

March /April Term 4 2021

Newsletter

For Students, Parents & School Staff

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL FOR ALL GORDANO STUDENTS

It has been great to welcome everyone back onsite this term as the current lockdown measures are eased.

We would like to thank all students, staff and parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring a smooth return to the classroom earlier this month and we look forward to supporting all our students with their learning in the coming weeks and months ahead.

Our covid testing team have run an efficient and effective on-site facility to help maintain safety for everyone as school reopens and it was nice to welcome some recent Gordano Alumni back to school as part of the covid testing team.

We will continue to provide regular parent updates on next steps and centre-assessed grading for our Year 11 and 13 students. All updates are shared [here](#) should you need to refer to them at any time.



Headteacher's Blog

Just over a year has passed since we first felt the impact of this life-changing pandemic. In some ways it feels like a lifetime - was there really a time when we didn't know about Zoom, Teams, social distancing, and could go about our daily lives entirely unrestricted? In others, it seems to have passed in a flash. I still remember the production of the Addams Family like it was yesterday, so too the assemblies we hurriedly put together to say a premature farewell to last year's Year 11 and 13s.

Of course, we hope that the worst is behind us, and that the arrival of Spring and the progress of the vaccination programme will ensure a 'one way' direction of travel. However, we should have, by now, learnt not to take anything for granted, and we must be prepared for further interruptions to our lives and education. If there are, as we have until now, we will face it together - and continue to apply the lessons that we have rapidly learnt over the last twelve months to minimise any further impact on our students. And even if there aren't, we know that many of the challenges that Covid presents to society are only just beginning.

Despite this, I have such a sense of hope. This comes from seeing the way that our community has come together in the last twelve months,

and the confidence I have that this will echo for years to come. This will enable us to tackle these challenges together and our community will be stronger and everyone better off for it.

A wonderful illustration of our common endeavour has come with the news that we are currently the "most thanked school" in the South West of England and presently 7th overall within the UK in the national 'Thank a Teacher' campaign. You can find out more at <https://thankateacher.co.uk/>. I can't think of a more fitting way of illustrating the incredible service of all of our staff (not just our teachers!) and the great support that we gain from our wonderful community of students and parents. [Read More](#)

Tom Inman -
Head teacher

Diary Dates

Thursday 1st April - **LAST DAY OF TERM - NORMAL DAY - END AT 3.15pm**

Friday 2nd April - **GOOD FRIDAY**

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

Thursday 22nd April - **Year 9 Progress Evening 4.00 - 7.30pm**

Thursday 29th April - **Junior Maths Challenge & Year 8**

Thursday 29th April - **Year 8 Key Stage 4 Options Evening**

Friday 30th April - **6th Form May Day Challenge**

Monday 3rd May - **May Bank Holiday**

Thursday 6th May - **Year 6 Parent Information Evening**

Wednesday 12th May - **INSET AFTERNOON - Students to leave at lunchtime**

Wednesday 12th May - **Parent Forum**

Thursday 13th May - **Year 7 Virtual Celebration Evening**

Tuesday & Wednesday 18th & 19th May - **Year 9 Vaccinations**

Thursday 27th May - **INSET AFTERNOON - Students to leave at lunchtime**

Friday 28th May - **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June - **HALF TERM HOLIDAY**



HOUSE FORECAST - LUNDY

Happy Easter to all our fantastic Lundy students. In the first instance, I would like to formally welcome Mrs Whaley as our new Assistant Head of Lundy House. I know many of you have already met Mrs Whaley and have worked closely with her. We are extremely lucky to have such a fab addition to our Lundy family.

It has been a really tough year but we need to remember to celebrate the wonderful successes we have all managed to achieve during this time. Firstly, it's important to recognise that due to the incredible commitment and dedication of all of you and your tutors, we managed to win both the Overall House Championship trophy along with Sports Day and Overall Sports Trophy too!

Congratulations to you all - our ex-legendary HoH Mr Berridge was delighted to hear of this when I broke the news to him! All our tutors and Mrs Whaley and I are so proud of your fantastic efforts.

