

Welcome to Gordano



We are delighted to welcome you into the Gordano family!

We are not only welcoming your child but you as parents as well

We will do everything we can to support the transition for you and your child as best we can

Tonight is just the start of our relationship...



Tonight's presentation will be available on the school website

Guiding you through our transition programme for Year 6 pupils



Ms Blundell – Headteacher



Mr Snow – Director of Key Stage 3



Mrs Wills – Head of Year 7



What our parents said last year...



Couldn't have gone better. We are really pleased with how easily and quickly our child settled in and how much he is enjoying Gordano.

My daughter attended the transition days. What a fantastic opportunity for her to have - it really helped to alleviate anxiety about the upcoming change.

Having just the years 7s and 11s in on day one then staggering the start time on day two worked really well. The slightly earlier leave time helps this time of day feel less intimidating too.

In September, I felt the transition was smooth and the year 7 children were nurtured into their new school environment brilliantly. Really well done to the Gordano team. I was so impressed with the whole process.

The Music event at Gordano provided a great opportunity for Year 5/6 to walk down to the school and participate in activities, as well as seeing some of the Gordano student's performances.

Well done on doing all you can to help young people transition.

The information about extra clubs has helped us to plan what extra activities she could try.



A step change...



1 teacher

1 classroom

Known friends and relationships

Possibly not as much homework

Pace may feel slower

14 teachers/ Subjects

Many classrooms to walk between

A change in friendships and new friendships

More homework to organise themselves with

Pace may feel quicker

A bigger bag required!

A two-week timetable...



What does a 2-week TT look like?



1Mon	1Tue	1Wed	1Thu	1Fri	2Mon	2Tue	2Wed	2Thu	2Fri
1Mon:1 Information Tec SWW IT2	1Tue:1 Drama LYH DR1	1Wed:1 English BCB E7	1Thu:1 Mathematics KMD MA2	1Fri:1 Design Technol GXT DT3	2Mon:1 Geography EO CC2	2Tue:1 Design Technol RIE DT3	2Wed:1 Mathematics EFL M10	2Thu:1 English AEL FC1	2Fri:1 Physical Educati HLW OLD2
1Mon:2 Spanish ASG L8	1Tue:2 History SEA H7	1Wed:2 Spanish SGT L7	1Thu:2 Physical Educati HLW OLD2	1Fri:2 Design Technol GXT DT3	2Mon:2 History SEA H7	2Tue:2 Design Technol RIE DT3	2Wed:2 Ethics & Philoso HSH H5	2Thu:2 English BCB FC1	2Fri:2 Physical Educati HLW OLD2
1Mon:3 English BCB E8	1Tue:3 Design Technol RIE DT4	1Wed:3 Dance CEG DA1	1Thu:3 Science SAF S2	1Fri:3 Music LSB MU1	2Mon:3 Science SAF S2	2Tue:3 Mathematics KMD MA2	2Wed:3 Science GKT S18	2Thu:3 Science GKT S1	2Fri:3 Spanish JCP L6
1Mon:4 Art LXB AR7	1Tue:4 Mathematics EFL M10	1Wed:4 Drama LYH DR1	1Thu:4 Science SAF S2	1Fri:4 Art LXB AR7	2Mon:4 English BCB E8	2Tue:4 Mathematics EFL M10	2Wed:4 English ZLP LIB	2Thu:4 Music LSB MU1	2Fri:4 Mathematics KMD MA2
1Mon:5 Science GKT S1	1Tue:5 English AEL FC1	1Wed:5 Mathematics BXR MA4	1Thu:5 Spanish SGT L7	1Fri:5 Physical Educati HLW OLD2	2Mon:5 Spanish SGT L7	2Tue:5 Science SAF S2	2Wed:5 Geography EO CC2	2Thu:5 Ethics & Philoso HSH H5	2Fri:5 PSHE HSH H5
1Mon:6 Geography EO CC2	1Tue:6 English AEL FC1	1Wed:6 Science GKT S1	1Thu:6 English BCB E8		2Mon:6 Mathematics EFL M10	2Tue:6 Information Tec SWW IT2	2Wed:6 History SEA H7	2Thu:6 Spanish JCP L6	

