



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

A very Happy New Year to all our Gordano families. I hope you had a relaxing festive period. It is good to see our students coming back to school this week looking refreshed and ready for Term 3.

Over this week we have seen some very cold temperatures and whilst the long-term forecast looks much brighter, I did want to share with parents what would happen in the case of severe weather.

Our aim is always to remain open but in the event of disruption caused by severe weather the prime concern of the school will always be the safety of students and staff. The decision will be made after considering the safety of students walking to school, the safety of staff travelling to school and the condition of the school site, and I would hope to make a decision by 7am so that this can be communicated to parents.

In instances of severe weather, the decision will be whether to close the school for the day or whether a later start to the school day is appropriate. Once a decision has been made parents and students will be communicated with via ClassCharts, we will also update the school website and social media pages.

Staff will set work for students for each lesson on their timetable and this work will be shared as soon as possible. The work will be focussed on securing curriculum content already covered. This work will be set via ClassCharts.

A positive start to the New Year!

It has been a pleasure to walk the school this week, dropping into lessons and seeing the positive engagement from students across all year groups. Next week, we welcome a Challenge Partners review team into the school for three days as part of the LSP's ongoing relationship with this organisation. The visiting reviewers from other schools will visit lessons, talk to a variety of students and staff and work with us as we continue to evaluate our provision. We look forward to sharing highlights of that visit with you.

Year 11 will be receiving their mock exam results next Friday along with ongoing guidance and feedback as they continue to consolidate their knowledge and exam technique. As a way of increasing the specific guidance this year-group receives, we are relaunching a new Year 11 Broadcast this Monday tutor time. This will run alongside the main school broadcast.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

We have a number of Sixth Form students who have volunteered to help lead this broadcast with Mrs Tipler, sharing their experiences and wisdom in relation to this next phase of Year 11; huge thanks in advance to them.

OMG Event - 27th January

On 27th January, the music department are taking over the Clarence House pub for an evening of music-making. OMG (Open Mic Gordano) is a chance for our students to perform in a more informal environment and out in the community. No tickets are required but we will be collecting loose change on the evening to support our extracurricular music programmes. Please note that while Gordano are hosting the event, this is a public venue, and parents remain responsible for supervising their own children.

Reporting a student absence

When reporting a student absence please remember to use the Attendance Forms below where possible. You can find the links on the homepage of the school website.

[Report a student absence - Years 7 to 11](#)

[Report a student absence - Sixth Form](#)

Enjoy some pizza and have your say - 14th and 16th January

North Somerset Council and Children's Centres are setting up a new project for young people to come along and voice their opinions about the things that matter to their wellbeing whilst making and enjoying some pizza. You can find more information [here](#).

2025-26 Term Dates and INSET Days

These dates have now been agreed for the 2025-26 academic year and are available on the school website [here](#).

Gordano School Community Trust is looking for new Trust Board members

Gordano School Community Trust (GSCT) is a charity formed to advance the education of the students at Gordano School and the wider community through the provision of sports and other facilities. You can find out more about the fantastic facilities that we offer by visiting www.gordanosportscentre.org.uk.

We are looking for new Trustees to join the existing Board to help promote the use of the school's facilities for recreation, sport, culture and other leisure activities within the local community. Becoming a Trustee is a rewarding and enriching opportunity to offer your personal and professional experiences in order to help shape the future of our facility. We are keen to hear from individuals, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are willing to commit to our vision and values and who are excited about improving sports facilities for young people and the local community. The Trust meets four times per year, usually on a Wednesday at 5pm at Gordano School.

To express your interest, please send us an email outlining why you would like to be considered, including any relevant experience, to GSCTGovernance@gordanoschool.org.uk no later than 19th January 2025. Successful applicants will be invited for interview late January 2025. Please note that applicants will be subject to the relevant DBS checks. We look forward to hearing from you!

Attendance Policy and Punctuality

Please find the link to our updated policy: [Attendance Policy 2024-25](#). Please ensure you read through this carefully to ensure you are aware of our procedures and expectations of you as parents. We would like to draw your attention to updates on how we will monitor and follow up on poor punctuality in section 4.5. These specific changes will come into effect from the week beginning 13th January.

Safeguarding

Please continue to have conversations with your children about the dangers of aerosol use - both 'sniffing' or setting fire to aerosols. We have had concerns shared from the police and members of the public, noting that some young people are setting light to aerosols on the beach. We will be sharing these concerns in next week's student broadcast. A useful link to discuss at home is:

<https://cbtrust.org.uk/learning-zone/the-dangers-of-playing-with-aerosol-cans-kyles-story/>

Parking near school site

Can I politely remind parents not to park/drop off their children in the bus bays or around the roundabout at the St Mary's Road Gate exit - This creates a blind spot for students using the zebra crossing and for drivers exiting the roundabout.

We wish you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 3

Wednesday 15th January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Wednesday 15th January	Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Thursday 16th January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals
Friday 17th January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Tuesday 21st January	Year 9 & 11 Final of LSP English Vocabulary Challenge
Tuesday 21st January	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 11 Inclusive Curriculum KS4 Trip to City of Bristol campuses
Thursday 23rd January	Year 13 Progress Evening
Tuesday 28th January	4.30 - 6pm Media Studies Creative Showcase
Wednesday 29th January	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday 30th January	Year 10 Employability Workshop
Thursday 30th January	Year 12 Aspire HE+ event at Kings of Wessex
Monday 3rd February	Year 10/11 GCSE Music trip to see Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday 4th February	Year 11 Geography field trip to River Holford (group 1)
Wednesday 5th February	Year 11 Geography field trip to River Holford (group 2)

Thursday 6th February	A-level Music trip to the Welsh National Opera
Thursday 6th February	Year 12 & 13 MFL trip to BFI London
Thursday 6th February	3.35pm Year 8/9 General Knowledge Quiz
Sunday 9th February	Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training Day
Mon 10th to Fri 14th February	National Apprenticeship Week
Monday 10th February	3.35pm MFL Spelling Bee Final
Mon 10th to Wed 12th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 11th February	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 12th February	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Wednesday 12th February	Year 9 Travel & Tourism trip (group 1)
Wednesday 12th February	2.30 - 7.30pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Evening
Thursday 13th February	Year 11 & Year 13 Student Leadership Conference, Chew Valley School
Thursday 13th February	Year 12 & Year 13 English Trip, Noel Coward Theatre London
Thursday 13th February	4.00 - 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 14th February	INSET Day
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February inclusive	HOLIDAY