



*Y11 external exams have finished this week, and many of our Year 11s chose to celebrate by attending our Prom in Dudley; it was lovely to see them enjoying the 'freedom' following all of their hard work over the last few weeks. A small number of our Year 13s still have their Further Maths' exam on Monday, and then their summer of external exams will be complete too; we wish them all the best, too, in enjoying their time before starting apprenticeships or starting university courses. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our Year 10 cohort back into school on Monday following their week on Work Experience; it will be great to hear about the experiences of those who have been out of school on placements, and students who completed their experience in school have taken part in a huge range of learning opportunities.*

*Some members of Year 7 and Year 10 have been to Redditch today to participate in the Trust Sports' Day; they have been wonderful ambassadors for us. One of the many benefits of being part of our Trust are these collaborative opportunities where students are able to work with, learn with and from and compete with others from other schools. Sport plays a key role in our work at school; the Euros have proved extremely popular as a topic of conversation and a much-sought after reward to watch matches through our ClassCharts' reward programme. Students have also been learning about the teams competing at Euro 2024 through tutor time activities this week.*

*As the second half of the summer term continues, we move towards welcoming our new Year 7 cohort. Year 6 SEND learners from local primaries who are joining us in September have begun their transition process and spent Wednesday morning in school to support their induction. School staff are visiting all of our new Year 7 students at their primary schools, and preparations are well underway for their induction days.*

*A reminder to our Year 10 and Year 12 parents and carers that it is our 'Year Ahead' evening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June; please follow the link sent in the letter last week if you wish to attend. We will also provide paper copies of the letter to all of our Year 10 and 12 students on Monday so you can send in a paper copy of the reply slip if you prefer to do so.*

*As always, a huge thank you for your ongoing support; please get in touch via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if you have any questions or observations.*

### **Upcoming Dates**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June – HPV & DTP Catch-Up Session  
 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – SEND 'Have a Go' Event, Tipton Sports Academy  
 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Post 16 UCAS Trip, Birmingham NEC  
 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 SEND Dunstall Racecourse Trip  
 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 and Year 12 'Year Ahead' Evening  
 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 SEND Transition Day, 1pm – 2.40pm  
 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – U13 Boys Cricket, Sandwell Academy  
 Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Black Country Finals Qualifiers, University of Wolverhampton  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 10 Alton Towers Trip  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 6 Transition Day  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Class Charts Support Evening, 5pm-6:30pm  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Transition Day  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Transition Evening, 6pm – 7:30pm  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Year 10 Art Gallery Visit  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day

### **Assembly Themes**

Assembly focus this week was National Sports Week

w/c 24/06 – Expectations

w/c 01/07 – Learning from failure

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.



## Year 10 Alton Towers Trip

Could all parent/carers of our Year 10 students please return your son / daughters consent form by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in order for them to attend their trip on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.

If you need copies of the consent form then please ask your son / daughter to obtain from either Mr Wilson (Year Team Lead) or Mrs Clee (Head of Year).



### Creative Arts Showcase

We are pleased to announce the date of our Creative Arts showcase, taking place on Tuesday 9th July at 4:30pm which will feature a selection of Art, Photography and DT work from across all year groups. The event will also include light refreshments prepared by our very talented Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students

Students whose work has been featured will receive personalised invitations to the event via letter or email, this event is open to family and carers, staff and governors too.

### SEND Transition

Some year 6 to 7 students visited Gospel Oak school on the morning of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, they had a tour of the school, some time in the HIVE and were able to meet Joanna Leek from Discover Entertainment who wowed them with her extraordinary stilt walking skills! Thank you to all the students who spent the morning with us - we are very much looking forward to welcoming all our new intake in September 24.