Mr Snow



Transition Process and Timeline



Tutor Groups and Learning Groups



Transition Timeline

March

Parents set up online accounts

Thursday 8 May

Year 6 Transition Information Evening

May

Friends/Foreign Language requests

June

Visits to all the primary schools

Tuesday 8 July

Gordano Induction Day

Sunday 13 July

Youth Centre transition event

Summer Holiday

Summer Book Challenge

Thursday 4 September

First Day at Gordano !



Tutor Groups and Learning Groups



House System

Friends – old and new



Teaching Groups

Foreign Language Choice



Twins

Out of Area



Homework



Different from primary school

Recognition and Rewards

Support

ClassCharts

Subjects that set homework

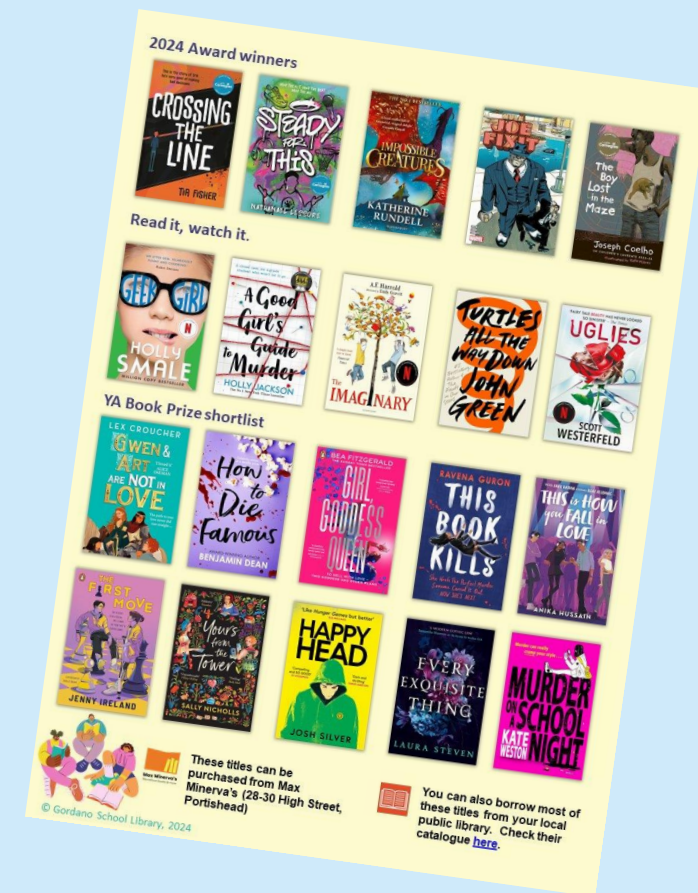
Deadlines

Types of Homework

Reading



Homework Planner					
Subjects	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri



Mrs Wills



What happens at the Primary School Visits?

What happens on Induction Day?



What happens on the first day at Gordano in September?



Mobile Phones



- We are 'a no phones school'
- During term 6 this year we will be transitioning to using 'Yondr' pouches across the school, so when year 6 join us in Year 7 they will be the last year group to be inducted in using the pouch use during their transition with us
- There has been a significant amount of work done on this over the last year and you can see our FAQ's below
- We want our students to focus on building relationships with each other and their learning in the classroom without distractions
- Student's phones will remain with them during the school day but in their pouches – therefore they will have them to and from school if you wish them to
- We have medical pouches for students who require their phones for monitoring purposes, for example – our diabetic students
- The school has plenty of IT facilities and so when IT is required for learning in school then students will have access to the appropriate resources



Our FAQs are available [here](#)

Keeping You Informed



We communicate regularly with parents through a variety of means

- Weekly parent communication from me highlighting activities that have taken place at the school
- Reminders about events coming up
- Community information

Termly Newsletters

- We send termly newsletters to celebrate the many achievements of our students and to keep parents in the loop about the types of activities that take place across the school

Parent Information Evenings

Teachers teach throughout the school day and therefore cannot respond immediately

So, we ask parents to communicate through the school's monitored mailbox. We try and respond to queries within **3 working days**.

