



Year 8 Parental Information Evening

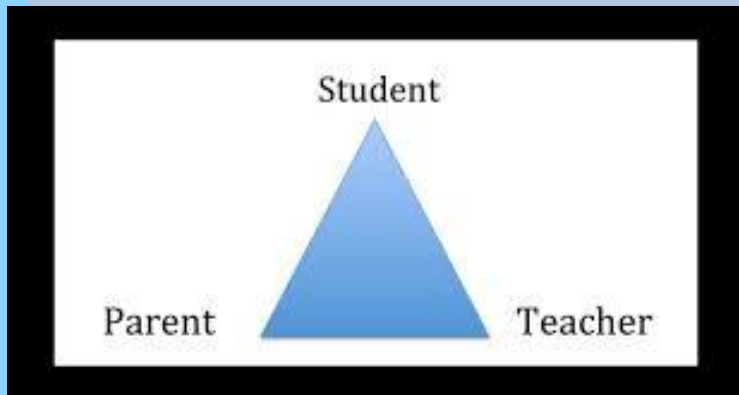
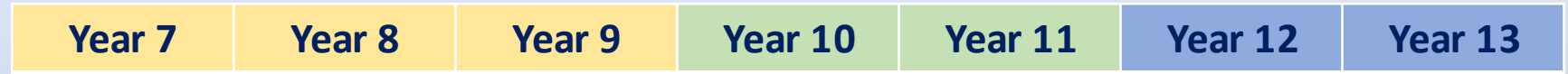
Monday 28th September 2026

Thank you for joining us this evening.
The presentation will cover the following areas:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. The Year Ahead**
- 3. Key Dates 2026-27**
- 4. Year 8 Curriculum and Homework**
- 5. Read to Succeed**
- 6. Safeguarding**
- 7. Themes: Kindness, Resilience and Belonging**
- 8. Activities Week**



The Journey Ahead





Year 8

The year ahead



NEW YEAR – FRESH START!



NEW CLASSES



NEW TEACHERS



HIGH EXPECTATIONS



**ESSENTIAL
CURRICULUM
CONTENT**



Mr Snow



A great start for Year 8 so far

- 16,192 merits – best year group at this stage of the year
- Keep it up!





Key dates for Year 8

Thursday 8 October	Tutor Reviews
Friday 5 March	Year 8 Achievement Review 1 issued
Thursday 22 April	Year 8 Progress Evening
July	Year 8 Achievement Review 2 issued



Other Dates of Interest

8/9 December	Christmas Music Concert
Wednesday 29 April	Junior Maths Challenge
June	House Celebration Evenings
Friday 18 June	Inter-House Swimming Gala
28 June – 2 July	Activities Week
Thursday 8 July	Sports Day



The Year 8 Curriculum

Gordano school website- About us- Curriculum

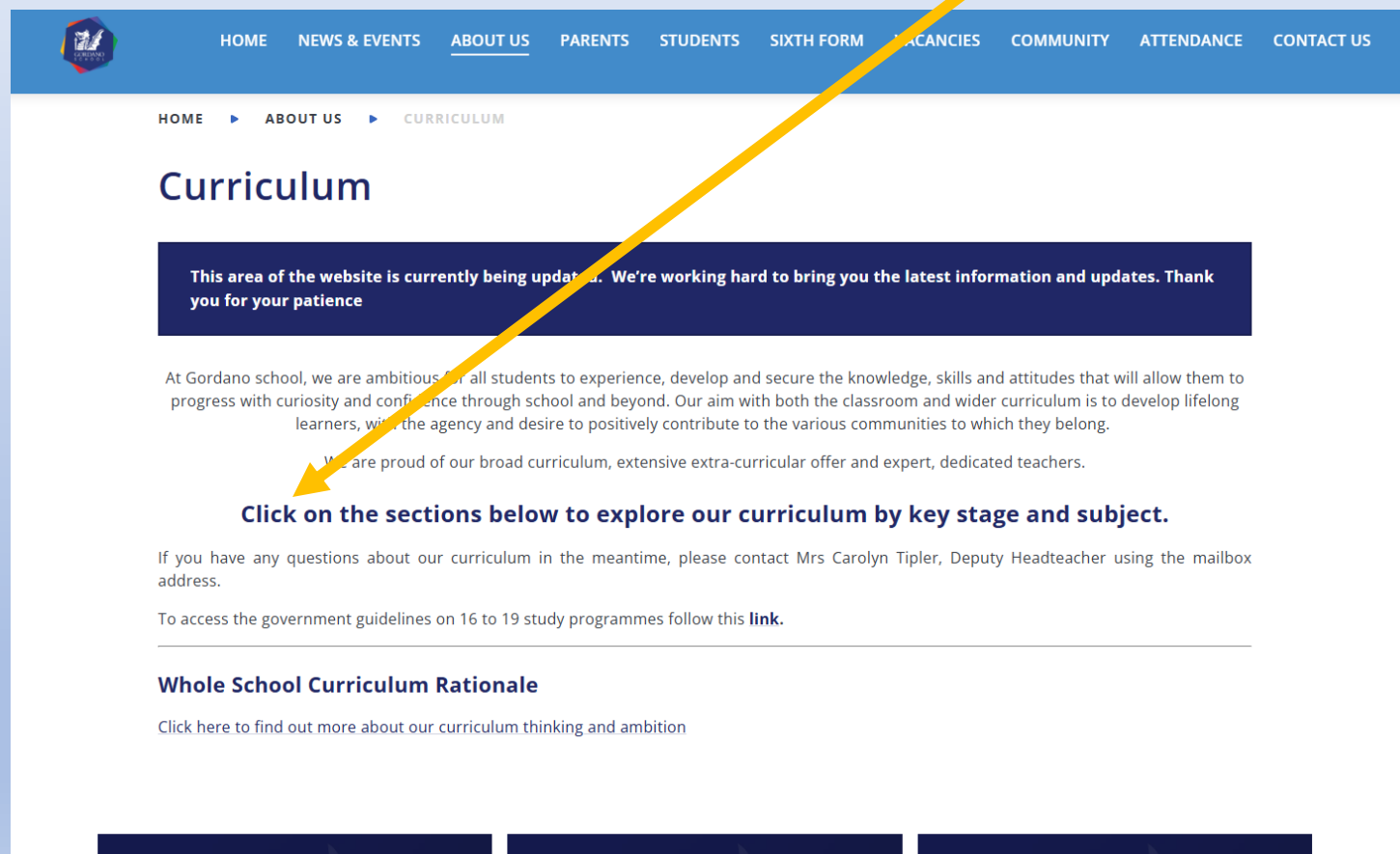
The screenshot shows the Gordano School website. The navigation bar includes links for HOME, NEWS & EVENTS, ABOUT US, PARENTS, STUDENTS, SIXTH FORM, and VACANCIES. The 'ABOUT US' menu is open, displaying a grid of links. A large background image of a student is visible on the left, with the text 'DREAM BIG' at the bottom.

