

June/July Term 6 2021

Newsletter

For Students, Parents & School Staff

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SPORTS DAY & SWIMMING GALA 2021

Our 2021 Activities Week was certainly active this year, with two Sports Days, a Swimming Gala, a Year 12 Futures week and more. Well done to everyone who participated and supported their team mates during Sports days and the Swimming Gala. All days were a great success; the rain stayed away and even the ice cream van turned up on Sports Day to sweeten the day.

Well done to everyone who took part; for Year 7 Portland finished first, with Cromarty just 1.5 points behind taking a respectable 2nd place. For Year 8 Shannon took first place with Fitzroy in second place. In Year 9 Cromarty took first place with Portland in Second and for Year 10, Lundy took first place and Portland took second place. After all the points were totted up the overall results are below. Biscay definitely win the prize for the best sports day mascot.

OVERALL WINNERS

GRAND TOTAL	POSITION	
536.5	6	BISCAY
568.5	5	CROMARTY
607.5	3	FITZROY
584.5	4	LUNDY
643	2	PORTLAND
654.5	1	SHANNON

SWIMMING GALA RESULTS:

1st - **Biscay** 2nd - **Fitzroy**
3rd - **Cromarty**. 3rd - **Lundy**
5th - **Shannon** 6th - **Portland**



Headteacher's Blog

As we reach the end of this crazy year, I would like to congratulate all Gordano staff and students for the way they have risen to the many challenges thrown at them.



This last term has shown that, even amid the restrictions of the Covid Pandemic, our students have achieved so much. We have managed to host two sports days, a swimming gala, our Bridging fortnight for Year 11 and 13, Year 12 Futures week, Transition days for next year's Year 7, a Creative Arts Festival, a science showcase event, Aspire conferences, the Year 7 Sponsored Walk and more. Although not the 'full' Term 6 experience, it has been wonderful to see the school start to return to something like its usual buzz.

I am immensely proud of what we have all achieved and the support shown by our wider community. In June we were named the most thanked school in the South West (and top ten in the country) by the National Thank a Teacher campaign, and we really appreciate all the feedback that we receive. But we won't get complacent and, after a hard-earned summer break, we will return re-energised with lots of exciting plans for next year to make the experience for our students even better.

We wish Year 11 and 13 every success with their results and will be here to support them with any issues of progression to their next steps.

Wishing everyone in our school community a wonderful summer break.

Tom Inman

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th July - **LAST DAY OF TERM 6** - Students to leave at 12:30

Thursday 22nd July - Wednesday 1st September - **SUMMER HOLIDAY**

Tuesday 10th August - **A LEVEL RESULTS DAY**

Thursday 12th - August - **GCSE RESULTS DAY**

Wednesday 1st September - **Year 12 Registration Day**

Thursday 2nd September - **INSET DAY**

Friday 3rd September - **INSET DAY**

Monday 6th September - **FIRST DAY OF TERM 1**

Friday 1st October - **INSET DAY**

Friday 22nd October - **END OF TERM 1**

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October - **HALF TERM**

Monday 1st November - **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**

Friday 17th December - **LAST DAY OF TERM 2**

Tuesday 4th January - **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 5th January - **FIRST DAY OF TERM 3**

Friday 18th February - **LAST DAY OF TERM 3**

Monday 28th February - **INSET DAY**

Tuesday 1st March 2022 - **FIRST DAY OF TERM 4**



HOUSE FORECAST - SHANNON

A big hello from Shannon house and a huge well done to the students, parents and staff for making it to the end of what has been a tricky year.

I would like to formally introduce Miss Dolling, Assistant Head of Shannon House, she has been absolutely amazing in her first year of the job. I would have been lost without her!

This year in Shannon house, we have continued our Care and Kindness theme of learning Sign Language during tutor times. I am really proud of how well the students and tutors have taken to this exciting opportunity.

Last term we were able to celebrate the amazing contributions of Shannon students in our Celebration Evening and I was particularly proud of our new House and Vice house Captain team who presented the event. This was their first event and they did a brilliant job. In case you missed it, I'd like to officially welcome our House Captains; Lowri Battista and Tom Willey, and our Vice House Captains; Mabel Grant and Jonty Hall. Pictured below:



Last week we enjoyed our Sports Day and Swimming Gala events. Shannon were overall winners for Sports day and placed fifth in the swimming gala, there really were some wonderful performances from our Shannon team and I want to say a huge well done to everyone who took part.

