



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic, festive and **full** week it has been at Gordano, bringing the end of Term 2 to such a positive close.

It was such a privilege last night to attend the final night of our annual Christmas concerts. I know that if you were able to join us that you would have been amazed at the sheer brilliance and talent of so many of our young people and the dedicated and inspirational support they have from our Music Team in putting on one of the highest calibre Christmas concerts I have seen in my career. Thank you to every student involved whether on stage or supporting the performers through the variety of responsibilities required for such an event. A huge thank you to Dr Humphries, Mr Dorney, Mr Jennings, Mr Hawkins our MFL team and our dedicated team of peripatetic staff. We simply couldn't do this without their drive and ambition for our young people.

Thank you so much to our wonderful Sixth Formers who have put on the most vibrant RAG week, getting as many students involved in their fundraising events as possible. We have seen a range of activities including staff v student dodgeball, the RAG fayre and a whole variety of fancy dress costumes throughout the week. We will share the final amount raised for our charities at the start of next term. A huge thank you also to you all for supporting so generously our Caring at Christmas focus, our senior students delivered a huge amount of donations yesterday from our community.

Also, a thank you to Aspens for supporting our Christmas Lunches on Tuesday for our Sixth Form and Wednesday for the rest of the school.

Newsletter

It has been such a busy few terms at Gordano and we feel it is really important to keep all of our community updated with the vast array of activities that are happening at the school. You can see lots of information about the school through our [Facebook page](#) but please also take a look at our new community newsletter (attached) which captures a variety of activities the school has been involved in as well as celebrating our students' achievements over the terms. If your child is involved in successes outside of school and you would like us to share these achievements in future editions, please don't hesitate to contact us through our mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk email address.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Curriculum Reviews

As part of our ongoing, termly quality assurance, we review different curriculum areas to identify strengths and next steps to further support learning and progress (this is in addition to lesson drop-ins, book looks and student voice in all subjects across all year groups). During term 1 and 2, we have reviewed Year 11 History, Geography, and English and Vocational Learning at Year 10 and Year 12. We also had a review in DT subjects for Years 7, 8 and 10 with our LSP Director of Education. In all cases, the curriculum for these year groups was found to be thoughtfully planned to both challenge and support learners. Through student voice, we found that students feel well supported and are enjoying their learning in these subjects. Year 11 students valued the homework set that related to their in-class learning and helped them to revise key topics and Year 12 vocational students felt well guided as they prepared for their upcoming January exam. The practical work seen in DT was of a really high standard, with students taking pride in both the design process and final outcome.

Next steps include a continued focus on oracy to support students in articulating ideas before they write and further 1:1 conversations to direct students in relation to achieving even higher grades. We have been really impressed by the effort and engagement we've seen from students in these subjects during the lesson drop-ins and by the way they've articulated their views about their learning experience. Further reviews continue in terms 3 and 4, in different subjects and year groups.

Gordano School Community Trust is looking for new Trust Board members

Gordano School Community Trust (GSCT) is a charity formed to advance the education of the students at Gordano School and the wider community through the provision of sports and other facilities. You can find out more about the fantastic facilities that we offer by visiting www.gordanosportscentre.org.uk.

We are looking for new Trustees to join the existing Board to help promote the use of the school's facilities for recreation, sport, culture and other leisure activities within the local community. Becoming a Trustee is a rewarding and enriching opportunity to offer your personal and professional experiences in order to help shape the future of our facility. We are keen to hear from individuals, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are willing to commit to our vision and values and who are excited about improving sports facilities for young people and the local community. The Trust meets four times per year, usually on a Wednesday at 5pm at Gordano School.

To express your interest, please send us an email outlining why you would like to be considered, including any relevant experience, to GSCTGovernance@gordanoschool.org.uk no later than 19th January 2025. Successful applicants will be invited for interview late January 2025. Please note that applicants will be subject to the relevant DBS checks. We look forward to hearing from you!

Wellbeing

We hope that the Christmas break allows students - and their families - time to recharge and relax at the end of a busy academic year; we do understand that for some young people, the lack of school structure can impact their wellbeing adversely.

The following resources from Anna Freud are designed to support student wellbeing: [secondary_fe_selfcare_toolkit.pdf](http://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/secondary_fe_selfcare_toolkit.pdf) (mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk)

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](https://www.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.

Measles update from the UK Health Security Agency

Cases of measles are rising in the North Somerset area, and the UKHSA has issued [this letter](#) to remind parents and carers of the signs and symptoms of measles so that they can take appropriate action should their child become unwell over the holidays.

Staffing Updates

It is always hard to say goodbye to staff who leave at the end of a term and this term is no different. Firstly, a huge congratulations to both Ms Treanor and Ms Rostill both of whom have been successful in promotions to Second in Faculty and Second in Maths at schools in Bristol and North Somerset. We also say a sad goodbye to Miss Clerc who is heading back to the US and Miss Atkins who is moving to a different school in North Somerset. Thank you to these staff for their dedication and passion in delivering their subjects so effectively and we wish you all the best in your new roles. We also wish Mrs Thompson all the very best as she leaves for maternity leave.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Grubb and Mr Hawthorne who will be joining the Maths team, Mrs Thomson who will be joining the DT Faculty and a welcome to both Mr Muluka and Mrs Cook who have already joined the Science team this term. We are also delighted that Mrs Sharper will be returning to Gordano to take Mrs Thompson's Maternity leave. We have also secured an additional Computing teacher for Term 3, to ensure that all classes have a specialist delivering their lessons.

From all the staff at Gordano, we wish our families a wonderful festive season and a happy new year and thank you for your on-going support over the first two terms of 2024-2025. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

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
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 11 Inclusive Curriculum KS4 Trip to City of Bristol campuses
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