festive season special for families who may be struggling across the district. You can find details of the suggested items for donation on their website [here](#), and donations can be dropped off at any of their foodbank centres in Portishead, Clevedon, Nailsea or Yatton or at the donation points in many local supermarkets.

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 1

Tuesday 21 October	Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 21 October	Year 11 Futures Evening
Wednesday 22 October	SEND Evening
Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October	Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam

Thursday 23 October	Year 11 BTEC Trip - Geography
Friday 24 October	Year 10/11 photo mop up session
Monday 27 to Friday 31 October inclusive	Holiday

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 3 to Friday 7 November	GCSE Maths and English exams (Year 12 re-sits)
Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Thursday 6 November	Bristol Old Vic KS4 Drama trip
Thursday 6 November	Ski Trip Parents Meeting
Thursday 6 and Friday 7 November	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
Friday 7 November	Year 10 UPS Trip to Weston Fire Service
Monday 10 to Friday 14 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10 to Friday 14 November	Learning Hub Functional Skills English Exams
Tuesday 11 November	Bristol 6th Forms Maths Competition
Tuesday 11 November	Year 10-12 trip to Easton Jamia Mosque
Wednesday 12 November	Year 7 visiting author
Thursday 13 November	5pm - 7.30pm Sixth Form Open Evening (school finishes at end P5)
Monday 17 to Friday 21 November	Learning Hub Functional Skills Maths Exams
Tuesday 18, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 19 November	INSET Day 4
Thursday 20 November	3.35pm Years 10/11 General Knowledge Quiz
Monday 24 to Thursday 27 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 26 November	City of Bristol College Visit (Learning Hub)
Wednesday 26 November	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 27 November	Year 12/13 English Conference trip
Friday 28 November	Year 9 Eden Project trip 1
Monday 1 to Friday 12 December	Year 11 Mock Exams (two weeks)
Monday 1 December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Tuesday 2 December	A-level DT and Art trip to London
Tuesday 2 December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December	6.30pm Christmas concert
Friday 5 December	Year 9 Eden Project trip 2
Thursday 11 December	Music A-Level trip to see BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Cardiff

Monday 15 to Friday 19 December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Tuesday 16 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	5pm - 6pm A-level Certificate Evening
Thursday 18 December	Year 13 Caring at Christmas Charity Delivery
Friday 19 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January inclusive	Holiday