

November/December Term 2 2021/22

Newsletter

For Students, Parents & School Staff

Attendance Line Year 7-11 tel.01275 841374
Attendance Line Year 12 &13 tel.01275 841380
attendance@gordanoschool.org.uk
www.gordanoschool.org.uk

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING SUCCESS NOVEMBER 2021

Many thanks to all the staff and students who supported our hybrid Sixth Form Open Evening on November 11th.

Gordano students in Year 11 were able to spend part of the afternoon speaking to subject teachers and Sixth Form students to inform themselves about their post-16 pathways. A Zoom presentation was offered to parents and external students as they joined the Sixth Form team virtually. The evening was followed up with Meet My Future - an opportunity for students and parents to discuss plans and progress with staff, meet with the Sixth Form team and the Careers Advisor. Applications for Sixth Form are requested by **January 10th 2022**. Any queries, please email jfairs@gordanoschool.org.uk



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

**GORDANO
SCHOOL**

Considering Sixth Form in September 2022?
Join us for our Open Evening on

Thursday 11th November at 5:00pm – 7:30pm
See Website for link to join

Student & staff Q&A - Subject talks - Careers
Next Steps - Enrichment

Dream big
Do your best
Give back



Headteacher's Blog



As I read the many achievements and successes outlined in this newsletter, it is hard to believe that there is still a pandemic going on all around us. It is testament to the resilience of our students who, despite the challenges we face, want to get on and make the most of the opportunities they have. I remain so proud of their positivity and optimism for their futures, and it really illustrates our vision for them to 'Dream big, Do your best and Give back'.

At the end of a very long term in challenging circumstances, I must pay tribute to our staff. Schools have been expected to be running at 'full tilt' whilst the challenges of COVID remain around us, whether supporting isolating students, covering absent colleagues, or managing the greater complexities that COVID presents in so many ways. Much of what follows in this newsletter is only possible due to their commitment to the School and the students, and I know that parents will be as grateful as I am for all they do.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy Christmas. I do hope you are able to celebrate it with those you love.

Tom Inman, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15th December - Year 7 - 11 Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Concert 6.30pm - 9pm

Friday 17th December - Sixth Form Christmas Quiz & Revue

Friday 17th December - LAST DAY OF TERM 2 12.30pm Finish for students

Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Tuesday 4th January - INSET DAY

Wednesday 5th January - FIRST DAY OF TERM 3

Thursday 27th January - Year 7 Progress Evening

Monday 31st January - Year 7 Spelling Bee Final

Thursday 3rd February - Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9-11)

Thursday 3rd February - Higher Apprenticeship Evening

Wednesday 9th February - Parent Forum 6 - 7 pm

Thursday 10th February - Year 11 Progress Evening

Monday 14th - 18th February - RAG WEEK (Sixth Form)

Thursday 17th February - Year 7 Disco

Friday 18th February - LAST DAY OF TERM 3

Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February - HALF TERM BREAK

Monday 28th February - INSET DAY

Tuesday 1st March - FIRST DAY OF TERM 4



HELLO YELLOW FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Young Minds Fundraiser. To date we have raised £384.75 to help support children and young people's mental health. Staff and students fully embraced the day. If you are able to join us in supporting this worthy cause you can still donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gordano-school>



GORDANO CAREERS DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU

The Careers team would like to run a Teatime Networking session based around the *Hospitality industries*.

We have limited contacts and we are looking for kind volunteers, involved within this sector, who wouldn't mind giving an hour of their time to come along and talk to a party of interested students (all ages) about their knowledge and experiences within this popular career sector.

We are looking to run the session on either 26th January or 10th March 2022, after school.

If you feel you can help, please get in touch: dcrosby@gordanoschool.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you, many thanks in advance for any support you are able to offer.



HOUSE FORECAST - CROMARTY

We have been really pleased with the positive start to the school year that Cromarty has made in the first competitive inter house competition of the year. Cromarty took their place on the podium in third place overall in the Inter-house Cross Country competition. We were particularly impressed with the performances from our new Year 7 students (which bodes well for the future). There were outstanding performances from Henry Noall & Ollie Harris Year 7, Archie Rawlinson & Jasmine Wallis Year 9 and Connor Hewitt & Elliot Jeston (who all won their respective races).

