The Gryphon School

Bristol Road
Sherborne
Dorset DT9 4EQ

T: 01935 813122
E: office@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk
www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

Monday 19th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating 94.8% Attendance



We are delighted to share that our whole-school attendance is currently 94.8%. This is a fantastic reflection of the commitment of our students and the support of our families, thank you! Great attendance is about so much more than simply being in lessons. Over the past few weeks, our students have been learning, participating and contributing in so many ways. They have taken part in school visits, listened to inspiring visiting speakers, enjoyed overnight camps and residential experiences, and given their time to support events such as our recent Open Evening. It has been wonderful to see so many students getting involved, trying new things and playing an active part in school life. Thank you to our students, families and staff for helping us achieve 94.8% attendance, and for making our school such a vibrant community to be part of.

Harvest Collection

"A massive thanks to all at The Gryphon School this year for their Harvest donations that will go to the Sherborne Food Bank. The food bank supports families and individuals in crisis in Sherborne and the surrounding areas and because of your generosity many mouths will be fed" (Reverend Jim Edie, Gryphon School Chaplain and Sherborne Food Bank Trustee).

Remembrance Day Service

This year our Remembrance Day Service will be held on Wednesday 11th November at 10.00am. Students who have family connections to the Armed Services will be invited to attend. Students who are part of any Uniformed Youth Services organisation are allowed to wear their uniforms to school on this day and will also be invited to attend the service.

Aspens Christmas Lunch

We are delighted to confirm that Aspens will be serving their traditional Christmas lunch for students and staff on Wednesday 16 December. Students can enjoy a delicious two-course Christmas lunch with all the trimmings for just £3.80. The Christmas lunch will also be included as part of the meal deal for all students eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).

The Gryphon School is a member of the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England with the Company Number 08130468.

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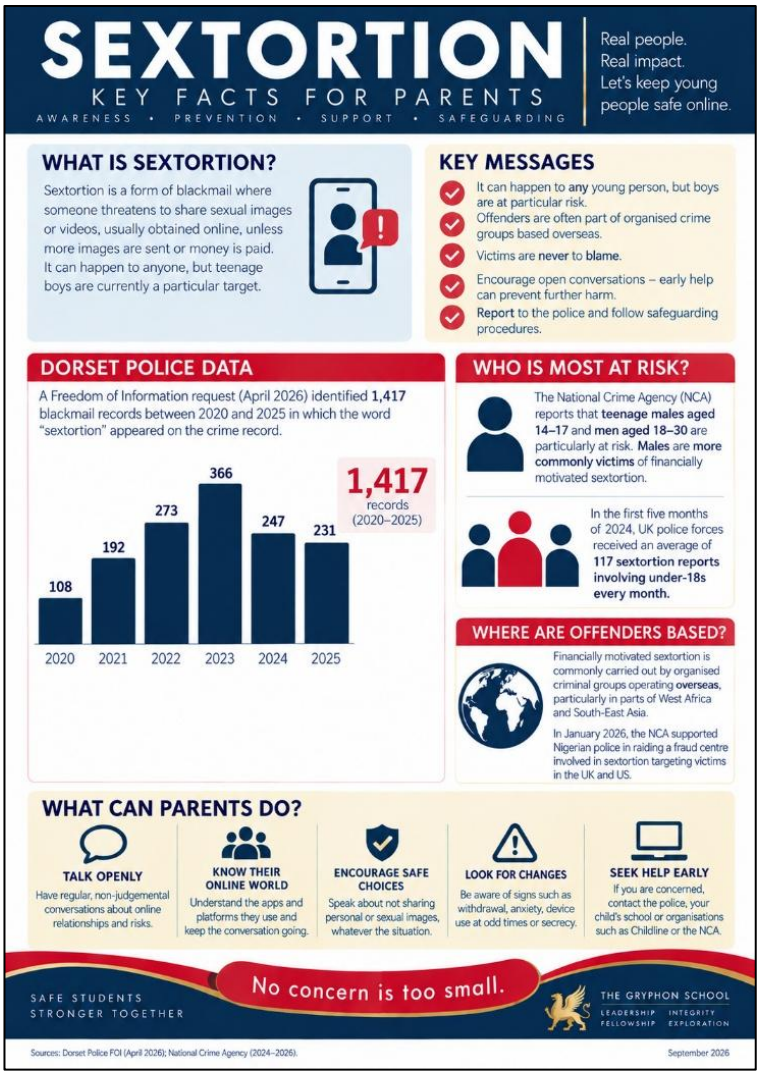
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Naked Truth Project – Supporting Our Young People

