

January/February Term 3 2021

Newsletter

For Students, Parents & School Staff

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GORDANO STUDENT SELECTED FOR BRISTOL CITY ELITE WOMENS' TEAM

Congratulations to Katie Quick in Year 11 who has been selected to play for Bristol City Elite Womens' team. This is a fantastic achievement and we are all really proud of you.

Katie started her football career early, at the age of just 4 playing for Portishead Town girls FC. By the time she was 8, Katie also joined Gloucester Advanced Coaching Centre and at 12 Katie played for the Gordano girls team, reaching the national schools final at Wembley with the team two years running.

Katie continued with both clubs then at 14 trained with North Somerset JPL boys and played with Portishead Town boys FC.

In September 2020 Bristol City women's FC contacted Katie to invite her to a 6 week trial after just three weeks they confirmed her success and she now plays and trains with the Bristol U16's team.

Katie has attended a number of Regional FA development camps in recent years, including the England national training camp. Well done Katie, we look forward to seeing your skills on the pitch again soon.



Headteacher's Blog



As we approach February half term and the opportunity for a well-earned break for many, I'd really like to re-iterate how impressed I am with our students and staff for the perseverance and engagement that they have shown this term. I have seen for myself some inspiring online teaching and learning taking place, as is evidenced within this term's newsletter. Every department has adapted and embraced this new way of learning with verve, and we have been so proud of the resilience of our students.

We have also received many positive messages from the community highlighting the positive engagement of our students in lots of different ways, wonderfully illustrated by some examples of 'acts of kindness' from last week's Screen Break Day. As well as this, the day was a welcome change from the monotony of screens, and we will be building this idea into a slightly more varied diet of learning from the start of Term 4.

While we await more specific guidance from the Department for Education on what form our return to school will take on and beyond 8th March, my advice to families for half term would be to try and make half term feel as different as possible (given the limitations!)

and take a real break from the routine. We know that Year 11 and 13 students will continue to have an eye on their upcoming assessments and it will be wise for these students to strike a balance between organisation, catching up, revision and getting a good break away from the screens. We all need the opportunity to re-set, relax and rejuvenate ready for a fresh start in Term 4.

Please take solace in the fact that the end is in sight and that we hope to be back in school together again soon. Thank you to every member of our community for all you continue to do to support our school and students. Wishing you all a well-deserved and enjoyable half term break - stay safe.

Tom Inman

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 15th - Friday 19th February - **HALF TERM**

Monday 22nd February - **FIRST DAY OF TERM 4**

Thursday 25th February - **Year 13 Progress Evening**

Thursday 25th February - **Teatime Networking Event**

Week commencing Monday 1st March - **Virtual RAG WEEK**

Thursday 4th March - **WORLD BOOK DAY**

Thursday 4th March - **YEAR 11 Progress Evening**

Friday 5th March - **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 10th March - **Year 10 Virtual Mock Interview Day**