During the course of Term 2 Cromarty have been looking at ways to work towards winning the Community Rose Bowl prize. We feel that it is important that all students in Cromarty engage in some form of volunteering, as such we have encouraged each student in Cromarty to volunteer to do acts of 'Community service' at home and in school. We have asked each student to complete 5 hours of volunteering during Term 2. We hope that the power of doing something unpaid and without being asked should be a real boost to their mood and provide a sense of purpose for them.

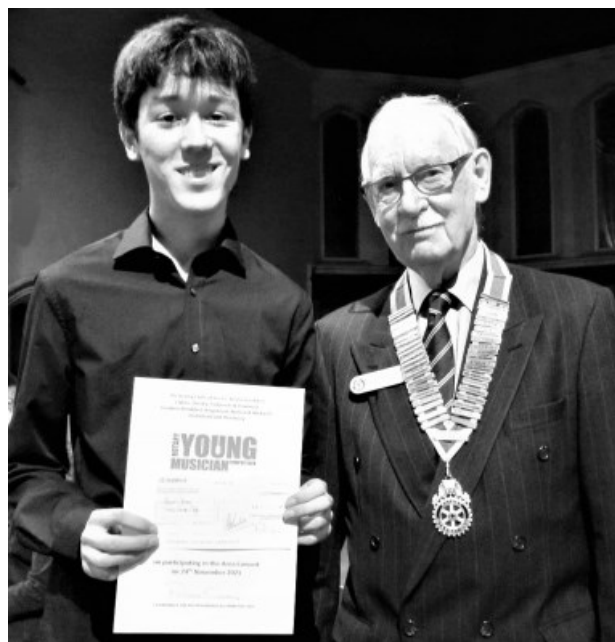
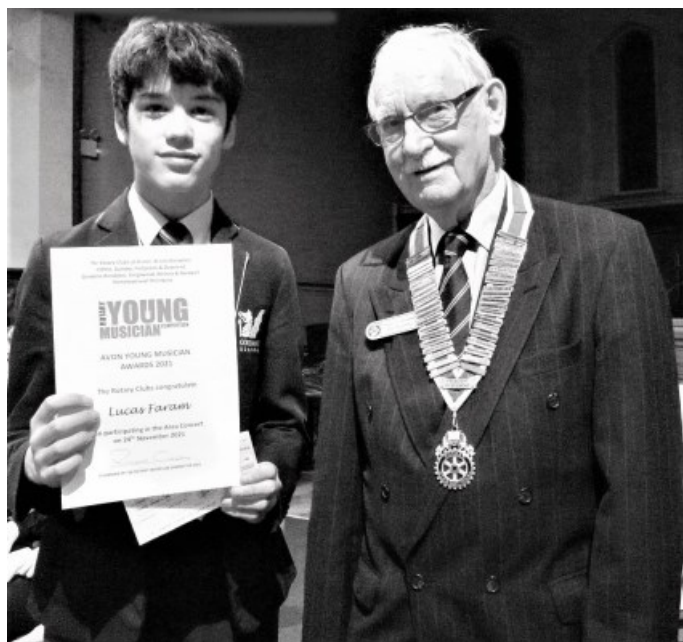
The second project is the Caring in Bristol Christmas Appeal. We will be providing gifts for both homeless people and refugees in the Bristol area. We have sent a list of items that we are hoping to collect before Christmas and will be making a delivery to Caring in Bristol just before the holidays. Suggested items include: Instant coffee, tea, UHT milk, multi-pack crisps, sweets, toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant and any good quality clothes (almost new).