Prospectus	A Video Introduction to our School
Transition from Year 6	In Year Admissions (Years 7 - 11)
Why Choose Gordano	Our Vision
Pastoral & House System	Policies & Statutory Documents
Curriculum	SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
Senior Leadership Team	Governors
Information for Visitors and Contractors	Lighthouse Schools Partnership Multi-Academy Trust



The Year 8 Curriculum

Scroll down this page until you reach the sections below



 [HOME](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [ABOUT US](#) [PARENTS](#) [STUDENTS](#) [SIXTH FORM](#) [VACANCIES](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [ATTENDANCE](#) [CONTACT US](#)

[HOME](#) ► [ABOUT US](#) ► [CURRICULUM](#)

Curriculum

This area of the website is currently being updated. We're working hard to bring you the latest information and updates. Thank you for your patience

At Gordano school, we are ambitious for all students to experience, develop and secure the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to progress with curiosity and confidence through school and beyond. Our aim with both the classroom and wider curriculum is to develop lifelong learners, with the agency and desire to positively contribute to the various communities to which they belong.

We are proud of our broad curriculum, extensive extra-curricular offer and expert, dedicated teachers.

Click on the sections below to explore our curriculum by key stage and subject.

If you have any questions about our curriculum in the meantime, please contact Mrs Carolyn Tipler, Deputy Headteacher using the mailbox address.

To access the government guidelines on 16 to 19 study programmes follow this [link](#).

Whole School Curriculum Rationale

[Click here](#) to find out more about our curriculum thinking and ambition



The Year 8 Curriculum

Information about what learning looks like at Gordano.

Click on Key Stage 3 for specific subject overviews



HOME

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KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7 - 9)

