



24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, this week Gordano School hosted the Lighthouse Schools Partnership INSET day which brought together all the teaching staff across the four secondary schools in the Trust. The day focussed on different pedagogical approaches in the classroom, allowing staff to share methodology across all four schools and subjects. Staff also attended a session on how to overcome barriers to learning as well as valuable time in Faculty Teams later on in the day. We are delighted that we have this opportunity to collaborate with other professionals in the Trust and recognise the power in collaboration as we move forward together. Our final two INSET days of the academic year are on February 19<sup>th</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### Christmas Card Competition

We have been running our annual Christmas Card competition over the last few weeks which closes on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. If your child would like to enter it's not too late. Please see the details [here](#).

## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2023 UPDATE

**Art and Photography both welcome**

**Picture/artwork required to show a clear connection to Portishead. You can edit your own photo and select relevant text whilst the main image is clearly your own**

**To be used by Gordano School**

**Judging by Ms Blundell (Headteacher) and Ms Vincent (Headteacher's PA)**

**Well done for entering. There will be a prize for the winner and the runner-up**

**Please clearly mark the entry with your name and tutor group**

**Entries to be delivered in the drop box in the CA faculty lobby and email photo ones to [kkeane@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:kkeane@gordanoschool.org.uk)**

**(in jpeg or pdf form)**

**by the new date Monday 27th November**

**Headteacher: Ms L Blundell** BMus(Hons) MA

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### **Caring at Christmas**

This year students at Gordano School Sixth Form are supporting Caring at Christmas, the South-West's biggest Christmas homelessness project. Supporting people experiencing homelessness in Bristol throughout Christmas. We recognise that for many in our society Christmas will be a very challenging period.

To support this cause, students are collecting donations that will be delivered to the centre on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. If you are able to donate any of the items listed at the bottom of this letter, this would very much be appreciated.

### **Biscay Fundraising Week**

I would like to extend my thanks to Biscay House, who this week have put on a series of fantastic fundraising events throughout the week raising money for 'Action for Children'. Students have been raising money through bake sales, guess the Biscay Bear name, guess the number of sweets in the jar, a soak the teacher event and daily football competitions. It has taken a significant amount of organisation and just demonstrates the kindness agenda we are continuing to promote throughout the school.

### **Year 11 Students**

Well done to our Year 11 students who have been completing their languages speaking mock examinations this week. Next week sees the start of our Year 11 mock examination series.

Mr Beesley has shared the relevant information with Year 11 parents, please read this carefully to see the logistics around the series, and we wish students all the best.

### **Equipment**

We are unfortunately seeing an increasing number of students coming to school without basic equipment, such as a pen, pencil, ruler and scientific calculator. This impacts on smooth starts to lessons, so we would be grateful if parents and carers could check with children that they have the right equipment with them each day. The full equipment list can be seen below. If any support is required with the purchasing of equipment, please get in touch with your child's Assistant Head of House / Year 7 in the first instance.

Water bottle

Ruler

Eraser

Pencils

Pens

Scientific calculator

Pair of compasses

Protractor

Reading book

*Tipex is not permitted in school. Items of equipment should have your name and tutor group on if possible.*

### **E scooters**

Please note the following information from the Police as we enter the Christmas period.

[E-scooter letter](#)

### **Mental Wellbeing Course for Young People**

An 8-week mental wellbeing course for young people is starting in Portishead from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024. For more details or to register your child please see [this poster](#).

We wish you and your families a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



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

### **Key Dates for Term 2**

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Nov: Start of Year 11 Mock Examinations

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Dec: Parent Forum, 6.00 – 7.00pm in CR1

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: Sixth Form Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec: Year 7 – 11 Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec: School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 – 5.30) in the Main Hall

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: Last day of term – 12.30 finish for students



## Caring at Christmas

This year Gordano Sixth Form are supporting Caring at Christmas as we have done in many previous years. In order to support them, we need donations from you!

There are boxes in each house area and the year 7 common room for you to put your donations in.

Donations that Caring at Christmas are looking for:

### Toiletries + clothes:

- Warm good quality winter clothing
- New underwear + socks
- Jumpers, coats (especially waterproofs)
- Rucksacks and bags
- Trainers + boots
- T-shirts
- Sleeping bags + blankets (no duvets)
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorants)
- Laundry powder
- Arts and crafts supplies

### Food donation list:

- Instant coffee, tea, squash
- Long-life juice
- Crisps (multipack)
- Soft drinks (multipack)
- Chocolate bars (multipack)
- Confectionary (multipack)
- Biscuits (multipack)
- Rice and pasta
- Jams, peanut butter, chocolate spread, marmite
- Cereal (the more sugary the better)
- Condiments (ketchup, mayo)
- Sandwich pickle
- Tinned meat
- Long-life milk
- Mince pies



Please donate anything that you can do to help support those less fortunate.

We will be delivering your donations to Caring at Christmas on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December so the deadline for your donations is **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**.

**THANK YOU!**

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