



27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an extremely busy week with Mock examinations for Year 10 and 12, as well as a Year 11 prom and a Year 13 prom tonight to end the week on a high. Each of these activities reminds us of the wonderful young people we have in our care. I had the privilege of attending the Year 11 Prom on Tuesday night at Ashton Gate. It was an evening of celebrations, friendships, fun and laughter and such a wonderful way to mark the end of our students' five-year journey at Gordano. I also want to thank our fantastic pastoral team and in particular Hannah Holt for organising the evening.

### **Year 10 Mocks**

As we end our second and final week of Year 10 Mocks, we are delighted with how the students have conducted themselves throughout the process. It has been a pleasure to see so many students attending the morning briefings where key messages and advice has been shared. The feedback from the invigilation team has been overwhelmingly positive and is testament to the mature approach that the students have taken to these assessments. The students have worked so hard throughout, and it has been wonderful to see so many revising and supporting each other throughout the two weeks. We now wish them well as they embark on a week of Work Experience and have no doubt that they will continue to be fantastic ambassadors for our school, the community and their families. Have a great week Year 10 - we look forward to hearing all about your experiences in a week's time.

### **Year 12 Exams**

The Sixth Form team want to say a big well done to all our Year 12 students who took the End of Year exams for their A-Level subjects. These were conducted under full official rules and regulations, identical to the real exams next year. All students conducted themselves perfectly and were a credit to the school. Later in July we will report the results home, and we wish the students the best of luck with their grades. In addition, we had students taking real exams (in some of our vocational subjects) and a group of Year 12s retaking their GCSE maths or English. Once again, they performed brilliantly, and we can't wait to celebrate their fantastic results in the summer.

### **World Challenge Expedition 2025**

After nearly two years of planning, a group of adventurous students from Years 12 and 13 will be embarking on their World Challenge expedition from 8th July to 9th August 2025. Students will travel to Mozambique and Eswatini and will also visit Kruger National Park in South Africa for a safari for two nights. The itinerary includes beaches, islands, a mountain trek, game reserves, small local towns, and horse riding. Students will complete charity work related to marine conservation including monitoring and inputting health data relating to coral reefs, and they will also get involved with tracking animal migrations on land.

This is an amazing experience for our young people, with lots of camping, self-catering cooking and moving about as the group navigate their itinerary for the four weeks. All of this will be student led and not teacher led, although students will be supported by Mr Pugh and Miss Oakman who have undertaken many expeditions.

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Students have done lots of preparation, mentally, physically, and financially since the expedition launch in September 2023. This has included weekly Couch to 5k runs, raising funds by selling refreshments at school events, holding meetings, and taking part in a training weekend away on Dartmoor. Their final build up day is on 7th July when students will have their kit checked, collect their money from the bureau de change and get the last bit of team kit from local suppliers.

We hope they have a fantastic trip and enjoy some wonderful experiences which will make memories that last a lifetime.

### **Community-Minded Businesses**

Are you a business owner - or do you work for a business - that values community and wants to make a meaningful impact?

Gordano School is looking to launch a **Community Partners** initiative to build lasting, mutually beneficial relationships between local businesses and groups and our school. Our aim is to work together to raise vital funds that will directly enhance the educational experience for our students.

Opportunities for involvement may include sponsoring events or contributing funds/materials for projects, such as developing our school garden, upgrading common rooms, or purchasing equipment for specific departments. In return, your business can benefit from increased visibility in the local community through channels such as our school website, Termly News (reaching over 7,000 contacts), and prominent banners around our sports pitches.

If you're interested in finding out more, please get in touch at [communitypartners@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:communitypartners@gordanoschool.org.uk).

### **Personal Contributions**

We have so many high aspirations for how we can continue to grow the educational experience of the students here at Gordano and in some cases, we require additional funding to be able to reach them.

If you are in a position to provide financial support, or have expertise, connections or experience that may assist us, we would be really grateful to hear from you via [mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk). Thank you for your consideration.

### **Let's Talk Portishead - have your say**

If community spaces matter to you, share your views by taking part in the consultation on bringing the green spaces and play areas in Portishead back under the control of Portishead Town Council. Please see [the poster](#) for more information and take part in the survey [here](#) by Monday 28th July.

### **Social Media**

We are aware of some recent comments made on social media about the school and want to assure our community that any concerns raised are taken very seriously. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported and that is our priority. We have a dedicated and passionate pastoral team in place to help.

Our school has clear policies in place, and we continually review our procedures to ensure they are effective and responsive. We are also committed to listening and learning from our students, parents, and staff.

We therefore welcome feedback and encourage anyone with any concern to contact us directly so we can address them appropriately and in a timely manner. Please do this through our school mailbox account [mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk). We are here to help.

### Activities Week 2025

The time has come! After a year of planning, next week we look forward to our annual Activities Week. I hope your children have a wonderful time whatever activity they are doing. We really appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is in the right place at the right time and with the right kit. You will have received all the relevant information from the trips team in advance of the week. If you haven't already, please do complete any waiver forms still outstanding as without them students will not be able to participate - this is particularly pertinent to students in Year 8. The forecast looks good, so here's to a fabulous week!

Can we please also remind you that due to the number of coaches and students leaving for activities in the mornings, there will be no access to the coach turning area or other areas of the school site for parents; please allow extra time for finding off-site parking to drop off your child in time for their departure.

Please note the change of departure time for the **Year 9 North Wales residential trip** on Monday - students will need to meet at **6.30am** for a 7am departure.

Next week there will not be a parent letter sent on Friday as I will be on camp for the latter part of the week with Year 7 students. We will resume our weekly parent letter on Friday 11th July.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
**Headteacher**

### Key Dates for Term 6

Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July	Activities Week
Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July	Year 12 Futures Week
Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July	Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition to Snowdonia
Wednesday 2nd July	6pm - 7pm Year 12 UCAS Parental Information Evening
Monday 7th to Friday 11th July	Functional Skills English and Maths Exams
Tuesday 8th July	Year 6 Induction Day

Tuesday 8th July	6pm Parent Forum
Thursday 10th July	Year 12 A-level Arranging Music mock exam
Thursday 10th July	Sports Day (pm)
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th July	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th July	5.30pm - 9.30pm Creative Arts & DT Festival
Thursday 17th July	Reserve date for Sports Day
Tuesday 22 July	Last Day of Term - students finish at 12.30pm
Wednesday 23rd July to Monday 1st September inclusive	HOLIDAY