



22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this letter

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### Video version of this update

This is a long letter. I have therefore recorded a 'video/audio' update if that is easier for parents to watch (or listen to) - it contains exactly the same information. I would recommend you doing so with your children so that they hear the key messages for the start of term.

The link to the video version is here: <https://vimeo.com/701965174>.

### Term 4 Newsletter

This has now been published and is available here:

<https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/parentportal/newsletter/?id=12>

### Staff responsibilities from Term 5

Following Danny McGilloway's departure at the end of Term 4, please note the following updates to staff roles from the start of Term 5 (changes are in *italics*):

- Tom Inman - Headteacher
- Carolyn Tipler - Deputy Headteacher - Learning and Standards
- Jeanne Fairs - Assistant Headteacher - *Designated Safeguarding Lead*
- Charlotte Thomas - Assistant Headteacher - *Inclusion and Pastoral Care*
- *Chris Rogers - Assistant Headteacher - Lead on Behaviour*
- Adam Snow - Assistant Headteacher - *Key Stage 3 and Looked After Children*
- David Beesley - Assistant Headteacher - Director of Years 10 and 11
- Stuart Rossiter - Assistant Headteacher - Director of Year 9
- *Laura Hitchcock - Assistant Headteacher - Disadvantaged Students and Learning Recovery* (remains as Head of English until May half term)

To accommodate these changes the following updates are also taking place:

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#### Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

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- *Tom Heysham and Pippa Ramsay - Directors of Sixth Form*
- *Claire Crosby - Head of English Faculty (from May half term)*
- *Caja McKenzie - Head of Fitzroy House*

We will be explaining these changes to students carefully in assemblies next week so that they are really clear.

### **Parental contact with school from the start of Term 5**

From the start of term please use the new Online Contact Form to make initial contact with the school on a particular matter. The form is on the school website under the 'Contact' tab, or can be accessed direct here:

<https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/contact-us/contact-forms>

If you have already had a response from a member of staff on the issue then please continue to communicate directly.

Where staff receive an initial query on a matter direct via email from a parent (rather than through the website), they will reply with a short standard script that asks you to submit the query via the website contact form. I know that this will cause a little initial frustration as we all get used to it, but it will greatly help us in being able to respond to your query as quickly and effectively as possible.

We really value the support we get from parents and welcome your contact regarding your child - it is a huge part in what makes a large school run well. The vast majority of this communication is really helpful and constructive and we want that to continue. Thank you for your support in this very important matter.

### **Reminders and expectations at the start of Term 5**

As mentioned in my letter on 12<sup>th</sup> April, we will be reinforcing a number of key expectations at the start of term. As ever, most students meet these expectations all day everyday, which is brilliant. We need all students to do so to continue to make the school the very best it can be for everyone.

#### Uniform and Appearance

- Shoes must be polishable (and not simply black trainers)
- Ties must be worn at all times - students are encouraged to have at least two ties in case one breaks or is lost
- PE kit must be Gordano branded. The only item of 'non-Gordano-branded' PE kit permitted is a pair of plain navy leggings (not lighter blue, or black)
- PE hoodies are NOT allowed to be worn with normal school uniform (i.e. in place of a school blazer)
- Until further notice blazers are compulsory about the school. When the weather gets a little warmer we will allow students not to wear their blazer. However, coats must only be worn in addition to a blazer, not instead of a blazer

- Shirts must be tucked in at all times (this is more obvious when not wearing a blazer!) and breaktime detentions will be issued where shirts are not tucked in
- Students are allowed one stud in each ear, maximum 5mm in diameter

### Equipment

- All students must have a pencil case
- Students should have the following at all times: pens (black/blue, and more than one!), pencils, a sharpener, a highlighter, a glue stick, a ruler, an eraser, a scientific calculator, a pair of compasses, a protractor
- A reminder also that a water bottle is required for all students, particularly as we come into Spring
- If you require any support with purchasing the listed items, please email Laura Hitchcock, [lhitchcock@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:lhitchcock@gordanoschool.org.uk)
- Checking that students have their pencil cases will become a routine at the start of every lesson
- When a student has accrued 3 'lack of equipment' AOs, a notification will come home to you, and they will receive a break-time detention and a -1 behaviour point

### **School Transport - Arrangements for 2022/23**

For any families eligible for Home to School Transport the application process is now open for the 2022/23 academic year. The deadline for applications is 5<sup>th</sup> June.

All details are available at:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/hometoschooltransport>

Term 5 is a short term, of only five weeks, but a very important one, especially for Year 11 and 13, who will be starting to sit Public Examinations in a few weeks' time.

Managing change is never straightforward, and the changes to our communications processes and Senior Staff structure for Term 5 will feel significant. Your support in reinforcing the school's expectations is a massive part of our success and will be more important than ever at the start of this term. Thank you, as ever, for this and for all you do for the school.

Kind regards



Tom Inman  
Headteacher