



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

12th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Activities Week

What a few weeks it has been! As you are aware, activities week at Gordano is a vast undertaking and we hope that last week helped build memories for our young people that they will always remember. Last week saw a huge range of day trips, residentials, base activities, work experience, onsite futures activities for Year 12 and our Gold Duke of Edinburgh. I am so grateful to our staff for helping us make this happen and a huge thank you to all parents who have sent in such positive messages and thank you's - it really does mean a huge amount to our staff. I do also want to thank our students. The week is made by the positive involvement of our young people and I for one thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our students in a different environment. This week we start the planning for next year, if you would like to give your thoughts which will help shape the week in the future then please complete the survey at the bottom of this letter.

Sports Day

Our annual sports day took place on the far field on Thursday afternoon. We were delighted to be joined by some sunshine as well! It was a wonderful afternoon of sporting celebration with many students competing for their house. Congratulations to all our participants both on and off the field. This year's Sports Day winners were **Portland House!** A huge congratulations!

Year 12 Update

Year 12 have been very busy over the last few weeks. On Friday 21st June Emma, Student Leader for the Arts, promoted World Music Day by focusing on music in schools and the charity *Preludes* by planning the tutor lesson discussion on the value of music in our lives and schools. She also hosted a bake sale in the Sixth Form Common Room which raised over £80 for Preludes. Preludes is a Bristol based charity working to promote and bring more music into state schools in the area.

On Friday 28th June Halima, Student Leader for Equalities, worked with the LGBTQ+ society to celebrate Pride month. More cakes were sold, and the Year 12 students all worked on resources she had prepared for tutor time to reflect on issues around sexuality as well as artists who raised awareness of this important issue. We were joined by the North Somerset LGBTQ+ club and sold ribbons, cakes, badges and other items to raise an amazing £180 for Wellspring counselling. Well done to all the students involved, and a huge thank you to the staff who supported the event.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Futures Week (1st - 5th July) has been a great success and Year 12 students have been involved in a host of activities related to their post-18 choices. The week has also seen 20 students undertaking their Gold DofE expedition on Snowdonia as well as over 70 students helping Turn the Tide by litter picking around the town on Thursday 4th July. As one passerby observed, they are a 'credit to their generation'.

Year 6 Induction Day

It is always an exciting day to welcome our new cohort of students to Gordano, so it was wonderful to be able to open our doors to our future Year 7 students as part of their induction day on Tuesday. We hope they had a good experience and now have a sense of what to expect in September. Thank you to all our current students who supported so brilliantly throughout the day from our current Year 7 students through to our sixth formers.

Creative Arts & DT Festival - 17th and 18th July

We are excited to announce the return of this festival-styled event, celebrating creativity across seven subjects and involving around 300 students. The festival runs from 5pm until 9.30pm on both evenings, with live performances at 6pm. Visit the exhibitions, including art and fashion, and don't miss the live performances. Watch this [short promo video](#) for a taste of what's included in the festival and book your tickets [here](#).

SEND Evening

Thank you to all parents who attended our SEND coffee and cake evening on Wednesday (thank you also to our SEND Team for making it happen!). We really appreciate you taking the time to come in and we hope you found the various stalls and information useful. We will be sending out an evaluation form to those parents who came, so if you are able to share your feedback that will help us plan going forward.

Concerns raised by neighbours of Portishead Town Football Club

Residents have reported anti-social behaviour concerns during or following the England games. Their concerns relate to Secondary school aged children's use of alcohol, vapes and also general abusive behaviour. Some residents have had items thrown into their garden from the football club side, which has caused damage to items in their gardens. In some cases, items have also been taken from gardens. In addition to this, staff from the football club have also encountered verbal abuse when challenging children. As parents/carers please can you speak with your child if they have been going to the football club to watch the games to ensure that they are not involved in such behaviour. This should be a time when the whole community comes together to positively support the England team and incidents such as this should not be happening.

Gate Incident - Risk Assessment Update from September 2024 and changes for Years 7 & 8

Following on from our visit with the Health and Safety Executive and the investigation undertaken from our competent advisor we will be continuing with appropriate updates to our risk assessment as well as implementing the following recommendations from **September 2024** (when again we have a full school of students). This is paramount from a Health and Safety perspective and to ensure that we are doing everything to prioritise the safety of all students when leaving the school site.

1. September INSET - full briefing with all staff including new staff to ensure full training completed with regards to management of the school gate and emergency procedures
2. Hi-Vis vests and whistles given to all new staff required in an emergency where command and control of a situation is required (this has already been provided to current staff)
3. Permanent additional supervision at the end of the school day (as we have in place now)
4. All SLT members have gate keys (as we have in place now)

5. Emergency protocol training through all expectations assemblies for each Year Group in September - including directions for all cyclists regarding the delineation between pedestrian gates and gates which can be cycled through
6. From September 2024 with a full school (Year 11 and Year 13 have not been on site for the majority of Term 5 and 6 at the end of the school day) - we will, for Health and Safety reasons, be introducing an end of school stagger. **This means that students in Years 7 and 8 will leave school 5 minutes earlier than everyone else every day.** As such please see the change to the new timings of the school day below.