Congratulations to Georgia Creed in 11L2 who won the "Lockdown Quiz" competition. We hope you enjoyed your assortment of sweets! We also need to give a big shout out to our Student House Team, particularly Millie Cox and Caitlin Berrill who have been great House Captains in such difficult circumstances. They have continued to work hard as ambassadors for both the House and School and Millie even led a whole school assembly this year on "Facemasks" and the importance of looking after our environment.

As part of our Care and Kindness project, our Lundy students have been exceptionally busy during the most recent lockdown period. We felt in such difficult times that it was important to pass on some thanks to members of staff. I was overwhelmed to have received over 100 responses from students at home who thanked their members of staff for all their hard work and amazing lessons. There have also been plenty of Lundy students who have brought in Easter cards and eggs to be distributed to the local community.

Congratulations to Alex Duta in 10L2 who has the most merits in Lundy House thus far. He has accumulated 390 merits which currently places him 2nd in the whole school. Well done Alex- keep up the good work!

As we head into the spring months, I want to thank all Lundy students and staff for continuing to do the House proud. We have had a busy few weeks and let's hope the sun will shine on us in the final two terms. Many Thanks Mr Yau.



GORDANO A LEVEL STUDENTS EXCEL AT CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Well done to all three of our A level Chemistry students; Iggy Jemiol, Nattie Statham and Sophie Chambers who participated in the Chemistry Olympiad earlier this year.

Open to all schools, across the UK, the first round is designed to challenge students chemical knowledge through a written test. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their skills, and the knowledge they will need to progress in as Chemists at university and beyond. Round two was a weekend of training and assessments, which took place virtually this year.

Congratulations to Sophie and Iggy who both achieved silver awards.

Mr Lloyd commented: "This competition really encourages a passion for the subject of Chemistry and helps students to see where it can take them at University and beyond. I am proud of all the students who took part as it will help to support them with their forthcoming A-levels and future career choices."



YEAR 9 COMPUTING IDEA AWARD

Year 9 Computing students took on a new challenge through lockdown by taking part in the IDEA award.

The IDEA award is a National award where students can work towards badges showcasing their digital skills, an equivalent to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (without the walking!). Students had the opportunity to learn about new Computing topics and deepen their understanding of some topics covered in the classroom, building on their resilience and independent learning skills.

Year 9 completed a range of badges from 'Introduction to AI' to 'Coding Solutions', working towards their Bronze and Silver awards. Altogether Year 9 secured an impressive 600 badges between them over the lockdown period.

Bronze Awards

- Thomas Warner
- Connor Hewitt
- Joe Roome
- Alan Fayz
- Elliot Barnard

Silver Award

- Elliot Barnard

Congratulations to the award winners and well done to everyone who took part for their continued effort and determination.





GORDANO VIRTUAL CHIOR - SEAL LULLABY

The Seal Lullaby

Words: Rudyard Kipling
Music: Eric Whitacre

Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,
And black are the waters that sparkled so green.
The moon, o'er the combers, looks downward to find us,
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.

Where billow meets billow, then soft be thy pillow,
Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!
The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,
Asleep in the arms of the slow swinging seas!



Gordano School Virtual Choir - The Seal Lullaby

148 views • 3 Mar 2021

👍 11 💬 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...

Please click above or [here](#) to enjoy The Gordano School Virtual Choir singing The Seal Lullaby. Music by Eric Whitacre with words by Rudyard Kipling. This performance was rehearsed in four sessions of 50 minutes over TEAMS. The Music department then recorded the audio and visuals in the final fifth session using TEAMS, smart phones and ZOOM for the visuals. We hope you enjoy listening.

PORTISHEAD IN BLOOM - CALL FOR ENTRIES

Looking for something creative to do over Easter? Why not submit an entry for the Portishead in Bloom Art Competition? Full entry details can be found on our website [here](#).

There are two age categories so younger siblings can get involved too.



