



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we continue with our planning for activities week, we are looking forward to hosting our base activities from Monday to Friday for students who are based at school during the week. They will be taking part in a wide range of teacher-led activities such as an Engineering Challenge, Gardening, Craft Workshops, Rocket Making and Baking amongst other activities. Each day students will explore three different activities. The school day will run as normal and catering provision will remain as it normally does on a school day. For registration each day at 8.45am:

- **Year 7** students will meet with Mr Snow in the old gym
- **Year 8** students will meet with Mr Beesley in the Elliot Hall
- **Year 9** students will meet with Mr Mailey and Mrs Harding in the New Sports Hall

Students will be involved in a range of activities, so we ask that they wear suitable clothing for active sessions. I will be running a virtual assembly for all students in Years 7-9 on Friday morning next week to walk through the arrangements. I will also ensure that arrangements are shared on Class Charts for each year group. Below is a reminder of the remaining parent information evenings coming up for our residential trips.

Trip Name	Date	Time	Venue	Trip Leader(s)
Y9 Bushcraft	17.06.24	5-6pm	Sixth Form Hall	Ms Blundell
Y9 Northwest	17.06.24	5-5.30pm	New Dining Hall	Mr Smith
Y9 Cornwall	19.06.24	5-6pm	Sixth Form Hall	Mr Dickinson

### Year 8 Parents - Day Trips

A letter to Year 8 parents was sent this week with detailed information about day trips and the organisation of these, and we shared with parents waiver links for certain activities. Can I ask that these are completed as soon as possible. Thank you for your support with this.

### Free School Meals Information

Parents who are claiming some benefits can also claim free school meals for any of their children who are attending the school. For information on eligibility and how to claim, please see this [letter](#).

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

### **Aspens Catering updates**

We promised to update you on developments that Aspens, the school caterers, were engaged in following your positive engagement with our survey earlier in the year:

- Menus have seen some revisions, although we are continuing to work with Aspens on the health and nutritional content. Aspens are developing better information on the menu items to publish via the school website, but this is still not ready to go out.
- The morning break offer has changed, and we hope to gather some student opinions on the new menu items before the end of the term.
- We asked Aspens to begin to really work on reducing the waste from their sales, with drinks cartons being a key area of concern for us across the site. We have installed water fountains into the dining hall, and there is some information to come from Aspens on refillable drinks that students can get in the dining hall. We would like to reduce the items on sale in disposable cartons and get students to move fully to having refillable drinks bottle that they fill from the water fountains.
- One change on the drinks offer is the introduction of milkshakes from the same machines that produce the fruit “slushy” ice drinks. Aspens are doing a promotion on these next week, see the flyer [here](#).

### **Promoting positive mental health by connecting to nature**

Gordano School and facilitators from the Natural Academy are running a session to help support parents bringing up teenagers who struggle with their mental health, which includes learning about the benefits of nature-based activities in supporting wellbeing. You can find more information and book your place [here](#).

### **Year 10 GCSEPod is now available!**

Year 11 students have been using this learning and revision software and it is now available to Year 10 students. This is a brilliant resource and we're pleased to be able to allow Year 10 students to use it from now on. It is available online, so accessible through a computer or mobile device: [GCSEPod](#). Please follow the instructions sent via ClassCharts - any login issues, please contact Mr Beesley.

### **Year 10 into Year 11 - Parental Information Evening**

We would like to invite parents of Year 10 students to join us at an information evening on **Thursday 11th July** between **6pm-7pm**. We will share information from the mock exams, work experience and an overview of support. This will include a parental demonstration of GCSEPod and ways in which you can support students in Year 11. We will share further details closer to the date.

### **Sanitary Products**

We have a large number of sanitary products available at school. If any families are experiencing financial difficulty, we would be more than happy to provide supplies. Please do get in touch with Mrs Thomas (in the strictest of confidence) if we can help with this. ([cthomas@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:cthomas@gordanoschool.org.uk)).

### **Behaviour in the Community**

Please could I ask parents to remind their children around our focus on care and kindness and the need for this to be visible in community behaviours. We of course will be reminding students of our expectations in our broadcast on Monday and delighted that so many students meet those expectations on a daily basis, however we do still receive some isolated incidents of unkind language and behaviour directed from students towards other students or residents when outside of school. Please remind students that these incidents often get reported to us and the police and are then followed up. Our safeguarding and pastoral teams meet regularly with our local police to ensure a joined-up approach to this work.

## Punctuality

Just a reminder that students should be on site no later than 8.40am, ready to enter their tutor bases at 8.45am. We would appreciate your support in discussing the importance of punctuality with your child.

## Change of Date - HE Information Evening

The HE Information Evening will now take place on Wednesday 3rd July 5.30-6.30pm. Please register using this [FORM](#).

We wish you a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher

## Key Dates for Term 6

Monday 17th - Friday 21st June	Year 12 MFL Speaking Mock Exams Week
Monday 17th - Friday 28th June	Year 10 Mock Exams Weeks
Monday 17th June	5pm - 6pm Activities Week Parent Info Evening - Year 9 Bushcraft trip - Sixth Form Hall
Monday 17th June	5pm - 6pm Activities Week Parent Info Evening - Year 9 North West trip - New Dining Hall
Tuesday 18th June	6.00 - 7.00 Portland House Celebration Evening
Wednesday 19th June	6.00 - 7.00 Shannon House Celebration Evening
Wednesday 19th June	5pm - 6pm Activities Week Parent Info Evening - Year 9 Cornwall trip - Sixth Form Hall
Thursday 20th June	6.00 - 7.00 Lundy House Celebration Evening
Friday 21st June	9.00 - 12.00 Swimming Gala
Monday 24th - Friday 28th June	Year 12 Bridging Week
Monday 24th June	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 26th June	Year 13 Clearing Day
Thursday 27th June	Year 13 Ball
Friday 28th June	Year 12 A-level Music Recital mock exam (all day)
Monday 1st - Friday 5th July	Activities Week Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition Year 10 Work Experience Year 12 Futures Week
Wednesday 3rd July (change of date)	5.30pm - 6.30pm HE Information Evening
Tuesday 9th July	Year 6 Induction Day
Tuesday 9th July	Parent Forum
Wednesday 10th July	6pm - 7pm DT & Computing Celebration Evening
Thursday 11th July	Sports Day (pm)
Thursday 11th July	Year 12 A-level Music Recital (mock exam)

Thursday 11th July	6pm - 7pm Year 10 into Year 11 parent information evening
Friday 12th - Sunday 14th July	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
Wednesday 17th - Thursday 18th July	Creative Arts Festival
Thursday 18th July	Reserve date for Sports Day
Tuesday 23rd July	Last day of term for students - 12:30 finish
Wednesday 24th July - Tuesday 3rd September	SUMMER HOLIDAY