



1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter:

- Increase in positive Covid tests
- Potential NEU Strike Action - starting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Increase in positive Covid tests**

Although the rate at Gordano remains below the national average we have seen a clear increase in the last few days. This is particularly the case in Year 7, with concentrations also in Years 8 and 10.

I spoke with the local Health Protection Team (HPT) yesterday who advised that students in Year 7 should carry out a Lateral Flow Test each day for the next three days (we communicated this to Year 7 parents last night). It is also particularly important that students in other years are testing twice a week, on Monday and Thursday mornings as requested.

We recognise the seemingly obvious link with the removal of the requirement to wear face coverings. We need to liaise with the local HPT prior to agreeing any further measures - I will be speaking to them again tomorrow morning and we will advise you of any changes. At this stage I would repeat our advice to wear face coverings in crowded communal areas and especially in the yeargroups highlighted.

### **Potential NEU Strike Action - starting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Following Friday's letter to parents we have had further communication with the NEU. We have made further proposals to them today with further accommodations in order to do all that we can to avoid strike action on Thursday and over the next couple of weeks. This includes a temporary agreement to the remaining small areas of dispute for the remainder of this academic year to enable a full consultation with staff to regarding the long-term issues of workload in the context of continuing to deliver a very strong education for our students.

We await the response of the NEU, but in the meantime must now confirm clear plans for Thursday should Strike Action take place. These are:

- Year 11 and 13 will attend school and should attend tutor time and all lessons as usual.

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

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- Where the member of staff is absent due to strike action there will be staff to cover all Year 11 lessons and, where specialist staff are available, Year 13 lessons.
- Additional study facilities (with IT access) will be made available for Year 13 students where staff are absent due to strike action.
- The Dining Hall will be open for catering at Break and Lunch (other catering facilities will be closed)
- All other yeargroups will not attend school and will learn from home, accessing 'live lessons' on Teams (where taught by teachers who are working). Where there teachers are not working due to strike action, they should access the pre-set 'remote learning resources'. All students in Years 7-11 are being shown a video in tutor time tomorrow to remind them how to access a 'live' lesson on Teams and how to access the 'remote learning resources' (please see bottom of letter for details). Students should keep a close eye on their Firefly tasks before every lesson for any particular instructions or links.
- If there are any students who have no way of accessing 'live' lessons or remote learning resources, we invite parents to complete the brief form below and we will do our best to find a way to enable them access their learning: <https://forms.office.com/r/0eXJRvEpfw>
- Please see the important guidance around 'live' lessons at the bottom of this letter.
- If there are any students in receipt of Free School Meals who wish to access a school lunch, they will be able to come on site, sign in, and have lunch as usual in the Dining Hall. Should strike action be ongoing, we will be in touch to make further arrangements for other days.

I know that this is an incredibly frustrating time for parents to face this potential disruption and we sincerely hope that this won't happen. I will write to parents again by tomorrow early evening at the latest to confirm the situation.

With many thanks for your ongoing support at this challenging time for all.

With best wishes.



Tom Inman  
Headteacher

## Accessing Remote Learning Resources

Remote learning resources are available through the Virtual School Website:

<https://mrdbeesley.wixsite.com/gordanoschool/covid-resources>

Click on your year group and you will be taken to a folder, full of resources for each subject.





HOME | YR 8 OPTIONS | YEAR 11 | STUDY SKILLS | SIXTH FORM | COVID RESOURCES

GORDANO SCHOOL

### + COVID Resources

Resources and overview for each year group

 Year 7	 Year 8	 Year 9
 Year 10	 Year 11	 Year 12
 Year 13	<p>All our resources are based in Microsoft Teams document libraries. If you are struggling to access the resources, please click on the Teams icon (on the right hand side)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; SIGN IN (using your email)</li><li>&gt; JOIN THE TEAM using the code</li></ul> <p><a href="https://teams.microsoft.com/join/7ehy7f">7ehy7f</a></p> 	

We would also recommend the freely available online lessons (by yearoup and subject) from the Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

**Gordano School Guidance for Students and Parents/Carers on  
Livestream/video lessons or contact with students**

For 'Live' or recorded contact, it is essential to outline our expectations of behaviour and conduct in order to safeguard our students and staff.

Following the guidance and expectations below is imperative, and failure to adhere to these will result in the student not being invited to any further live contact sessions, and may result in further consequences should circumstances dictate it so.

Therefore, please read the guidance and expectations carefully as parents/carers and with your children, ensuring the children are clear on what is expected.

As follows:

**School staff will:**

- Provide groups only live contact, or 1:1 where there is another adult present either in school or at home
- Provide contact whilst against a natural background
- Wear suitable clothing
- Record the live session so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed. These recordings will be held securely on the school network.
- Use professional and appropriate language
- Only use Microsoft Teams on the school's platforms,
- Log the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.
- Communicate through any live platform from school email addresses to school email addresses only. Staff will never use private email addresses to correspond with students or parents.
- Invite each student to attend any live session as pre planned via Firefly
- Mute attendees on joining
- Use their own discretion on screen sharing/turning on their camera
- Abort the session or remove a student should there be any unwanted behaviour or conduct and will report this to the school and parents as necessary.

**Students will:**

- Sit against a natural background, ensuring that there is nothing in the background that is inappropriate. The member of staff may feel that there is something inappropriate where students do not. We would expect the student to reposition should this be the case.
- Wear suitable clothing - e.g. no pyjamas
- Be located in a communal area of the house. Where parents feel that they are best located in a room on their own, the door should remain open.
- Double check that any other tabs they have open in their browser would be appropriate for their teacher to see, if they are sharing their screen.
- Only use platforms provided by Gordano School

- Communicate through any live platform from school email addresses to school email addresses only. Students will never use private email addresses to correspond with staff.
- Mute until asked to unmute by the member of staff running the session
- Turn cameras/screen sharing off at their discretion, or that of their parents/carers
- Use appropriate language only, even if communicating with another member of the household. This includes gestures and other body language.
- Behave and conduct themselves appropriately, as they would in the classroom, or they will be asked to leave the session or the session may even be aborted.
- Not record, screenshot or otherwise the session as this will breach the acceptable use policy, in turn resulting in serious consequences for the student
- Not share any content they may have recorded or have been sent by another student. Any such actions should be reported to the school as soon as possible.
- Pass on any concerns they have about any element of the session to their parents/carers. This concern should be raised with the school as soon as possible.

Parents/Carers will:

- Read the guidance and expectations outlined above and ensure these are adhered to by the student, when taking part in any live session.
- Wear suitable clothing if the chances are that they will be passing within screenshot whilst moving around their household.
- Ensure their child is located in a communal area of the house. Where parents feel that they are best located in a room on their own, the door should remain open.
- Use appropriate language only, even if communicating with another member of the household. This includes gestures and other body language.
- Not share any content they may have recorded or have been sent by another parent/carer. Any such actions should be reported to the school as soon as possible.
- Raise any concerns they have about any element of the session with the school as soon as possible.

Again, we would ask that students and parent/carers ensure they have read the above guidance and expectations carefully and adhere to them at all times. Doing so will result in a more valuable experience that is safe and positive for all.