MEND THE GAP - RAG WEEK FUNDRAISER



We are creeping towards our fundraising target for Mend the Gap and we hope to host some more events in terms 5 & 6 that will help us reach our target.

If you are able to contribute, either financially or by providing hand knitted school jumpers, our fundraising page is [here](#) and the up to date knitting pattern can be found on our website [here](#).

TEATIME NETWORKING EVENT - CREATIVE CAREERS



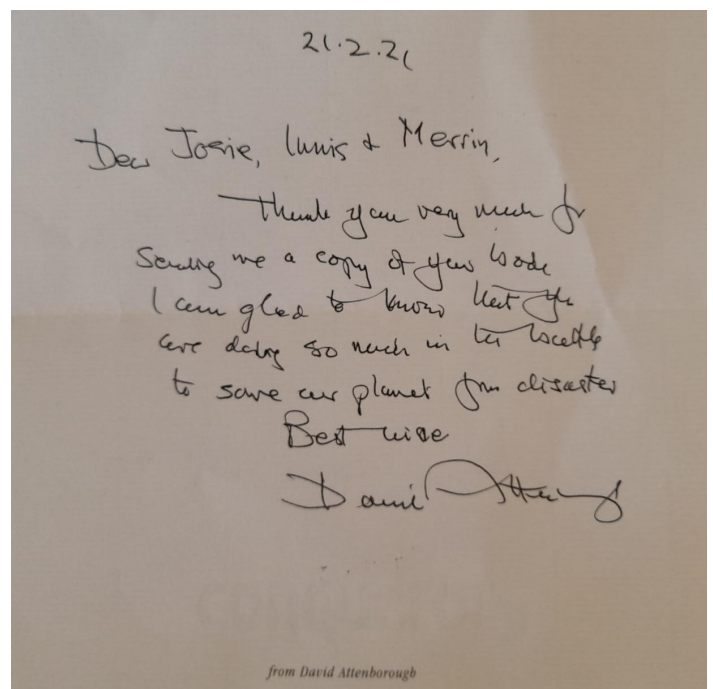
The Careers team is looking forward to hosting our next Teatime Networking session this week with Branding and Promotional experts Tomato Source. Highlighting careers within the Creative industries

As before, we plan to run the event remotely through our Teams network and therefore we are not restricted by numbers so we have opened up the session to all **years from 7 to 13**. Many thanks to Tomato Source for supporting our students in this way..

YEAR 7 STUDENTS RECEIVE AUTHOR APPROVAL FROM SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Well done to Innes and Merrin in Year 7, together with their friend Josie from Year 6 at Begbrook Primary set themselves the challenge of writing a book on climate change during the first lockdown, a subject the three of them are passionate about.

They sent a copy of their book to David Attenborough, who replied personally to congratulate them on their efforts. The girls also went to see Greta Thunberg when she came to Bristol to speak with fellow environmental activist, Mya Rose Craig from Chew Valley School. Well done girls on a fantastic lockdown learning achievement.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY POETRY

On international Women's Day (March 8th), some of the A Level Literature cohort looked at a collection of poems written by female authors such as Sylvia Plath, Carol Ann Duffy and Maya Angelou.

After the class had discussed the many different aspects of womanhood explored in the collection, they wrote their own poetry inspired by what they had read. The creative writing students produced was really insightful and impressive, and below are just a couple examples. *More submissions have been uploaded onto the website and can be read [here](#).*

Trinity Franklin: “I decided to call my poem ‘Written by Witches’ because this poem wouldn’t have been written without the influence of other female writers. I feel like ‘witches’ symbolises the power and the struggle that women have faced to have their voices heard.”

Written by Witches

Want to see us broken?
We will light our own bonfire instead
And run into the street ablaze
Still mad, still drunk, still raving.

We will light the candles that lie beneath our skin
And watch the flames bite our thighs
Warm and bright and steaming
Because women like us aren't afraid to rise.



International Women's Day

Lydia Coules:

We are everything
Anything
Whatever we want to be.
We are the first ray of sunlight
The bubble of a summer stream
The North Star.

