



18th September 2026

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

This week has been another busy and purposeful one, with a real sense of excitement building as we prepare for our Open Evening next Thursday (details below). A huge thank you to the many students who have already volunteered to support the event. It is always one of the highlights of the year, providing a wonderful opportunity for our students to proudly showcase their school and all that makes it such a special place to learn and grow.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the many parents who have attended our recent information evenings. Your engagement and support are greatly valued, and it has been fantastic to see such strong attendance. For those who were unable to join us, all presentations are available on the school website: [Gordano School - Communications](#).

Our final information evenings will take place for Year 8 parents on **Monday 28 September at 6.00pm** and Year 11 parents on **Tuesday 29 September at 6.00pm**, and we look forward to welcoming you then.

As we begin a new academic year, I thought it would be a good opportunity to share a little more about what makes Gordano special, what I am most proud of and my hopes for the year ahead, as we look forward to an exciting year of learning, opportunities, community and Gordano70 celebrations: [Gordano School - At the Heart of Gordano: In Conversation with Headteacher Ms Louise Blundell](#)



Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Blundell, Headteacher

SITE DEVELOPMENTS

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the school environment for students, staff and the wider community, we have undertaken an extensive programme of building and refurbishment works over the summer holidays.

Excellent progress has been made on our new **Resource Base**, which is due to open in January. We have also created new office space for our **Careers Team**, alongside a bright and welcoming **First Aid area**, replacing accommodation that was no longer fit for purpose.

The refurbishment of our **former canteen** is well underway and remains on schedule to reopen at the end of this term. In the meantime, students are being served from two catering pods in the quad, and we have also created a dedicated **Year 7 dining area in Elliot Hall**.

We have taken the opportunity to enhance several areas within our **Creative Arts facilities**, while our **main reception area and adjoining staff offices** have also received an uplift, creating more welcoming and functional spaces for visitors and colleagues.

Work on our new **Sixth Form Common Room** is progressing well and is expected to open within the next month. Designed to provide a modern, welcoming and more mature space for our Sixth Form students, it will create an important new area for students to study, socialise and spend time together.

These developments form part of our ongoing investment in the school site and in providing the best possible environment for our students. I would like to express my sincere thanks to our **Estates and IT teams** for the countless hours they worked throughout the summer break to help deliver these improvements. Their dedication and commitment have been instrumental in ensuring that our students continue to benefit from a safe, welcoming and inspiring learning environment.

We look forward to sharing progress with you, so do keep an eye out on our Facebook page and in the Termly News!

OPEN EVENING ARRANGEMENTS

A reminder that our annual Open Evening takes place this Thursday, 24th September; the school will close early for students on the day to enable staff to set up for the evening ahead. Following an early lunch, students will be released from school at approximately 1.10pm. If your child would like to be a student helper at the event, we would love to see them take part. Please complete the Open Evening Parental Permission Form if you haven't already done so - this can be found on the parent page of the school website.

[Please click here to read the letter for full details about student helpers](#)

FIRE DRILL AND LOCKDOWN PRACTICE

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping all students and staff safe, it is essential that we regularly practise our emergency procedures. During my student broadcast on Monday, I will explain the importance of both fire drills and lockdown procedures so that students understand how to respond calmly and confidently should a real emergency ever occur.

For parents' awareness, our fire drill practice is scheduled to take place at 8.55am during tutor time on Wednesday 23rd September and our Lockdown practice will take place at 8.55am on Friday 2nd October

Both drills will be conducted with students in their tutor groups, ensuring that they are well supported by familiar staff throughout the process.

Please note that these are planned practice drills. Our aim is to familiarise students with the procedures and expectations so that everyone knows how to respond safely and effectively in the event of a genuine emergency. We recognise that some students may find emergency drills unsettling. Where appropriate, we will provide additional support and reassurance, and staff will be available throughout to ensure students feel safe and informed. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe, secure and caring environment where every student feels a sense of belonging and knows that their wellbeing is our highest priority.

GORDANO SCHOOL CAREERS CONVENTION THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER FROM 6-8PM

50+ Employers, Universities, Colleges and Training Providers will be available to answer any questions you have about the opportunities available Post 16. The Careers Team will be sending out full information regarding this very popular event, and we look forward to seeing you. Please make sure this event is in your diary. Open to all age groups.

READING AND SPELLING ASSESSMENTS

Next week, pupils will be taking part in NGRT (New Group Reading Test) and NGST (New Group Spelling Test) assessments during their lessons.

There is nothing for pupils or parents to worry about. These assessments simply help us gain a clearer understanding of each child's reading and spelling skills so that we can identify any students who may benefit from additional support. The results help us ensure that all pupils receive the right level of challenge and intervention to support their progress.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations will be taking place on 21st & 22nd October for students in Years 7-11. A letter with full details was sent earlier this week, please provide consent via [this link](#) as soon as possible to assist Sirona with planning and vaccine ordering. Sirona require a response for all students, if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine please notify Sirona via the same link.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP FUND

Our *Parents in Partnership Fund*, a voluntary scheme enabling families to make donations via ParentPay, is now set up on your accounts.

