



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week. This week we have asked all students and staff to complete a survey regarding the food offer we have at school, and in our update last week referenced that we would also be sending out a survey to parents. This is to ascertain your opinions on the food offer we currently have from Aspens. If you are able to complete [this survey](#) before Tuesday 6th February we can then share those views in our next management meeting. Thank you for your support with this.

INSET Day Reminder

A reminder to parents the school has two INSET days immediately after the Half Term break on Monday 19th February & Tuesday 20th February. We will look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Wednesday 21st February. I have also shared below for you the key dates for next term.

Planned Lockdown Practice and Procedures

As part of our Health and Safety procedures I will be walking through the Lockdown Procedures with our students during our Monday morning broadcast next week. This is to ensure that all students are clear about the procedures should we be required to lockdown the school. We will then be running a lockdown drill next term.

Please can parents/carers of Year 8 and Year 11 students look out for letters in their inboxes which will be sent today and Monday respectively (Guided choices for Year 8 and Year 11 update).

Children's Mental Health Week Commencing 5th February

We will be supporting this year's national focus on 'My Voice Matters' with all year group assemblies and extended tutor time discussion activities. OTR will be running a 'pop up' in the quad at Monday lunchtime to encourage student voice and to highlight ways in which our young people can support their wellbeing.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

RAAC work

You will remember we told you that early in the school year we found two areas in school where RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) was present. Neither of these areas were structural, and we reported to the DfE as required. Since then, we have worked with the DfE on resolving the project, and in fact the DfE made our situation a test case for the department allowing us to move directly to remedial work (this we demonstrated was by far the most economical solution to the issue). The RAAC has now been removed and the walls have been finished with new coverings that improve both the look and the thermal performance. The corridor we closed will remain blocked off until after the February break as the flooring needs to be replaced following the works.



Tree planting on the school site

As well as the extensive planting around the main site that Mr Swift has led with the Eco team, which has involved all tutor groups planting native trees in the past two years, we have been working with North Somerset council to add to the trees on the school estate. This week a team from the council planted saplings in some of the space on the southern Clapton Lane playing field. A number of native species were planted as well as a small orchard that we look forward to students using as part of future projects within the curriculum.



Careers Teatime Networking Event - Engineering

Our second Teatime Networking event of the year was Engineering, and we were so pleased to be able to welcome some of the top engineering companies to Gordano School. Airbus, BAE Systems, Baker Hughes, Babcock, BEMA and Edwards Vacuum all spent well over an hour talking to and answering questions from our students. Engineering is such an important industry sector with lots of apprenticeship opportunities and so it is important for students to learn as much about the industry as possible and this was a great opportunity to talk to the Companies direct.

Lighthouse School Partnership Information; Measles cases prompt MMR vaccine call

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported an increase in measles across the country and is encouraging people to check that they and their children have had two doses of the MMR vaccine. Currently, there are no cases of measles reported in North Somerset, but action is important now to prevent cases of measles and stop it from spreading. The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella. It's important for you to take up the offer of MMR vaccination for your children when it's offered at 1 year of age and as a pre-school booster at three years, four months of age. If children and young adults have missed these vaccinations in the past, please ask your GP for a vaccination appointment. This is particularly important in light of the recent cases in other parts of the UK. Check your child's Red Book to see if they've received MMR vaccinations as scheduled or check with your GP surgery if you're unsure. Most healthy adults will have developed some immunity to measles but can still receive two doses of the vaccine from their GP too.

You are very unlikely to get measles if you've had both doses of the MMR vaccine or you've had measles before. Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

Anyone who thinks they have measles are being advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice. For more information about measles, see the [nhs.uk/measles](https://www.nhs.uk/measles) website.

Uniform

As always thank you for your continued support around ensuring students are dressed correctly for school. We wanted to let you know that uniform will continue to be a key focus for us in term 4. If your child currently doesn't have the correct uniform, please can we ask for this to be resolved in readiness for the new term. Please see the link for a reminder of the uniform and appearance expectations [Gordano School - Uniform](#). I'd like to highlight that after Christmas we saw an increase in students wearing acrylic nails and nose piercings and we would like to emphasise that neither are permitted under any circumstances and students will be asked to remove them. In order to ensure your child is not removed from learning we ask that the uniform correction process is adhered to. A reminder of our uniform correction process is below:

If a student is not in the correct uniform their tutor will send them to the student centre and they will be given 2 options:

1. Offered spare uniform to put on for that day
2. Parents/Carers will be contacted to either bring in the correct uniform /permission for your child to go home and put on the correct uniform

If students do not comply with either option 1 or 2 they will need to attend Focus for a full day or until the uniform is corrected.

Type 2 Diabetes Management Workshop - 7th February

Portishead Town Council are offering a free workshop about Type 2 Diabetes management on Wednesday 7th February. You can find more information [here](#).

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', with a small flourish at the end.

**Ms L Blundell
Headteacher**

Key Dates for Term 3

Term 3 Achievement Reviews for Year Group 7 and 11

Monday 5 th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Monday 5 th February	3.30 - 4.30 Year 7 MFL Spelling Bee Final
Tuesday 6 th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Tuesday 6 th February	6.00 - 7.00 Parent Forum
Wednesday 7 th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam (lessons 1-6)
Thursday 8 th February	4.00 - 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 9 th February	School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 - 5.30)
HOLIDAY	Monday 12 th February - Friday 16 th February inclusive

Key Dates for Term 4

Monday 19 th February	INSET DAY
Tuesday 20 th February	INSET DAY
w/c Wednesday 21 st February	Week 13 Mock Exams
w/c Monday 26 th February	Week 13 Mock Exams
w/c 21 st and 26 th February	GCSE Food Practical Exams
Friday 23 rd February	Year 11 Photos
w/c 4 th March	Year 13 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
w/c 4 th March	Year 11 Mock Exam Week - Core Subjects
Monday 4 th March	School Production rehearsal 8.40 - 1.30
Monday 4 th March	School Production to Primary Schools 1.30pm
5 th - 8 th February	School Production 7pm
Wednesday 6 th March	Teatime Careers Networking event 3.30 - 5.00
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Monday 11 th March	Year 13 A-level Music Recital (all-day exam)
Thursday 14 th March	Year 8 Key Stage 4 Guided Choices Evening 4.00 - 7.30
Friday 15 th March	Sixth Form Photo
w/c 18 th March	Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week
w/c 18 th March	Book Fair in the School Library all week
Tuesday 19 th March	Easter Concert Rehearsal (all day)
Tuesday 19 th March	Easter Concert
Wednesday 20 th February	Easter Concert
Thursday 21 st March	Post-18 Apprenticeship Meeting 5.30 - 7.00
Sunday 24 th March	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training Day
w/c 25 th March	Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Friday 28 th March (Last Day of Term (normal day finish at 3.20pm)