

24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to parents of students in Year 11 who attended our Year 11 information evening for parents this week. If you were unable to attend, please find the link to the presentation [here](#).

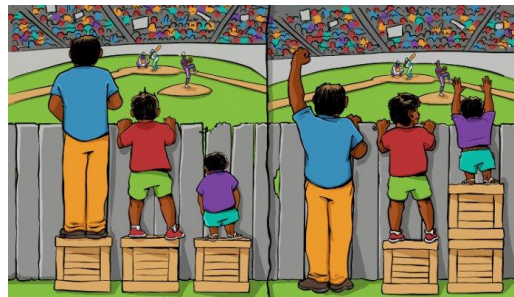
## Equality and Equity

***Equality - the same rights and opportunities for everyone***

***Equity - Providing resources based on need rather than treating everyone the same***

Last week's House assembly theme was based around the difference between equality and equity. The key message was that some students need different approaches and support to flourish. Students were encouraged to be supportive and understanding of others, rather than viewing it as some getting "special treatment".

Our outside visitors were really impressed with how our young people listened and took things on board, and we feel that "Equality vs Equity" is a really important message for our whole community to hear. The saying goes "A picture is worth a thousand words", and this well-known graphic perfectly illustrates the reason why some of our students receive different provision to others:



## Year 7 Geography Trips to Clarks Village in Street (27th, 28th, 29th January)

This is a reminder about the upcoming Geography field trips scheduled for next week. On the day of your child's fieldwork, we will travel to Street by coach, departing from school at 9.50am and returning at approximately 3.35pm.

Your child should arrive at school by 8.35am. They will meet in an allocated room with their tutor group for registration and a Geography lesson before boarding the coach. For more details, please refer to the parent letter that was sent out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [trips@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:trips@gordanoschool.org.uk).

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### **City of Bristol College Visit**

Learning Hub students in Year 11 attended a visit to City of Bristol College on Wednesday 22nd January. Students toured a range of subject areas across College Green and SBSA campuses, including T Levels in Health Sciences and Computing, Animal Care, Multi-trade, Construction, Child Development, and Hair and Beauty. College staff, including the College Green Campus Lead, praised the respect and ambition of our students. We look forward to our students' continued successes as they receive offers for further study on their chosen pathways.

### **Use of Social Media**

We continue to receive concerns about unkind comments made by students on WhatsApp groups and inappropriate sharing of personal information. Please continue conversations at home to emphasise to students that it is not appropriate, for example, to share addresses and contact details for their peers on a WhatsApp group.

WhatsApp is rated as a 13+ app due to data-protection legislation. The NSPCC has a very [comprehensive and detailed guide](#) on how to make WhatsApp safer for your child and how to ensure that they are communicating safely.

### **Year 7 Students Launch 'Sponsor a Stone' Initiative to Help Create Hogwarts-style Space**

We value keeping our parents informed on all aspects of our school community, including ongoing efforts to improve spaces around the site. This year our teams are working hard to improve our toilet facilities, common rooms, Sixth Form café and vibrant signage in all areas.

Our Year 7 students would love for us to focus on their Elliot Hall, which acts as a haven for them while adjusting to life at Gordano School. They would like it to be reimagined into the style of the Great Hall at Hogwarts including house banners, stone effect walls, a comfy reading area, sofas, outdoor flowers and a creative corner to help them achieve a more comfortable and inspiring space that will be a legacy for years to come. Visuals on how they'd like to transform the space can be found [here](#).

We welcome parental support to help them fulfil this exciting project and therefore invite you to 'sponsor a stone' for £1 on ParentPay. It is possible to donate more if you are in a position to do so and if you know of a business who might wish to help, we would love them to email [mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk).

Any shortfall will be raised by the Year 7 students through a variety of fundraising efforts. We thank you in advance for your support and generosity in helping us to create an incredible space for our Year 7 students, current and future.

### **Activities Week 2025**

If your child is participating in any of the residential trips or Year 8 day trips during Activities Week, please note that the next payment instalment is due by Friday 31st January. To check your child's balance and make the payment, log onto [www.ParentPay.com](http://www.ParentPay.com).

For detailed payment schedules and behaviour policy information, please refer to the Activities Week brochures available [here](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [trips@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:trips@gordanoschool.org.uk).

## INSET DAY Reminder

A reminder that our final INSET day of the academic year is on **Friday 14th February 2025**.

We wish you all a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher

## Key Dates for Term 3

Monday 27th January	Year 7 Geography trip to Clarks Village (group 1)
Monday 27th January	6pm Open Mic Gordano at Clarence House, Portishead
Tuesday 28th January	Year 7 Geography trip to Clarks Village (group 2)
Wednesday 29th January	Year 7 Geography trip to Clarks Village (group 3)
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