

September/October Term 1 2021/22

Newsletter

For Students, Parents & School Staff

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OPEN EVENING & OPEN MORNING SUCCESS SEPTEMBER 2021

Many thanks to all the staff and students who supported our recent Open Evening and Open Morning. We had over 300 families attend over the two days.

It was great to welcome so many from our community back on site and we are really proud of our Student Leadership Team and our many student volunteers who helped to make the evening such a success. Some great feedback was received into school, including this quote from a prospective parent:

"I wanted to thank you and your staff for the excellent open evening we attended today. All your team were great ambassadors for the school and we would especially like to pass on our thanks to your pupils Charlotte and Jess who showed us round. Our son attended with some trepidation but has come home buzzing and convinced that Gordano is the school for him."

Thanks also to our team of Year 7's who shared their experiences of their first few weeks at Gordano so current Year 6 students know what to expect next year. The film can be viewed [here](#).



Headteacher's Blog



It has been with some relief, and considerable joy, that we have been able to run a fairly 'normal' Term 1. We have seen the true Gordano spirit return in so many ways, and whilst Covid has been an ongoing pressure that we have had to manage carefully, we have overall been much less affected than many.

I have loved seeing the school breathe back into life in so many ways - on the sports field, in preparing for our school production of 'Bring It On', in so many extra-curricular clubs, and simply in the way that our students have committed to their school experience. This was so well illustrated by our two big 'set piece' events this term, the Year 6 Open Evening and the Careers Convention, which had the school buzzing with activity.

It's been a fitting start under our new motto of 'Dream Big, Do Your Best, Give Back'. Well done to all our students for such a positive first term of the school year, and a big thank you to the staff for the incredible effort and our parents for your support.

Tom Inman, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Wednesday 20th October - [Parent Forum \(6.00 - 7.00pm\)](#)

Friday 22nd October - [LAST DAY OF TERM 1](#)

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October - [HALF TERM](#)

Monday 1st November - [FIRST DAY OF TERM 2](#)

Thursday 11th November - [Year 12 Open Evening](#)

Thursday 18th November - [T-time Networking Event - Environment & Sustainability](#)

Monday 6th December - [Gordano Carol Service \(6.00pm - 8.00pm\)](#)

Wednesday 8th December - [Parent Forum \(6.00pm - 7.00pm\)](#)

Tuesday 14th December - [Sixth Form Christmas Lunch](#)

Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th December - [Christmas Concert \(6.30pm - 9.00pm\)](#)

Wednesday 15th December - [Year 7- 11 Christmas Lunch](#)

Wednesday 15th December - [Caring at Christmas Delivery](#)

Friday 17th December - [Sixth Form Christmas Quiz & Revue](#)

Friday 17th December - [LAST DAY OF TERM 2 12.30 Finish for students](#)

Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January - [CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY](#)

Tuesday 4th - January - [INSET DAY](#)

Wednesday 5th January - [FIRST DAY OF TERM 3](#)



GORDANO STUDENTS WEAR YELLOW TO SUPPORT WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY ON 8th OCTOBER 2021

It was great to see students supporting World Mental Health Day in early October.

Staff and students embraced the day with many students and staff fully clad in yellow, while others introduced a splash of colour with t-shirts, hair accessories and lots of yellow socks. Mr Inman was dressed as a banana as was Mr McGilloway. The canteen joined in too with delicious yellow cakes on sale at break and lunch times.

During the week there were assemblies and tutor times which covered the importance of mental health and wellbeing for students including brainstorming sessions on what we can all do to help combat stress.

'Off The Record,' were also on site at various locations around school, offering support and promoting positive self care strategies as well as promoting the services that Off The Record deliver for students in North Somerset, more details on their website here: www.otrnorthsomerset.org.uk

As part of World Mental Health Day we would like to raise funds to help support the charity Young Minds. If you are able to join us in supporting this worthy cause please donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gordano-school>



YOUNG Mi MINDS

HOUSE FORECAST - BISCAIY

What a fantastic start to the new term that Biscay has had, all the students have returned with smiles on their faces and eager to learn plus be around their friends without the Covid restrictions in place. It's lovely to see the school running almost "normally"!

We have welcomed a few new faces into the Biscay team with new students and staff returning from maternity leave.

We have chosen our care and kindness project this year to be "Bake to Bloom" where we will be working alongside Portishead in bloom to purchase bulbs and flowers and plant them around Portishead.

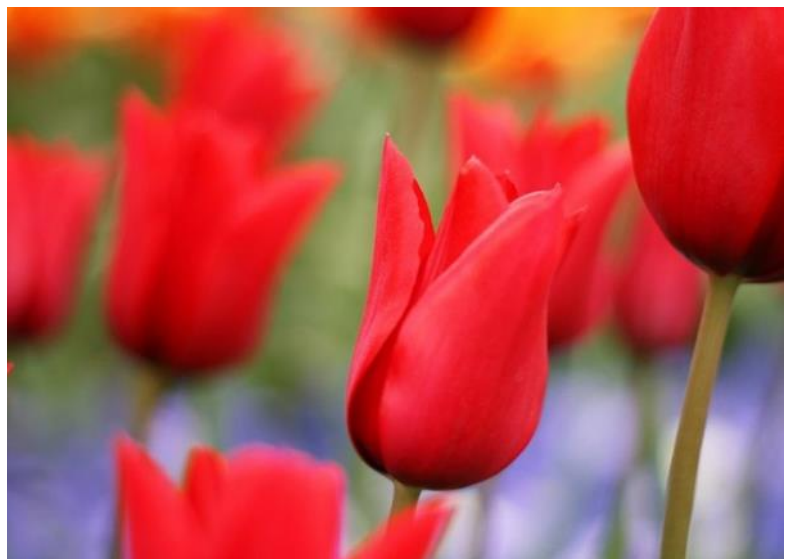
Save the date - **Biscay will be holding a cake sale on the 11th November** to raise money so please get baking and bring in some lovely treats. Biscay will then be looking at going out before the end of the 2nd term to plant the bulbs ready for the spring. Flowers will all be ready obviously in line with Biscay House!

Some of our students have gained a very high standard of sport outside of school and should be congratulated; firstly Sam Ledward and Jamie Steadman are now training regularly to compete at National level swimming. Plus Archie Edge represents Taunton basketball club playing at a very high standard.

I am sure that there are plenty more students who do wonderful and interesting activities outside the school day and next term we are looking to find out what they all do so please let us know!

Lyndsay

Mrs Lyndsay de-Long
Head of House - Biscay



GORDANO MUSIC NEWS



On Saturday 2nd October recent Gordano graduate Sam Iles (pictured first left here) joined the Foden's Band to compete at the 'National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain' held at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The contest featured the top 19 brass bands from around the UK who qualified from competing at various 'Area' contests across the country. Foden's were drawn to play 14th in the contest with their performance receiving a fantastic reaction and ovation from the audience. Despite the high quality of playing from all bands throughout the day Foden's were later announced as the winners. Sam Iles joined the band in the percussion

section since relocating for university.

Sam is an exceptional percussionist who has played with a number of top brass bands in the country and was a core member of so many school ensembles during his time at Gordano. In a post on social media celebrating this recent victory, Sam said: "Thank you to everyone at Foden's for the best weekend and making me feel so welcome to the band, hopefully many more to come! Congratulations to everyone else who performed, it just felt so good being back on stage doing this after so much time away".

Sam was due to perform a solo with the Gordano School Concert Band before the event was cancelled due to Covid. Hopefully we will see him playing percussion in a concert again at the school before too long.



GORDANO CAREERS CONVENTION 2021



Well, we certainly came back with a bang this year! On Thursday 7th October, Gordano School held our annual Careers Convention. This year the Convention was held over four venues within the school site, taking advantage of the fact that we are lucky enough to be able to do just that. Not forgetting our popular Talks taking place with Junior Saunders and the University of Bristol.

With our avid exhibitors spread out, it was wonderful to see the Gordano School site so busy and bustling with parents and students, and to hear the enthusiastic chatter as we all moved between venues.

We have had some tremendous feedback from exhibitors and attendees alike, all appreciative that we were able to once again run this popular event.

It felt good to get back to some kind of normality and the success of the occasion was in no small part down to those exhibiting and those eager to attend. We would like to thank all who hosted a stand at the Convention, without whom, events like these would not be possible.