From subsidising trips and supporting creative arts to improving learning spaces, the fund helps us create additional opportunities and experiences for our students. Last year, contributions helped us transform Elliot Hall into a Hogwarts-inspired space, created with and for our students.

The option will remain on your ParentPay account throughout the year, so you can contribute at any time. We'll continue to share updates on how funds are being used through our Termly News, website and social media channels.

Please do follow us on Facebook @gordanoschool to stay connected and see how your support is making a difference.

Every donation, large or small, helps us enrich student life and provide opportunities that benefit our students. Thank you for considering supporting the fund.

For more ways you can support the school, please visit:

[Gordano School – How You Can Support the School](#)

PSHE BULLETIN FOR TERM 1

The bulletin below gives an outline of what each year group will be studying in PSHE lessons in September and October 2026. If you have any queries about PSHE themes or topics please contact us via mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk and mark your email for the attention of your child's Head of House or Miss Trevethan, Head of PSHE & Ethics.

Students in all year groups study **core** Ethics & PSHE. Each year students will study 3 units:

1. Bodies and Boundaries
2. Philosophy and Belief
3. Citizenship and society



PSHE Bulletin September- October

Things coming up in extended tutor time and assemblies:

- World Mental Health Day
- Black History Month
- Careers (year 10 & 11)
- How to report student concerns in and outside of school
- Student leadership opportunities
- Kindness and belonging
- European Languages Day
- Lockdown and fire drills



Where can I go for help and support?

- Your Head of House, tutor or PSHE teacher
- The Resilience Box
- The NSPCC and NHS Websites
- Kooth
- Your PSHE teacher will always let you know of other support available for specific topics




Below is an outline of what each year group will be studying between September – October 2026. You will notice some similar topics and themes across year groups. This is deliberate to build upon learning and ensure age appropriateness of content. Any queries please contact your Head of House or Miss Trevethan, Head of PSHE & Ethics.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
- Dental Health - Doctors and pharmacies - Types of drugs (legal and non) - Social media - Screen time - Online safety - Consent - Puberty - Hygiene	- Addiction - Alcohol - Smoking/ vaping - Drugs including Ketamine - Sexual harassment - Mental Health - Phone addictions - Sleep - Periods	- Sexuality - Homosexuality - LGBTQ+ - Ways of viewing identities including gender identity and intersex conditions - Love languages - Resolving conflict - Abusive relationships	- Legal and illegal drugs: social and health implications (includes First Aid) - Staying safe in the community - Ways of viewing masculinity and femininity - Pornography and body image - Sexual Health	- Parenting skills - Pregnancy and early childhood - Pleasure and intimacy - Consent and Sexual Health and Sexual Harassment - Forgiveness - Laws and justice

** If your year 7 class is shared between two teachers, the unit order might look slightly different. Please contact your teachers or Miss Trevethan for details.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE:

THE DANGERS OF ENTERING DERELICT AND UNUSED BUILDINGS

Important Safety Message from North Somerset Council

The Local Authority has recently become aware of an increase in reports of children and young people accessing derelict, abandoned and unused buildings. In particular, locations such as The Grand Atlantic Hotel in Weston have attracted attention and may be viewed by some as places to explore or visit.

We understand that social media platforms, including TikTok and other online channels, have popularised activities sometimes referred to as "urban exploring" or "urbex". Whilst these videos can make such locations appear exciting or harmless, the reality is that abandoned buildings present significant dangers and can place children and young people at serious risk of injury.

The Risks and Dangers

Derelict and disused buildings can contain a wide range of hazards, including:

- Unstable floors, staircases, walls and roofs that may collapse without warning.
- Broken glass, exposed metal and sharp debris that can cause serious injuries.
- Open lift shafts, basements, holes and concealed drops.
- Unsafe structures that have deteriorated over time and have not been maintained.
- Hazardous materials such as asbestos, chemicals, mould, contaminated water or other substances that can cause long-term health issues.
- Fire risks, electrical hazards and unsafe machinery or equipment.
- Areas that may have limited mobile phone signal or restricted access, making it difficult to call for help in an emergency.

Many of these dangers are not immediately visible, meaning that buildings that appear safe from the outside can be extremely unsafe once entered.

Legal Considerations

Children and young people should also be aware that entering private property without permission may constitute trespassing and, where entry is gained by forcing access or causing damage, may involve criminal offences such as criminal damage or breaking and entering. Such incidents may result in police involvement and can place young people at further risk.