We are everywhere
Anywhere
Wherever we want to be.
We are in the forests and fields
The towns and the cities
The past and the future.

We are everything and anything.
We are everywhere and anywhere.
We are.

Many thanks to Lydia and Trinity for sharing their pieces with us.



YEAR 9 GO ECO FOR ART TEXTILES

During remote learning, this term year 9 started a new project based on reduce, reuse & recycle.

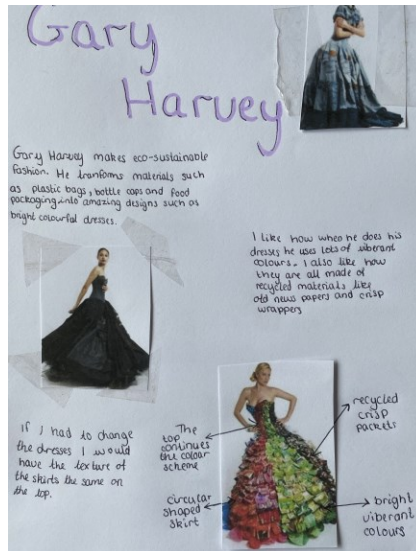
The DIY Denim Project has taught students throughout lockdown about the importance of making products last and not to buy into Fast Fashion. Students researched into how the textiles industry has a negative impact on the environment and how they can develop a range of products using recycled materials. They have researched a range of sustainable designers including; Zero Waste Daniel, a New York designer who uses unwanted materials from high end designers, and Wyatt and Jack who create bags and accessories from inflatables.

After creating an array of inspirational mood boards, the group went on to develop a range of practical samples remotely during live lessons. Students have woven using denim from jeans, created embroidery onto denim, learnt how to transfer an image onto fabric using fabric crayons and, since returning, have also fused plastics together to create a new material for decoration. We have seen some excellent examples of work which will now be developed into design concepts ready to make in the coming weeks. The students did fantastically during this time and showed real motivation to produce top quality work. Well done to the year 9 group.

The textiles team is still keen to receive unwanted denim. If you have any denim you may be thinking of sending to charity shops, please send it our way to facilitate projects like this. We are after jeans, jackets or shirts. To remain **Covid-19 safe**, we request the items are washed prior to dropping in at main reception in a bag. We will quarantine items for a week before preparing them for students' projects.



Weaving



Designer Study



Gilet Design



Crayon Embroidery



Weaving

PARTICIPATE IN PORTISHEAD STORYBOAT

The school community has been given an exciting invitation to participate in a local community Arts and Heritage Project called Storyboat 700+. The project is looking to celebrate the changing history and diversity of Portishead over the last 700 years.

If you'd like to find out more or contribute stories and images please check out the Facebook page Storyboat700plus or follow this [link](#) to learn about the 'Storyboat Flotilla' - and connect you and your family's story to 700 others!

Any questions contact Storyboat700plus@gmail.com or veastwooddewing@gordanoschool.org.uk

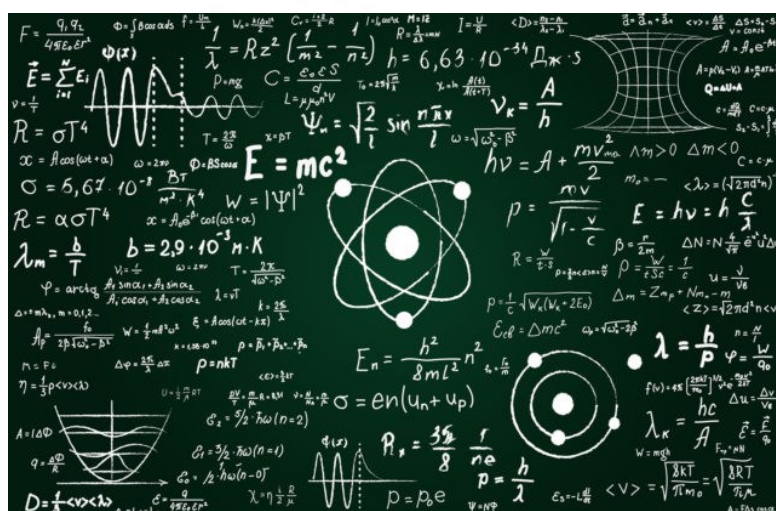
GORDANO STUDENTS EXCEL IN THE BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Gordano students have reaped success in the 2021 British Physics Olympiad. Nine students took part in the Intermediate Challenge, joining 4700 other year 11 students from 200 schools located across the UK and overseas.