Paul Bainbridge - Head of Cromarty House



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

GORDANO STUDENTS MUSIC COMPETITION SUCCESS



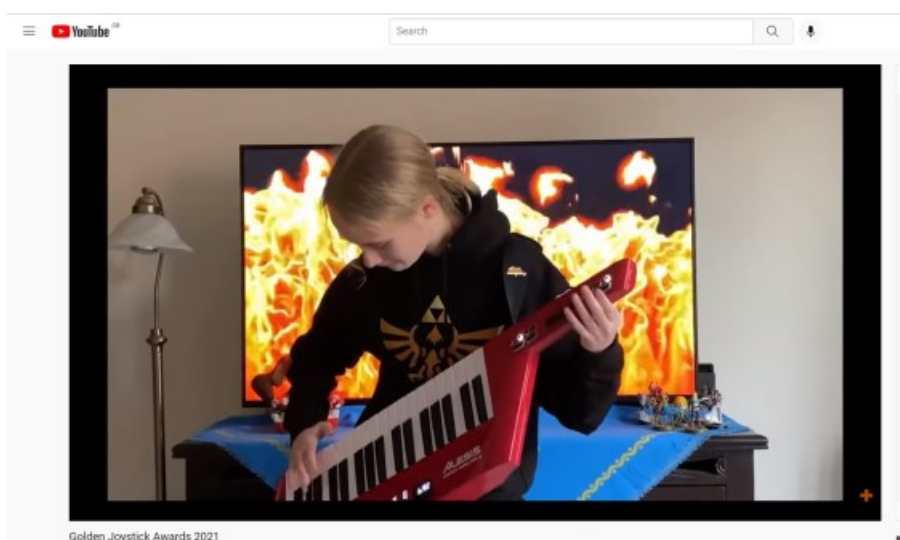
Congratulations to the Faram Brothers; Samuel in Year 12 and Lucas in Year 9, the two of them recently competed in the Bristol regional heats of the Rotary Avon Young Musician Competition. Sam played Chopin's 'Minute Waltz' on Marimba and a snare piece, and Lucas played a movement from 'Marimba Dances' and a snare piece. All of the other musicians were from independent schools. Entrants were encouraged to select a varied performance programme to demonstrate the breadth of their musical skills.

Representatives from Portishead Rotary were delighted to see students from Gordano School at the competition. Lucas was selected to take part in the final which will be held in the Redland Hall at Redmaids' School on the evening of 21st January. A huge well done to both of you and good luck in the next round Lucas.

GORDANO STUDENT SUPPORTS NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Well done to Marnie Whitehouse in Year 10, who was invited to take part in a tribute to the evolution of video game music which was broadcast on YouTube and Twitch in November as part of the Golden Joystick Awards 2021.

Marnie played the theme from Zelda on her Keytar at home and sent in the recording to be mixed and mastered into the finished product. The video features musicians from around the world. Her performance begins at 01:02:31 and can be viewed [here](#). Marnie is on screen at 01:03:28.



FLYING START CHALLENGE 2021

Congratulations to both Noah Adams and Morgan Hedley of 9S2, who this year have won and come third respectively in the Flying Start Challenge, a competition in which students from schools across the South West region compete.

Pre COVID, the competition always involved teams including those from Gordano, designing and building hand thrown gliders, to discover which could fly the furthest. Sadly during restricted times, the Regional and Grand Finals have not been able to go ahead. Instead the Flying Start Challenge committee set a task for students to individually enter their own designs for a hand held glider, with many of the original rules, and sustainability considerations still included.

The judging panel were very impressed with both Noah and Morgan's innovative and well thought out designs. Both have received their prizes, and hopefully they will inspire the next set of students who wish to compete in the Flying Start Challenge.



ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Many congratulations to Eva Rudge and Jacob Westwood (pictured below with Mr Stanton) who are the latest students from Gordano School to be awarded an engineering scholarship from the Arkwright Trust.

The Scholarships are awarded to hard-working 16 year old students, who are put through a rigorous selection process. Among others applying from within the school, they had to complete a detailed application before preparing and being interviewed by organisers of the scholarship, and associated engineers. Part of the interview process, had candidates solving engineering problems within the interview itself.

Both Eva and Jacob's passion and enthusiasm for engineering, and wanting a career within the industry shone through. Every successful Scholar is sponsored. Eva's sponsor is AB Dynamics, who supply automotive test

supplies, while Jacob is to be sponsored by the Royal Air Force.



This means that support is offered in various different ways through their A levels. For example, valuable hands-on work experience, support for their STEM curriculum studies, as well as having a personal mentor who can help you with aspects of your studies and career planning

Congratulations also to Anthony Ratcliffe and Tomi Rees Jones, who also committed themselves to apply for a scholarship. Both were excellent in how they applied and prepared for their interview. The calibre of candidates from across the United Kingdom was incredibly high, with only a certain number of scholarships to be awarded. Both, along with Eva and Jacob, I am sure will go on to have very successful engineering careers.