Thank you - this year has been a difficult one but we as team Shannon have absolutely nailed it! Your tutors have been outstanding in their care for you, so a huge thank you to them. Good luck to Mrs Thompson who will be going to have her baby at the end of summer, we hope to see lots of photos!

Thank you to the parents of Shannon students for your continued support throughout the year. Thank you to you the students, who have continued to shine, even when things felt tough. We are all very proud of you.

I would like to finish with a good bye from me. As many of you know, I will be leaving Gordano School after 10 years, this year. I am extremely sad to be going but excited for the next chapter ahead. I will miss everyone and wish you all the best of luck. Mr Church will be the new Head of Shannon house and I am sure he will settle in well - he already knows Shannon is the best house!

Many thanks,

Mrs Palmer

THE SHOW MUST GO ON - YEAR 7 ENJOY CREATIVE ARTS FAIR 2021

As the end of term approaches, we have found a way to provide a much needed 'hurrah' to see the year out in style! The Creative Arts Festival is a taster of Music, Drama and Dance, in one fun-filled, jam-packed, high-spirited event, performed this year to our year 7 cohort.

With over 150 performers across the age range, the faculty were so determined to defy the odds and give our talented young performers a platform from which to showcase their immense dedication and creativity. Three stages and an original layout for our audience set the scene for over 30 acts with seamless transitions and a roller coaster of varying energy, across all sorts of genres.

We were especially delighted with the palpable energy and enthusiasm to perform live, being our first live show in 19 months. We are so proud of the students' resilience, continuing to practice and perform through lockdowns and / or isolation and the in-school restrictions caused by Covid. The occasion was a symbolic marker to recognise such incredible determination and the end of a very challenging academic year for everyone.

It was also a fitting way to say goodbye to the amazing Mr Guerrini, our Head of Music for six years. It seemed only right that in the final show we interrupted one of his performances with a mega-mix collaborative rap from CA staff and students as a symbol of our appreciation! He leaves the Music department in an exceptional position after years of brilliant leadership.

Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to Year 7 who provided an engaged and enthusiastic audience for our performers. Great to get our calendar of events up and running again - it was an absolute blast!



TENNIS SUCCESS

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Martyna Petrynski on becoming Avon Schools U15 Tennis Champion

Well done Martyna, this is a huge achievement.



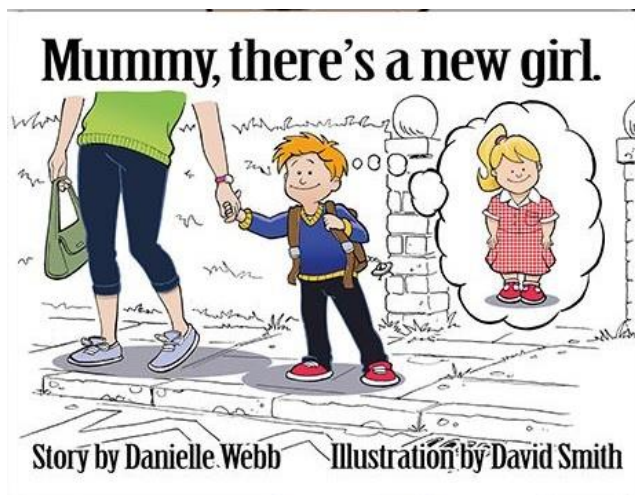
GORDANO ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to former Gordano Student, Jack Bennett, who has written and is directing a new children's comedy show for 'Sky Kids,' called, 'Dodo.'

The series was launched this June. Jack, who left Gordano in 2009 explained that the story follows the highs and lows of the main character Joe and his friends in their first year of Secondary School. According to Jack there may be a few recognisable features and people from his time at Gordano. We are intrigued to see which teachers may make an appearance.



The idea behind the series is that all the problems, that can seem to be so huge when you are living them during those difficult years, are really not that big a deal in the end. A positive message for current times. Congratulations Jack, those of us with Sky will be sure to tune in and check it out.



CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

From the screen to the page, we also have a newly published author among our alumni. Congratulations to past Gordano student Danielle Webb, who left Gordano in 2015. Danielle has recently published her first children's book alongside completing her Masters.

Her book highlights diversity and that it's ok to be different. The book was published on 24th June and is available to order [here](#).