Thursday 11th March - **Year 8 Progress Evening**

Monday 15th March - **Year 11 Futures Meetings**

Wednesday & Thursday 17th & 18th March - **Year 8 Vaccinations**

Thursday 25th March - **Year 10 Progress Evening**

Thursday 1st April - **LAST DAY OF TERM 4**

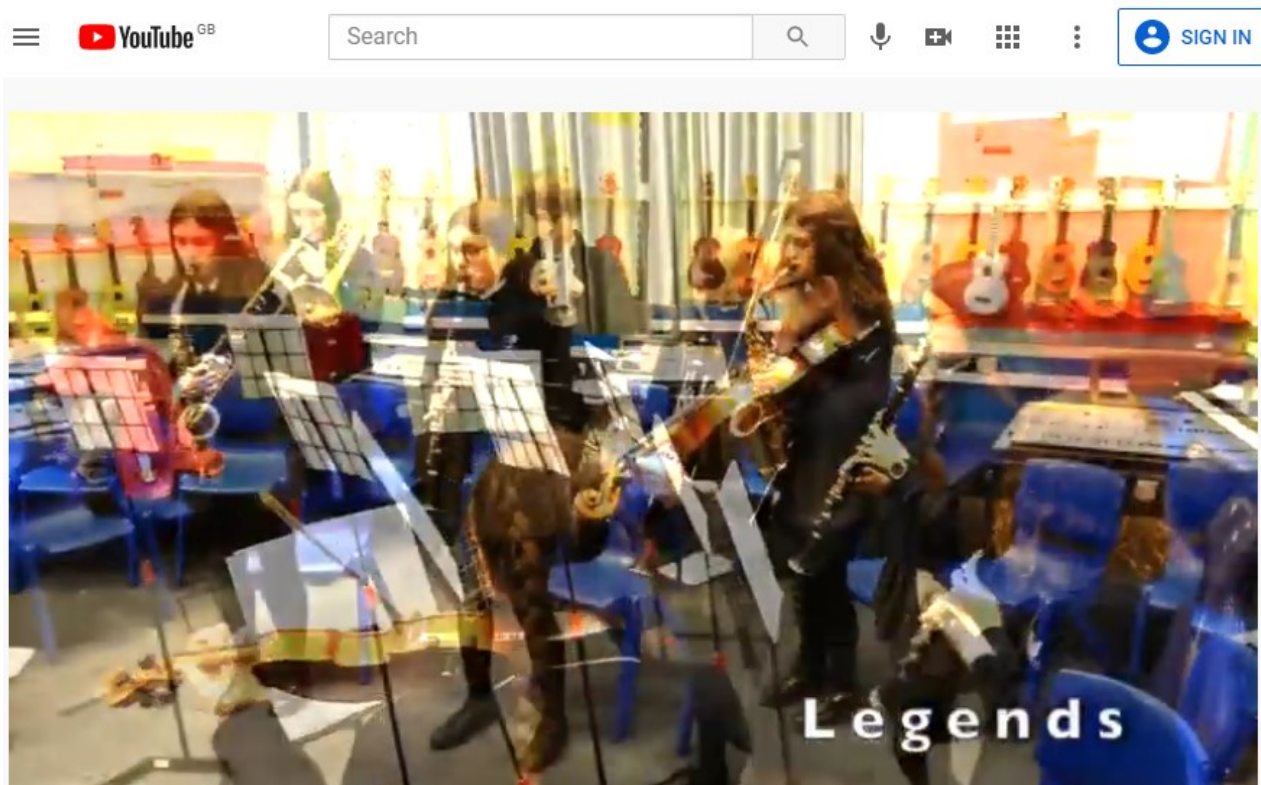
Friday 2nd April - **GOOD FRIDAY**

Monday 5th - Friday 16th April - **EASTER HOLIDAY**

Monday 19th April - **FIRST DAY OF TERM 5**



GORDANO MUSIC NEWS



The music department was really busy in Term two, preparing some musical highlights to share with our community.

If you had not yet had chance to listen do take some time out to enjoy them all. Follow this [link](#) to see a number of videos including Gordano's Year 7 choir singing 'This is me - Stronger.' There are many musical highlights and orchestral pieces from across the Year groups.

These videos were all created from 14 different bubbled rehearsals held every weekday morning excluding Monday's with three to four rehearsals, run by our dynamic music and drama trio; Mr Guerrini, Dr Humphries and Mrs Day, alongside a fantastic cohort of 120 young musicians making music at Gordano School.

Thanks to everyone who contributed for their commitment, hours of practice and fortitude.

If it sounds like the singers at Gordano have been busy then the instrumentalists can start warming up too! After half term the school orchestra will be reforming for live 'virtual' rehearsals of some classic Vivaldi, as well as a bit of New Orleans 'riot' jazz to create a proper party vibe. It's going to be an absolute hoot! Watch this space.



Year 8 Orchestra



Year 9 Choir



Year 10 Orchestra

HOUSE FORECAST - FITZROY

Happy New Year to all our brilliant Fitzroy students. It is such a shame that we have not been able to say this face to face, but it has been nice to see you all engaging so well with your online lessons and tutor time.

