



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all of our Year 8 students and families who joined us for our guided options evening last night. We hope the evening enabled discussion around those important next steps. We have placed the information slides on the school website should you want to go through them. They can be accessed by following [this link](#).

### Attendance

There is a direct link to attainment and school attendance. Recent research shows that nationally 36% of students in Key Stage 4 with attendance of less than 90% achieved a grade 4 or above in their maths and English GCSEs, compared to 84% of students who had attendance of 90% or above. Perhaps even more importantly however, are the advantages of positive peer relationships and the benefit that brings in terms of mental health and wellbeing.

If your child is starting to have difficulties relating to their attendance, please do contact their House team in the first instance to enable us to put strategies in place to support them.

### Book Fair in the Library

We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library from Monday 18th until Friday 22nd March, which will be open to all at break and lunch every day.

You can get a preview of the books available in the fair [here](#).

### Buying Books:

There are 3 ways to purchase books:

- by bringing cash;
- by buying [book fair vouchers](#). Students then bring the voucher and use it as payment at the fair;
- by using the [online payment system](#) (up until 12pm on Friday 22nd March). This is particularly useful if students have brought a wish list home. Wish lists are designed to allow your child to make a note of the books they would like to purchase. If you use this method, please make sure your child returns the wish list with the transaction details and books ordered to the library so we can allocate their books to them. Students can also pay using this method while in school; we will have a QR code available for this purpose.

Every purchase from the Book Fair earns free books for the school library.

All the information can be found [here](#).

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
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### **Easter Music Concerts**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March we have our Easter Music Concerts. Over 100 students will be performing an exciting mixture of musical styles. We have everything from Bach cello suites to heavy metal, musical theatre, to jazz-funk bangers. It really is an eclectic evening with something for everybody and featuring students from Years 7 to 13. The show starts at 6.30pm in the main hall and we're running the same programme both evenings.

Tickets are £5 (no concessions). An item has been added to ParentPay for all students; there are 2 items, one for each evening so please make sure you select the correct one. For anyone who does not have access to ParentPay you can pay on the door.



### **Careers**

We continue to offer a packed careers programme for all year groups and include a sample below:

**Year 12 Careers lesson** - This week Year 12 will receive a talk from Mercer Wealth on 'Personal Finance' understanding how to effectively budget for current and future expenditures.

**Post 18 Apprenticeship Evening (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 5:30-7pm)** - We would like to invite you and your child to our Post 18 Apprenticeship Evening on Thursday 21st March (5:30-7pm) The evening will commence with an overview of what Higher and Degree apprenticeships are, including talks from current apprentices. This will be followed by a mini careers fair from employers who offer apprenticeships at this level. If you would like to attend the event please complete this [FORM](#). The evening will commence in the Sixth Form Hall. If you have any questions please do get in touch with us on [careers@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@gordanoschool.org.uk)

### **Career Spotlight on... Veterinary Nursing (Weds 27<sup>th</sup> March 3:30-4:15pm SF2)**

We will be joined by Katie Norris a Graduate Veterinary Nurse at Langford Small Animal Hospital, Bristol. She will provide an overview of getting into Veterinary nursing and will then get students to undertake a practical 'bandage' demo. This is open to all Students in Y7 - Y13. Please complete this [FORM](#) to confirm your place.

**Year 9 Assembly - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March - ‘Employer spotlight on Apprenticeships’;** delivered by a Brand Academy Apprentice with Thatchers. Students will get the opportunity to learn about Thatchers as a local employer. They will be given an insight into what life as an apprentice is like from one of their current apprentices.

**NPLQ Course at Portishead Open Air Pool 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Portishead Open Air Pool are offering the opportunity to gain the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) over the Easter holidays. You can find more information [here](#), and apply for the course using this [application form](#).

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell  
Headteacher**

**Key Dates for Term 4**

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March	Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March	Book Fair in the School Library
Tuesday 19th - Wednesday 20th March	Easter Concert
Thursday 21st March	5.30pm - 7pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Meeting
Friday 22nd March	Year 11 School Photos
Friday 22nd March	Sixth Form option choices confirmed to Year 11 students
Friday 22nd March	A-Level Music Trip to BBC Concert (all day)
Sunday 24th March	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training Day
Monday 25th - Wednesday 27th March	Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 26th March	6pm - 7pm Parent Forum
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term - Non-uniform day for students
Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April	EASTER HOLIDAY