LSP TRUSTEE AWARDED MBE

Congratulations to Adele Haysom, Chair of LSP Trustees, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday honours list for her 'Services to Education'.

Adele started her 'governance' journey at Highdown in 2004, chairing their LGB there from 2005-2010. Adele then became a governor at Gordano, chairing the Gordano LGB from 2011-2018. Adele joined the LSP Trust Board in September 2016, stepping down from the Gordano LGB to become Chair of Trustees in 2018. She was designated a 'National Leader of Governance' in 2014 off the back of her experience and contribution at Gordano, and through this has made a significant contribution to governance across many other schools and Trusts.

Adele's contribution and personal commitment to Highdown, Gordano and the LSP over the past 17 or so years has been immense. She has always carried out her governance role with incredible commitment and insight. Both pre-LSP and during, Adele has always been a pivotal figure in our journey and an absolute pleasure to work with. We owe her a huge amount, especially at Gordano, and it's therefore such a joy that she has been recognised so publicly for her services to Education.



REWILDING & SUMMER STRAWBERRIES

Last year the Gordano School Eco Club supported by Ethics & Philosophy teacher Mr Swift, launched a rewilding project around the school and the results are now starting to show themselves in our four newly designated 'rewilding areas'. Rewilding is when you allow an area of land to return to its natural state, free from lawn mowing or human intervention. Its aim is to give nature more space, allowing wild flowers to regrow and the insects and pollinators that feed on them to thrive. As well as providing vital food for pollinators, increasing the biodiversity on the school site, the rewilding areas also now serve as beautiful flower meadows giving colour and life to areas that were once just grass. Some mushrooms have even been spotted!

Mr Swift has also worked with students and staff volunteers to create some raised beds for growing fruit and flowers. Here is Ethan in Y8 harvesting a superb supply of strawberries. Gordano grow your own is here to stay. The poppies look great too.

These initiatives are part of a trust wide move towards carbon neutrality for all schools. During June our Carbon Council, led by students and supported by staff, met for the first time to discuss next steps.

This is a really positive initiative to move all the schools towards carbon neutrality, led by the students and helped by the staff. During the meeting students and staff discussed ways the school can improve its environmental credentials. Following this students will present their ideas to senior staff during a second meeting. We will also be sending students to a 'Carbon Summit' in July with the other schools in the trust.

This initiative will continue next year, meeting termly to monitor our progress and develop new ideas. If students or staff are interested in being part of the council please contact Mr Swift for details of the next meeting on the following email: sswift@gordanoschool.org.uk



THANK YOU HOMEBASE PORTISHEAD

Many thanks to Homebase in Portishead who donated funds towards reviving our planters and flower beds for the summer term, and to our busy site team for finding all the plants new homes. I think you will agree they look great and certainly add some colour around school.

HOMEBASE



GORDANO STUDENTS PERFORM TIDAL TALES

Just a few weeks ago a chorus of Gordano students helped to lead a cast of 60 children who acted out the history of Portishead in a promenade play around St Peter's churchyard.

The production, '*Tidal Tales*,' told a thousand years of Posset's past, from the 14 inhabitants recorded in the Domesday Book to today's lively town of 25,000 people supporting each other through the Covid pandemic.

The play was a MultiStory Drama Academy production, written and directed by former Gordano School drama teacher Abi Hill, and was part of the Storyboat 700+ celebrations marking the 700th anniversary of St Peter's Church.

Audience members followed the cast around the churchyard and into the church, watching scenes from the Civil War, Victorian boom, nautical school and two world wars, as well as the rapid changes of the 20th century.

Among their scenes, the 'Tidal Chorus', made up of 16 girls from Gordano School, named the local men lost in WW1 and celebrated the amazing contributions made by local women in WW2.

"It was absolutely brilliant," said Ruth Mills, one of the spectators. "One moment we were all laughing and the next we were blinking back the tears. I think we all learned things about Posset too and went away feeling lucky to be part of this community."

Due to Covid, the show took place a year later than planned and could draw only a limited audience. However, it has been filmed and will soon be available to watch on YouTube.



BRIDGING FORTNIGHT'

It was great to welcome so many Year 11 and Year 13 to our Bridging fortnight at the end of June as part of their preparations to join Sixth Form in September or their post-18 options.

