



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This week Year 11 have demonstrated exceptional commitment and focus on their approach towards the mock examinations series. Their collective preparation has been excellent, with students displaying a level of focus and dedication that is needed to achieve great outcomes. They have shown a great sense of responsibility, organising their study time effectively and engaging in GCSEPod to support their revision.

As we are now at the end of the first week of mock exams; the cohort's behaviour, attitude and effort has been outstanding. Students have been a credit to themselves and hopefully will demonstrate their understanding during the exams. Thanks again to parents for your on-going support.

Homework Policy

There have been a few changes to our homework policy, which have been communicated through this weekly letter and weekly student broadcasts. Our homework policy has been updated on the school website and can also be viewed [here](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support of your young person in the completion of their homework. We would always encourage students to speak to their teacher ahead of deadlines where they have any concerns about the content of homework or the deadline for completion.

Year 7 Geography Trip

As part of the Year 7 curriculum in Geography we have to complete fieldwork. We have put together a really exciting offer for the end of January where we will take students to a recently developed shopping village in Street, Somerset to investigate the impact this has had on the High Street there. All details have been emailed to Year 7 parents on ParentPay so please log on and book a place. If there are any questions, students can come and see Mr Pugh in H1.

Caring at Christmas Donations

There's still time to donate items to support 'Caring at Christmas' up until Wednesday 18th December. The charity would welcome essential items such as toiletries, clothing or food from [this list](#), and to keep the homeless warm during the cold months woolly hats or gloves are also much needed. Donation boxes are in each House area, the Year 7 common room and in the student centre. You can also make a donation to the charity via ParentPay.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Sixth Form RAG Week - 16th to 20th December

A reminder that the Sixth Form RAG week takes place during the last week of term, with lots of fun activities for the whole school to enjoy. The main fundraising event is the RAG Fayre on Wednesday 18th, and you can purchase tokens on ParentPay for your child to exchange for treats and activities at the event, or they can bring cash to spend on the day. On Monday 16th students can watch the highly contested Sixth Form Students vs Staff Dodgeball match in the Old Sports Hall, with an entrance fee of 50p on the door. Tickets are also available on ParentPay for students in Year 10 and above for the RAGfest music event on Thursday 19th from 7pm to 9.30pm in the school hall.

The chosen charities for this year's RAG Week are Caring in Bristol and Cancer Research. Caring in Bristol runs the 'Caring at Christmas' project supporting people experiencing homelessness in Bristol throughout Christmas. Donations to both of these charities can be made via ParentPay. Thank you for supporting our Sixth Formers with their fundraising efforts.

Bristol Bears Players visit Gordano!

14 boys from Year 10 are currently taking part in the Bristol Bears "Bright Sparks" programme, using sport to engage, motivate and inspire, and build self-confidence and leadership skills. The boys have weekly sessions with staff from the Bristol Bears Community Foundation, but were lucky enough this week to also be joined by three Bristol Bears players as part of the club's "Give Back" day. The players were very impressed with the boys' skills, and we definitely think the boys gave the players a run for their money on our 3G pitch! It isn't quite Ashton Gate, but the boys are looking forward to a stadium tour in January.

This is our third year of working with Bristol Bears and we are excited to be welcoming a new cohort of boys onto the programme after February half term, with an opportunity for some of our girls to take part in the successful "Bear in Mind" programme after Easter. In the meantime, do check Bristol Bears and Gordano School socials for pictures and videos of the visit.

Christmas Concerts 17th and 18th December at 6.30pm

Christmas celebrations wouldn't be complete without some festive music, so don't miss the Gordano School Christmas Concerts during the last week of term. Join us for an evening filled with festive music, joyful performances, and holiday cheer! The Jazz Band, Drumline, Barbieshop and many more performers look forward to entertaining you. Tickets are £5 (£2 for students) and are available to book in advance [here](#), or you can pay on the door.

Year 13 UCAS Applications

Students have been busily completing these and a large number have been sent already. Applications that arrive in the final week of term may not be sent until after Christmas due to a two-week turnaround time to allow for all the checks and reference uploading to be completed. Students who are undecided about applying are still encouraged to complete an application as a plan B.

Please note that although the final UCAS deadline is Wednesday 29th January, students need to be aware that the Sixth Form team needs to avoid a bottleneck caused by a last-minute flurry of applications just before that date.

Reminder about our next INSET day

Just a reminder that our next INSET day is on Monday 6th January 2025. Therefore, students will return after the Christmas break on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Have a wonderful weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Tuesday 10th December	Year 12 Art trip to Bath Art Exhibition and Gallery
Wednesday 11th December	Flu Vaccinations (Years 7 and 8)
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December	Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam
Thursday 12th December	Flu Vaccinations (Years 9 and 10)
Monday 16th to Friday 20th December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Monday 16th December	Flu Vaccinations (Year 11)
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 17th December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December	6.30pm Christmas Concert
Wednesday 18th December	Years 7 - 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18th December	5pm - 6pm A-Level Certificate Evening
Thursday 19th December	Caring at Christmas delivery of donations
Friday 20th December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January inclusive	HOLIDAY

Key Dates for Term 3

Monday 6th January	INSET Day
Wednesday 15th January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Wednesday 15th January	Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Thursday 16th January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals
Friday 17th January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Tuesday 21st January	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 23rd January	Year 13 Progress Evening
Tuesday 28th January	4.30 - 6pm Media Studies Creative Showcase
Wednesday 29th January	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday 30th January	Year 10 Employability Workshop
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	2.30 - 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	4.00 - 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 14th February	INSET Day
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February inclusive	HOLIDAY