GORDANO STUDENT SECURES STARRING ROLE



Congratulations to Liam Middleton of 9F1, he has had an incredible year. In February 2021 he secured a lead role as Montgomery Larkin in the ITV series 'The Larkins,' filming in Kent for four months with Bradley Walsh.

He was tutored on set and had the best time with all the cast and crew. He has now completed filming the Christmas Special of The Larkins, the show can be viewed on Christmas Day on ITV.

Liam's next filming credit is a Steven Spielberg / Tom Hanks feature that will be aired in late 2022 on Apple TV. Well done Liam this is a fantastic achievement.

YEAR 11 ENJOY MACBETH PERFORMANCE

"Stars hide your fires; let not light see my dark and deep desires."

A selection of Year 11 students enjoyed a trip to Bristol Old Vic Weston Studio to see a performance of *Macbeth*.

The director was excited to have school students in, saying *"I hope they recreate a bawdy Jacobean audience"*, but he was disappointed as they were completely enthralled from the start and did not heckle the performers once!

The highlight for the students was not just the ice-cream during the interval, but definitely the acting of Lady Macbeth, Macbeth and Banquo, which the students did not stop talking about the whole way back to school. To quote one of the students: 'What a day!'

A real treat and a lovely opportunity to take our learning outside of the classroom.



CHILDREN IN NEED FUNDRAISING EFFORTS



Many thanks to all the students who supported our non-uniform day for Children in Need. As a school we raised an impressive £1712.90. Thanks to everyone who contributed and joined in with the day.

GORDANO CAREERS POP-UP POLICE EVENT



Avon and Somerset Police braved a chilly autumn lunchtime to talk to our students on all things 'police' related. It was lovely to see how engaged and enthusiastic students were.

The interest levels were so high we literally had to usher them away from the stand at the end of lunchtime! Thank you to Kermal Singh (BPA), Ted Stargatt (BPA), Tony Hussey (PC) and Claire Woodland (PCSO) for hosting such an informative event!



GORDANO STUDENT TOPS THE NATIONAL TWIRLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Chloe Middleton of 10F1, during the October half term she travelled to Torbay for the 2021 National Baton Twirling Championships. Chloe did incredibly well alongside her team mates the Enchante Baton Twirlers. The team and Chloe achieved two National Champion Titles.

Chloe is now training with the England Team as they prepare for their delayed World Championships next August 2022, in Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

YEAR 9 NETBALL FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Well done to all our Year 9 netball players who took part in the netball festival at the end of November. It has been great to participate in more sports fixtures again this term.

There was some fabulous team work on display throughout and it was great to be able to field three teams. Well done to everyone who played.



CORDANO STUDENTS SELECTED FOR SHAPE MY CITY

Congratulations to Abigail Stokes, Amelia McGaun Brown and Kim Parker who have been selected to join the Shape My City programme for this academic year. Shape My City is an award-winning talent accelerator programme for 15-18 year olds, created by the [Design West Charity](#), that seeks to change the future workforce across the built environment.

The students will be based out of Design West once a month to participate in workshops and seminars. They will be working alongside Design Professionals, developing teamwork and communication skills, learning about a variety of career options in the design sector and more. Students will be assigned a mentor from a leading company to help with university applications, work experience and connect with other creative young people from across the city and enjoy site visits to inspiring buildings. This is a great opportunity to begin to create life-long networks.



SHAPE MY CITY HAS
CHANGED MY LIFE & I AM
GRATEFUL FOR THE DOORS
IT HAS HELPED OPEN."

CAI BURTON, SHAPE MY CITY
GRADUATE

SWIMMING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Alfie Smith in Year 8 for his recent wins in the South West regional Army Cadet swimming event.

The event took place in early November at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton where he was competing in the South West Region Army Cadets swimming competition against other army cadets from Gloucester and Bristol - Alfie and his team were representing Somerset. Alfie secured three medals in total, two silvers and one gold.