CALLING ALL LOCAL EMPLOYERS

YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU - CAN YOU SUPPORT A WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT?

We are very much looking forward to encouraging our Y10's out on their Work Experience week next summer (4 - 8 July 2022), but we have no doubt that the task of finding a suitable employer will bring its own challenges this year.

If you think you could host a Work Experience student for a week, please do get in touch with Mrs Debbie Crosby: dcrosby@gordanschool.org.uk

All necessary insurance and health & safety checks will take place and guidance given on hosting a student for the week. If this sounds something you (or your employer) would be interested in, please do get in touch with us.



SUMMER SCHOOLS AUGUST 2021

This August was busier than most at Gordano as we welcomed our September Year 7's on site for a week of summer school activities to help them get to know their new school.

The weeks were jam packed with a fun schedule of activities and lessons that covered a wide range of subject areas including Art workshops, Football, African Drumming, Dance Fitness, Board Game Making, Poetry Writing, Fun Science and even a Scavenger Hunt. The Summer School offered students an opportunity to get to know the school and experience some lessons with their new teachers and make some new friends ahead of joining us in September.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH HEROES

Last year was a really challenging one for our DofE participants. With no expeditions running they were working towards their certificate of achievement.

Recognising the challenges the students faced in organising and completing Volunteering, Physical and Skills during lockdowns, the award is a fantastic achievement that lots of students have completed. In particular, the school has formed close ties with Portishead's Turning the Tide charity, which organises beach cleans and litter picks along the waterfront in Portishead.

This term has already seen nine students get their volunteering recognised as part of the award with others to follow shortly. Congratulations to the students listed below.



The Duke of Edinburgh award is back up and running as normal again this year, all students in year 9, 10 and 12 are welcome to participate, they can see Mr Cartwright in E1 if they would like more information. Huge congratulations to: Frankie Spears, Sophia Sheldon, Ruby Parsons, Poppy Maule, Tom Linscott-Carr, Isabella Humphreys, Stanley Godbehere, Killian Fedder and Elizabeth Dudley.

GORDANO STUDENT SCORES STARRING ROLE IN 'PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT'

Congratulations to Daniel Shorrock who secured and performed the role of Benji, in 'Priscilla Queen of The Desert,' Daniel shared the role with one other actor and the two of them were the only child actors in an all adult cast.

In the production Benji is the son of Tick/Mitzi and Marion. Marion has brought him up to be sweet and open-minded. Tick makes the journey across the desert to spend time with him, having been away in Sydney for his early years.

Daniel has already performed the role in Bath Theatre Royal in July and performed in New Theatre, Cardiff and Bristol Hippodrome during September and October.

The Priscilla Queen of the Desert UK Tour is Based on the Oscar winning movie, PRISCILLA. It is the hilarious and heart-warming adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus bound for the Outback to put on the show of a lifetime.

The highlights for Daniel were, being on stage again, the opportunity to work with a professional cast and gaining an understanding of how a professional touring show runs behind the scenes and being allocated his own dressing room and chaperone. Well done Daniel, this is an amazing achievement.



GORDANO SCHOOL ECO CLUB

Gordano School Eco Club has been working hard each week this term on the numerous projects they are running.

Students were able to take their home-grown sunflowers home to brighten up their rooms, as well as munch on some very tasty raspberries planted by the students who stayed on site during the first lockdown.

In November the school is receiving 140 free trees from the Woodland Trust, which will be planted around the school by each tutor group to mark the start of the COP 26 climate summit. Students have also been working on the launch of a new school green award, which students will be able to work towards by demonstrating their commitment to the environment and sustainability. Well done to all our members of Eco Club and thankyou for adding a splash of colour across the school site this autumn.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP AT GORDANO

"You said we did" - Student Leadership at Gordano

Allowing students to use their voices and feel empowered to shape the world around them has never been more important. With restrictions ending on year groups mixing, the school leadership structure is back up and running.

House Captains have been elected by their peers to represent the views of their Houses, and they meet regularly with the four newly elected senior students at Gordano. Through these meetings the students are able to raise concerns and issues, and provide suggestions to improve the school experience for the students.

Students are then given the chance to take part in small working groups, before presenting ideas back to the senior leadership team to consider and act on where appropriate. We hope that through this process the students will see that through engagement and active involvement in student leadership at any level they are able to shape their school and help improve it.