For Year 11, as well as Gordano Sixth Form lessons and tutor inductions, students leaving us for apprenticeships and other colleges were also able to opt into relevant workshops from outside providers; all students were invited to join extra-curricular sessions from Yoga, football, basketball, badminton, table tennis and even spaghetti and meatball cooking lessons!

Year 13 students joined us for subject specialist sessions such as Statistics, Cosmology and Radioactivity as well as 'Preparing for University and Work' sessions run by Gordano alumni. Although the weather was unkind, some Year 13 were able to finish their time at Gordano with an inside picnic!

We wish all of our Year 11 and 13 students the best for their pending results in August and their next steps in education or onward careers.



BE MORE BEN - YEAR 7 CHARITY CHAMPIONS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank three of our Year 7 students for their fundraising efforts for a local charity called The Benjamin Pritchard Foundation. The charity was set up in 2018 by Sarah Pritchard following the death of her son Ben, as a result of a brain tumour. The charity aims to enhance bereavement support and services by providing ongoing counselling and complimentary therapies, as well as offering opportunities for bereaved families to meet others whose child has died. Something that was not locally available previously.



Tommy and Ben used to play football together for Portishead Town Sparks and for his 12th birthday, Tommy set himself a challenge to ride his bike 12km a day for the 8 days between his birthday and what would have been Ben's 12th birthday. So far he has raised over £1,000 for the charity which is phenomenal, if you can help raise more please donate [here](#).

In addition to Tommy's ride, last August, Ben's best friends, Finn McEntee Smith and Monty Weeks climbed Ben Nevis, raising over £1,000 "climbing Ben for Ben", an idea they thought of themselves at Ben's funeral.

Well done to Tommy, Finn & Monty this is a fantastic achievement and we are immensely proud of all your efforts.

YEAR 7 SPONSORED WALK FOR MEND THE GAP

A huge well done to all of Year 7 for completing their sponsored walk during activities week. On Friday 9th July, Year 7 walked 11km for the Mend the Gap charity. This distance was in recognition of the fact that many of the students Gordano School support through Mend The Gap in Kenya, walk this distance on a daily basis, just so they can get to and from school each day.

Well done to everyone who took part and completed the walk. We are also very grateful to Portishead Sainsbury's who provided drinking water for all those participating. Every penny donated will go to the students in our twinned Kenyan schools. Thank you to those who have already donated so generously. If you are able to support our Year 7's and Mend The Gap please do donate on the link below:

[Gordano Charity Walk for Mend the Gap](#)



YEAR 7 & 8 DT & HUMANITIES SUCCESS

On Weds 7th July Years 7 and 8 participated in the 'Aspire Conferences.'

For this competition students worked in groups to research a topic that they were interested in and then presented their ideas to their fellow students. The winning teams were: Year 7, DT (Bethany Flower, Elizabeth Greaves, Benjamin Lung, Alexander Mason-Paull and Merrin Sommers. (pictured here.) This group worked together to create a presentation on robots. For Year 8 Humanities (Charlie Carter-Brown, Ella Davies, Imogen Dexter, Meadow Owen and Xavier Rosant) created a presentation asking: 'Should European museums return artefacts taken from Africa and Asia during the colonial period?' Two very fascinating topics presented eloquently with some interesting points raised across both presentations. Well done to our winners and everyone who took part.



EXPLORER DOME SCIENCE SHOWCASE

Magic and explosions were the order of the day for Year 7 & Year 8 last week. Explorer Dome, who specialise in creating bespoke science shows for schools, visited Gordano School and treated Year 7 & 8 students to some spectacular hands on science. During the day there were two shows; 'The Curiosity Chemistry Show,' and 'Our Space Our Future.' The Chemistry show included observing, predicting and testing. Students enjoyed a baffling and brilliant array of experiments using everyday physics and kitchen chemistry to explain some key concepts.

Later in the day the second presentation, 'Our Space, Our Future,' offered students an inspiring tour of our sun, solar system, galaxy and more. Exploring our sun as a star, its birth, death and the evolution of other stars. The team also highlighted the career and further education opportunities available to students studying STEM subjects. A fantastic day for all involved, many thanks to Explorer Dome and the staff who facilitated this Science extravaganza.





GORDANO SPORTS CENTRE OPEN FOR SUMMER

Seeking a starting point for improving your summer fitness? We have the answer to all your exercising needs, right on your doorstep. As from 17th May many of our indoor fitness classes have already resumed and most have spaces available for the summer months. Come along and join the fun.