Gold for Freestyle, Silver for Back Stroke and Silver for the Medley, which is a combination of Butterfly, Back Stroke and Front Crawl (1 length each). Well done Alfie.



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM IN THE NATIONALS

Congratulations to our Year 7 Girls football team; Elsie Martin, Romilly Bowden, Charlotte Poole, Katie Barnard, Martha Herringshaw, Isla Andrew, Libby Steadman, Lou Lench, Isla Cripps, Holly Armstrong, Ella Vowles, Alice Baker, Rose Mallon and Mia Corp for their outstanding performance in the EFSA (English Schools' Football Association) National Cup that has been running throughout November and December. The girls have followed up a 6-0 win against Worle School in round one with an 11-0 against Swanmead Community College, in round two. Katie, Charlotte, Ella, Martha, Libby, Lou and Alice the scorers across both matches. #thesegirlscan round 3 in Bournemouth saw them achieve an 11-1 win v Glenmore. They played Redruth on 14th December for round 4, winning 10-0 to march into the last 16. Martha, Charlotte, Ella, Lou and Libby the scorers, well done girls and good luck in the next round.



SUMMER SCHOOL BUNTING ADDS A SPLASH OF COLOUR TO YEAR 7 HALL

Many thanks to all the summer school students who created the bunting which now adorns the ceiling in the Elliot Hall, it was lovely working with Year 6 students in Summer School on creating images for the bunting. The students, who are now all in Year 7 at Gordano, were brilliant at designing, and printing images inspired by Portishead's varied landscapes. The students worked with enthusiasm mastering some printing skills to create great artwork for the bunting. This bunting has been a welcome addition, brightening up the Year 7 hall.



Lots of our students created flags including Heidi Duncan, Sam Slaney, Dom Frak, Lauren Rowntree and AJ Van Den Heever pictured here, we had fun spotting whose design was whose. Many thanks to Year 7 and the Art Team for facilitating this project.



GORDANO SCHOOL LEADS THE WAY TO CARBON NEUTRALITY, WITH WHOLE SCHOOL TREE PLANTING

Taking inspiration from COP26, Gordano school has set to work trying to meet its 2035 carbon neutral target. We have been fortunate enough to have received 140 trees from The Woodland Trust community tree planting scheme. Over the course of next week every tutor group in the school will have the opportunity to plant a tree on site, meaning nearly 100 new trees on site.

It's hoped that this, along with the rewilding scheme we have already implemented in designated 'rewilding areas' around site, will help us to create a more environmentally friendly school for wildlife and set a positive example to the students and wider community about the need to drive down carbon emissions and all give back and work towards creating a more environmentally sustainable future.

Over the course of the next few weeks, over 2000 students will be giving back to the environment by planting these trees. Eco club volunteers all have helped to organise this vital event by creating maps and information packs about the trees to ensure students are aware of what they are planting and why.

Other environmentally focused campaigns at Gordano School include the introduction of the new 'Green Badge,' an award that students can work towards throughout the year by demonstrating commitment to environmental causes in and out of school.

Eco Club member Femke Lucking says: "Planting trees at school brings environmental duties into everyday tasks, making pupils feel more at home performing eco-friendly tasks."

Another Eco Club member Alex Bolt said: "We should plant trees in school as it's good for the environment and helps to counter CO2 and air pollution produced from the nearby roads and cars. It also helps my attitude to learning, as I study better when I look out the window and see nature and not a road full of cars."

Well done eco team you are all making a real difference across the school grounds.



TEATIME NETWORKING EVENT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



ARUP



HARTPURY
COLLEGE

We were so pleased to be able to host our first LIVE Teatime Networking careers session in a while. Equally happy for it to be highly on topic at the moment.

On 18th November we welcomed visitors from Arcadis, Hartpury College and Arup; all eager to encourage our students in their quest to find out more about careers within this hugely diverse sector. It was good to see students engaging with our guests and asking so many questions.

As always, we thank the students for attending and the professionals for their unwavering support in our delivery of the face to face Employer experience.



GORDANO SCHOOL IS 'NUT AWARE'

Gordano School operates a "Nut Aware" policy because we have a number of students with nut allergies, some extremely severe. This is a polite reminder to parents, carers and students to not bring nuts or foods containing nuts to school including lunch boxes and ingredients used for cooking lessons, this includes:

- Nuts (all types except coconut)
- Pesto
- Cereal Bars
- Flapjack-type snack bars (especially the naked/eat natural/graze products and ones which are often gluten free)
- Some vegan/vegetarian suitable foods often contain nut ingredients so please check the labels



WEX WEEK APPROACHING FOR YEAR 10

PLEASE SECURE YOUR PLACEMENTS FOR 4 - 8 July 2022

Calling all Year 10 students and parents, hopefully you are all aware of the WEX Week next summer. The careers department would like to congratulate all those who have already secured a placement; the uptake this year has been hugely encouraging. I think our students are as eager as any of us to be "back out there".

For the students (and parents) who may still be searching, can we highlight the Veryan Database (via Firefly, Tabs: Students / Careers / Work Experience, the database can be accessed here: <https://devon.learnaboutwork.org/>). This is an employer database containing details of Health & Safety checks that have been carried out on local employers in the past. This is an internet programme run by Veryan/Careers SW, an external agency used by Gordano, and many other schools, to carry out essential Health & Safety checks.

This list shows Work Experience placements that have been used in the past. This is not a list of offered placements, just an extra tool for researching *possible* placements to approach. If or when you do approach any of the placements listed, please do so purely as a cold call and do not assume that a placement is on offer at that stage. With this in mind please be aware that some of the opportunities may not still be "live". Despite this it is an asset worth accessing to support you and your child with securing a worthwhile Work Experience employer.

Please can students and parents make the most of the time available during the Christmas break to get out there and secure a suitable Work Experience placement. Another useful website is www.Yell.com to find employers in your local area. Happy hunting on behalf of the careers department.



LOCAL EMPLOYERS - GORDANO SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

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.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT DELIVERS CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas is always a busy time for the Music Department and 2021 is no exception. We kick started festivities by getting out into the local community and supporting Portishead Churches together in their 'Carols in the Carpark' event.

Callum Blackmore and Lizzie Dudley from Year 10 represented the school and delivered a mature and emotional performance of Tom Odell's 'Real Love'. The following day they were in St Nicholas' Church alongside 60 other singers from the school to deliver our annual Carol Service. The event was a real success; a classy and polished musical retelling of the nativity story and the first time our new Year 7 choir performed in front of an audience. They were absolutely brilliant!

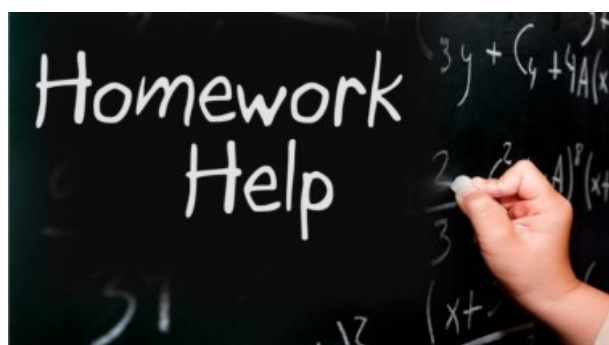
And finally, we wrapped up our winter events calendar with two nights of eclectic music-making back at Gordano in our Christmas Concerts. These featured every one of our awesome ensembles: rock band 'The Vinyl's', Year 7 Choir, Brass Band, Languages Choir, String Band, Guitar Club, Orchestra, our newly formed Drum Line, Flute Club, Senior Choir, Barbieshop female vocal group, Boyz 2 Men, Jazz Band, plus a special musical theatre performance by some of the principals of our spring musical 'Bring It On'. The concerts featured over 130 students and everybody in the Music Department could not be prouder of the effort, enthusiasm, and astonishing musicianship they all bring to rehearsals each and every week. It's a huge thanks from us - see you for the next one at Easter!



AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK SUPPORT

To help support students who may find it easier to complete their homework with the facilities available at the school, rather than at home, this term we have set up extra provision for homework support after school from Monday to Thursday each week, exclusively for students in Years 7 and 8.

