



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

2nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

There are so many congratulations for this week! A huge congratulations to our wonderful Dance team and students for two incredible evenings filled with dance that lifted the soul! It was a privilege to not only see our students perform across all year groups, but also just fantastic to have our students join us on stage from Portishead Primary school with their Lion King inspired dance.

Our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students had a really positive and successful practice expedition last weekend. They showed fantastic enthusiasm, camaraderie and positivity. Our instructors from H5 commented that they were one of the best silver cohorts they've ever worked with! We are really proud of them and look forward to the qualifying expedition in the Black Mountains in July!

Well done also to our incredible students in Year 11 and Year 13 who have navigated through a week of practical examinations including Art/Photography and Textiles, as well as their language speaking exams. They have produced some stunning work over their 10-hour exams, and they should be so proud of the focus and determination demonstrated. Whilst next week starts with a bank holiday, formal written examinations start in earnest next week and we as a school wish all our students sitting formal examinations the very best over the exam series.

The week has ended with a superb Year 11 celebration day, where we did get the chance to celebrate with the year group their achievements and dedication over the last 5 years, their fancy dress was fantastic, the bouncy castles were in full flow, as was our BBQ... they are such a fantastic year group and the atmosphere created today is a testament to the lovely young people they are.

Yondr Launch

Thank you so much for the positive support we have received following the letter sent home last week; we are also excited for the huge benefits we see this bringing to our young people. Thank you too for the questions that some parents have sent; they are so helpful in ensuring that our planning has been as robust as we believe it to have been. Assemblies for students this week have introduced them to Yondr and the forthcoming changes.

Use of mobile phones in lessons, as requested by teachers

Staff have been consulted at every stage of our mobile phone review (this has been a year in the making) and are, of course, aware of and overwhelmingly on board with this change. They have made the necessary adaptations to their planning and practice.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

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LIGHTHOUSE
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Concerns around safety at the gates at the points of locking and unlocking pouches

The Yondr team have come to visit the school site and have advised on the best placement and number of unlocking stations - they are going to be well-spaced out, near to our gates, but not on them, with plenty of stations available for students. In the first weeks of launch we will have many additional members of staff with mobile unlocking devices to support with quick unlocking as students get used to the processes.

We will continually review and if we feel we need to add more stations, will do so quickly. We will also stagger students' departure in the initial phases to be sure that we can guarantee an even flow of students leaving the school site. Again, we will review this regularly and make any changes needed.

Student use of 'dummy' phones

We have been well-versed in the many hacks that students may attempt in order to get round the new system by Yondr and a few of the schools using Yondr that we have visited. We know that this won't be completely foolproof but will be putting the following in place to mitigate against it:

- Spot checks of pouches throughout the day, in different lessons. A phone that is clearly a 'dummy' will be considered to be a breach of the new policy and will be sanctioned as such.
- A phone being used during the day, this will be a breach of the new policy and sanctioned as such.

We would hope that parents would be in support of this change and would deter their children from these 'hacks'. We don't want any students to miss out on the huge, scientifically-proven, benefits a break from their phones will bring them.

PE Skort reminder

A reminder to parents that the skort is no longer part of the PE uniform. Students are expected to wear the Gordano PE shorts or leggings/joggers as outlined in the uniform letter sent at the start of the academic year. Students arriving in skorts will be required to borrow a pair of shorts from school or sent home to change. If any families are struggling to afford the shorts, please get in touch with Mandi Davies via mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk.

As per our uniform correction process, any student refusing to borrow the correct kit or unable to go home will need to spend the day in the Focus Room.

'Blunt Truth' sessions for Year 9

We are grateful for the Year 9 sessions on knife crime delivered on 30th April and 1st May by 'Blunt Truth' - a collaboration between Avon and Somerset Police, the NHS and FEARLESS (the youth service of independent charity Crimestoppers). The intention of the session was to provide practical, informative education about the risks involved and to promote reduction and prevention of knife crime.

For reporting information to the police anonymously, students and parents can use the following link and number:

[Give information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#)
0800 555 111

The next PCHCE sessions involving external visitors will be to Years 8 and 9 on Thursday 15th May and will focus on county lines/transportation of illegal drugs and will be led by the St. Giles Trust, a charity specialising in 'real life-based experience' education. This will be delivered as a full year-group assembly.

Year 9 Parent Information Evenings for Activities Week

Parents of Year 9 students going on a residential trip during Activities Week will be invited to attend a parent information evening, dates listed below. This is an opportunity to meet the trip leader and find out lots of information about the activities planned and expectations. If you are not available to attend, this information will be shared after the event has taken place. Contact trips@gordanoschool.org.uk if you have questions or queries.

London Trip

Trip Leader: Miss Davies
Date: Monday 19th May 2025
Time: 5pm - 5.30pm
Venue: Main Hall

West Midlands Trip

Trip Leader: Mr Smith
Date: Tuesday 20th May 2025
Time: 5pm - 5.30pm
Venue: Main Hall

Isle of Wight Trip

Trip Leader: Dr Humphries
Date: Wednesday 21st May 2025
Time: 5.30pm - 6pm
Venue: Main Hall

Falmouth Trip

Trip Leader: Mr Stops and Mrs Thomas
Date: Monday 19th May 2025
Time: 5.30pm - 6pm
Venue: Sixth Form Hall

North Wales Trip

Trip Leader: Mr Alsop
Date: Tuesday 20th May 2025
Time: 5.30pm - 6pm
Venue: Sixth Form Hall

Bushcraft Trip

Trip Leader: Mr Reddrop
Date: Wednesday 21st May 2025
Time: 5pm
Venue: *Information will be sent out shortly*

Have a wonderful bank holiday weekend and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 6th May.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 5

Monday 5th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th May	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition Group A
Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th May	Year 13 A-Level Art Exam
Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th May	Year 12 Mock Art Exam
Thursday 8th to Friday 9th May	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition Group B
Thursday 8th May	Start of GCSE written exams
Thursday 8th May	5pm - 7pm Year 6 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 9th May	Year 13 Leavers' Celebration
Monday 12th May	Start of A-Level written exams
Tuesday 13th May	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 14th May	Year 9 MenACWY/DtP Vaccinations
Thursday 15th May	4pm - 7.30pm Year 10 Progress Evening
Monday 19th May	Year 8 Geography Trip to Cheddar Gorge - Group 1
Tuesday 20th May	Year 8 Geography Trip to Cheddar Gorge - Group 2
Wednesday 21st May	Year 8 Geography Trip to Cheddar Gorge - Group 3
Wednesday 21st May	Year 12 UWE Business Day
Thursday 22nd May	Year 12 Trip to Oxford University for potential Oxbridge entrants
Thursday 22nd May	6pm Year 7 Celebration Evening
Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th May	Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Monday 26th to Friday 30th May inclusive	HOLIDAY