

13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this update finds you and your family well. As always, there have been a range of different events happening throughout the week and across the school. I would firstly like to congratulate our Year 13 students on their wonderful effort and attitude throughout their mock examination period over the last two weeks. Also, leading up to this week our Year 10 students have been developing their employability skills in readiness for their mock interview with an employer on Wednesday 22nd February. Last week in tutor time students chose a job role they would like to be interviewed for and yesterday they participated in three workshops: CV Writing, interview preparation and a skills session to ensure they are 'job ready' and fully prepared for the interview. Students and staff really enjoyed the morning and students commented on how useful it had been and how they now feel more confident and equipped for future interviews.

Keeping young people safe online: some useful guidance

You may have been reading and hearing a lot about the Metaverse - which essentially seeks to link users to the internet as a Virtual Entity through the use of Virtual Reality Headsets. This amplifies the danger children are exposed to online. To help us understand this new, fast changing issue the NSPCC has published a guide to both the Metaverse and VR headsets:

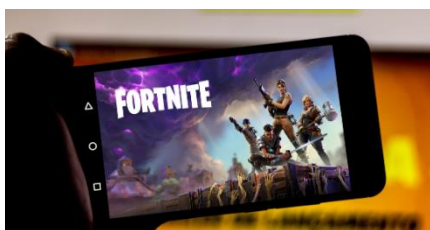
[NSPCC Virtual Reality safety advice](#)



[We've published Christmas VR safety advice in response to public concerns about child safety in metaverse | NSPCC - nspcc.org.uk](#)

Kate Edwards, Acting Associate Head for Child Safety Online at the NSPCC, said: "Parents who may be thinking about purchasing a VR headset for their child this Christmas need to be aware of the risks young users currently face when given access to what, at this stage, is an unregulated world. www.nspcc.org.uk

Another useful guide to help us understand updates to existing games, is the guide to the updated Fortnite Battle Royale: - [Fortnite Battle Royale guidance](#)



[Fortnite Battle Royale - What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

Tech expert Andy Robertson runs through Fortnite Battle Royale's features and benefits and offers advice on how to keep children safe. email.kjbm.safeguardingschools.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

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

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

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LIGHTHOUSE
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Finally, the Information Commissioner's Office have produced a guide to navigating the internet for young people to avoid the potential risks of socialising online:

[Respect-and-healthy-relationships-online-how-the-children's-code-can-help](#)



[Respect and healthy relationships online – how the Children's code can help | ICO - Information Commissioner's Office](#)

The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day is respect and healthy relationships online. The digital world is a space for children and young people to hang out with their friends, to connect with distant relatives and to learn and explore. ico.org.uk

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancies

We're looking to appoint two Lunchtime Supervisors to help supervise students in the school's dining areas. If you, or anyone you know is interested in this part-time position of 1½ hours per day, full details are on our website [here](#).

Parental Meetings

Due to the nature of how the school operates and the fact that our staff teach for most of the school day, if you require a meeting with a member of staff, please do arrange this in advance of coming into the school. This can be done through our [contact form](#) on the website.

Homework

Year 7 and Year 8 will begin to be set compulsory homework on Tuesday 17th January and Thursday 19th January respectively. Students will be supported to organise their time in their tutor periods next week through the completion of paper timetables and will be encouraged to take these home and use them over the fortnight. All homework set will appear for both you and your child on the ClassCharts app.

Portishead Youth Club

We liaise frequently with the community of Portishead, and I was delighted last term to meet with the staff from Portishead Youth Club and to understand how the youth club supports the community. As I am sure you are aware they host several activities across each week for young people in the area. Please follow [this link](#) which will take you to the activities poster on the school website for parents and students to explore.

I wish you and your family a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Blundell".

Ms L Blundell
Headteacher