



3rd April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

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Changes to Covid isolation guidelines for students

On Friday the Department for Education changed (at very late notice) the guidance regarding isolation for school students, in line with a range of other changes (including the end of 'free' Covid test kits for most people, including schools).

The new guidance is as follows:

- Children with symptoms of respiratory infection (likely to be a persistent cough or sore throat), who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should not go to school and should avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to go back to school / work and no longer have a high temperature. This is pretty much as with any 'usual' illness.
- Students with a positive Covid test result should not come to school (and should avoid contact with others) for 3 days after which they can return to school as soon as they are feeling well enough. The day of the test result counts as 'Day 0'; they can then return to school on 'Day 4'.
- Students do not need to have two negative lateral flow tests before they return.

Covid vaccinations for 5-11 years olds

For parents of those in Year 7 who have not yet had a Covid vaccination as they are not yet 12, Covid vaccinations are now available for children aged 5 - 11. This can be booked via the national booking system (below), through your GP or at a range of walk-in centres.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

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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Day for Ukraine and Sixth Form RAG Fair, Wednesday 6th April

On Wednesday we will be hosting a 'Day for Ukraine', combining it with our annual Sixth Form RAG Fair, to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee 'Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal' and show our solidarity with those affected by the terrible events unfolding in Ukraine. It will not be a full non-uniform day, but students will be able to wear one item of blue and/or yellow item of clothing in place of, or in addition to, a piece of uniform.

The Sixth Form Rag Fair will take place in the afternoon. Year 10 and 11 students will be able to visit at lunchtime, and Years 7, 8 and 9 students will be able to visit in a dedicated 30 minute slot during their afternoon lessons.

Students will be asked to make a contribution to the Disasters Emergency Committee fund through tutors, and are also encourage to bring change that they can use at the Rag Fair. Your support in enabling us to raise a really significant amount of money for the DEC is really appreciated.

Online Parental Information Sessions for Year 11 and 13, Wednesday 6th April

Parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students have been invited to an online Parental Information Session this Wednesday regarding preparations for the Summer Exams.

Year 11 - 6pm

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85643354011?pwd=VFFMZlNQ2hmdTdCTnFHNNV1RjNTZz09>

Year 13 - 7pm

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81179194588?pwd=QXVMdHRUcGppUy9sajRCTTAycWdKdz09>

For parents unable to join we plan to record these and share the link to the recordings.

Early Closure, Thursday 7th April

School will finish at 3pm on Thursday 7th April for the Year 9 Progress Evening.

End of Term 4, Friday 8th April

The last day of term will be a full day, finishing at the normal time (2.35 / 2.40pm). We have a few significant staff departures this Easter, so will be marking this in school and I will write to parents with some words of thanks and best wishes at the end of term.

It has been a long term, and not without the ongoing challenges including, but not limited to, Covid. At the moment, just keeping the school fully operational (which we have managed to date apart from one day where Year 12 had to move online) feels like a very significant achievement, and it is a constant reminder that we still have to recalibrate our expectations in comparison to what we have been able to do in the past (and hope to do again in the future). Despite this we have managed to put on an amazing School Production, a wonderful Spring Concert, launch our Duke of Edinburgh's Award season, enjoy some significant sporting success and so much more, thanks to the amazing ongoing commitment of colleagues and students, as well as the support of our parents.

We are all very nearly ready for a bit of a break and a rest, but not before a very busy final week of term!

Kind regards

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

Tom Inman
Headteacher