Q What do you do to support my child's move up to Gordano School?

The Year 7 Transition Team visits every child at their primary school during Term 6. During these visits, students are given plenty of information about life at Gordano School and have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Members of the Reading and Library teams also visit to promote the benefits of reading and introduce the Summer Book Club.

In July, every child spends a full day at Gordano School, taking part in a range of activities designed to help them get to know their new classmates, become familiar with the school site, and meet key members of staff.

Additional transition opportunities are also available in July and during the summer holidays. The Portishead Youth and Community Centre hosts a dedicated Transition Day for Year 6 pupils joining Gordano School, while Shine runs a two-day holiday club at Gordano School exclusively for students making the move from Year 6.

To help students settle in confidently, the first day of term is reserved for Year 7 and Year 12 students only. This provides Year 7 students with a valuable opportunity to explore the school, establish routines, and build confidence in their new environment before the rest of the school returns.

Q Can I request my child is placed in the same tutor group and/or class as their friend?

Yes! We send all parents and carers a form giving you the opportunity to let us know the names of friends your child would like to be in the same tutor group or class with and we will try to match your child with at least one friend. We are of course aware that some children will be transferring to Gordano without any 'old' friends at all and because of this, we try not to place large groups of established friends together. As friendships are just one factor that we consider in putting the tutor groups together, it may not be possible to meet all requests, although we will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Q My child is nervous and worried about moving up to Gordano; how can you help them?

Primary schools will identify those students who may benefit from extra time at Gordano School before they start in September. They will be invited into school in smaller groups and spend time with our Year 7 team exploring the site and doing activities so they will feel more confident when September arrives.

Q My child has SEND, what support is available for them to help the transition?

Our SENDCo meets with the SENDCos of every primary school to find out about each child and what support they require. Each child with SEND will be invited to take part in extra transition days supported by staff from our Student Support team. They will spend time exploring the site and doing activities so they will feel more confident when September arrives.

You can find more about our SEND provision on our website here: Gordano School - SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Q My child loves French / Spanish, can they choose their preferred language?

Yes! The form mentioned above also includes the chance to let us know which language your child would prefer to learn.

Q Where do I buy uniform?

Uniform can be ordered online from Price and Buckland or purchased from the Sports Shop on Portishead High Street. There is also a selection of pre-loved uniform available to buy from the school and once the order has been picked the items will be available to collect from Main Reception. Full information about uniform is on the school website here: Gordano School - Uniform & Equipment.

Q Who do I contact to let you know some information about my child?

As part of the Transition process full information about your child will be passed on from the primary school. This includes current working levels and attainment, SEN support, pastoral information, medical and more. If you feel there is further information we should know please email the school transition@goranoschool.org.uk and it will be forwarded to the relevant area.

Q When do I find out what tutor group my child is in?

You will find out your child's House, tutor group and language allocation by email on the Friday before the Transition Day in July. The children will spend the day with their tutor group on Transition Day.

Q Where will my child get lunch?

Children may either bring a packed lunch from home or purchase food from the Dining Hall or Canteen. The Dining Hall serves hot meals, while the Canteen offers a range of convenient grab-and-go options. Students can enjoy their lunch in the Year 7 Common Room, the Dining Hall, or the Canteen.

Q I haven't received any information

A welcome letter is emailed to all parents in March using the contact information provided on your initial application to North Somerset. Further information about online Data Collection forms, transition events, friendship forms will follow later as well as an information booklet with essential information.

If you have not received any information please email the school: transition@goranoschool.org.uk

Q Do students need their PE kit on the first day?

No, just bring a bag with water bottle, pencil case and lunch/snacks