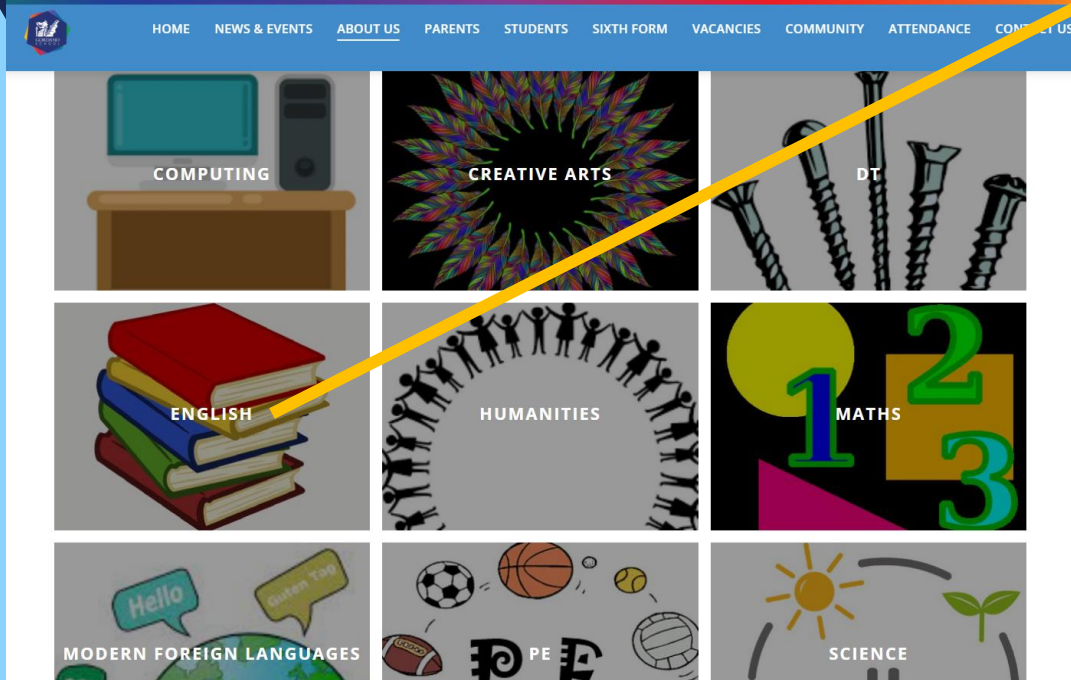
KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 - 11)

KEY STAGE 5 (YEARS 12 - 13)



The Year 8 Curriculum

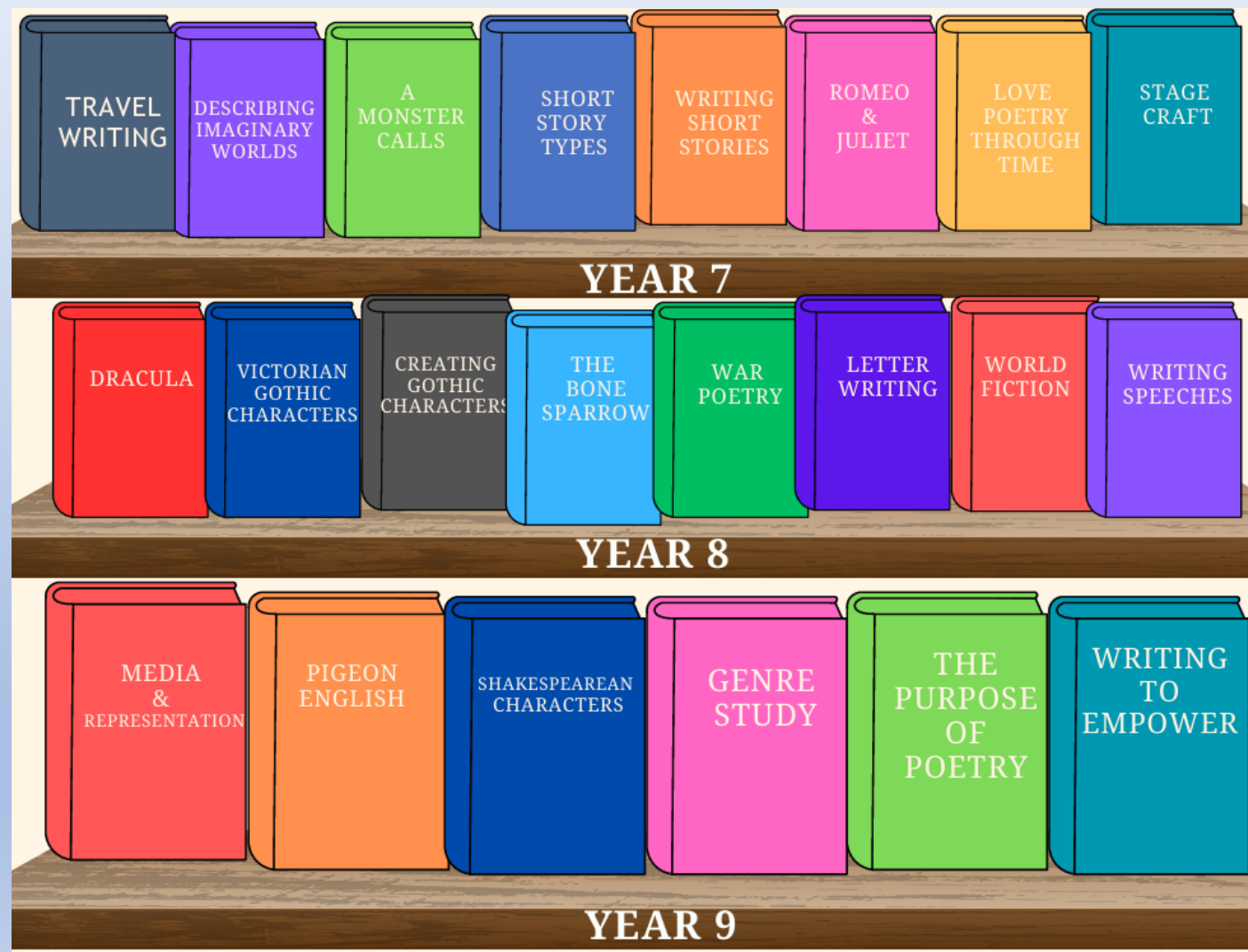
	Terms 1-2	Terms 3-4	Terms 5-6
Year 7	Describing Worlds	The Art of Storytelling <i>A Monster Calls</i>	Love Through Time <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Year 8	Gothic Fears <i>Dracula</i>	War and Conflict <i>The Bone Sparrow</i>	Our Natural World
Year 9	Representation & Identity <i>Pigeon English</i>	Character and Genre <i>Shakespearean characters</i>	Empower and Inspire <i>various poems</i>



Year 8			
UNIT:	1. Gothic Fears	2. War and Conflict	3. Our Natural World
Big Question	How do Gothic writers explore our fear of the unknown?	How does our perspective and viewpoint affect the way we view war and conflict?	How do writers aim to broaden our empathy and understanding of our natural world?
Literature	<i>Dracula</i> (the play adaptation) - ASSESSED LOs: 1. To analyse how structural techniques create tension for an audience. 2. To evaluate Gothic characters in relation to relevant Victorian context. Milestone and Final Assessment Task: How does the writer use structural techniques to engage the audience?	<i>The Bone Sparrow</i> - ASSESSED LOs: 1. To explore differing viewpoints and perspectives on war and its impacts. 2. To analyse how the writer uses narrative perspective to present different viewpoints on conflict and its effects. Milestone Assessment: How does Fraillon present the camp and Jimmie's perspective of it? Final Assessment: How does Fraillon present conflict and Subhi's perspective of this in Chapter 30?	No Strand 1 this term
Language / Extracts	Gothic Character Writing - ASSESSED LOs: 1. To analyse the effect of writers' methods in characterisation. 2. To consider the writers' intentions in characterisation. 3. To craft writing that meets the conventions of the Gothic genre. 4. To be able to use foreshadowing in description.	Voices Affected by Conflict - NOT ASSESSED LOs: 1. To explore differing viewpoints and perspectives of conflict and its impacts. 2. To analyse how the writer uses perspective to present different viewpoints of conflict and its effects.	Literature about our Living World - NOT ASSESSED LOs: 1. To analyse how writers use language to broaden our empathy and perspectives on our natural world. 2. To understand how literature reflects ever changing perspectives on our natural world.
Writing	Milestone Assessment: Describe a Gothic character. Final Assessment: Write a Gothic description (setting and character) that uses foreshadowing.	Empathy Writing - ASSESSED LOs: 1. To analyse how poets present ideas from a specific perspective. 2. To be able to write convincingly from another perspective and voice. Milestone: Opening of a letter inspired by <i>Dulce et Decorum Est</i> . Final: Full letter written from the perspective of a war character who has returned home.	Environmental Issues Speech Writing - ASSESSED LOs: 1. To understand and analyse the effects of persuasive techniques. 2. To be able to use persuasive techniques in a speech. Milestone: Write one paragraph of a speech using AFOREST techniques. Final: Write a persuasive speech on an environmental issue.



The Year 8 Curriculum





The Year 8 Curriculum



Year 8 Homework

- Homework will be set every two weeks on **Thursdays of Week 1.**
- All homework will be set on  **ClassCharts**
- Subject deadlines will vary over the fortnight
(no less than 7 days to complete)
- A homework task should normally take **30-40 minutes** to complete
- Homework support: Wednesday after school



GORDANO EXTRA



A student and parent guide to the
Gordano Extra Curricular offer

CONTENTS

<u>3D Printing</u>	<u>Album</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>Chess</u>
<u>Christian</u>	<u>Cipher Club</u>
<u>Craft</u>	<u>Culture Club</u>
<u>Dance</u>	<u>D&D</u>
<u>Duke of Edinburgh</u>	<u>Flying Start</u>
<u>Games</u>	<u>History</u>
<u>Karate</u>	<u>Library</u>
<u>LGBTQ+</u>	<u>Model United Nations</u>
<u>Music</u>	<u>Philosophy</u>
<u>Photography</u> GCSE Support	<u>Photography</u> KS3
<u>Sport</u>	<u>STEM</u>
<u>Task Master</u>	

For further information about each club please click
the name above to navigate directly to that page

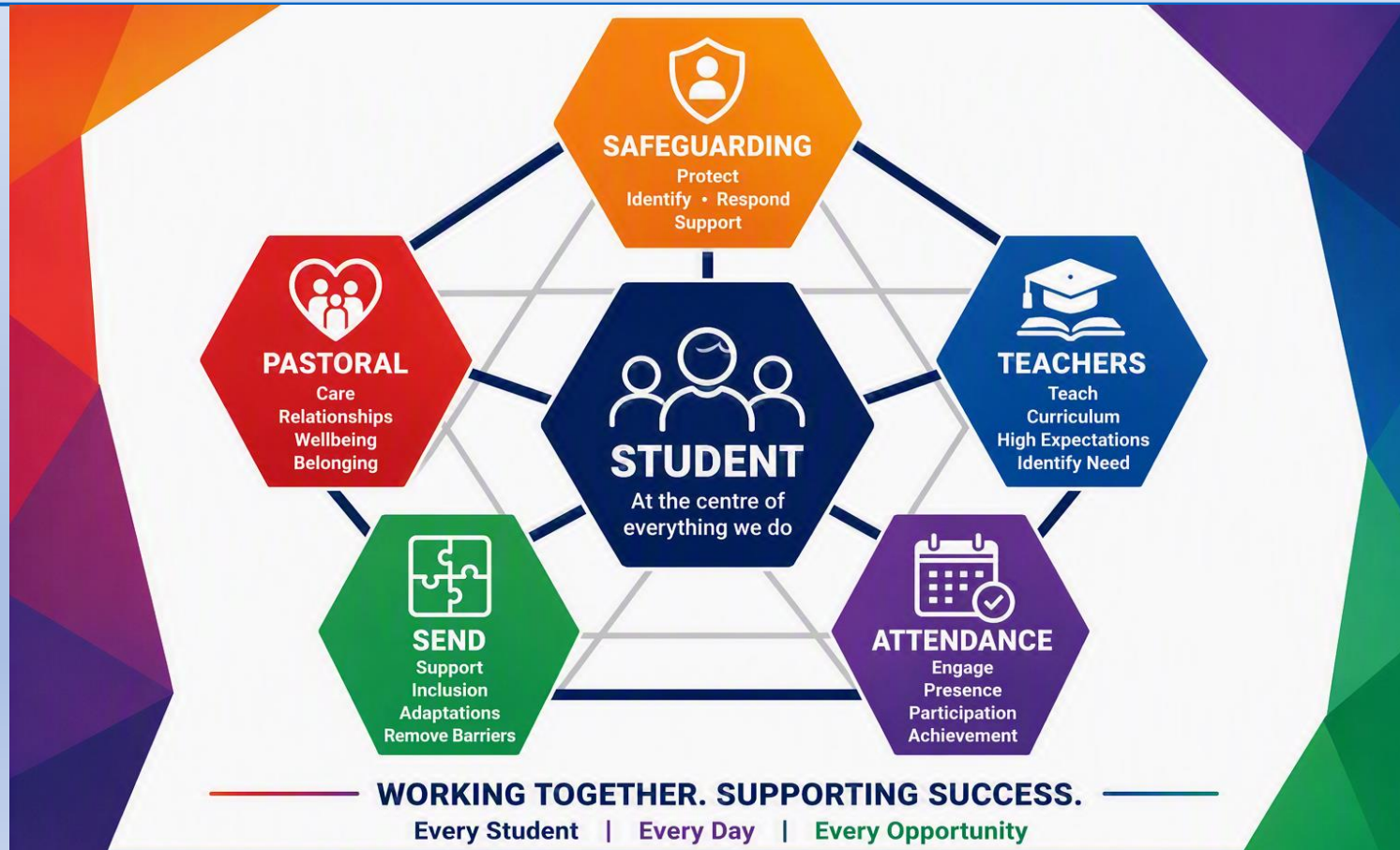


Mrs Luton



Inclusion at Gordano

- We are proud that this is an area of excellence for us – (Challenge Partners review)
- Read more about it here: [Gordano School - Gordano School Accredited as an Area of Excellence for Inclusion as a Whole School Ethos](#)





Keeping You Safe

☰

Explore Student Concern and Well-being

○

Student Concern and Well-being

•

Book a well-being chat

Create

Student Concern and Well-being

Immersive Reader

Student Concern and Well-being



Year 7



Biscay



Cromarty



Fitzroy



Lundy



Portland



Shannon

Book a well-being chat [LINK TO FORM](#)



+ safe spaces and staff wearing High Visibility jackets at break times.

No recommendations [Recommend Page](#)

Our Specialist Safeguarding Team



Ms J Fairs
Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs N Austen



Mr J Boulton



Ms M Georgiou



Ms K Grierson



Mrs K Hayden



Mr T Heysham



Miss K Hodge



Mr J Mailey
Strategic Safeguarding
Lead



Miss H Holt



Miss C Hooper



Mr G Horner



Mrs B Lufon



Mrs K Mata



Mrs C McKenzie



Mrs L Rigby



Mrs D Sherring
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs J Snailum



Mrs Sperring



Mr S Swift



Mrs C Thomas



Mr M Tipler



Mrs H Wills





Attendance and Punctuality

- Students should be on site **by 8.35am** and at tutor bases ready for **8.40am**
- Students should aim for attendance of **96% and above**
- **Good attendance and punctuality lead to stronger academic progress, disruption-free learning for all and build a strong foundation for life beyond school**
- We ask parents to work with the school where there are issues with attendance
- We follow the LSP attendance policy (this can be found on our website)
- Term-time holiday can be approved only in extremely exceptional circumstances





- Reading is one of the strongest predictors of academic success.
- Reading boosts progress across all subjects, not just English.
- Students who struggle to read are at a disadvantage in every exam they take.