Join us for our Sixth Form Open Evening 11th November 2021



Considering Sixth Form in September 2022?
Join us for our Open Evening on
Thursday 11th November at 5:00pm – 7:30pm

**Student & staff Q&A –
Subject talks –
Careers Advice –
Next Steps –
Enrichment –**

**Dream big
Do your best
Give back**



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES - COOKERY COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the students who entered this year's European Day of Languages cookery competition!

The MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) Faculty was so impressed by the students' creativity and the effort they put into their entries.

In the Masterchef category, they took us on a virtual culinary tour around Europe making dishes such as Polish soup, homemade pasta, paella, schnitzel, stroganoff, galettes and strudel! Students also wowed us in the Bake Off category with designs that included maps of Europe, country flags, Eiffel Towers and a Swiss ski chalet! The winners in the different categories are as follows:

- Bake Off: 1st - Nurandee Wipulasuriya (8C2), 2nd - Cian Redman (8B1), 3rd - Siya Dhir (8F2)
- Masterchef (sweet dish): 1st - Luke Isaacs (7S3), 2nd - Finn Ward-Jenkins (7F2), 3rd - Oliver Folkard (7S3)
- Masterchef (savoury dish): 1st - Emily Mann (7L2), joint 2nd - Ava Whiting & Lottie Radakin (7L2)



GORDANO GRAND PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Vaughan Bennett (9C1), Ella Baumbach (10S1) and Thea Down (11B2), winners of the Gordano Grand Prize Draw for 2020-21!

Students earn tokens for the merits they achieve, and there are draws throughout the year for various prizes. The draw at the end of the summer term was for three £100 Amazon vouchers, and the lucky winners have spent their vouchers on a TV, a desk and books, amongst other goodies.



The 2021-22 prize draw has already started, so make sure you Dream Big, Do Your Best and Give Back to earn those merits - the more you get, the higher your chance of winning. The first round of prizes will be awarded just after October half term.

BRING IT ON - PRODUCTION UPDATE



The cast of Bring It On have begun rehearsals with a BANG! Throughout each week a variety of rehearsals for the principals, ensemble groups and lead dancers take place, and students are embracing the challenge of honing their harmonies and developing their dance skills.

Tickets will go on sale in January, so watch this space as we anticipate they will go very fast! Please follow our journey through our social media accounts - Twitter @gordanobio and Instagram @gordanoproductions - where you can find all the latest updates on the rehearsals and ticket sales information.



GORDANO SCHOOL MARATHON RUNNERS

A huge well done to two of our support staff Jade Hansford, Pastoral & Safeguarding Officer and Kostas Angelopoulos Senior IT Technician, both ran the London Marathon this year.

Kostas has been running The London Marathon for four years and secured a ballot place this time so ran for fun, completing it in an impressive 4 hours and 15 minutes. Jade ran in support of The 'St Giles Trust,' if you would like to support her fundraising you can do so [here](#).

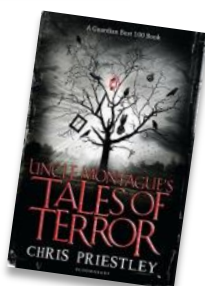
Welcome to the Gordano School Library newsletter for parents and carers, bringing you news of books and events in the library as well as reading news.

It's spooky season! Why not try ...

Author Chris Priestley writes spooky, gothic books for all



The Red Eye series is a horror book series for students. Some in the series are more suited for students in Year 9 and above.



All these books are available to borrow from the library. Check out our catalogue [here](#). You can also purchase some of those titles as well as brand new titles we might not yet stock in the library from our [bookshop](#).

Library calendar

Year 7 Book Group:

Wednesdays after school (week 2)

GRAFFIX group:

Wednesdays after school (week 1)

Christmas Book quiz (year 7s only):

Monday 13th December lunchtime (more details soon)

World Book Day:

Thursday 3rd March 2022

Harry Potter Quiz (all years):

March 2022 (date TBA)

Scholastic Book Fair:

31st March–7th April 2022

GRAFFIX

We have relocated our Graphic Novel & Manga collection to a better and bigger space in the library, as it continues to grow in demand and popularity. You can check out what we have in the collection on [our catalogue](#).