Before Christmas, lots of Fitzroy students brought in "Jars of Joy" to be distributed to local care home residents in conjunction with the charity "Alive Activities". They were very gratefully received, and it cheered up the residents no end to know that their local community was thinking about them. We are sure that our House charity and community efforts will continue well into 2021.

Congratulations to Lillie Purvis in 10F whose name was drawn out as one of the winners in the Term 1 merit competition. We hope you enjoyed the Heroes Lillie! There was a quiz in tutor time during the first week of term, and the Fitzroy winner was Lily Wells, also in 10F. We will get your prize to you as soon as we can Lily. Well done!

We know it is not easy learning from home and being limited in what you can do and where you can go, so don't forget to look at the virtual school section of the school website. There are plenty of ideas to explore, along with ways to access support should you need it.

Watch out for the House competitions too - we need to make sure we beat Lundy this year. Take your pick from the options below.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS & WALL OF FAME

PHOTOGRAPHY

Approaching the middle of winter, we want to see who can capture the best winter/wonderland pictures. Use your phone or camera to take the best photo you can to represent the winter season.

Use the box above and don't forget your name and tutor group, good luck!

MATHS CHALLENGE

An examination paper is made by taking 5 large sheets of paper, folding the pile in half and stapling it. The pages are then numbered in order from 1 to 20.

What is the sum of the three page numbers that are on the same sheet of paper as page number 5?

Submit your answer in the box above and don't forget to add your name and tutor group.

BAKING

We want to see who can make the best bake! This can be anything you like, from brownies cakes and cookies, to muffins, bread and pies!

Submit a photo of your bake, along with your name and tutor group via the box above to win points for your house!



GORDANO STUDENTS SHARE ACTS OF KINDNESS DURING CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Receiving this story into my inbox this week from Mrs Tipler, our new Deputy Head of Learning, certainly made me smile this week. Thank you Gordano students you always come up trumps and deliver us delight on a daily basis.

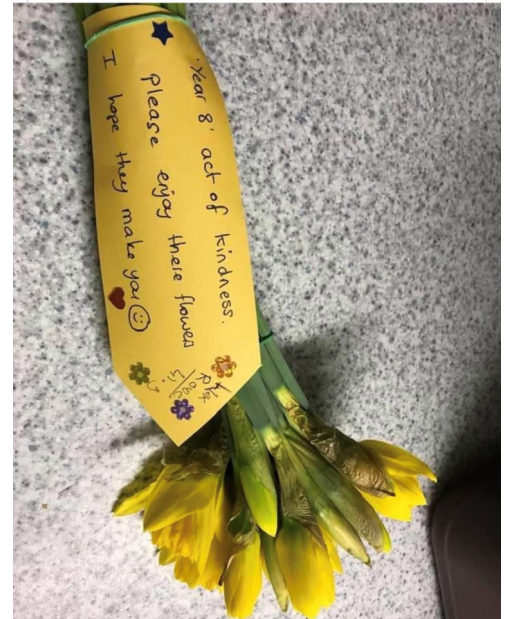
Our local social media pages are a wash with praise for several of our Year 8 Gordano students, who embraced the challenge of being kind on Wednesday 3rd February. Putting a smile on the faces of many Portishead residents who benefitted from their thoughtfulness. A few examples of posts shared here on Posset Pages, Portishead Postbox and more.

We received a number of thank you emails into school, including this one from Mrs Tipler's inbox from a grateful Portishead resident, well done Gordano students:

"Hi I have just found a bar of chocolate near Watch House Place on Portishead marina, kindly left by a Y8 pupil undertaking a kindness challenge. It is so thoughtful in these dark days of the pandemic and lockdown. It's wonderful to think that our young people of today are thinking of ideas to brighten things a little. Please convey my many thanks to those involved in the challenge and I wish them well in their studies."

Margaret Collingwood
21 h · 🌐

Thank you so much Alex!
They have indeed made me smile 😊👍



Lisa Marie Wright
1 d · 🌐

Thank you to the year 8 pupil from Gordano such a kind thought. Our 5 year daughter is so happy you made her day. X



👍❤️ 256

12 comments 4 shares



came out of school with a sad face saying "he had a bad day", this was turned around by this act of kindness he found walking home from school! Thank you to whoever left this, it certainly did the trick!