Across the whole country, one in four 15-year-olds has a reading age of 12 or below, putting them at risk in every GCSE subject.

- Regular readers achieve more. Children who read daily have significantly higher reading attainment scores than those who do not read daily.
- Reading develops more than academic skills. Reading for pleasure is linked to improved learning, confidence, wellbeing and empathy.





Just 20 minutes a day ...

Why read for 20 minutes a day?		
Pupil A reads...	Pupil B reads...	Pupil C reads...
20 minutes a day	5 minutes a day	1 minute a day
3,600 MINUTES PER SCHOOL YEAR	900 MINUTES PER SCHOOL YEAR	180 MINUTES PER SCHOOL YEAR
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90 th percentile on tests	Scores in the 50 th percentile on tests	Scores in the 10 th percentile on tests
If a pupil begins reading when they are in reception, by the end of Year 6, pupil A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, pupil B will have read for 12 school days, and pupil C will have read for 3.		
Which Pupil do You think will be more successful in school...and in life?		



Supporting Reading at Home

[HOME](#)[NEWS & EVENTS](#)[ABOUT US](#)[PARENTS](#)[STUDENTS](#)[SIXTH FORM](#)

Library

Our wonderful Library is a real hub at the centre of our school, where students can take part in book clubs and homework club, complete research, use the computers, get book recommendations and much more. Our Librarian arranges author visits, book fairs and supports English staff with the planning and delivery of Library lessons.

Librarian: Mrs McGilloway

Opening Times

- 8:15-4:15 Monday-Thursday
- 8:15-3:45 Friday



goallin.org.uk

Borrowing Books



Audio Books



Library Clubs



Read for Pleasure



Library Events



Book Recommendations





Ms Blundell



Dream Big

Do Your Best

Give Back

KINDNESS



RESILIENCE



Working together to create a sense of **belonging for everyone**





Why is a sense of *belonging* at Gordano so important?



"Belonging is not something school gives you. It is something we create together."

Resilience

Kindness

Teamwork





Why do we launch every term with an assembly on expectations?

- It acts as a foundation for a successful and productive year ahead
- It sets a clear tone and understanding of behavioural, academic and cultural expectations for students and all members of the community
- It provides an opportunity to align everyone's understanding of the values, goals and standards of our school community
- It allows us to provide a positive and cohesive environment from the very start



Classroom Expectations

Be ready for learning then
Do Your Best!

