



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we welcomed five senior leaders from other schools across the UK as part of the Challenge Partners quality assurance programme. The visit took place between Wednesday and Friday and our visitors observed a variety of lessons across all key stages, spoke to many students through student panels as well as discussing the strategic direction of the school with leaders across all areas. It has been a very positive visit and as soon as I receive the report, I will share it with parents so that you are kept fully informed about our on-going progress and continued areas for development. I would like to thank all our students who were involved during the process, their pride in their school came across strongly and we really appreciate their involvement in the process.

### **Year 11 Parental Information Evening**

As per our calendar, we would like to invite all Year 11 Parents to the Year 11 Parental Information Evening on **Tuesday 21st January**.

This is an 'in-person' evening and there will be updates about the year, as well as next steps building towards the summer exams. We anticipate the evening to be 30-45 minutes. No bookings are necessary, and Mr Beesley is looking forward to welcoming you for a 6pm start in the Main Hall.

If you are unable to attend, all the communications will be shared following the evening.

### **Year 10 Employability Programme**

We are excited to inform you that our Year 10 students have launched their Employability Programme today. This initiative includes a special off-timetable morning on **Wednesday 29th January** where students will engage in the following activities:

- Applying for a job
- Complete a CV
- Developing employability skills
- Practicing interview techniques

This is all in preparation to undertake a Mock Interview with an employer on **Wednesday 29th March**. We believe this programme will provide valuable experience and prepare our students for future opportunities including their Work Experience placement at the end of June. Thank you for your continued support.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### Post 18 Apprenticeship Evening - Weds 12th February - 5.30-7pm

Please come along to our Apprenticeship Evening. It is open to all students and their parents/carers in Years 11, 12 and 13. The evening commences with an overview of what apprenticeships are, including case studies from Gordano Alumni, followed by a mini Careers Fair with a number of employers who are currently recruiting for September 2025. Please sign up to attend using [this link](#).

### Portishead Youth Centre Activities

A new Retro Game Night will be starting on Mondays from 20th January, with great games consoles and iconic games from years ago. The Youth Centre is also hosting a Youth Open Mic Night on Friday 31st January. You can find more information [here](#).

### Portishead In Bloom Art Competition

The theme for this year's painting competition is 'Blooming Biodiversity in my Community'. Students can see Miss Fawcett in the Art Department for more information or speak to their art teacher. See the [poster](#) for details.

### Education around use of vapes:

Please continue to discuss the dangers associated with vape use with your children. Sadly, some of our young people remain misinformed about the risks associated with vaping and the content of vape supply. The following links provide information on this subject:

- [English school children unwittingly smoking spice-spiked vapes, finds University of Bath](#)
- <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/synthetic-cannabinoids>

We wish you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell  
Headteacher

### Key Dates for Term 3

Tuesday 21st January	Year 9 & 11 Final of LSP English Vocabulary Challenge
Tuesday 21st January	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 11 Inclusive Curriculum KS4 Trip to City of Bristol campuses
Wednesday 22nd January	5pm Music Tour to the Netherlands Parental Information Evening
Thursday 23rd January	Year 13 Progress Evening
Monday 27th January	6pm Open Mic Gordano at Clarence House, Portishead
Tuesday 28th January	4.30 - 6pm Media Studies Creative Showcase
Wednesday 29th January	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Wednesday 29th January	Year 10 Employability Workshop
Thursday 30th January	Year 12 Aspire HE+ event at Kings of Wessex
Monday 3rd February	Year 10/11 GCSE Music trip to see Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday 4th February	Year 11 Geography field trip to River Holford (group 1)
Wednesday 5th February	Year 11 Geography field trip to River Holford (group 2)
Thursday 6th February	A-level Music trip to the Welsh National Opera
Thursday 6th February	Year 12 & 13 MFL trip to BFI London
Thursday 6th February	3.35pm Year 8/9 General Knowledge Quiz
Sunday 9th February	Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training Day
Mon 10th to Fri 14th February	National Apprenticeship Week
Monday 10th February	3.35pm MFL Spelling Bee Final
Mon 10th to Wed 12th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 11th February	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 12th February	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Wednesday 12th February	Year 9 Travel & Tourism trip (group 1)
Wednesday 12th February	5.30 - 7.30pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Evening
Thursday 13th February	Year 11 & Year 13 Student Leadership Conference, Chew Valley School
Thursday 13th February	Year 12 & Year 13 English Trip, Noel Coward Theatre London
Thursday 13th February	4 - 7.30pm Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 14th February	INSET Day
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February inclusive	HOLIDAY