



7th March 2025

Dream big • Do your best • Give back

Dear Parents and Carers

What a pleasant, sunny period it has been here at Gordano; as always it has been a busy and productive week. Well done to all our Year 13 students who, over the last two weeks have been undertaking their mock examinations. Whilst it is an intense period, we hope that the process and the feedback that students will receive in due course really supports them over the final part of their course.

Every year, as part of our Health and Safety responsibilities we carry out a Lockdown drill for students and staff. Students are already aware through our Monday Broadcast that we will be carrying out our next Lockdown Drill this term, and the agreed date is during tutor time on Wednesday 19th March. I will be reminding students about the process in the Broadcast over the next two weeks but just wanted parents to be aware that this drill is taking place.

Our approach to Anti-Bullying

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.

Spring Concert 18th and 19th March

The school's Spring Music Concerts are taking place on 18th and 19th March at 6.30pm in the main hall. It should be a wonderful evening featuring over 100 students, covering an eclectic range of styles, with the second half being a preview of our Netherlands tour programme. You can find the full information and booking details [here](#). We hope to see you there!

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LIGHTHOUSE
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Elliott Hall project update

Thank you to all the parents who have donated towards the makeover of the Year 7 Elliott Hall. The students are progressing their plans for a Hogwarts-style space and we're on our way to being able to bring their vision to life. There's now a totaliser on the wall in the Elliot Hall so the students can track their fundraising progress. Anyone who would like to donate can still do so via ParentPay. This project will provide a fantastic space for Year 7 students for years to come, and you can find out more about it [here](#).

School Chaplaincy

We are delighted to announce Verity Eastwood-Dewing's new position as chaplain for Gordano School. This is a role intended to support the school's core values of growing our school community and guiding students to explore their faith and spirituality - particularly through creativity and outdoor education. Verity is already working to support our school Breakfast Club and working with Year 7 students in Nurture to explore pottery skills.

Our school Christian Union is open to all students and the team will be announcing a calendar of lunchtime events - including an Easter craft workshop and a 'Would I Lie to You' series.

Support with Disordered Eating

The following link shares some helpful tips for parents and carers supporting a young person with eating disorders and highlights a free and confidential text service for support - Shout 85258.

[How to support a young person with an Eating Disorder | Shout 85258](#)

Staffing update

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to Mr Beesley (Assistant Headteacher KS4) who has successfully gained a promotion and will be taking up the Vice Principal role at St Brendan's Sixth Form College after Easter. We are delighted to welcome Mr Mark Tipler to the team from Easter who will be taking up the role of Assistant Headteacher KS4. Mr Tipler has extensive leadership experience at a number of schools within the South-West and we are delighted that he is joining the team. His fundamental principle of 'students first' shone through the interview process and we know he will do everything to support our young people as they transition through Key Stage 4. Mr Tipler has already visited the school since his appointment and will be introducing himself to the students and you, as parents, on his arrival in post.

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Luton will be joining the team in September as Assistant Headteacher (inclusion, KS3) part time. Mrs Luton's experience and understanding of inclusion was clearly evident through the interview process and we are privileged to have such a strong leader joining us as Mrs Thomas slightly reduces her hours from September and will retain a focus on KS4 Inclusion.

Portishead Youth Centre

Portishead Youth Centre are keen to gather views from parents / carers and young people on youth sessions. We would be grateful if parents could complete the [Parent Questionnaire](#) and encourage students to complete the [Youth Questionnaire](#).

Year 7 Disco

The Year 7 Disco took place this week was a great success. We hope the year 7 students enjoyed the evening and weren't too put off by our staff members dancing skills! A huge thanks and congratulations to the Year 12 and 13 Business BTEC team for organising such a great event.

Shine Easter Workshops

You may have seen the announcement that Shine, the South West's leading provider of sports coaching and wraparound care, will be managing Gordano Sports Centre and the community lettings facilities. Shine will, under its new brand of 'GoShine', seek to work closely with us at Gordano, the existing gym members/facility users and the wider Portishead community, to deliver an exceptional service and an enhanced community experience for the benefit of everyone.

Shine are running Half Day Sports Workshops here at Gordano School and Football Fundays at Portishead Town Football Club, for Year 7 across this Easter Holiday. These fun workshops will improve their skills and build confidence whilst keeping active in the school holiday. With Cricket, Racket Sports, Athletics and Basketball running, students can come and enjoy what should be nicer weather, with their friends.

There are also clubs for younger children from Reception to Year 6 running from 9am to 3.30pm (with early and late hours if you need them) including Gymnastics with Cheerleading, Racket Sports including table tennis, Play in a Day, Netball, Basketball, Football, Crazy Science Crafts and more. There's currently 20% off full-day bookings using the code *Early Booker* (until 23rd March).

With the reassurance of a 48-hour cancellation period, you can book knowing that if your plans change, you can cancel your booking.

Click on the links below for further information:

[Holiday Clubs for Primary School age children](#) at Gordano School

[Half Day Sports Workshops for Year 7](#) at Gordano School

[Football Fundays for Year 7](#) at Portishead Town Football Club

Portishead Carnival Royal Disco

Portishead Youth Centre is hosting the Royal Disco on Friday 14th March where the Carnival Prince and Princess will be crowned. Young people aged 8-11 can join the party between 5.30pm and 7pm, and ages 11-16 between 7.30pm and 9pm. Tickets are available online at <https://possetevents.com/tickets> or from Portishead Youth Centre.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 4

Monday 10th to Friday 14th March	Year 13 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 12th March	Year 12 UCAS Convention at Westpoint, Exeter
Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th March	Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Friday 14th March	8.45am Sixth Form Photo
Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th March	Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Training Days
Monday 17th to Friday 21st March	Book Fair in the School Library all week
Monday 17th to Friday 21st March	Learning Hub Functional Skills English Exams
Monday 17th to Friday 21st March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Monday 17th March	Year 13 A-level Music Recital (all-day exam)
Tuesday 18th March	Easter Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 18th March	Year 13 Politics revision at Vue Cinema
Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th March	6pm Easter Concert
Thursday 20th March	4pm - 7.30pm Year 9 Progress Evening
Thursday 20th March	Year 11 Drama trip to Bristol Old Vic (evening)
Friday 21st March	Senior dance company performance, Taunton (Year 10 and 11)
Monday 24th to Friday 28th March	Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week
Monday 24th to Friday 28th March	Learning Hub Functional Skills Maths Exams
Monday 24th March	Year 10 Cambridge National Sports Studies Assessment
Tuesday 25th March	Flying Start Engineering trip to UWE (selected Year 8/9 students)
Tuesday 25th to Sunday 30th March	Year 10-13 Music Tour to the Netherlands
Wednesday 26th March	Year 10 Mock Interview Day
Wednesday 26th March	Year 12 Aspire HE+ visit to Kings of Wessex
Thursday 27th March	LSP Inter-school English Challenge at Backwell School
Friday 28th March	UKMT Maths Challenge at Sidcot School (Year 8/9)
Monday 31st March to Wednesday 2nd April	Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 1st April	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd April	Year 11 Dance Choreography and Performance Exam
Thursday 3rd April	4.00 - 7.30 Year 12 Progress Evening
Friday 4th April	Year 13 Drama trip to Bristol Old Vic
Monday 7th to Friday 18th April inclusive	HOLIDAY