We have been delighted to welcome the Naked Truth Project into school to speak to students in Years 7–11. Each year group took part in a dedicated presentation, carefully tailored to their age and the issues they may encounter as they grow up in an increasingly online world. The sessions explored topics including healthy relationships, online influences, pornography, consent, body image and social media, encouraging students to think about the messages they see and the choices they make. These can sometimes be difficult subjects to talk about, but the Naked Truth Project presenters approached them in an engaging, sensitive and age-appropriate way.



Their whole-year-group presentations gave students an opportunity to hear clear and positive messages about respect, relationships and looking after themselves and others. We know that young people are growing up in a world that can look very different from the one many of us experienced at their age. Alongside the many positives of being connected online, there are also pressures and challenges that we want our students to feel equipped to navigate confidently. Having trusted organisations such as the Naked Truth Project working alongside us is an important part of this. Their visits complement the work already taking place through our PSHE curriculum and wider safeguarding education, helping us to open conversations that can continue at school and at home. A huge thank you to the Naked Truth Project team for spending time with our students and for helping us support them to make healthy, informed and respectful choices.

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Digital Learning & IT Systems at The Gryphon

We use a range of digital systems to help students and parents keep up to date with learning, homework and school information. Microsoft Teams is used by students to access and complete homework, while parents receive a weekly email summary of homework set. Please note, sadly there is no way for parents to have direct access to Microsoft Teams currently, but we hope the weekly email helps you support your child. Arbor gives parents access to key information about their child, including attendance, behaviour, grades and reports, as well as important messages from school. Please note, we do not send SMS text messages anymore, and Arbor will be the main messaging service for important updates, as well as email and our social media channels. If you are having difficulty accessing any of our systems, need help setting up an account, or would like further guidance, please visit our **Parent & Guardian Zone**. Here you will find links to Arbor and other school services, along with useful guides and support information: **https://www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk/parent-guardian-zone**

School Chromebooks

Do you have a school-owned Chromebook at home that is no longer being used? We have several students who would benefit from having access to a device, so we would be very grateful if any unused school Chromebooks could be returned to Reception FAO Mr Miles. Returning unused devices means we can get them back into the hands of students who need them and help ensure that everyone is able to access their learning from home. Thank you for helping us keep our students connected.

Stay Connected with LIFE @ The Gryphon

Keep up to date with the latest news, events, achievements and opportunities from across The Gryphon School by following us on Facebook and Instagram. We regularly share updates from school life, student successes, important reminders and a glimpse of what is happening across our community. Follow us to make sure you don't miss what's going on.

Smart Technology in School

A reminder to all parents and carers that, in line with our school expectations, smart technology is not permitted in school. This includes smartwatches and other connected wearable devices, as well as emerging technologies such as smart glasses. These devices can create significant safeguarding, privacy and distraction concerns, and therefore must not be brought into or used on the school site. We would be grateful for parents' support in ensuring that students arrive at school without these devices. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, focused and respectful learning environment for everyone.

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Key Dates for the next Half-Term

- Thursday 5th November Y13 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Tuesday 10th – Tuesday 17th November Y11 Mock Exams 1
- Tuesday 1st December – Adventurous Training Awards Evening
- Wednesday 2nd December – Y7 Disco organised by Y12
- Thursday 3rd December – Y7 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Friday 4th December – Y7 Diversity Day
- Monday 7th – Friday 11th December Y13 Mock Exams 1
- Thursday 10th December – Y11 Brown Envelope Day
- Tuesday 15th December The Gryphon School Carol Service in Sherborne Abbey
- Thursday 17th December Last Day of Term (finish at 2pm)

Yours faithfully,

Jim Gower
Headteacher
The Gryphon School