**Thursday 27th June**

Mojo Pulled Chicken or Pork  
Baguettes

Vegetable Picadillo

**&**

Arroz Con Leche

Aspens  
☺☺☺☺



**Please join us for a Cuban  
delight on Thursday 27th  
June!**

**Main Meals only  
£2.20**

**Meal deal  
(includes dessert)  
£2.50**

Aspens  
☺☺☺☺



To: All Parents / Carers

**Gospel Oak School**

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

**Our Ref:** PG.KH.3025

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: The Importance of Safeguarding and Online Safety**

In today's rapidly evolving digital world, ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, both in the physical and online environments is of utmost importance. As a school, we are committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

Safeguarding goes beyond protecting children from physical harm; it encompasses their emotional, psychological, and digital well-being. As students become more proficient at using technology, they encounter both opportunities and risks online. These can range from exposure to inappropriate content and cyberbullying to privacy concerns and online predators.

To address these challenges, we must equip our students with the knowledge and tools they require to navigate the world safely. At the same time, we recognise that parents/carers play a crucial role in reinforcing these safety practices at home.

To support you in this essential task, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new fortnightly updates on safeguarding and online safety. These updates will include:

1. **Educational Resources:** Articles, videos, and tips to help you understand the latest concerns in safeguarding and online safety and how to discuss these topics with your son/daughter.
2. **School Initiatives:** Information on any programs and measures we will be implementing at school to promote a safe learning environment.
3. **Parental Guidance:** Practical advice on managing digital devices, setting up parental controls, and fostering open communication about online activities.
4. **Workshops and Events:** Invitations to upcoming webinars, workshops, and events focused on safeguarding and online safety both in school and within the community.

We believe that through regular communication and collaboration, we can create a robust support system for our students. These updates will be sent to you via EZINE, with the first update being on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. This information will also be accessible on our school's website.

We are excited about this initiative and are confident that it will make a significant positive impact on our students. Together, we can ensure that our students are not only safe but also empowered to make responsible and informed choices both in person and online.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this crucial aspect of our students' education and well-being.

Kind regards,



**Parm Grewal**  
**Vice Principal – Designated Safeguarding Lead**



To: Yr 12 Parents / Carers

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Post 16 Trust Sports Day**

I am writing to inform you that on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Gospel Oak School will host the first Trust wide Post 16 Sports day at Tipton Sports Academy.

Students should arrive at school as normal at 8:30am and will be escorted over to the Sports Academy by staff. All students must wear sports attire that is appropriate for the weather on the day. Please make sure that your son/daughter does not arrive to school in anything deemed inappropriate e.g strappy tops, t-shirts with inappropriate slogans etc. If they do, they will be sent home by the year team to change.

Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch as we will be at the Sports Academy all day and they will not be able to purchase food and drink there. Please make sure that your son/daughter has enough food and drink to keep them energised and hydrated throughout the day, especially if it is hot. Students entitled to free school meals will be given a grab bag from school. These will be distributed to students during lunchtime. Also, please make sure your son/daughter has applied appropriate sun protection and taken any medication required e.g. hay fever tablets, before school on the day. Students are permitted to wear a suitable hat on the day this should be black in colour where possible.

If your son/daughter has any medical conditions which require medication to be taken throughout the day, please make sure they inform their tutor and bring any medication required across to Tipton Sports Academy. We have a medical policy we need to follow.

At 3.00pm, all students will be dismissed from Tipton Sports Academy.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs R Quirk**  
**Vice Principal**

**Gospel Oak School**

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Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

**Our Ref:** RQ.KH.3031

**Your Ref:**



To: Parents/Carers

**Gospel Oak School**

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

**Our Ref:** SBO.KH.3035

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Absence Recording**

I am writing to explain that we are making some minor changes to our procedure for you letting us know if your son/daughter is absent from school. From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, could you please let us know by 8.30am and only use the Arbor app to let us know. We have added the guidance to this letter.

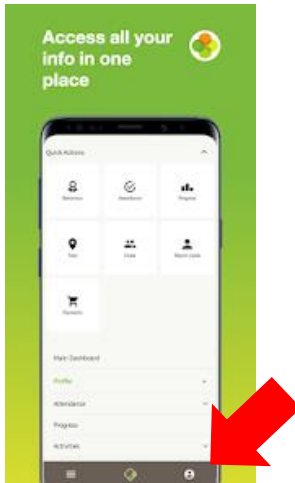
Alternatively, you can call 0121 556 1351 and speak to one of our attendance officers.