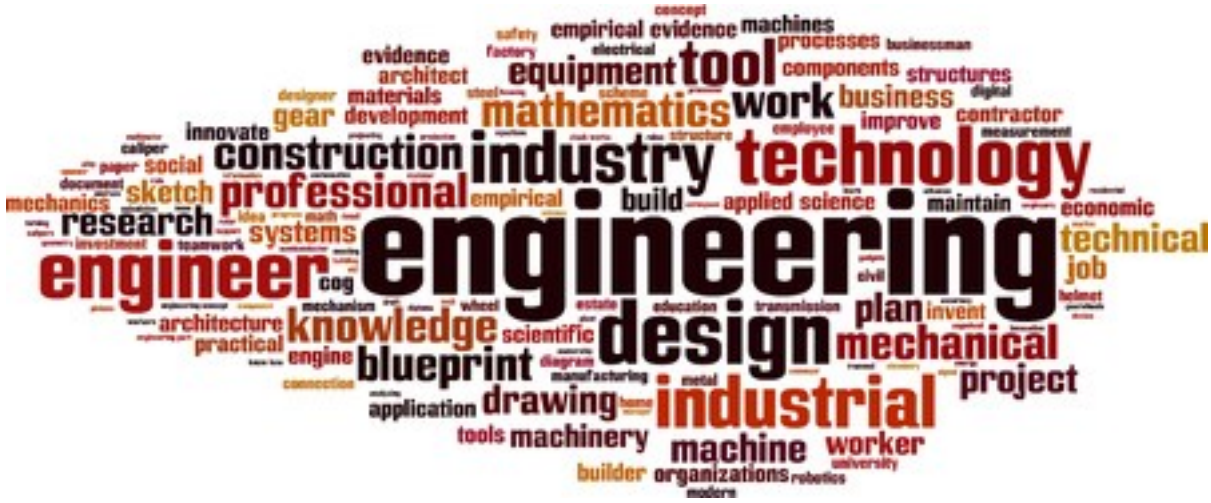


MINDFULNESS TRAINING

Sixth Form students have just finished eight weeks of mindfulness training with Fabienne Vailes, (Gordano parent, author of 'The Flourishing Student' and 'How to Grow a Grown Up' and UK wellbeing expert). The sessions have been held in the evenings on Teams and have offered students an introduction to different mindfulness and mediation techniques. Students now move onto a second phase of training, as they continue their journey to become 'flourishing champions'; the aim is for them to then offer peer-to-peer coaching across the school.

Head of Sixth Form, Jeanne Fairs comments, 'it has been such a privilege to have access to Fabienne's expertise each week - and the timing of this training has provided the perfect oasis of calm for students, while they work remotely. It is encouraging to hear students speak so openly about their strategies for managing their own wellbeing.'

TEATIME NETWORKING EVENT - ENGINEERING



Held on Thursday 4th February, our first “Virtual” Teatime Networking Session was kindly hosted by **Babcock International**.

With over 60 Students signed in, we were a little nervous as to how the event would pan out, as this was a very different set up to what we are used to. We needn't have worried after a minor technical glitch Babcock employees, James Williams and Christian Dix kept our students captivated by the experiences they both conveyed.

Our enthusiastic students listened attentively and then participated in a lively Q & A session and, we feel, left the session with a lot more information about the many and varied career paths available within the Engineering sector.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Babcock and in particular James and Christian, for all their support in making this event possible.

Unfortunately until normal service resumes there will be no tea and cake!

Never the less we think our first virtual event was such a success, we are very much looking forward to having **Edwards Vacuum** host our next session on February 25th. Booking details below.



TEA TIME NETWORKING 2nd ENGINEERING EVENT

The Gordano Careers team are excited to announce our second Engineering Teatime Network session, with guest speaker Aaron Bowen from Edwards Vacuum. As before we plan to run the event remotely through our Teams network.