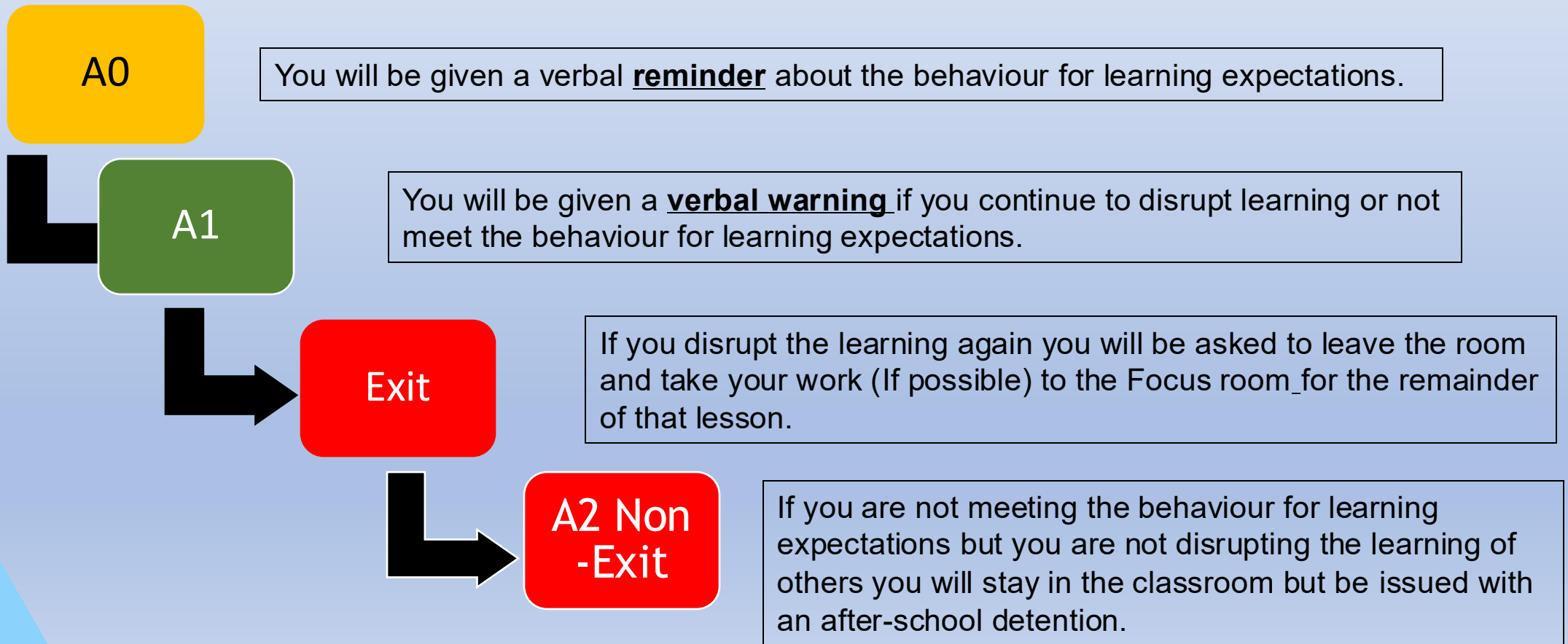


Positive start	✓ Arrive on time ✓ Wear uniform correctly ✓ Line up sensibly ✓ Sit in the correct seat ✓ Coat off ✓ Equipment out ✓ Start the 'Do Now'
Quality Audience	✓ Silent when asked (3-2-1) ✓ Listen in silence ✓ Focus on the speaker ✓ Respect others' opinions ✓ Speak when appropriate
Follow instructions	✓ Do as asked the first time ✓ Question politely if the instruction is unclear
Do your best	✓ Attempt task straight away ✓ Stay focused ✓ Complete as much as you can ✓ Ask for help if you need it ✓ Be resilient ✓ Stay in the lesson
Pride in presentation	✓ Titles and dates underlined ✓ Work neatly laid out ✓ Books/folders free of doodling

Disruption-free
learning for ALL



Failure to Meet Classroom Expectations





Community Expectations



Uniform

- ✓ Wear it correctly and with pride
- ✓ Shirts tucked in
- ✓ Skirts and shorts appropriate length

Moving around the site

- ✓ Stay in appropriate areas for social times (not in stairwells, upstairs or wings)
- ✓ Hands off others
- ✓ Indoor voices when inside
- ✓ Move around calmly and quietly when inside - be thoughtful of others
- ✓ Keep left in corridors and avoid contact
- ✓ Go straight to your lesson



Break and lunchtime

- ✓ Place litter in the bin
- ✓ Eat in the Designated zones
- ✓ Tidy up after yourself
- ✓ Have fun and stay safe
- ✓ Use this time to go to toilet
- ✓ Use this time to fill up your water bottle

Talking to staff

- ✓ Listen to and follow staff instructions, the first time
- ✓ Be respectful when communicating with staff

To and from school

- ✓ Leave room for others when using the pavement
- ✓ Cycle on the road/cycle lanes
- ✓ Be respectful to all members of the public including staff in shops and takeaways



Uniform – thank you!

Blazers – To be worn all the time

Grey school jumpers – can be worn underneath, but not instead of a blazer

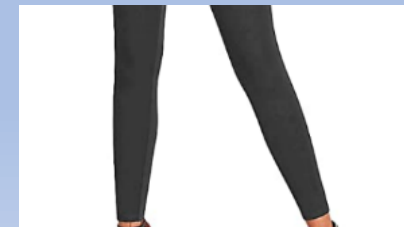
Trousers can be fitted, but must not be tight fitting around the lower leg (please see photos below for guidance).

Shoes must be black and polishable. Cloth material footwear / black trainers are not permitted.

Skirts/Shorts must sit just above the knee. It is not permitted to roll up skirts or shorts. If wearing school uniform shorts/skirts, socks/tights must be grey or black.

Shirts **must be tucked in at all times**

Coats – should be OFF in lessons





We are a proudly phone-free school

In June 2025, we became a phone-free school, using Yondr pouches to ensure this, to great success

If students choose to bring a phone to school, it is locked in a pouch each morning and unlocked at the end of the day, when they leave. They are responsible for bringing their pouch each day, storing it in their bags locked.

Your children have taken to the system like ducks to water!

Pouch Forgotten	-1 behaviour point; phone kept in the Student Centre for the day and a 10 minute detention at the end of the day.
Student found with phone out of pouch	-3 behaviour points and a day's internal suspension
Student who does not bring a phone to school	Please put a signed note in their pouch confirming that they do not bring a phone to school.



Overview of Rewards

Student Rewards

Top 5 Students of the Week

House Celebrations

Inter - House Championship

Dream **Big** | Do Your **Best** | Give **Back**



Parental Communication

Student related queries

The contact forms have now been replaced by our central email address for student related queries mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk. This mailbox will be monitored during normal school hours, and we aim to respond within 3 working days, during term-time.

To help us deal with your query as efficiently as possible, please include the full name of the student, tutor group and the name of the staff member you wish to contact (if known).

We would also like to remind you that key parental communications and information relating to term dates, uniform, catering etc can be found on the [school website](#).

SEND:

To contact the SEND/Student Support Team please email SEND@gordanoschool.org.uk





Parental Communication

Updating student contact and medical information

If you need to update your contact details that we hold for you or your child, or their medical information, please contact the data team by email on datateam@gordanoschool.org.uk

Please note that we are unable to make updates over the phone.

Attendance

Please email attendanceteam@gordanoschool.org.uk **no later than 9.00am on each day of your child's absence** and include the following information:

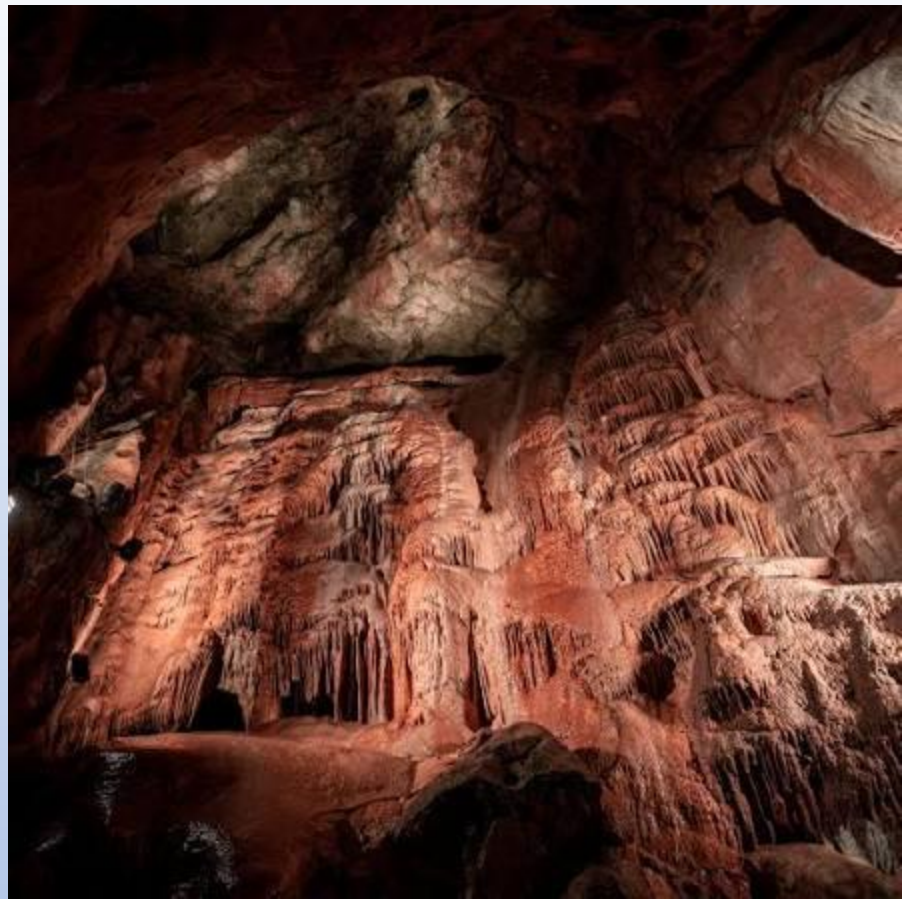
- Student name
- Tutor Group
- Detailed reason for absence



Gordano is a NUT-AWARE School



- Please do not allow your child to bring any nuts or products which may contain traces of nuts into school.
- We have students and staff with nut allergies who could be seriously affected, so we appreciate your co-operation and understanding.



YEAR 8 ACTIVITIES WEEK



Mon 28th June – Fri 2nd July 2027

We are excited to announce that we will be offering five fun-filled days for the Year 8 Activities Week.

Cost: approx. £225 (tbc)

Day trips/activities include:

- West Country Water Park
- Adventure Bristol
- Ninja Warrior & Hollywood Bowl
- Cheddar Geography trip
- MOJO active

For students who decide not to sign up there will be a FREE onsite programme with teacher-led activities designed to be fun, engaging, and inclusive.

Please note that this is still a school week and students are expected to participate in either the Activities Week or base programme.



Free School Meals

Qualifying benefits for Free School Meals

- Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you get any of these benefits:
 - Universal credit
 - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Changes this year:
 - From **September 2026**, the previous earnings threshold for families receiving Universal Credit has been removed. All children in households receiving Universal Credit can now access Free School Meals.
 - Families should still **apply/register** for Free School Meals, even if their child already receives a meal entitlement. Registration may also help schools receive additional funding through the **Pupil Premium** where applicable.
- If in doubt, apply!
- [Gordano School - Free School Meals & Pupil Premium](#)



Year 8 Parental Information Evening

Monday 28th September 2026

Thank you for joining us this evening.

This presentation will soon be available on the website and Ms Blundell will send a link in our Friday Parent comms