I would also like to take the opportunity to let you know that from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, any student who is absent from school, parents/carers will receive a call from a member of staff every day they are absent. For most students on the third day, a member of staff will conduct a home visit to ensure the students is safe and well. If we do not see the students, we will be escalating to an external agency as the safety of our students is paramount.

**Arbor Parent Absence Reporting**

To report your son's/daughter's absence from school on a daily basis, you will need to log into your Arbor App as normal and follow the step's below: -

1. If you have more than one son/daughter attending Gospel Oak School, you will need to choose which son/daughter that you are reporting absence for. If both, then you will need to report the absences separately.
2. When you are on your son's/daughter's profile to the bottom right-hand corner of the screen there is a white circle that you will need to press: -



1. Once pressed, then click onto messages
2. Press green box "Send New Message"
3. Type message you wish to send
4. Lastly press green box "Send Message"
5. We will then receive your message and update our records.

If your son/daughter is required to attend a medical or dental appointment, please ensure, where possible, that this is made out of school hours. Medical evidence, such as screenshot, letters or appointment cards will need to be uploaded to Arbor. Any medical appointments that are not supported with evidence, may be coded as O (unauthorised absence).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Bott".

**Miss S Bott**  
**Vice Principal**



To: Yr 9 Parents/Carers

**Gospel Oak School**

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

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W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

**Our Ref:** HT.KH.3034

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Design Technology (DT): Product Design**

Over the course of the past few months we have been reviewing the courses that we offer at key stage 4 so that there is a clear progression route into key stage 5. Last academic year we changed our key stage 5 course offered within the design faculty to 3D design. This enabled more students to be able to access the course and we saw increased numbers of students choosing to stay on and study within our sixth form. We have therefore now taken the decision to swap the key stage 4 course offered from **design technology (DT): product design** to **3D design** ([AQA | Art and Design | Subject content | Three-dimensional design](#)). The new course covers a wider range of design elements and includes product design. Current Year 10 students will continue with the design technology: product design course into Year 11. However we will start teaching this new course to **Year 10 students in September 2024**.

We are excited to have appointed 2 new members of staff to strengthen the design team and their experiences and that of the existing team will complement the different elements of the course. Ultimately, we believe this course will enable our students to achieve better outcomes in this area of the curriculum. Unlike the product design course, there are **no written examinations at the end of the course** and instead students will be required to produce a **portfolio of evidence and a response to an externally set assignment**.

For many students this has not affected their option choices, as we will just transfer them onto this new course. However, a very small number of students opted to study both art and design and design and technology but due to the nature of the new course they cannot be studied together. As a result of the subject change, we will be speaking to these students effected individually over the course of the next week to discuss their options. They will have the choice to either study 3D design or art and design or potentially look at other subjects that may be open to them from the blocks that have now been created.

Once we have had these conversations we will be in the position to confirm the 4 subject choices of all students in writing in readiness for the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Tanner**  
**Senior Vice Principal**



To: Parents/Carers

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21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

**Our Ref:** SBO.KH.3038

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Mobile Phones in School**

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a conducive learning environment for all students, we are addressing the issue of mobile phone usage within the school premises. Whilst we understand the convenience and utility of mobile phones in today's world, we believe that implementing restrictions on their usage during school hours is essential for several important reasons.

1. Minimising Distractions - Mobile phones can be a significant source of distraction for students, diverting their attention away from classroom. By limiting mobile phone usage, we aim to create a focused learning environment where students can fully engage with their academic studies.
2. Promoting Social Interaction - Excessive use of mobile phones can hinder face-to-face communication and social interaction among students. By encouraging students to refrain from using their phones during school hours, we hope to foster meaningful interpersonal relationships and communication skills.
3. Preventing Academic Dishonesty - Mobile phones present opportunities for academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams or accessing unauthorised materials during assessments. By restricting mobile phone usage, we aim to uphold academic integrity and promote fair practices.
4. Ensuring Student Safety - Constant access to mobile phones can create challenges in monitoring students' online activities and ensuring their safety. By limiting mobile phone usage during school hours, we can better supervise students and mitigate potential risks associated with inappropriate online behaviour or cyberbullying.
5. Encouraging Personal Responsibility - Learning to manage distractions and prioritise tasks is an important life skill. By establishing clear guidelines regarding mobile phone usage, we empower students to develop self-discipline and personal responsibility in managing their technology usage.