What Parents and Carers Can Do

We encourage parents and carers to:

- Talk openly with their children about the dangers associated with abandoned or derelict buildings.
- Discuss the influence of social media challenges and trends, and remind young people that videos posted online often do not show the real risks involved.
- Encourage children to meet friends and spend time in safe, supervised environments.
- Report concerns to the police or local authority if they become aware of children regularly accessing unsafe sites.
- Remind children that if they see others entering unsafe premises, they should not follow them and should leave the area immediately.

Keeping children safe requires the support of schools, families and the wider community. We ask everyone to reinforce the message that no social media trend, online challenge or exploration activity is worth the risk of serious injury or harm.

Please speak to your child about making safe choices and avoiding derelict, abandoned or unsecured buildings.

GIRLS' RUGBY LUNCHTIME CLUB



GIRLS RUGBY

ALL GIRLS WELCOME

SKILLS | FITNESS | FUN | FRIENDSHIPS



**MONDAY
LUNCH TIME**



**MEET AT THE
FOOT BRIDGE
AT 1:00**
TO GO TO THE
FAR FIELD



**LED BY
BRISTOL BEARS
STAFF**



**BRISTOL
BEARS**

**NO EXPERIENCE
NEEDED!**

JUST BRING YOURSELF
AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

- ✓ LEARN NEW SKILLS
- ✓ KEEP ACTIVE
- ✓ BUILD CONFIDENCE
- ✓ BE PART OF A TEAM

TOGETHER
WE GO
FURTHER

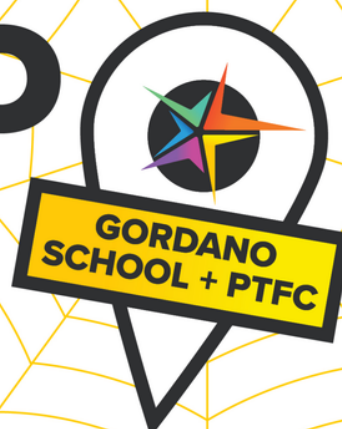
DO YOUR BEST
GIVE BACK
DREAM BIG

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1

Monday 21 September	6pm Bronze DofE Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 22 September	6pm Silver DofE Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 23 September	Sixth Form Autumn Electives Begin
Thursday 24 September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 24 September	Year 6 Open Evening (students finish at 1.15pm)
Friday 25 September	INSET Day
Monday 28 September	School Photographs for Year 11
Monday 28 September	6pm Year 8 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 29 September	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 30 September	5.30pm – 6.30pm Read to Succeed Parent Evening
Thursday 1 October	6pm – 8pm Gordano Careers Convention
Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 October	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Days
Tuesday 6 October	6pm Parent Forum
Thursday 8 October	World Mental Health Day
Friday 9 October	Hello Yellow Day
Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Thursday 15 October	Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Weston-super-Mare
Thursday 15 October	SENDSCO Surgery
Friday 16 October	Year 10/11 photo mop up session
Tuesday 20 October	Year 11 Futures Evening
Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October inclusive	Holiday

SHINE OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB

HAUNTED HOLIDAY CLUBS



15% OFF

With the code
Early Booker

- ▣ Descendants Dance
- ▣ Gymnastics & Cheer
- ▣ Creepy Creative
- ▣ Mini & Mega Monster Mash-Ups
- ▣ Forbidden Forest Adventure
- ▣ Make a Musical
- ▣ Football at Portishead Town


Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS
[MyShine.co.uk](https://www.MyShine.co.uk)



*Conditions apply. Expiry 11/10/26



PORTISHEAD DROP-IN HUB AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE



PORTISHEAD HUB

**Drop-in hub Every Monday
3:30-5:30pm**

Portishead Children's Centre, West Hill.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11 TO 17



**Drop-in for a creative space,
games, snacks, information about OTR
or just a chill and chat.**

See you there!!

FOOTBALL GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
ADULTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AGED 5 TO 25

Clevedon United JFC Inclusive Football



Every Sunday
9:45 - 11:00 AM

Clevedon School
Valley Road
Clevedon
BS21 6AH



**Find Out
More**

Get In Contact:

Please email at
tobyjwillis@hotmail.com
Toby Willis (Head Coach)

FAMILY DAY: BRISTOL BEARS VS NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

Powered by
FootAnstey

Gallagher
PREM



SAT 03 OCT | 3.05PM

ADULTS £5 | U19 £5 | U12 £1

USE CODE: **FOUNDATIONSAINTS5**

BRISTOLBEARSRUGBY.COM

USEFUL LINKS

[Contact Us](#)

[Gordano School Facebook Page](#)

[Communications to Parents](#)

[Latest School News](#)

[Termly Newsletters](#)

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[Uniform & Equipment](#)

[How You Can Support the School](#)

[Safeguarding](#)

[School Key Dates](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Gordano Extra - Clubs Information](#)

[Careers](#)

[Trips & Activities Week](#)

[Sixth Form](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Community Clubs & Holiday Clubs](#)

[Facilities Hire](#)

[GoShine Gordano Sports Centre Membership](#)