



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope parents found the tutor meetings last night a helpful indication of how the year has started for your child, depending on where they are in their journey through the school. Thank you if you were able to take part in that meeting. A reminder that our final parental information evening is for Year 7, and this takes place on 17th October and the link to book is below.

[Year 7 - Thursday 17th October](#)

Also, you will see that the useful dates for parents in Term 2 have been added to the bottom of this parent letter. Please note that we have a mid-week INSET day on Wednesday 20th November.

#### Mobile phone policy review - update

As you will be aware, our current mobile phone policy states that students should have their phones off and in their bags for the duration of the school day, with appropriate sanctions in place when they do not meet these expectations.

However, we are concerned about the impact of smartphones on young people and, as such, carried out a review of our policies at the end of the last academic year to see whether there is more we can be doing.

We are still in the process of following the Smartphone Free Childhood's six step school survey process and, so far, have:

- Engaged with our school community by surveying all parents and staff to take on board their views about the impact of smartphones on young people and to hear a range of views on how we could change our policy
- Ran a Parent Forum with members of our Senior Leadership Team and a group of parents to discuss our current mobile phone policy and to consider next steps we might want to take
- Established from that meeting a working group of parents to support us through our next steps
- Considered our options moving forward, meeting with a company called Yondr, who support schools with enforcing an absolutely phone-free school

We will continue, in the coming academic year, to consider our next steps. We are a large school community and any change we implement needs to be carefully considered in order to be successful. Ultimately, our aim is to be truly phone-free by September 2025 at the latest.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

If you would like to join our working group, who are yet to meet in this academic year, please contact Laura Harding, via the school [mailbox](#).

### **Key Stage 4 Homework Update**

As we increase the focus on independent study, a **Missed Homework** in Key Stage 4 will now result in a **-1 behaviour point**. Year 11 can continue to use **The Hive** study space before and after school to complete work, if necessary.

### **Year 11 Update**

Thank you to all parents who attended the Year 11 Parental Information Evening - the slides are available on the school website [here](#). Students moving through the Year 11 Support System have received their hoodies, and hoodies ordered in the second round should be available in school in the last week of term.

As we are now moving towards the mock exams, please ensure students are organised with their revision. [Get Revising](#) is a great resource to plan a timetable of revision and [GCSEPod](#) is available for all Year 11 students.

### **Collecting students after school**

Please note that to ensure the safety of our students as they leave the school site, cars should not be driving into the school grounds through the main gates. Parents can access the coach parking area off the Clevedon Road to pick up their children at the end of the school day.

### **Safer Communities Event**

North Somerset are running a community event at Ashcombe Children's Centre on Wednesday 30th October. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for details of the activities available.

### **Portishead Football Club**

The Club have once again asked us to make parents aware of the fact that Gordano students are accessing the pitches when they should not be, causing damage to both the pitches and equipment, costing the club considerable amounts to repair, as well as having to cancel fixtures. Please discuss this with your children and remind them that they should not be trespassing on these grounds.

### **Portishead Junior Netball Club**

The netball club trains at Parish Wharf Leisure Centre and Gordano School and is currently welcoming new players in school year 4 and above. You can find more information in this [poster](#).

Yours sincerely



**Ms L Blundell**  
Headteacher

## Key Dates for Term 1

Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October	Year 11 GCSE History Trip to Munich
Monday 14th October	Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip (group 3)
Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Thursday 17th October	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork Trip to Minehead/Porlock Weir
Thursday 17th October	Year 7 Parental Information Evening 6pm
Monday 21st October	Year 11 Careers Trip to Weston College
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 11 Futures Evening 2pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October	Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam
Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November	HOLIDAY

## Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 4th to Friday 8th November	GCSE Maths and English exams (Year 12 re-sits)
Tuesday 5th November	Year 7 Geography fieldwork trip to Street (group 1)
Monday 11th to Friday 15th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 11th to Friday 15th November	Year 13 LOAF Week
Monday 11th to Friday 15th November	Learning Hub Functional Skills English Exams
Wednesday 6th November	Year 7 Geography fieldwork trip to Street (group 2)
Wednesday 13th November	BIMA Digital Marketing Day (Key Stage 4)
Tuesday 13th to Friday 15th November	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
Thursday 14th November	5pm - 7.30pm Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 18th to Friday 22nd November	Learning Hub Functional Skills Maths Exams
Monday 18th November	Year 10 Travel & Tourism trip to London
Tuesday 19th November	Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip to Bristol Harbourside (group 1)
<b>Wednesday 20th November</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>
Thursday 21st November	Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip to Bristol Harbourside (group 2)
Thursday 21st November	3.35pm Years 10/11 General Knowledge Quiz
Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
Monday 25th to Friday 29th November	Year 11 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Tuesday 26th November	Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip to Bristol Harbourside (group 3)
Wednesday 27th November	Careers Teatime Networking
Monday 2nd to Friday 13th December	Year 11 Mock Exams

Monday 2nd December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Tuesday 3rd December	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 4th December	Year 9 Travel & Tourism trip (group 1)
Tuesday 10th December	Year 9 Travel & Tourism trip (group 2)
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December	Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December	Flu Vaccinations (Years 7-11)
Monday 16th to Friday 20th December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 17th December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December	6pm Christmas Concert
Wednesday 18th December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January inclusive	HOLIDAY