Urgent safeguarding matters should be emailed directly to our schools safeguarding email account or please phone school safeguardingteam@gordanoschool.org.uk

Please look for key information on the website and the parent communications page [here](#) in the first instance for general information.

If you haven't got the information you require then please email mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk and include your child's full name and tutor group.

- Parent whatsapp/ facebook groups do exist but we do ask that if you have concerns that you contact the school directly so that we can respond to any queries that you may have



Your questions....

Bullying and peer conflict



Our school definition of bullying is: Repetitive intentional hurting of one person or a group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

We ask students to speak to their house team or log a concern remotely on our student concern log so that an allegation can be promptly investigated. It is our experience that prompt reporting allows unkind behaviour to be addressed immediately. Restorative conversations, sanctions – and in repeat cases - Behaviour Contracts linked to the school Behaviour Level System, and external mediation are interventions that have proved to be successful.

We also have a whole school focus on kindness in the community and our Safeguarding Lead is currently working with the student body to write a student-friendly version of the Anti-bullying section of the [School's Behaviour Policy](#).

Most of the student concerns that we receive relate to unkindness on social media, so again we welcome conversations at home about online safety and access to/monitoring of age-appropriate sites.

Supporting less confident/anxious students



- Year 7 spaces throughout the full first year – 3G pitch, Elliot Hall
- A wide variety of extra-curricular activities at lunch time
- Early lunches until for the first few weeks
- Year 7 & 8 students leave school 5 minutes earlier than the older year groups
- Year 7 and Year 12 transition day in September prior to the rest of the school joining us
- A dedicated assistant head of year who is a non-teacher and available throughout the day
- Tutors are a vital part of our students lives as they check in every morning during our tutor time programme

Setting in Year 7



- Students are placed in a 'teaching group' from the start of the year. This is different from their tutor group
- The teaching group will change at the start of each academic year
- Majority of the timetable is in mixed ability groupings
- Mathematics is set in quarter year groups in Year 7 (based initially on Year 6 SATs results but then may be revised according to assessment scores in Maths)
- We will inform you about exact equipment needed (calculators are an important one and we don't want you wasting money on the wrong type)

Navigating our site



- Whilst it seems like a large site for Year 7 when they come to us in September we have lots of opportunities to support students when they arrive in navigating the site
- Their first day will be only Year 7 and 12, enabling us to walk them through the key areas of the site and for them to familiarise themselves with the Year 7 areas and faculty areas
- We have staff and older students across the site supporting students over the first few weeks and pointing them in the right direction
- They move as a teaching group, so all tend to support each other
- Their induction day in the summer term allows them to get a feel for the school, including different areas
- Year 7 students are surprisingly good at getting to know the site (better than some of the adults!)

Our school is so big!



Whilst it is factually accurate that we are a large school in all reality we do all that we can to ensure that all students are supported and recognised, regardless of the size of the school:

- We come together every Monday morning through my Headteachers broadcast
- Year 7 are managed and supported as a Year group when the first come in, allowing Mrs Wills and Mr Snow to get to know them all
- The Houses (which Year 7 transition into in May/ June time) are effectively 6 families within the school and the houses are all led by a Head of House and an Assistant Head of House. The House team get to know Year 7 really well during activities week where they will go with their Houses on Year 7 camp
- We support Year 7 by ensuring they have their own areas, but of course they can go where they want to and don't have stay in that area if they don't want to
- Just because we are a big school, it doesn't mean the children have more teachers – they have the same number of teachers they would have in any other school