The BPhO is not an exam and was completed by students seeking a physics challenge and an opportunity to take part in this prestigious national competition organised by Oxford University, Cambridge University, the IET and a host of industrial partners.

The BPhO is extremely challenging but all participating Gordano students were awarded certification having completed the challenge online. In total, the physics students obtained 1 gold, 6 silvers and 2 bronze awards. Well done to all those who took part and a very successful haul!

Abigail	Fitzpatrick	Gold
Georgia	Creed	Silver
Eva	Rudge	Silver
Stephanie	Donadel	Silver
Albert	Williams	Silver
Katie	Braine	Silver
Lucia	Bureo	Silver
Sophie	Dawson	Bronze
Lucy	Carrington	Bronze



SHARING EASTER KINDNESS

A huge thank you to all the wonderful students who have brought in Easter cards and eggs to be distributed within the local community. They are being delivered by volunteers this week, and we know they will bring a big smile to the faces of the recipients! The picture below shows just a small selection of what we received.



HEALTH & SAFETY GOLD AWARD FOR GORDANO SCHOOL

Well done to our site team and all our staff who have adapted and embraced many new challenges in the last year, due to COVID 19. Despite all the additional requirements placed upon them, our team have helped to secure a 'Gold Award,' for our compliance in Health and Safety across the school. Well done everyone.



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.

LIBRARY ACCESS

The Library is open at Break and Lunch to all year groups with the following guidelines

Timetable

One year group per day at BREAK and LUNCH.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11

Arrival

Wait at the entrance to be invited in.
Have your journal out and ready.

If three people are already queuing outside the Library to come in, come back another time.

Use the hand sanitiser available on entry.

Distancing

30 students maximum
are allowed in the Library



Wear a mask at all times.

Maintain a distance from others and from the Library desk

Ask before sitting at the tables or computers.

Wipe surfaces you have touched

Leave once you've completed your tasks to allow others to use the Library.

Books

Please ask before you go to the shelves to browse.

Clean/sanitise hands before and after handling resources.
Please only handle books you intend to use.

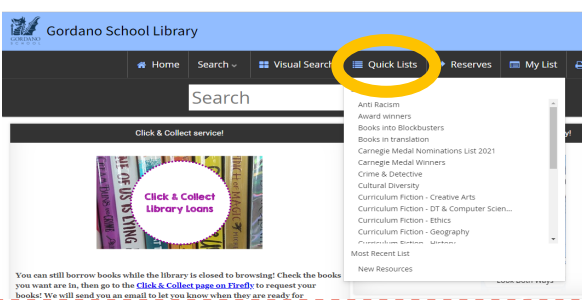
Place returned books you have taken out in the returns box outside the Library. For books used inside the Library, use the box on the desk.

To borrow books, bring them to the Library desk.
You can still request books on Click & Collect via FireFly.

As always, please be kind, respectful and considerate to the people around you.



Every year the library organises a group to “shadow” the Carnegie Medal (the most prestigious children’s/teenage book award in the UK), which means that the group read and judge the books on the shortlist alongside the real judges. The shortlist of 8 titles has just been released and we welcome new members to the group. For more information, check out the information on [Firefly](#).



Don't forget we have lots of recommended reading lists available on our [library catalogue](#), including a new feature we are developing on curriculum linked fiction. Just click on “Quick Lists” and a drop down list of options will appear.



Do not hesitate to email us if you have any questions: libraryteam@gordanoschool.org.uk