We recognise that there may be instances where students require access to mobile phones for emergency purposes or specific educational activities. In such cases, we encourage parents to communicate directly with the school via reception. **From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Gospel Oak will be a no phone school. What we mean by this is that we do not expect to see mobile phones. Staff will be working with students, to remind them that phones should not be seen and the reasons why. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, if mobile phones are seen or heard, staff will be confiscating the mobile phone. We have moved this date, as we do not want to be in a position where we have to confiscate mobile phones. Therefore, this gives us more time to communicate this message to students.**

Please find attached our updated mobile phone policy.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in supporting our efforts to create a focused and conducive learning environment for all students. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a place where academic excellence thrives and students flourish both academically and socially.

Kind regards,



**Miss S Bott**  
**Vice Principal**



# Gospel Oak School

## Mobile Phone Policy

### Rationale

Gospel Oak School recognises that mobile phones are a feature of modern society. This policy refers to mobile phones throughout, but also applies to all electronic devices (eg smart watches) that may be used in similar ways.

### Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy

It is our policy to allow students to have a mobile phone with them in school should they choose to do so under the conditions outlined in the policy below:

- Phones must not be used for any purpose (eg phoning, texting, using the internet, taking photos, checking the time, using it as a calculator, taking videos etc) on the school site.
- Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view.

### Breaches of these conditions will result in the following:

- The phone will be confiscated and taken to reception. If it is the first breach, then the phone will be given back to the student at the end of the day.
- For subsequent breaches, parents/carers will be required to collect the confiscated item from school on behalf of their son/daughter. If it is not possible for a parent/carer to collect the phone, then it will be released to the student from whom it was confiscated at the end of 5 working days. Any further or serious breaches of the conditions will result in confiscation for up to six weeks (including weekends and school holidays).
- Students who breach these rules will also be subject to sanctions under the 'Behaviour Policy'. This includes refusal to comply with appropriate confiscation which will be treated as an incident of defiance. Continual or serious breaches of the conditions could result in suspension from school.

### Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy (Years 12 & 13)

Students in Years 12 and 13 are subject to the same conditions as those outlined above, with the exception that they are allowed to use their phones during the school day in the Sixth Form common room only (not classrooms). They should not be used in other areas of school.

### Mobile phones and examinations

Phones must not be taken into examinations. The possession of a mobile phone, smart watch or any other electronic devices in an examination room, whether switched on or not is an offence under JCQ regulations. This can lead to disqualification from some or all of an examination series, regardless of whether there is a proven intent to cheat.

### Malicious use

- If a user of a mobile phone receives any communication that could be portrayed as menacing, causing harassment or offence to others, they should report it to a member of staff immediately.
- It is a criminal offence under Section 43 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988 to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may involve the police should such an action occur.



### **Searching a phone**

In line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), staff may search a phone, including examining data and files, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence has been committed or there may be evidence of personal injury or damage to property. Further details on searching, screening and confiscation and a link to the regulations from the DfE can be found in the 'Behaviour Policy'.

### **Sharing nude and semi-nude images**

Making, possessing and distributing any imagery of someone under 18 which is 'indecent' is illegal. This includes imagery of yourself if you are under 18. All incidents and suspected incidents will be investigated as a safeguarding matter in line with our 'Safeguarding Children Policy (including Child Protection)' and most recent government guidance:

[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people)  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

### **Emergencies**

If a student needs to contact his/her parents/carers they will be allowed to use a school phone. If parents/carers need to contact students urgently they should phone reception and a message will be relayed promptly.

### **Security for mobile phones and other valuables**

The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile devices, nor for theft, loss or damage to any other valuable item, or for the theft or loss of money. It is the responsibility of parents/carers and students to ensure mobile phones and other valuables are insured.