



10th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this letter:

- Activities Week Thanks and Feedback
- Parental Survey
- Creative Arts Festival
- Summer Dining Offers
- Community Governor Vacancies
- Uniform expectations this week

Activities Week Thanks and Feedback

Thank you for your support over Activities Week. The final trip returned yesterday evening at about 6pm. We do hope that your child(ren) had an enjoyable experience, and it was great that the weather was feeling kind.

Due to a range of factors it has been a very challenging week to plan and deliver, not helped by a bit of a Covid surge amongst staff during the week! Many schools didn't even try to run an 'Activities Week' this year, with all the ongoing unknowns and challenges around Covid. We felt strongly that we wanted to, given what students have missed out on in the last couple of years, as it's a really important part of our 'broader' educational vision.

Given the challenges, enforced changes and last-minute complications, there are likely to be a few aspects that were not quite as smooth as we would have hoped, but I hope that you still feel that the week was a positive experience. As ever, we want to learn as much as we can from the week for future years. If you'd like to give any feedback (positive or any areas for potential improvement), please do so here:

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

I would like to offer a huge thanks to all the staff who gave up so much of their time to help make the week possible, and especially to the 'trip leads', all those on residential visits and day trips, and all those who stepped in at very short notice for absent colleagues.

Parental Survey

We've had some responses to our Parental Survey, but we'd like to get considerably more. I would be incredibly grateful for a few minutes of your time to complete this short parental survey before Wednesday 13th July so please take a few minutes to give us your feedback.

The link to the survey is here: <https://forms.office.com/r/0zs8qXxBmN>.

Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

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

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

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Creative Arts Festival - Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th July, (with Art Exhibition until Friday 15th July)

Just a reminder that the Creative Arts Festival is happening this week. It is always a wonderful celebration of our students' talent and commitment, so please do come along (and bring friends) if you can and to give the students your support.

For more information, including a 'promo video' and how to buy tickets, please see the webpage:

<https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/creative-arts-festival>

Summer Dining Offers

Please see below link for information on where children can eat for free over the summer break, the big three being:

- Asda
- Morrisons
- Beefeater

<https://kiddoadventures.com/2022/07/01/summer-holidays-2022-21-restaurants-cafes-where-kids-can-eat-for-free/>

Community Governor Vacancies

We have a couple of community governor vacancies for the school's Governing Body from September. Community Governors are appointed by the school's Governing Body to represent the community and should, ideally, live or work in the community served by the school. It could be a current parent of the school, but does not have to be.

As the school is moving into a new chapter under Louise Blundell's leadership from September, it is a really important and exciting time for the Governing Body, and Professor Neil Willey, Chair of Governors, would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who feels that they may have something to add. In particular, anyone with experience in education (and especially Secondary education) would be especially encouraged, but please don't let it stop you if you don't, as the Governing Body are always seeking a broad range of skills and experience.

Please do also pass this on to others who you think may be interested.

Any expressions of interest should contact Lisa Cherriman, Head's PA, by Thursday 21st July at headteacherpa@gordanoschool.org.uk.

Uniform expectations this week

Due to the unusually hot weather forecast for this week, we will allow students not to wear ties. All other expectations remain (including wearing PE kits only on PE days) and will be followed up as usual. In particular:

- Skirts and PE skorts must be of an acceptable length - our uniform expectations indicate that skirts should be 'knee length'. We do allow skirts that are marginally above the knee, but there are too many students wearing skirts that are far too short, or 'rolled up'. In addition, some are wearing PE skorts that are far too small. Sanctions will be issued and students will be expected to change, if unacceptable
- Shirts must remain tucked in.
- Sixth Form students must still dress appropriately for school.
- Students in Years 7-10 may only wear one pair of studs in each ear, and nose piercings are not permitted.

In addition, please ensure that your child(ren) are bringing in a bottle of water that is large enough not to need to be refilled part way through lessons. Thanks!

Activities Week can sometimes feel like it should be the end of the school year, but we're not quite there yet and we have some important work to do in that time. Your support in ensuring that students are in the right mindset for school over coming days is greatly appreciated - we look forward to enjoying seeing them back full of Activities Week tales and engaging back in their learning. Nine more days to go...!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher