



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

14th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this parent update finds you and your families well. We were delighted in our Leadership meeting this week to be joined by a selection of students across the year groups to explore different areas of school life as part of our 'Feel Good Gordano' initiative. We will now be working with the staff and student body to consider some specific areas they identified including - but not limited to - a review of homework and indoor seating areas at lunch time and break time. I would like to thank the students who took their time to contribute to the high level of presentation we heard on Tuesday.

University of Bristol Study - for Parents/Carers of students in Years 8, 9 & 10

The University of Bristol are trying to collate information from children regarding how their health choices are influenced. Please see below letter (at the bottom of this document) for full information.

For families of students with additional SEND interventions

Gordano School has been asked by the Lighthouse Trust, to send this very short questionnaire to the families of students with a known special educational need and/or disability, **who also have additional interventions or an EHCP**. This is to help inform the future planning for SEND provision across the Trust. If your child has an additional intervention from the SEND team, they are added to the SEND register. Please only answer this questionnaire if you know that this applies to your child.

Please click on this link below to access the survey, it is very short and your answers are anonymous. The closing date for responses is 20th October. If you also wish to be part of a Lighthouse Trust, SEND Parent Forum meeting, please email enquiries@lsp.org.uk.
SEND Questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/r/EDLkpHvuFc>

Website information to support learning

We are in the process of building our Curriculum area of the website to provide students and parents with an overview of learning in each subject, at each Key Stage. We have also added a section on Supporting Literacy, explaining the ways we're building a culture of reading in school and providing tips on supporting reading at home. We hope you find the information both useful and interesting! <https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/our-school/curriculum>

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Toilets

We have seen an increase in students asking to leave lessons to use the toilet over recent weeks. This causes a loss of learning time and disruption to lessons. Whilst there are no doubt occasions when this is necessary, there are also occasions where this is being abused. Students are aware that they should be using break and lunchtimes to go to the toilet and refill water bottles, and staff have been asked to exercise discretion when granting requests to go to the toilet. If a student has a particular concern around needing to use the toilet during lesson times, e.g. because of a medical condition or heavy periods, we would request that they speak to their Assistant Head of House in the first instance. We also have a stock of period pants in school. These are more absorbent than other types of sanitary product, and many students find wearing them reduces worries about sanitary protection not lasting long enough. Students have been made aware that trial pairs of period pants are available from the Student Centre or Mrs Thomas. We also have a large stock of towels and tampons, which are available to families who may be finding it difficult to afford such items. If you would like to access these, please contact Mrs Thomas in confidence cthomas@gordanoschool.org.uk.

Year 10 Work Experience

Following on from the Work Experience Launch Assembly and last week's Careers Convention, Year 10 are now ready to start applying for their Work Experience placements (July 2-7th). Parents and Carers will receive a letter asking for consent and confirmation of the workplace so that our careers team can ensure Health & Safety checks are processed - this always takes much longer than students expect! (Consent can be logged via a link on this letter).

We welcome your support in encouraging your son or daughter to complete their applications and to speak to their tutor and careers team about the many opportunities available.

Year 10 students had an extended tutor time today to take them through this Work Experience application process.

A copy of our latest Careers Newsletter can be found here: [Careers Newsletter template - October edition2022.pdf](#)

Student Safeguarding and Wellbeing

We are almost at the end of a very busy term, and with a week to go we wanted to share some useful information with you prior to the break.

This week in school we have focused on World Mental Health Day and OTR have been running assemblies, tutor times and pop-ups to promote student self-care and to signpost pathways of wellbeing support for students in school.

For any high-risk concerns during the October Half Term break when the Safeguarding Team will not be accessible, the following telephone numbers/helplines may be of use:

101 for non-urgent calls if you are a victim of a crime

999 if you are in immediate danger

0800 555111 to report a crime anonymously to Crimestoppers

0300 123224 (weekdays) Children & Social Care

0300 1232327 (weekends and bank holidays)

0800 1111 Childline (to report abuse of a child or concerns about abuse)

www.kooth.com

<https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/>

Keep your child safe on Snapchat

Please also find a link to parental guidance on snapchat and how to support your child in using it safely. Also, just a reminder that snapchat has minimum age sign up of 13.

[Snapchat Parent Factsheet](#)

Reminder of Covid 19 Symptoms

Please continue to be mindful of the current list of Covid symptoms (NHS website) Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) - a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

INSET Day Dates for this academic year

We have two more INSET days this academic year and I just wanted to share the dates with you in advance so that you can add them to your calendar.

- Tuesday 3rd January
- Friday 10th February (All LSP Schools)

I wish you all a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Dear parent/caregiver

I am a researcher from the University of Bristol, undertaking my PhD. I am part of an international research group of psychologists, behavioural scientists and clinicians funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme [JITSUVAX](#). For the current research, we are also joined by the [Bristol Young Person's Advisory Group](#) (YPAG), a group of young people aged 10-18 who help researchers such as myself develop research suitable for their age group.

We are interested in understanding adolescent attitudes towards the HPV vaccine, which is now available to both girls and boys in the UK, and how these may be influenced by information they see on social media. It is known that incorrect online information can negatively influence health choices. However, to date, research has primarily considered parental views and not those of children. The influence of social media has not yet been researched, so this is a new study that will add value to the scientific field.

We are writing to you today to ask for your help in our academic research, which we hope, will improve adolescents' understanding of HPV, the vaccine and how they identify incorrect information that they may see online.

For this study, we will ask participants (your children) to fill in an online survey that YPAG and I have co-developed. The survey will tell us about their knowledge of HPV, what they understand about the vaccines, how they make their vaccine decisions with you, and their use of social media. We will then use this information to understand what may be influencing HPV vaccine attitudes. Finally, we will use this information in a future study that will be designed to combat online misinformation and improve knowledge of HPV, enabling informed vaccine discussions and decisions.

The survey is available from either of the following links where you will also find full details of the research.

https://bristolexppsy.ch.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JHsR7tYVg37zww

[Bit.ly: https://bit.ly/TikTokHPV](https://bit.ly/TikTokHPV)

We are hoping to encourage and reward participation with the potential of winning an online shopping voucher worth £20 for your child.

We would be grateful if you would consider your child's participation and thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Yours faithfully
Michelle Barden, YPAG, Stephan Lewandowsky, Dawn Holford
University of Bristol.