We look forward to hearing about Aaron's own career path and the many aspects of working within an innovative and successful company such as Edwards.

Date for the Diary: **Thursday 25th February, 2021. 3:30 - 4:30 pm.** On a PC near you

Booking available by either an email to dcrosby@gordanoschool.org.uk Or by following the link that will be in the promotional Firefly message to students from Mrs Gardiner - Careers Advisor. Please encourage your son/daughter to book early to avoid disappointment.



THANK YOU TO BOB MARTIN FROM YEAR 13

Our Year 13 BTEC Business group would like to thank Mark Spurlock, Head of Technical Services at Bob Martin, for his recent assistance with their International Business unit.

Understandably at the moment our students are unable to visit local businesses, our current Year 13 students have spent more time studying at home than at school since their course started in 2019.

One of their recent assignments called for an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the day to day operations and processes of a current business that trades internationally. Our Year 13 students produced an extensive list of questions that were sent to the Bob Martin site in Yatton.

The Bob Martin brand is now part of Pets Choice Ltd. They produce a range of flea and worm treatments, and sell their product in a range of countries.

To everyone's astonishment and gratitude Mark Spurlock took time out of his working day to produce a comprehensive email responding to all the issues our students had raised in their questions. This was particularly kind as currently the school has no partnership with Bob Martin.

The assignment is now complete and our students would like to thank Mark for helping to inject some normality into this project despite the challenges of yet another lockdown. In his responses Mark mentioned that as we return to whatever our new normal dictates the company would also be happy to offer; Work Experience placements and summer jobs for students aged 18+.

This is a great opportunity to work in a niche industry for a business that produces veterinary medicines, works in formulation development and regulatory affairs. Many thanks to Mark and Pets Choice Ltd (Bob Martin) for supporting Gordano BTEC students in this way.



SCREEN FREE WEDNESDAY

Well done everyone for embracing our screen free on Wednesday 3rd February.

It was great to see so many of you taking time out to focus on your mental health. Either by embracing your creative side, trying out some meditation techniques or just making the effort to take the time to get outside and enjoy some exercise and fresh air. Follow this [link](#) for a video from a senior student about screen day and upcoming RAG week.

Also see the virtual school [wall of fame](#) for some great examples of how well our students and staff utilized their screen free time.



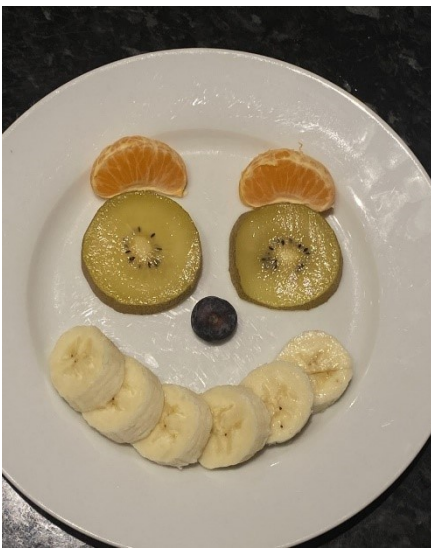
HEALTHY SNACKS IN CARING SETTINGS Y12

Year 12 health and social care (HSC,) students have fully embraced online learning. The class have been busy studying a nutrition module and learning all about why making 'fun, nutritious snacks in care settings encourages children and adults to eat more healthily. Here are just a few tasty examples their culinary creations.

To accompany their cheerful snack making skills students were also required to write a piece about why each snack provides balanced nutrition and health benefits.

Alongside the assignment the current cohort of HSC students also all contributed towards a shoebox appeal for the homeless at Christmas time which went to the ['Somewhere to go' charity](#) in Weston Super Mare. This charity provides a drop in centre for homeless and rough sleepers in Weston Super Mare.

Well done Year 12 HSC students for being creative and caring in these challenging times.



YEAR 12 ART TEXTILES LESSONS

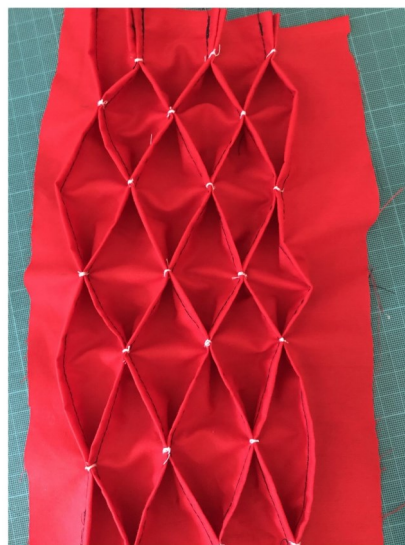
Remote learning in the new Art Textiles course has been going fantastically well. Year 12 students are continuing with their Component 1 coursework for their A'Level in the subject and have now had several live practical remote lessons.

To ensure all students in the group could participate effectively, the team arranged for the students to collect a sewing machine each and a variety of equipment they would need to join in. The first practical was focussing on smocking so once Mrs Pullen's classroom was all set up the lesson began. Year 12 students have created a range of different smocking techniques including Pin Tuck smocking, Box smocking and Lattice smocking - both forms of American smocking.

All students achieved some spectacular results and since then they have all been able to work more independently on their sampling. Excellent Year 12 work, Mrs Pullen really enjoyed teaching you all, even if it was remotely.



Mrs Pullen's Virtual
Classroom set up



Honeycomb Smocking
created by textiles
student



Lattice Smocking
created by textiles
student



Box Smocking
created by textiles
student



Lattice Smocking
created by textiles
student



Box Smocking
created by textiles
student

Welcome to the Gordano School Library newsletter for parents and carers, bringing you news of books and events in the library as well as reading news.

“21 Books in 2021” Reading Challenge



Start the year with a new challenge!

What you read is entirely up to you: children/teen fiction, literary fiction, popular fiction, classics, graphic novels, information books! For more details, please check the dedicated page on FireFly in the School Library section.

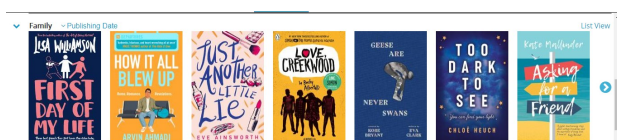
LibrariesWest

Free electronic resources from the public library service

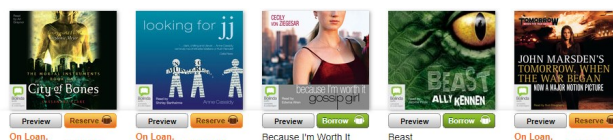
The public library service offers access to many free online reading material. All you need is to be a member of the library. If you want to join, you can do so online [here](#).

Here is a sample of what you can access with your public library membership:

eBooks:



Audiobooks:



eMagazines:



eComics:



rb digital

**ACCESS DIGITAL COMICS
AND GRAPHIC NOVELS HERE!**

Visit [LibrariesWest](#) for more information.

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BBC Sounds offer free access to a wide selection of abridged audiobooks, including several classics. Check out their selection [here](#).



Virtual School Library

Oak Academy have launched a Virtual School Library, where every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. See [here](#) for more information.

World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 4th March. To celebrate, we will be adding some online activities and competitions to the School Library pages on FireFly. The first one, a *Potato Book Character* competition, is already live on FireFly in School Library > World Book Day 2021 > Potato Book Character Competition.

You can see this year's selection of £1 books on the [World Book Day website](#). You can then click on specific titles to have a sneak peek inside, as well as find information on a variety of online events that will be taking place during that week.



READING IS POWER PODCASTS

This is a brilliant [podcast series](#) from the World Book Day team where children's and YA authors discuss what "Reading Is Power" means to them.

Create a picture book competition

Reading Zone have launched a picture book competition open to young people ages 4-18. The deadline for entries is 23 April. To find out more, check [their website](#).



Free author events online



The Reading is Magic Festival has extended its free access offer to last October's virtual events until the end of this lockdown. See [here](#) for more information.



The Northern YA Literary Festival took place online in January and all events are available to watch on [YouTube](#).