



21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a sunny but very cold week at Gordano, and the drop in temperature has understandably led to more parents using the bus stop on St Mary's Road and the main entrance as informal drop-off points. However, we are increasingly concerned about the volume of traffic in these areas. We kindly ask parents **not** to drop off or pick up their children by any of the school gates or to drive onto pavements to park at the start or end of the day, as this creates significant safety and congestion issues.

As the weather gets colder, please take a moment to read the school's [severe weather plan](#) which would be implemented in the case of a school closure due to weather conditions.

Yondr Pouch use

We are so proud of how well students have come to see the use of their pouches as part of their usual routine. We would like to remind you of a few things:

- If pouches are broken, accidentally or otherwise, a replacement pouch must be bought. These are available on ParentPay and can be collected by students from Main Reception.
- If a student knowingly has a broken pouch that they continue to use, this will be sanctioned.
- Once students pass the unlocking/locking stations in the morning, their phones should be locked and in their pouches. If students have their phones out of their pouches or their pouches unlocked after this point, we will assume this is so they can use their phone during the school day and will be sanctioned as such.

Thank you for your support; the pouches have changed our school environment in the most positive of ways. We are now on our sixth visit from Senior Leaders at other Bristol and North Somerset schools who are seeing how it is done here in order to introduce Yondr at their schools.

New online CBT service for local children and young people

The local NHS has launched a new online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) service, SilverCloud, which offers support for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12-plus can self-refer to the service at feelingmixedup.uk and support is also available for parents of children aged five-plus.

The service is a part of a range of local wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off The Record. You can find out more about these services in the *Directory of Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People* for your area, available on the local NHS website at [Children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing - BNSSG Healthier Together](#)

Bristol Bears "Bear in Mind" Programme - Year 10 girls

We are pleased to be running the Bristol Bears "Bear in Mind" programme for Year 10 girls in Terms 3 and 4. "Bear in Mind" is a health and wellbeing initiative aimed at secondary school girls to build self-confidence and investigate topics such as stress, resilience, self-care and body image. The programme will take place every Monday during periods 1 and 5, with one lesson of classroom-based activities and one practical lesson every week. Students do not need to be sporty to take part. A ClassCharts announcement has been sent to students, with a link to register their interests. Please do discuss this with your daughter and encourage her to apply if you feel she may benefit from the programme. More details can be found by following this link: [Bear in Mind - Bristol Bears Rugby](#)

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell, BA

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

Tel: 01275 842606 Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

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Easyfundraising scheme

This November, we're encouraging all families and the community to support Gordano School through Easyfundraising. Simply download the Easyfundraising app and create an account within 24 hours, selecting Gordano School as your chosen cause. Doing this alone generates an instant £2 donation for the school, before you've even made a purchase. Then, whenever you shop online with participating retailers, they'll donate a small percentage to the school at no extra cost to you. It's an easy, free way to help us raise valuable funds during the busy Christmas shopping season. Sign up [here](#) via the app and see the links below for more information:

[Easyfundraising Flyer £2 App-eal](#)

[Easyfundraising Festive Shopping List](#)

RAG countdown begins!

This Monday Hali, our Sixth Form Student Leader for Charity and RAG, joined me on the lower school broadcast to advertise this year's Sixth Form RAG week which takes place on the last week of this term (week beginning 15th December). This year we will be collecting money for two local charities: **Caring in Bristol** and **Be More Ben**. Details of the RAG events will be shared with students over the coming weeks and look out for short videos on social media outlining ways to get involved!

In addition to raising money, we are also looking for donated goods for **Caring at Christmas**, Caring in Bristol's specific Christmas programme. Collection boxes will be in all the House areas and Sixth Form as well as main reception for the items listed below. Please note that the last day to donate these will be the morning of 15th December; we will be delivering them to the charity in the afternoon.

Food items from the following are required:

- Instant coffee, tea, squash
- Sugar
- Long-life juice
- Sugary soft drinks (multipack)
- Crisps (multipack)
- Chocolate bars (multipack)
- Sweets (multipack)
- Biscuits (multipack)
- Mince pies (alcohol free)
- Jams, peanut butter, chocolate spread, marmite
- Cereal (the more sugary the better)
- Condiments (ketchup, mayo)
- Sandwich pickle
- Tinned meat
- Instant noodle pots
- Long-life milk

And clothing from this list:

- Underwear & socks (new, unopened packages only)
- Jumpers & coats (especially waterproofs)
- Men's joggers (S/M)
- Trainers & boots (M/L)
- Rucksacks & handbags
- Warm gloves
- Bags for Life & carrier bags
- Sleeping bags & blankets (no duvets or pillows please)
- Deodorants
- Soaps & shower gel

- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Baby wipes/face wipes
- Laundry powder

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Christmas fun at Portishead Youth and Community Centre

The Youth and Community Centre are excited to invite students to take part in their Festive School Holiday Activities, Trips, and Workshops, running from 22nd to 31st December 2025. Activities include an introduction to skiing at the artificial slope in Churchill, a post-Christmas sale shopping trip, a pantomime trip, and more. Spaces are limited so book early to secure your child's place. Funded spaces are available for eligible children. You can find more information and booking details [here](#).

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 24 to Thursday 27 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 26 November	Year 11 City of Bristol College Visit (Learning Hub)
Wednesday 26 November	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 27 November	Year 12/13 English Conference trip
Friday 28 November	Year 9 Eden Project trip 1
Monday 1 to Friday 12 December	Year 11 Mock Exams (two weeks)
Tuesday 2 December	A-level DT and Art trip to London
Tuesday 2 December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December	6.30pm Christmas concert
Friday 5 December	Year 9 Eden Project trip 2
Monday 8 December	Year 9 & 10 Bristol Bears trip to Ashton Gate
Thursday 11 December	Music A-Level trip to see BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Cardiff
Friday 12 December	Year 13 History trip to Hampton Court Palace
Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Monday 15 to Friday 19 December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Monday 15 December	Year 13 Caring at Christmas Charity Delivery

Tuesday 16 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	5pm - 6pm A-level Certificate Evening
Friday 19 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January inclusive	Holiday