



12th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this letter

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Day for Ukraine and Sixth Form RAG Fair

With thanks to all for their support for our 'Day for Ukraine', with students and staff wearing items of blue and yellow clothing (my yellow tie got a rare outing!). The Sixth Form Rag Fair was a great success, raising over £1,600 for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Thanks to all for their support.

Staff Farewells

We had a few significant farewells on Friday. Among them were a number of long-serving members of staff:

- Debbie Gully, who has served as receptionist, Attendance Administrator and, most recently, Pastoral Support Administrator, and has contributed to the school brilliantly for 8 years
- Graham Brutto, who has served on our Site and Facilities Team for 9 years and for whom nothing has ever been too much to ask!
- Jen Manson, who has been an inspirational Teacher of Maths, and wonderful Second in Faculty, for 14 years
- Danny McGilloway, who has been an incredible Deputy Head and champion of all our young people over the last five years; I know how much our students and parents have valued his immense support
- and Geoff Smith, our Exams Manager, who has been at Gordano for over 30 years (!) and who has probably given more service to the school in so many ways than any other individual - if anyone truly embodied the true spirit of Gordano, then that is Geoff!

All these people have left an indelible mark on Gordano and the very large number of students that they have supported throughout their time. We thank them hugely for their service to our community and wish them all the very best in the future.

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Parental contact with school from the start of Term 5

From the start of Term 5 we are making a change in the way that we are asking you to make initial contact with the school on a matter. We ask that you make initial contact via an 'Online Contact Form' on the school website - see the 'Contact' tab or the link below for a sneak preview!

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

Where staff receive an initial query on a matter direct 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 am sorry that we will be asking you to 'cut and paste' your query into the form, but we do need to gain a 'full picture' of the communications received by the school. This will allow us to better get your query or message to the right person. We're not intending for it to be any less 'personal', but it will really help us manage and improve the flow of communications with parents.

We will initially run this as a trial through Term 5 and will welcome parental feedback so that we can develop it as we go.

Student readiness for Term 5

Although I will leave most reminders until nearer to the start of Term 5, it would be useful to remind parents of a few expectations that we will be reinforcing strongly next term and that may require a shopping expedition (or other thinking).

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)
- Students are allowed one stud in each ear, maximum 5mm in diameter. Please do NOT allow students to get new piercings (e.g. a nose piercing) that need a stud to be worn if it does not fit in with the above guidance (students should wait until the start of the Summer holiday, where there is time for the piercing to become established)

Equipment

Too often, students are coming to lessons without the basic equipment they need to participate fully in lessons. This delays the start and disrupts the continuity of lessons for all students and, as such, has a negative impact on learning. Please can you take the time over the Easter break to ensure that your child is equipped with a pencil case containing the correct equipment and that they are bringing it to school each day. If you require any support with purchasing the listed items, please email Laura Hitchcock, lhitchcock@gordanoschool.org.uk

Checking that students have their pencil cases will become a routine at the start of every lesson after Easter, with teachers adding a 'lack of equipment' A0. When a student has accrued 3 'lack of equipment' A0s, a notification will come home to you, and they will receive a break-time detention and a -1 behaviour point.

Students should have, as outlined in their journal:

- Pens (black/blue)
- Pencils
- A sharpener
- A highlighter
- A glue stick
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Scientific Calculator
- Pair of compasses
- Protractor

A reminder also that a water bottle is required for all students, particularly as we come into Spring.

And finally...

We have continued to face a number of challenges including, but not limited to, Covid over the course of this term. Despite this, I listened with immense pride, at our Whole School Assembly on Friday, to our House Captains listing off a huge range of achievements and successes from this term.

It is, of course, due to the immense dedication of my colleagues (teaching and support staff), the support of parents and, mostly, the contribution of our students, who continue to show such enthusiasm, character and commitment in everything that they do.

Whilst many will be enjoying a well-deserved break from school matters, a good number of Year 11 and 13 students will be in over the break receiving additional support from teachers in preparation for their forthcoming exams, and all of them revising hard at home. Their patience and maturity given such interruptions to their education has been amazing, and they deserve huge credit for the way that they continue to conduct themselves. Parents of Year 11 and 13 will have received much more detail on the Easter provision; please do ensure that your son(s)/daughter(s) are making use of the support kindly offered by their teachers.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'T' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that ends in a small dot.

Tom Inman
Headteacher