



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we have already come to the end of this term. Having said that, it has been a term packed with so many achievements. This week we released our second [parents' newsletter](#) which gives you just a flavour of the week-by-week activities that take place across the school. Thank you to all the students actively involved throughout this term and we very much look forward to sharing next term's achievements as they happen through our Facebook page.

Next term is a 6-week term, do please look at the bottom of this letter for the updated list of key dates and a final reminder that tomorrow (Friday 14th February) is our final INSET Day of the year.

### **Work Experience**

We are getting closer to our Work Experience Week of 30th June - 4th July but there is still plenty of time for students to secure a placement and add the details to Unifrog. This is a compulsory part of our Year 10 Employability programme and last year students had a fantastic and enriching time. If students do not have a placement they will participate in a programme of careers-based work and activities on school site; clearly the experience of being in an external workplace will be much more informative and enjoyable. The half term holidays will be an ideal time for students to contact companies if they are still trying to find something. We recommend at this stage that students either phone or pop into the companies as we get closer to the actual placement date. Any queries please email [careers@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@gordanoschool.org.uk).

### **Higher Apprenticeship Evening 12th February 2025**

Our well-attended annual Post-18 Apprenticeship Evening offered students and parents/carers a useful insight into the world of post-18 apprenticeships. Thank you to Weston College for leading the evening and a special thank you to our Gordano Alumni now working at Airbus and Evelyn Partners for their insights into their apprenticeship journey. The evening concluded with a mini Careers Fair and it was lovely to hear the enthusiastic conversations taking place with the employers.

### **Year 11 Prom - 24th June 2025**

The Year 11 Prom takes place at Ashton Gate Stadium on Tuesday 24th June. The cost of the evening is £55 per student and will include a mocktail on arrival, a buffet, disco and other entertainment. This event is now live on [ParentPay](#); an initial deposit of £20 is required by 3rd March to secure your child's place. Full information has been sent to Year 11 parents separately, if there are any queries please contact [trips@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:trips@gordanoschool.org.uk).

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

## Safeguarding

While school is closed, if you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

- **Samaritans** - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123
- **Shout** - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7
- **Childline** - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor
- **HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends
- **KOOTH** - an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to [kooth.com](http://kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday - 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm - 10pm
- **CAMHS Crisis Line** - 0800 953 9599
- If you need to speak to **Children's Social Care**- please contact the front door service on 01275 888808
- If a life is at risk, please call **999** to access support from emergency services

## Essential equipment list

After the half term break, we will be having a focus on ensuring that students have the correct equipment for school. When students don't arrive prepared it can have a detrimental effect on the smooth running of the lesson and takes away from valuable learning time. As a reminder, the following items are an essential part of the school equipment list. We will send more details around those expectations next term but if you are able to support us by ensuring your child arrives at school after half term with the correct equipment we would appreciate it.

## Equipment Checklist



1. Pencil Case
2. Black Pen
3. Purple Pen
4. Ruler at least 15cm
5. Pencil
6. Rubber
7. Sharpener
8. Protractor
9. Pair of compasses
10. Calculator any Casio Classwiz or other model able to display fractions



### NPLQ Course 7th - 13th April

Parish Wharf Leisure Centre are running an NPLQ course beginning on 7th April. Those attending the course will learn valuable lifesaving skills and become qualified for a job in lifeguarding. Attendees must be aged 16 or over. You can find more information on the Parish Wharf website [here](#).

### Have your say on the draft masterplan for Western Harbour

Bristol City Council are inviting residents in the area to view the plans for the regeneration of the westernmost end of Bristol's Floating Harbour. As future generations will benefit from this project, they're particularly keen to encourage young people to get involved and tell them what they think of these plans. There's a wealth of resources available in the '[Have your say](#)' section on the project website - [www.harbourhopes.co.uk](http://www.harbourhopes.co.uk) and the draft masterplan will be available to view on the Harbour Hopes website from Tuesday 11th February to Sunday 9th March 2025.

From everyone at Gordano we wish you all a relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher

### Key Dates for Term 4

Monday 24th February to Friday 7th March	Year 13 Mock Exams
Tuesday 25th February	Year 11 Dance Choreography Mock Day
Wednesday 26th February	Year 9 Travel & Tourism trip (group 2)
Thursday 27th February	4pm - 7.30pm Year 7 Progress Evening
Thursday 28th February	Year 13 Media Studies trip to BFI London
Thursday 28th February	Year 8 Aspire trip to Bath University
Tuesday 4th March	Years 7/8/9 North Somerset Dance Festival - Weston Playhouse
Wednesday 5th March	Year 11 Uniformed Services trip to Avon & Somerset Police HQ
Wednesday 5th March	3.30 - 5pm Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Thursday 6th March	Year 9/10/11 Dance trip to Swan Lake, Bristol Hippodrome
Thursday 6th March	5.30 - 7pm Year 7 Disco
Monday 10th to Friday 14th March	Year 13 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Tuesday 11th March	Sixth Form MFL Spanish trip to BFI London
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 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)
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 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
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
Monday 7th to Friday 18th April inclusive	HOLIDAY