



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

2nd December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this parent update finds you and your families well. This week I had the pleasure of watching our young people perform at our carol concert held at St Nicholas Church in Portishead. It was a wonderful evening of singing and performances from our students (with the help of the congregation at times!). It was a lovely way to bring in the festive spirit and I would like to thank all the students (and parents) who took part and to thank the Music Staff for their continued dedication.

Last week we welcomed Challenge Partners into our school to support us in our quality assurance processes. As I explained in my parent update during this process, we welcomed a range of Senior Leaders from other schools in the UK to look at many areas of the school, visiting lessons and talking to students about their learning.

I just wanted to share a few of the highlights that Challenge Partners shared with us after their visit.

- *The positive, disciplined climate for learning is the foundation of the school's success. The warm and respectful relationships between teachers and pupils and between pupils themselves are testament to the hard work and team spirit of all the staff who have developed an excellent learning environment.*
- *Pupils are eager learners and therefore their behaviour in class is excellent. Pupils expect to work hard. They value and trust their teachers.*
- *Over time, pupils' outcomes at GCSE and A level have been strong. The examination results for 2022 were extremely positive in all areas, demonstrating that high quality teaching is having a big impact on pupils' progress.*
- *Pupil leadership is a powerful vehicle for change at Gordano. Pupils are able to express their views to staff and they, in turn, listen and respond to them quickly. For example, pupils recently raised concerns about home learning which has resulted in a whole school review of homework.*

It is wonderful to see that our vision for students of 'Dream big, do your best and give back' is evident in the daily workings of the school.

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LIGHTHOUSE
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Late to school

Thank you for your support so far during the implementation of our new attendance processes. We just want to add some clarity to the guidance as to what may be considered a legitimate reason for being late. We have had several instances whereby students have been delayed to school as they have been unable to find pieces of uniform or equipment. This would not be considered a legitimate reason to be late, and we would be grateful if parents could assist their children in ensuring everything is ready for school the night before. For something such as car trouble, or other occasional unforeseen circumstances, we fully appreciate that some things are out of parents' control. We do however ask that in these situations, you send a quick e-mail to attendance@gordanoschool.org.uk as soon as the issue arises, rather than waiting to inform us once you receive a late text mid-morning. School will then be able to consider the individual circumstance and make a decision on whether an exemption can be given for the late. Contacting the Attendance Team directly in a timely manner if your child is likely to be late to school will reduce the number of queries raised.

Safeguarding

Please see the link below for 10 tips to help your child stay safe online.

[Parent Factsheet](#)

Progress Evenings

Following a few requests for key dates, please find all progress evenings for the rest of the academic year listed below:

9 th February 2023	Year 11 Progress Evening
23 rd February 2023	Year 13 Progress Evening
16 th March 2023	Year 8 Progress Evening
4 th May 2023	Year 12 Progress Evening
25 th May 2023	Year 10 Progress Evening
8 th June 2023	Year 9 Progress Evening

Change of date for A Level Certificate Evening

For parents of students who left Year 13 last year, please note the change of date to 5th January at 5.30 pm (emails have been sent with an Eventbrite link).

We wish you all a wonderful weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher