



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to the first term of the academic year. It has been a busy (and wet) week here at Gordano and we have been delighted to welcome our students back to school. Firstly, a huge congratulations to our new cohort of Year 7 students. They have had such a positive start to their journey at Gordano. Today is their first full day of lessons and I am sure that they will sleep well this weekend! I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting their lessons and seeing their enthusiasm for learning. Our new Year 12 cohort also joined us for the first time on Wednesday, again it was good to see so many familiar faces and to welcome some new students to the year group. We have almost 200 students starting their sixth form journey with us, studying a wide range of different subjects.

On Thursday we welcomed back all students in Years 8-11 and Year 13 all moving up into their new year groups. During our year group assemblies, we outlined their journey ahead for this academic year as well as reminding all students of our basic expectations as members of our school community. It is important that our students are all clear about our expectations and the fact we have those expectations because fundamentally we want the best outcomes for each individual child and because we care. Equally important to their academic education is that our students all have the opportunity to grow and develop as rounded, confident and resilient young people during their time with us at Gordano and therefore these expectations are vital in terms of ensuring this can happen and that we move forward as a team!

Parental Information Evenings

We will also walk through our goals for the year and expectations for all parents during our parental information evenings that take place over the next few weeks. To ensure that we can manage numbers you will be required to book a space using the links below. Whilst we will be sharing the slide deck from each evening for parents unable to attend, we do encourage you to join us if you are able. The premise of each evening is to look at the year ahead and to ensure as parents you are able to fully support your child in the next steps. If you are a parent that has children in different year groups and therefore are unable to attend each meeting - then we do suggest prioritising exam year students or your Year 7 child and then using the slide decks that we will provide for the specific year group information. Due to space limitations, we do ask that only parents come to the evening/s.

[Year 7 - Thursday 17th October](#)

[Year 8 - Monday 30th September](#)

[Year 9 - Monday 16th September](#)

[Year 10 - Tuesday 17th September](#)

[Year 11 - Tuesday 1st October](#)

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

There are 2 sessions for each year, 6pm and 6.45pm with 200 seats available at each.

Parents of students in Year 12 & 13 are welcome on the following evenings and we will be running one session between 6pm and 7pm. There is no need to book.

Thursday 12th September	Year 12 Parental Information Evening 6pm- 7pm
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Thursday 19th September	Year 13 Parental Information Evening 6pm- 7pm
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Election for Parent Governors

There are currently two vacancies for elected parent governors on the school's Local Governing Board (LGB), and we're inviting parents to stand for election or to nominate another parent to do so. For more information on the role of governors and details of the election process please see the letter and nomination form attached to this email. The closing date for submission of nomination forms is Friday 20th September.

SEND Team contact details

If you are a parent of a child with SEND, please read the attached letter from Mrs Caswell (SENDCo) regarding communication.

[SEND Team communications letter](#)

Future INSET Day and Open Evening

We have one more INSET day this term on Friday 27th September. The day before this (on 26th September) is our annual Open Evening. On 26th September the school closes early to allow staff to prepare for the evening. We will confirm the timing if this early closure in next week's parent update.

School Nursing Service

Parents of Year 7 students who are new to the school may not be aware of the School Nursing Service and the support they're able to offer children and families. Please see [this letter](#) for more information or go to the [Sirona website](#) to submit a request for your child.

For new parents to Gordano

We try and ensure that we share pictures of the wonderful things that our students get up to during the day and our platform for this is X (formerly Twitter) - if you would like to follow us then please do. Our 'X' handle is @gordanosch. We will be updating content for this term starting next week.

Aspens Competition

Our catering providers, Aspens are running a healthy eating challenge from September to November with the opportunity for students to win a mountain bike. For more information, please see [this poster](#).

Portishead ParkPlay launching Saturday 7th September

ParkPlay will be taking place at Merlin Park, 10-11.30am, every Saturday, led by trained Play Leaders; and it's free. Everyone is welcome and ParkPlay encourages families to play and get active together. See the [poster](#) or <https://www.facebook.com/PortisheadParkPlay> for more information.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 1

Thursday 12th September	Year 12 Parental Information Evening 6pm- 7pm
Monday 16th September	Year 9 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 17th September	Year 10 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 18th September	Sixth Form Autumn Electives begin (lessons 5 & 6 on Wednesdays)
Thursday 19th September	Year 13 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 26th September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 26th September	Year 6 Open Evening (school finishes TBC)
Friday 27th September	INSET Day
Monday 30th September	Year 8 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 1st October	Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 3rd October	Gordano Careers Convention 6pm - 8pm
Friday 4th October	Year 6 Open Morning 9.45am - 11am
Monday 7th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 1)
Tuesday 8th October	Parent Forum 6pm
Wednesday 9th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 2)
Thursday 10th October	World Mental Health Day
Friday 11th October	Hello Yellow Day
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October	Year 11 GCSE History Trip to Munich
Monday 14th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 3)
Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Thursday 17th October	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork Trip to Minehead/Porlock Weir
Thursday 17th October	Year 7 Parental Information Evening
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 11 Futures Evening 2pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October	Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam
Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November	HOLIDAY