Homework is an important part of secondary education and this resource will provide our younger students with a quiet and focused environment to complete their homework and develop good study habits. The support will run on alternate days for Year 7 and Year 8. On Mondays and Wednesdays students in Year 8 are very welcome to come along, with Year 7 students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The venue is the IT4 computer room and the support will be available from 3.25pm until 4.15pm. More details [here](#)



GORDANO LIBRARY CHRISTMAS BOOK GUIDE

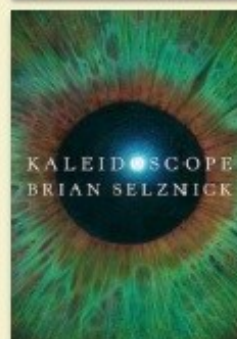
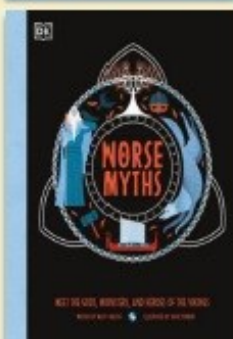
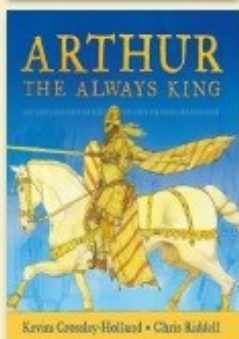
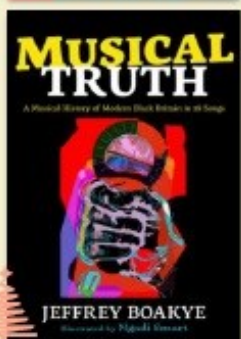
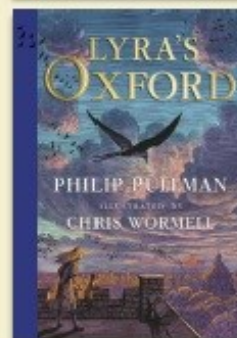
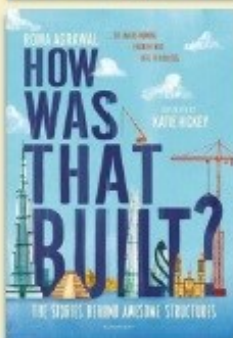
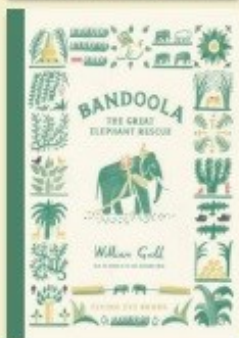
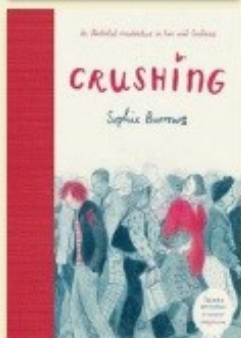
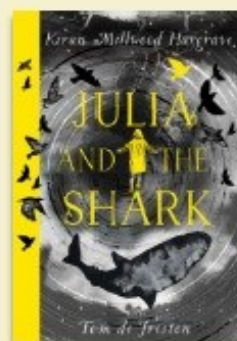
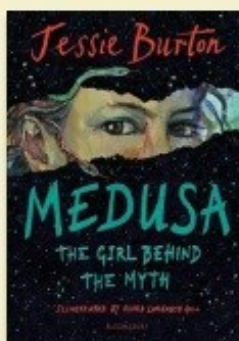
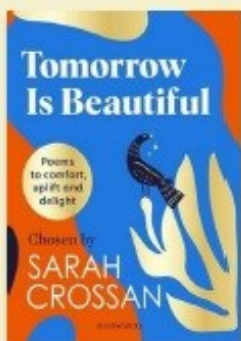
For this issue of Library news the library team have put together a library gift guide. All the books can be purchased here via the [Gordano School Book Shop](#).