Gordano School - Timings of the School Day 2024-2025		
All Students Years 7-13		
	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu	Fri
Registration	8.40	8.40
P1	9.05	9.15
P2	9.55	10.05
Breaktime	10.45	10.55
P3	11.15	11.20
P4	12.05	12.10
Lunchtime	12.55 (bell at 1.35)	1.00 (bell at 1.40)
P5	1.40	1.45
P6	2.30	XXX
End	3.20 (Year 7 & 8 at 3.15)	2.35 (Year 7 & 8 at 2.30)

Last Day of term arrangements

I can't quite believe that the last day of term is almost here. The arrangements for this day do differ so just to keep you informed the day will look like this:

Registration - With tutor as normal

Period 1 - Whole School Assembly/Sixth Form Assembly

Period 2 - Normal

Breaktime - Normal

Period 3 - Normal

At 12.05pm - Final House Assemblies/Activities

12.30pm - Students leave for the summer holiday

We would like to remind all parents and carers that Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July are normal school days, and usual attendance is expected.

Summer Mailing

At the start of the summer holidays, I always send out to parents the detailed plans for the start of the new academic year for each year group. However, just to give you a sense of what the first week will look like, please see below:

Monday 2nd September: INSET Day

Tuesday 3rd September: INSET Day

Wednesday 4th September: Year 7 and Year 12 only

Thursday 5th September: Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13 all day - Year 7 and 12 from breaktime

Friday 6th September: All students

Year 8 Learning Groups from September 2024

As we come to the end of the academic year, I would like to congratulate all our Year 7 students on their successful first year at Gordano. They have recently passed the milestone of receiving over 200,000 merits as a year group and they have made excellent progress on the new Gordano curriculum. When students return after the summer holidays and join Year 8, they will no longer be taught in tutor groups, but instead will be placed in different learning groups from across the year group. Students will still retain their tutor group and House identity and will be together for registration and tutor time, but in lessons they will start to mix with a wider range of students. We will put together new learning groups again when the students reach Year 9 in September 2025.

Aspens Catering

We have continued to develop our working relationship with Aspens and have been building on the feedback from the survey so many of you completed at the start of January. Below is an image showing the presentation of food in the main dining hall, including a selection of salad pots as a direct response to student and parent requests in that survey. We have asked Aspens to provide more information on the dietary content of meals and better marketing info so that we can help promote the developments with students and parents.

There are new menus being launched in September and details of these will be posted on the [Dining page of the school website](#). Please have a look and discuss these with your children.

The biggest development for September will be the removal of carton drinks from the offer. This means that all students will need a drinks bottle to use at either the free water fountains located around the school site, or the sustainable drinks dispensers in the dining hall and canteen. Details of this change will be on the [Dining page of the school website](#).



The Rock Project

Thinking of joining The Rock Project in September? Students from Nailsea, Clevedon, Portishead and Ashton Park will be performing live at The Fleece, Bristol this Saturday 13th July between 12pm - 9.30pm. It's FREE ENTRY so why not come along and see what your child could be doing from September? Please see [attached flyer](#) for timings of the day for your local session.

The Rock Project teaches GUITAR, BASS, DRUMS AND SINGING as well as playing in a band each week. Each session is two hours after school and all abilities are accepted, instruments are provided too so if you'd like to enquire about a FREE TRIAL SESSION in September, please fill in an [online enquiry form](#) and you'll be sent all info including days/times, what they do and fees etc (or scan the QR code on flyer).

Vaccination Catch-up Clinics

There are a variety of catch-up clinics available throughout the summer for students who **have not** received the following vaccinations:

- HPV vaccination for Year 8 students who **have not** received their vaccinations previously at school.
- HPV, Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccination catch-up clinics are available for students in Year 9-11 who **have not** received their vaccinations previously at school (during Year 8 or 9).

Please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net to book an appointment or to check your child's records if you are unsure whether they have received these.

Have your say on Activities Week 2025

Planning for Activities Week 2025 is now underway, and we would appreciate your views and feedback as to what you feel makes a successful Activities Week for all. Please can you complete [this form](#) by 9am Monday 15th July, this form is open to all parents/carers in Year 7-13 to share their views.

Wishing you a relaxing and restful weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 6

Friday 12th - Sunday 14th July	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
Wednesday 17th - Thursday 18th July	Creative Arts Festival
Tuesday 23rd July	Last day of term for students - 12:30 finish
Wednesday 24th July - Tuesday 3rd September	SUMMER HOLIDAY

Key Dates for Term 1

Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September	INSET Days
Wednesday 4th September	Years 7 and 12 only at school for 8.45am
Wednesday 4th September	School Photographs for Year 7
Thursday 5th September	Years 8 to 11 and Year 13 at school for 8.45am Years 7 and 12 at school for 10.45am
Thursday 5th September	School Photographs for Year 10
Friday 6th September	Year 12 and 13 Electives Launch
Thursday 12th September	Year 12 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Monday 16th September	Year 9 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Tuesday 17th September	Year 10 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Wednesday 18th September	Sixth Form Autumn Electives begin (lessons 5 & 6 on Wednesdays)
Thursday 19th September	Year 13 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Thursday 26th September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 26th September	Year 6 Open Evening (school finishes at 2.30pm)
Friday 27th September	INSET Day
Monday 30th September	Year 8 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Tuesday 1st October	Year 11 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Thursday 3rd October	Gordano Careers Convention 6pm - 8pm
Friday 4th October	Year 6 Open Morning 9.45am - 11am
Monday 7th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 1)
Tuesday 8th October	Parent Forum 6pm
Wednesday 9th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 2)
Wednesday 9th October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Thursday 10th October	World Mental Health Day
Friday 11th October	Hello Yellow Day
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October	Year 11 GCSE History Trip to Munich
Monday 14th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 3)
Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Thursday 17th October	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork Trip to Minehead/Porlock Weir
Thursday 17th October	Year 7 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 11 Futures Evening 2pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October	Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam
Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November	HOLIDAY