



18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter:

- Thank you for today
- Uniform changes for Term 4
- Second dose Covid Vaccinations - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March
- Term 3 Newsletter

### Thank you for today

Thank you very much for your support and understanding today. Clearly we've seen some very damaging winds, but it seems that the storm has passed without our worst fears being realised. We hope you've all stayed out of harm's way.

I hope that students were able to engage in a successful day of online learning. As ever, well done to the students for their wonderful response to another challenging situation - there have been over 2,000 merits awarded today, and only four students have received any form of 'negative' points.

### Uniform changes for Term 4

We had planned to spend a good amount of time with students in face-to-face assemblies today, explaining why we feel the need to return to our 'normal' uniform expectations from the start of Term 4.

Unfortunately Storm Eunice had other ideas. We therefore had less time to explain this to students and to tackle any queries or worries that they may have on the matter.

Mr McGilloway and myself have therefore taken the time to write to write to students in Years 7-11 this afternoon (on a Firefly task), both clarifying the school's expectations and explaining the reasons, as well as offering the opportunity to engage with us further with any personal worries on the matter. There is a copy of that message at the bottom of this update for you to read.

Please do check on the fit of your child's blazer during half term. The Sports Shop do currently have blazers in various sizes in stock for those who may have grown out of theirs. If any families have blazers that no longer fit their child and would like to donate them to school, we would be happy to take them and distribute to those who may require one.

---

#### Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

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

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: [mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk) [www.gordanoschool.org.uk](http://www.gordanoschool.org.uk)

Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR  
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)



We do need to ask for your support on this important and symbolic issue, for the reasons we make clear in that letter. Thank you for this.

### Second dose Covid vaccinations - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

A reminder that the deadline for providing consent for the Covid vaccinations taking place in school on 1<sup>st</sup> March is midnight on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Consent can not be given after that time.

The link to the consent form is:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/coviddose2/2021/consent>

Please see the attachment to my letter of 11<sup>th</sup> February for further details.

A reminder that you can continue to access Covid vaccinations through the national booking service or at various walk in centres, including this one:

Available for 12 years and over

# COVID-19 Walk-in Vaccination Centre

THE GREENWAY CENTRE,  
SOUTHMEAD, DONCASTER ROAD, BS10 5PY

7 DAYS A WEEK  
FROM 8AM TO 8PM

- \*NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED\*
- \*NO WAITING TIME\*
- \*FREE PARKING\*

NHS  
COVID-19  
Vaccination Centre

07756448756

### Term 3 Newsletter

Please see the link to the Term 3 newsletter here:

<https://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/parentportal/newsletter/?id=9>

It has been another rollercoaster of a term and perhaps fate that we ended with a school closure day! Typically, both staff and students have 'just got on with it' and made the very best of the situation they have been put in. As ever, my huge thanks to the staff for all their dedication and to you, as parents and carers, for your support.

I will write next week with further matters regarding the start of Term 4, which begins on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March after an INSET Day on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February (although Year 11 are coming in for the afternoon on the Monday for their first mock exam).

In the meantime I wish you a very happy and healthy half term break.

With best wishes, as ever.



Tom Inman  
Headteacher

### **Letter to students regarding uniform from the start of Term 4**

Dear Students,

Firstly, well done on your really positive engagement with the online / remote learning today. The vast majority of you students have engaged brilliantly, as you always do.

If we had been at school today we would have been holding assemblies with all yeargroups to explain the uniform changes that we are making from the start of Term 4 and take time to explain why it's an important step that we need to take. We had to change our plans at the very last minute yesterday, so we're writing to you to explain in more detail than we were able to give yesterday.

Uniform is really important. It sets the tone for the school. Whether in lessons, around the school site, or on the High Street, our uniform is the most visible symbol of our school and what we stand for. It shows that you are proud of your school, that you are playing your part in showing that to the community, and that you value the education we work really hard to give you. It makes a huge difference to the reputation of the school, it helps us attract the best teachers and staff, and it allows us to give you the best opportunities. It also makes a difference to how you conduct yourself in school and in the community.

Under Covid we've had to make some changes, and rightly so. We've had to keep windows open to allow the air to circulate, making some classrooms colder than they would be, and we've had to be careful about crowded spaces, making the use of PE changing rooms more difficult.

We are now moving into a new 'chapter' with Covid. Boris Johnson will, next week, outline our next steps as a country. We expect him to say that the final Covid 'rules' will come to an end, including the rule to self-isolate if you have Covid. As a school, we need to continue to take steps to return back to normal.

Of course, 'normal' is hard to remember - it has been two long years since things were normal. But we need to get back to it for the reasons we have said above.

That's why, from half term, we will be returning to our normal uniform expectations including:

1. Hoodies can no longer be worn instead of blazers

Since October half term we have allowed hoodies to be worn instead of a blazer. Many of you have chosen to do this to enable you to stay a bit warmer in winter. As we start Term 4 it will be the start of Spring. If it is still colder in classrooms, then your teachers will allow you to wear a jacket on top of your blazer (not instead of it) if you choose to. But there is no need for hoodies as we move into Spring and we need to return to the smart 'work dress' of the school uniform.

2. Students will no longer be able to wear PE kit all day

Wearing PE kit in lessons is not ideal. Firstly, it's not very hygienic to continue to wear PE kit after you've been playing sport, often sweating (especially in warmer weather) and / or getting muddy (in wetter weather). But secondly, wearing PE kit does not put you in the same mindset for learning in classrooms as when wearing normal school uniform.

We have allowed students to wear PE kit all day on PE days because the Covid risk has, until now, taken priority. As that risk has reduced this is no longer necessary and we can return to changing in the PE changing rooms, **as we always did before Covid**. Yes, it takes a little more time at the start and end of PE lessons, but we have made all PE lessons 'doubles' now, so overall changing time is much reduced and it doesn't affect your arrival at your next lesson (as you never go from PE straight into another lesson).

We have heard from a small number of students in the last couple of days that they have some personal worries about returning to changing in the changing rooms. So we would like to invite students who would be willing to join a discussion group on this for up to an hour at 10am next Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, to allow any worries to be heard. Doing so in half term will allow us to consider your views before the start of next term and if there are ways that we can help to manage those worries whilst maintaining the priorities that we need to maintain as a school, then we would be very willing to consider them.

If you would like to join this discussion, please add your name to this online form by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and we will contact you by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February (on your school email) to confirm arrangements:

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

Of course, after this, students are always invited to pass views to their House Captains, and most yeargroups (if not all) have recently heard from Mr Swift in his

'You said, We did' assemblies about how we work with the House Captains' to engage in issues that matter to you.

We appreciate that this may feel like a quite a big change, but it will very quickly feel very normal again. We're looking forward to continuing to work with you to make sure that we can maintain really high standards of learning and support you in continuing to engage brilliantly with school life.

Take care, and have a really enjoyable half term break

Mr Inman and Mr McGilloway.