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pride • achievement • community



# Welcome

## Gordano Sixth Form Centre Prospectus

Sixth Form years can be the most important in your education and will determine the path you take in future life. We also want them to be an enjoyable and fulfilling time; each year we see our students achieve more than they could have believed possible and grow in confidence as they work towards their chosen destinations.



Our results and student destinations ensure we enjoy a leading reputation in the region and are nationally recognised for the quality of our provision Post-16. Our Sixth Form Centre provides state of the art study facilities to cater for independent study. Students choose our

Sixth Form to be stretched and challenged on a wide range of Level 3 courses; they also enjoy the social aspects and the wide choice of extra-curricular opportunities.

**Jeanne Fairs**

Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form



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*We encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and for their community, and to achieve their chosen destinations.*

*Jeanne Fairs, Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form*

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# A Learning Curve

Specialist facilities, dedicated solely for your use.



We recognise that young people need to work in different styles and environments. Throughout your time in the Sixth Form you will benefit from a wide range of specialist facilities, which are open before and after timetabled lessons.



Our Learning Curve and new study hub are used solely by Sixth Formers for independent study and complemented by a multi-use lecture theatre, supported study areas and dedicated Sixth Form classrooms. Adjacent to these facilities are two Common Rooms and a Sixth form café. Students also have access to Gordano's dining facilities.



Sixth Form students also make good use of our extensive wider school facilities which cater for a huge variety

of interests, including sports (Astroturf, 3G quad, extensive playing fields, new sports hall, squash courts, indoor climbing wall) and creative arts (including music studios and practice rooms, dedicated art work areas for both Year 12 and Year 13 and fully equipped drama and dance studios).

## Sixth Form Student Leadership

We provide plenty of opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students can apply for prefecture on one of our community working groups – led by our Senior Prefects who take an active role in the whole sixth form council, which leads fundraising for RAG each year. Students also have opportunities to work with Sixth Formers from Backwell and Chew Valley School (part of the Lighthouse Trust Partnership)





# Support and Guidance

Helping you develop through your Sixth Form Career

We will help you develop the awareness, experience and skills needed to thrive through your Sixth Form career and beyond, and we do this in a wide range of ways:

Your subject teachers are happy to support you in any way they can, and there is always additional support available in the form of twilights, drop ins and workshops.

Your tutor will be the first point of reference for any information and advice you need, and they will also be responsible for monitoring your performance and discussing your progress with you.

Our careers programme includes essential study skills and input from outside agencies including employers, universities and gap year organisations. This is led by our Careers Adviser, who is also available for independent advice and guidance.

For those choosing to progress to university specific training is given to support applications, including the offer of mock interviews. There is a formal preparation programme for students applying to 'Oxbridge' (including the Higher Education + Programme (HE+), a Gordano trip to Oxford at Easter; a series of seminars, and individual preparation sessions. Individual help is also offered to students who are entered for entrance tests for Law or Medicine.

All of our students have access to Unifrog - a portal for Post-16 careers advice.



“ We use Unifrog software to support our Sixth Formers with every aspect of their Post-18 Applications, pathways, and destination choices. ”

Chris Beer, Curriculum Link for Careers



# A curriculum to suit you

Learning is at the centre of everything we do

We offer a truly comprehensive Sixth Form with a large combination of subjects in over 30 courses - both A Level and vocational – we are highly likely to be able to offer the right combination to match your interests and strengths.

We are acutely aware that every student is different, and offer a wide variety of additional courses to suit any student's individual needs. We offer the Extended Project Qualification and Elective opportunities to supplement the normal curriculum.

Any Sixth Form student who has not yet achieved crucial grades in English Language or Maths GCSE is enrolled in retake classes.



**Specific course details are provided in the 'Course Handbook', which is to be found inside the back cover of this prospectus.**



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*Our Sixth Form environment encourages both the working and the social side of Post-16 life. Our students have an active student voice and take a strong lead in organising both Sixth Form events and their learning environment.*

*Philippa Ramsay, Head of Year*

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# In the classroom

High quality, dynamic teaching

We are proud of the high standards of teaching and learning that our students experience. You can expect to receive high quality, dynamic teaching from subject experts, supported by access to a wide range of excellent resources to support your learning.

Students in Year 12 have a packed timetable, with supported study periods and study skills sessions. In Year 13, students can elect to take independent study periods at home if this suits their learning style.



## Pastoral Care

All students are registered in vertical tutor groups to guide them through their time in Sixth Form – this system allows older students to share their experiences with younger students and build links between the different year groups. Weekly assemblies alternate between whole Sixth Form and Year groups assemblies. Each year group has their own Head of Year.

We pride ourselves on our close links with home, and encourage parents to attend information evenings and parent evenings. Tutors are a vital link between students, teachers and home.





# Beyond the classroom

Extra curricular engagement

We recognise that each student is much more than a set of exam results. This is an important time for developing your wider skills and personality to take into your adult life. We make it a priority to give you a host of opportunities that will enable you to develop these key 'life skills'.

We expect you to be involved in at least one additional option from our diverse Electives Programme – you could choose anything from Lifeguarding to sign language.

Sixth Form students also widen their enjoyment and experiences by involvement in many other activities. There are sports fixtures against other Sixth Forms and the Sixth Form organise their own 'alternative' sports day each July. Our Sixth Formers play a vital role in the musical life of the school, from school musicals and orchestras to ambling bands.

We place great importance on providing a range of other challenges for students – debating, visiting speakers, trips, both local and further afield – and we encourage students to initiate many other opportunities themselves.

Our Sixth Form lecture theatres are used for speakers covering topics such as Finance, Gap Years, Careers and Personal Health. We liaise closely with Gordano Business Partners to provide work experience opportunities.

Our trip offer is diverse and we fully encourage students to engage in at least one trip during their time with us. These include skiing, foreign language visits, trips to the USA with our Business and Politics Departments, and our annual trip to Kenya and bi-annual World Challenge expedition.



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*Our Electives Programme gives the opportunity for students to broaden their range of talents and interests and prepare for future careers.*

*Electives Co-ordinator*

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# Community Involvement

Be part of a wider community

As a member of the Sixth Form at Gordano, you belong to a wider community. Students who choose to exercise their active leadership skills will have opportunities to participate in a range of projects and events. These are well publicised throughout the year. Students work with internal and external groups and we encourage links with our local community.

The Sixth Form annual Rag Week has become a highlight of the school calendar, each year raising thousands of pounds. Held in February, the Sixth Form chooses two charities to support for a week of full-on events and fancy dress. Events have included charity karaoke; a charity auction, dodgeball against the staff; a Rock the Rag evening gig; Rag Revue and the ever-growing Rag Fair.



**The Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP)** was founded in 2016 and is an 'all-through' Academy Trust based in the West of England. We are a cross-phase Multi-Academy Trust with schools across the age range from Nursery to Sixth Form. Our Trust includes both community schools and Church of England schools and we also have two Teaching Schools amongst our number so that we can have the professional development of our staff as a top priority. We have a burgeoning Professional Development offer and a strong school improvement strategy.

Working in partnership is an opportunity that we relish and we believe that in collaboration we can deliver more fully the aims to which we were committed as individual schools. Yet the real identity of each school remains its own, so although we might have common systems to deliver quality and efficiency the Trust does not seek to standardise the ethos of its schools. We promote a culture in which openness to peer and external scrutiny are balanced by an expectation that we share our talents and strengths across our schools. Our vision statement talks about operating in a spirit of professional generosity.



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP