



3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

What a wet and windy week it has been! Having said that, still a week where we have been busy across the school. It was lovely to greet so many of our Year 11 students at their 1:1 Futures interviews on Tuesday evening. The House Team and Senior Leadership Team thoroughly enjoyed the discussions we were able to have about our students' future plans and to map out the grades and support they may need moving forward during the year. We are very much looking forward to inviting and seeing our Year 11 students at our annual Sixth Form open evening next Thursday (details below).

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

We invite all Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (5 – 7.30pm).

Students invariably believe they already know everything about our own Sixth Form! However, we encourage students to join us on this evening and to be curious about the many ways they can study and build their career pathways if they stay with us. Students rarely get the opportunity to see Sixth Form from the 'inside' before Year 12; we encourage **all students** to come and visit the full range of subject stands, book into post 16 talks, hear about the extra-curricular, employability and leadership opportunities on offer and experience the 'more independent' way they can continue to study at Gordano after Year 11.

Our Open Evening is the formal launch of the Sixth Form application process.

On arrival, please go to the **main reception** to receive a copy of the full prospectus, handbook, event map and details about the online electronic application process. All Year 11 parents will have received a letter with ticket bookings. There will be limited parking on site for this event, we advise that visitors walk to school if at all possible. Any queries, please contact our Sixth Form Office Manager: [pholwell@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:pholwell@gordanoschool.org.uk)

### **Reminder: Early finish on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Just a reminder that school will be finishing early at 2.30pm on Thursday for the Sixth Form open evening. For lower school students, please can parents remind them to show respect in our local community when leaving the school site.

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## Year 11

For Year 11 students, remember the resources and guidance available on the [Virtual School website](#) to prepare for upcoming mock exams and view the documentation for the [Sixth Form](#).

## Poppies

Next week each House and Year 7 team will be selling poppies. We are keen to raise as much as we can in donations towards the poppy appeal. Students are encouraged to bring in a cash donation of £1 towards a poppy and a minimum donation of £2 for a small metal poppy.

## Website update

We are continually updating the Curriculum area of our website. Our **Approaches to Supporting Literacy and Library Resources** section has been updated over half term, with guidance on supporting reading at home as well as numerous suggestions for great reads; it's well worth a look! [Gordano School - Approaches to Supporting Literacy and Library resources](#)

## Late to registration

Further to recent updates on students being late to school, parents / carers of pupils with a significant number of lates during term 1 will be receiving a letter highlighting the number of times their child was late to registration sessions during last term. We kindly ask for your support in having conversations with your child around the importance of being on time. We are currently reviewing our approach to lates given the significant impact they are having on the school community and will provide further updates to parents on this matter in due course.

## Equipment list for students

A reminder that all students should bring the following equipment to school every day:

Pens (black/blue/purple)	Ruler	Protractor
Pencils	Eraser	A refillable water bottle
A highlighter	Scientific Calculator	
A glue stick	Pair of compasses	

The Maths team has noticed a real lack of equipment recently which is in some instances hampering students' learning.

Please ensure that students are properly equipped for school – in particular their calculator needs to have a natural display. We recommend the Casio FX 83.

## Police

We continue to work closely with our local police, and they have asked us to remind parents to speak to students about fireworks in the lead up to Bonfire Night (it is illegal to set off fireworks in public places and police continue to have concerns about firework safety).

### **E-Scooters**

We have shared information about E-Scooters on behalf of the police previously (see below), but they have asked us to issue a reminder to students and parents that it is illegal to ride a private scooter in public spaces or on public roads. Anyone doing so will receive a written warning and then on a subsequent offence, the scooter will be confiscated.

[E-Scooter Letter Schools.pdf](#)

### **Oxbridge**

As a taster of life beyond Gordano Sixth Form, some of our Year 11 students attended an Oxbridge taster session run by Brasenose College, Oxford, on Tuesday afternoon. Over the coming weeks, students will also be invited to A Level taster events such as Stretch and Challenge session run in English Literature this week.

### **Pre-Loved School Uniform**

If any parents of Year 12 or 13 students find they still have any larger blazers in their household, we would particularly welcome jackets in good condition for our spare uniform supply – many of our current Year 11 seem to have enjoyed a growth spurt recently and are finding their existing blazers a little short on the sleeves! Other items of school uniform always welcome (in any size). Thank you.

### **Wellbeing Workshop – A Healthy Relationship with Food**

Portishead Town Council are offering a free wellbeing workshop on developing a healthy relationship with food. See [this poster](#) for more information.

Kooth are also offering the following online workshops:

- **How Kooth promotes and supports staying safe online**
- Mon 6 Nov, [12-1pm](#) or [6-7pm](#)
- **Support for young people experiencing anxiety or stress this winter**
- [Thurs 14 Dec, 6-7pm](#)

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
**Headteacher**

## **Key Dates for Term 2**

Thu 9th Nov: Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.00 – 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Hall (school finishes at end of P5)

Tue 14th Nov: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Wed 15th Nov: Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day

Fri 17th Nov: Children in Need: non-uniform day

Wed 22nd Nov: INSET DAY 4

Thu 23rd Nov: Year 8 Progress Evening, 4.00 – 7.30pm

Mon 27th Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 28th Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 5th Dec: Parent Forum, 6.00 – 7.00pm in CR1

Wed 6th Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Thu 7th Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 12th Dec: Sixth Form Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Tue 12th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Year 7 – 11 Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Mon 18th Dec: School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 – 5.30) in the Main Hall

Wed 20th Dec: Last day of term – 12.30 finish for students