



12th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

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Well done to Year 11 and 13

We have been incredibly impressed by the way in which Year 11 and 13 have conducted themselves in the run up to, and during, the exam period. This year's exam season is proving to be far more complex than previous years, and the way that students continue to conduct themselves is helping us enormously and giving them and their peers the smoothest possible experience. They are being wonderful - keep it up, and we look forward to celebrating with them in a couple of weeks when it's all over.

Progress Evening Survey

Now that Progress Evenings for all year-groups have been held, we would like to ask parents for their view on whether the school should maintain some or all Progress Evenings online.

We would be grateful if you could complete this very short survey to indicate your views by Friday 17th June:

<https://forms.office.com/r/G9fnEcaTcJ>

Activities Week Update

Please see the attached 'summary schedule' for Activities Week for students in Years 7-9. For those in these years please note:

- School attendance is compulsory, and unauthorised absence will be treated as per any other school week. Please inform the attendance line as usual in case of illness.
- Students will not be required to wear school uniform apart from for the Year 7 Bristol Zoo visit.
- For the small number of students not going on the residential or day trips, alternative in school activities will be arranged.
- Students will receive a printed timetable in the week before Activities Week, with full information on timings and locations.

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Year 10 students are completing their 'Work Experience' Week. A schedule of employability-related learning and activities will be provided for any students still without a confirmed Work Experience placement.

Year 12 students will be involved in 'Year 12 Futures Week' with information being separately issued by the Sixth Form.

Walking through St Peter's Primary School

A number of Gordano students drop off younger siblings at St. Peter's School in the mornings. If this is the case, please could you ask your elder child to avoid trying to 'cut' through the St Peter's grounds, as they need to be able to keep their site clear of 'visitors' as their pupils are arriving on site. Thank you.

Gordano Parent Network - first workshop **THIS Thursday****, 16th June, 5.45pm.**

We have recently held some parent workshops on supporting the wellbeing of your child. The feedback from these sessions suggested that parents would welcome an opportunity to discuss and share the main issues impacting on their children with other parents who are in the same position, and also to share hints and tips on what may be helping.

We will hold the first of these sessions this Thursday, 16th June, with a focus on social media and school attendance. Tea and coffee will be available from 5.30pm in the Dining Hall, with the session starting at 5.45pm. If there is positive feedback from this session, we will look to add more to the school calendar. If you would like this opportunity to talk to other parents, please follow the link below to indicate that you will attending.
<https://forms.office.com/r/LVc41ynYFb>

NSPCWT

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together are a local forum supporting families of children/young people between the ages of 0-25 that have an emerging need, additional need and/or disability. You can contact them by emailing admin@nspcwt.org, telephone on 01934 440844, find them on social media, or go to their website <https://www.nspcwt.org/what-we-do> to access support.

The North Somerset Mental Health and Wellbeing Directory

The directory has been reviewed recently. It gives information about support services in North Somerset, ideas of local activities that can help wellbeing and self-help tools and online information. Please follow the link below to access the directory:
<https://bnssgccg.nhs.uk/library/north-somerset-mental-health-and-wellbeing-directory-services-children-and-young-people/>

PIPA Trial

The PIPA Trial is exploring the effectiveness of an online resource for parents/carers to help reduce depression and anxiety in young people. The trial is being coordinated by the University of Warwick and involves families of young people aged 11-15 years.

The trial is free and conducted completely online; eligible parents/carers and young people will be asked to complete some questionnaires and will receive access to some online parenting resources.

Parents of students in years 7 to 10 will shortly receive a letter with additional information and details on how interested families can register. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Thomas (cthomas@gordanoschool.org.uk) or the PIPA trial team at PIPA@warwick.ac.uk or 02476574316/02476575078.

'Thank a Teacher' Initiative

At the end of last term we asked students (via Firefly task) if students would like to thank one or more of their teachers as part of 'Thank a Teacher' Day. As ever, a very large number of students have been incredibly proactive in thanking many of our staff (and we remain the 'most thanked' school in the South West). I'd like to thank students for taking the time to do this - it means so much to staff when they receive a 'thank you' message from a student. As we near the end of the academic year students or parents are still able to send a thank you to any of their teachers or other school staff who support them through the "Thank a Teacher" website. Just follow this link: <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Time is moving fast, and we find ourselves with only six weeks left of the school year. It will, however, be a very intense six weeks, with Year 10 exams, Year 12 exams, Sports Week (including Sports Day and the Swimming Gala), Year 11 and 13 Proms, Activities Week and more. Please do ensure that you read all of the school's communications, and your prompt action, when needed, is a huge help in our management of this very busy time.

Both Louise Blundell (new Headteacher from September) and Johnny Mailey (new Deputy Headteacher i/c Behaviour and Pastoral Care) spent some time in school last week, meeting a range of staff and students. They are both really looking forward to 'getting going' in September, and we are working really hard to ensure a really smooth handover.

And to finish on a really positive note, we hosted a school review with a number of school leaders from other schools around the country last week. They were hugely impressed by the conduct and courtesy of our students, their engagement in learning and their hugely positive approach to school life. It is not a surprise to us, of course, but it was lovely to hear such warm praise from those who had no previous knowledge of the school.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Kind regards



Tom Inman
Headteacher