Follow us on facebook [here](#) for all the latest updates on new classes. If you are a local fitness provider looking for a venue contact the team directly on the following email: sportcentre@gordanosportscentre.org.uk



Summer Reads

Summer reading is critical not only for students to retain the knowledge they have acquired over the school year, but also allows them to grow in knowledge for the coming year.

Reading regularly over the summer allows students to give their brain a good workout! It keeps their brain in shape, just like any other exercise, and strengthens their reading skills.

Here is a selection of books suitable that would make great summer reads!

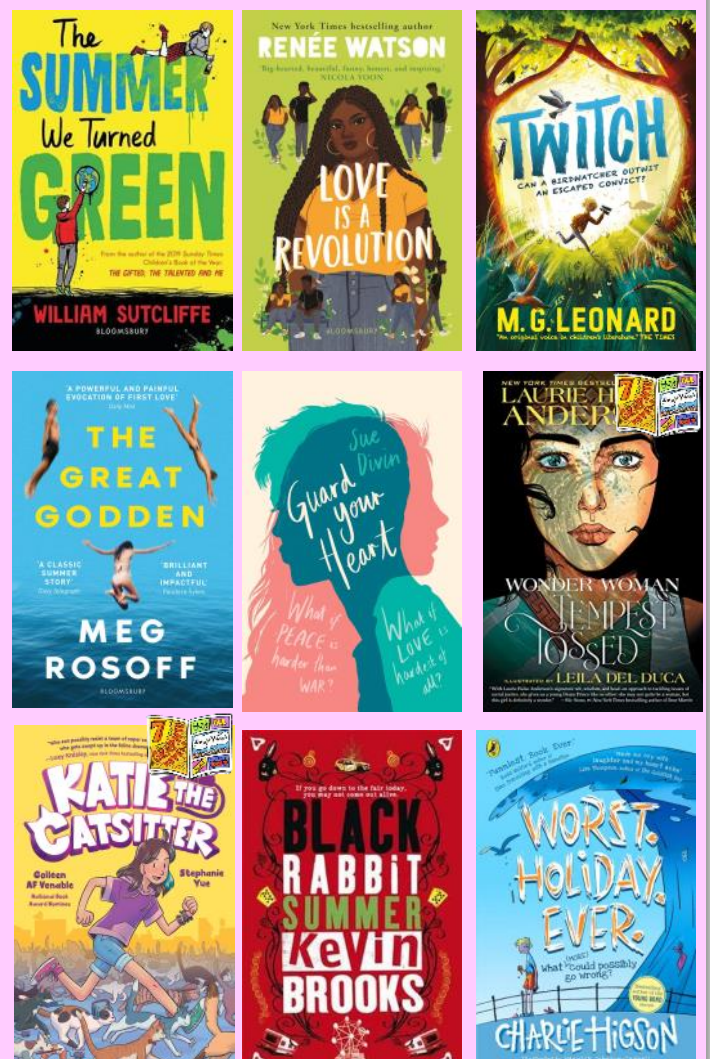
You can purchase these books from bookshops or directly from our [Gordano School Library bookshop](#).



Summer of Sports



Summer stories



Please note this list covers ages 12-16 and as a result some of the books will include more mature themes.

Brilliant recent releases



Recent award winners



Bristol Teen Award Shortlist





NORTH SOMERSET AC SUMMER 2021



IF YOU ARE ENJOYING ATHLETICS AT SCHOOL, THEN
COME AND SEE WHY WE ARE SO HIGHLY RATED...

SPRINTS/SPEED DEVELOPMENT WITH CHRIS
LONG JUMP (YEAR 9+) WITH CHRIS
HURDLES WITH SOPHIE
DISCUS, SHOT & HAMMER WITH BRUCE
ENDURANCE WITH JULIAN/RUSS

COMPETING SUCCESSFULLY IN...

TRACK & FIELD – NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE, & AVON LEAGUE
CROSS-COUNTRY – GWENT LEAGUE
ALSO IN ROAD RACES, RELAYS, OPENS & CHAMPIONSHIPS



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nsac.org.uk
contact@nsac.org.uk

UK DEVELOPMENT CLUB OF THE YEAR 2012
SOUTH WEST CLUB OF THE YEAR 2018