



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This week saw the return of our LSP Student Leadership conference, this year the event was hosted at Churchill School. This is a fantastic opportunity for our student leaders to meet with other leaders from other schools and to share their journey including the impact their work has had within their own communities over the year. Thank you to all the students who took part and to Mr Swift for his organisation.

St Mary's Road Gate

Thank you to parents who raised their concerns regarding the St Mary's Road Gate being locked at 8.40am yesterday when the weather meant it was challenging to get to the front gate due to the flooding on the road and footpath. We apologise for the inconvenience this caused. The St Mary's Gate will continue to be locked at 8.40am each morning to ensure that we can adequately register late arrivals from 8.40am on the main gates. However, we will ensure that we check that the path outside the main gate is passable and if it is not, we will keep St Mary's Road gate open only on very wet days. As a school, we have reported the issues caused by the flooding of Lipgate Place during heavy rainfall to North Somerset Council who are responsible for the maintenance of the drains, but parents can also report their concerns directly to North Somerset Council.

School Production

We are proud to present our school production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame which is showing from Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th March. The production involves 70 students across all year groups and showcases the Creative Arts subjects of Drama, Dance, Music and Art in one of the school's signature events. It promises to be a fabulous show so book your tickets [here](#) early to avoid disappointment.

HPV vaccination catch-up clinics

HPV vaccination catch-up clinics are available for all Year 8 students who did not receive their vaccination at school on Tuesday 6th February. Please book an appointment [here](#). If you have any queries, please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

INSET Day Reminder

A reminder to parents the school has two INSET days immediately after the Half Term break on Monday 19th February & Tuesday 20th February. We will look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Wednesday 21st February. I have also shared below for you the key dates for next term.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Year 10 Work Experience:

Thank you so much for supporting your child to get a work experience placement. We do understand that it can be difficult and also frustrating but so far many Year 10 students have managed to get varied and interesting placements. There is still plenty of time to contact employers and secure a placement for July so please keep trying if you haven't managed to find anything just yet. We will be emailing you some tips on how to use social media and your local network to try to find a placement if your child doesn't already have one.

Please do read our Careers Newsletter: [Careers Newsletter - February 2024](#)
It is packed with age-appropriate opportunities for our students.

Online Safety

As well as continuing to educate our students about online safety, we will also share information with parents to ensure you can keep abreast of the ever-changing world of social media and maintain an open dialogue with your children. You may find the following checklist from the Internet Watch Foundation useful:

[TALK Checklist by Internet Watch Foundation | Home \(iwf.org.uk\)](#)

And:

[What is Doxing? A Guide for Professionals, Parents and Carers | SWGfL](#)

Aspens Catering survey

Thank you to all parents that have already responded to [our survey](#) on the catering service at school, provided by Aspens. We had 1000 student responses and 25 staff responses too, which have provided some really interesting thoughts. We have taken most of the student and staff issues back to a meeting with Aspens management this week, and they are now working on responses to those which we will flag through this bulletin as they develop. We gave them the key points we had at the time from parental responses (we had over 30 by the time of the meeting) but told them we would be gathering more information before we meet with them again early in March. We will close the survey on Wednesday 21st February, so please [complete a response](#) by then if you have opinions on the catering at Gordano School. A reminder that the current info from Aspens on the offer at Gordano is [on the website](#). This is an area they are keen to improve going forward too.

And finally...

We have so many great sporting successes at the school which we capture on our Gordano PE faculty X (twitter) page - please do follow us to see all the fantastic achievements of our young people - @GordanoPE. It is always a pleasure as well to share these outcomes every Monday morning through our broadcast. This week I wanted to highlight an excellent team performance from the Year 9 girls Football team with a fantastic 4-1 win over Torquay Academy. This victory puts them into the Last 8 in the country! We wish them all the best as they prepare for their home quarter final against Weydon School, Guilford.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful half term break

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 4

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| Monday 19th February & Tuesday 20th February | INSET DAYS |
| Wednesday 21st February - Friday 1st March | Year 13 Mock Exams |
| Thursday 22nd February | 4pm - 7.30pm Year 7 Progress Evening |
| Tuesday 27th March | 3.30pm Year 8 General Knowledge Quiz |
| Monday 4th - Friday 8th March | Year 13 MFL Speaking Mock Exams |
| Monday 4th March | Year 11 Mock Exams begin |
| Monday 4th March | School Production to Primary Schools |
| Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th March | School Production |
| Wednesday 6th March | Year 13 Biology Electrophoresis Trip |
| Thursday 7th March | World Book Day |
| Monday 11th March | Year 13 A-Level Music Recital Exam |
| Thursday 14th March | 4pm - 7.30pm Year 8 Key Stage 4 Guided Choices Evening |
| Friday 15th March | Sixth Form Photo |
| Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March | Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week |
| Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March | Book Fair in the School Library |
| Tuesday 19th - Wednesday 20th March | Easter Concert |
| Thursday 21st March | 5.30pm - 7pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Meeting |
| Friday 22nd March | Year 11 School Photos |
| Friday 22nd March | Sixth Form option choices confirmed to Year 11 students |
| Friday 22nd March | A-Level Music Trip to BBC Concert (all day) |
| Sunday 24th March | Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training Day |
| Monday 25th - Wednesday 27th March | Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam |
| Tuesday 26th March | 6pm - 7pm Parent Forum |
| Thursday 28th March | Last Day of Term - Non-uniform day for students |
| Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April | EASTER HOLIDAY |