GORDANO SCHOOL LIBRARY'S

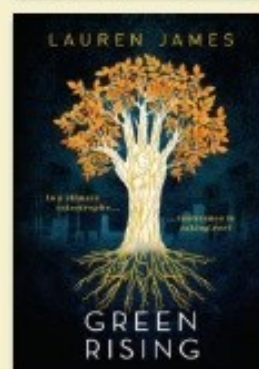
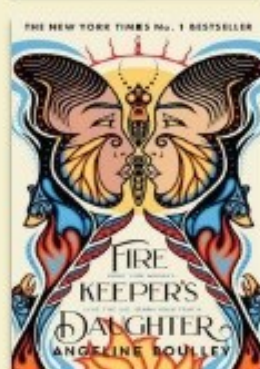
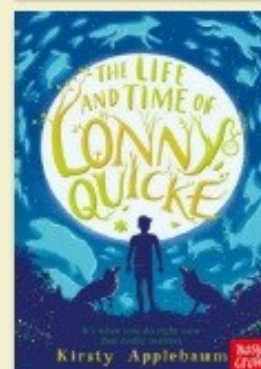
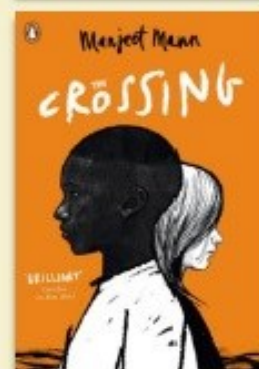
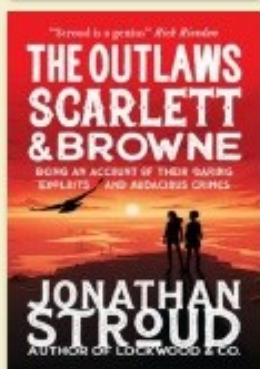
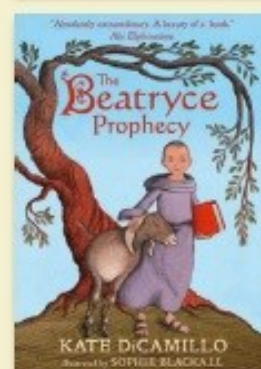
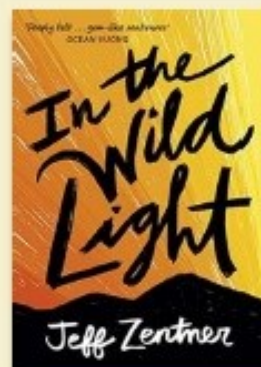
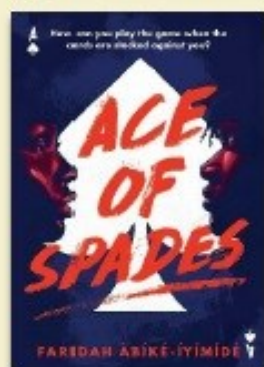
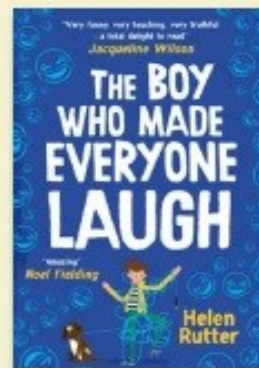
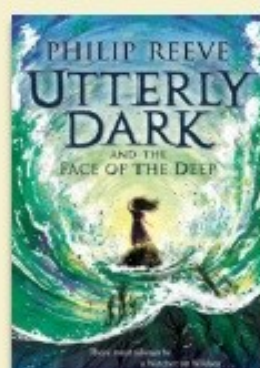
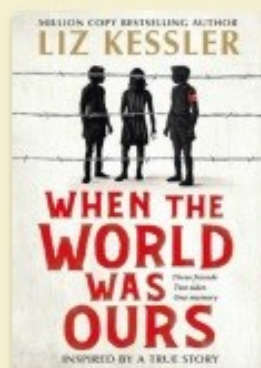
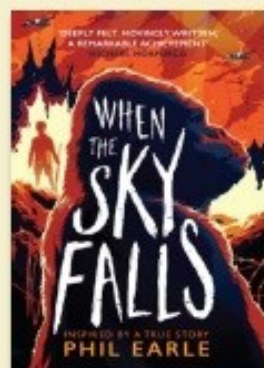
Christmas Book Guide

Here is a selection of books which would make great gifts for Christmas. You can purchase these books from bookshops or directly from our [Gordano School Library bookshop](#). More information about each title is available from our bookshop site.

Gift books



Brilliant Fiction released in 2021



Please note this list covers all secondary ages and as a result some of the books will include more mature themes. Age suitability is included for some of the titles in our online shop, for guidance only.