



Year 6s joined us on Wednesday and Thursday this week for two fabulous days of transition. They have had an excellent opportunity to really get to know the school building – it is a lot bigger than their primary schools! – and to experience lessons, breaks, lunches and generally start to understand our routines. Thursday night, too, saw us welcome in their parents and carers; for many, this was not their first visit to the school as they have been here previously for open evenings or have other daughters or sons in the school, whilst for others it was their first experience of Gospel Oak. We very much look forward to working with all of our parents and carers in the coming weeks, months and years to secure the best possible outcomes for our students. We are incredibly proud of our Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 students, along with our new Year 7 Year Team, for the fabulous induction experience they provided.

Year 10s spent Wednesday at Alton Towers; this was a great opportunity for them to have some time with their friends after what has been a very busy – and exciting – time for them with both their first full experience of ‘mock exams’ earlier this term and their recent Work Experience. Hard work must, though, continue as students move ever closer to their Year 11. Teaching staff will be giving Year 10 students ‘Summer Holiday Learning Packs’ in lessons next week, all designed to support progress next year; please encourage your daughter or son in the completion of these packs. A number of our students also spent the day at The Hawthorns following interventions to support their learning in school. Year 10 Art students had a great time at Wolverhampton Gallery as they develop their wider knowledge to support their GCSE subjects. We are very grateful for the work of our staff in facilitating these additional opportunities.

Sports’ Day today (Friday) has been another brilliant experience; thank you to our PE Department who provided a huge range of opportunities – a ‘traditional’ track and field event at Tipton Sports Academy, along with dodgeball, rounders, novelty events and quizzes in school – for our students. These events take such a lot of organisation - and are so often at the mercy of the weather which has been kind to us this year - and such important parts of the school experience for our students. So many of our students excel in this environment, and we understand just how important it is for different opportunities to succeed to be provided. Year 12 students did a brilliant job, too, of supporting the organisation at Tipton Sports Academy.

All Year 7 to 10 students have seen a return to line-ups this week to support the continued development of positive routines around school. Uniform has been a key focus of this; the recent warm weather saw a decline in the uniform standards for some students and it has been important to ensure that standards are maintained for a professional working and learning environment. As always, the vast majority of our students have attended school smartly dressed and ready to learn; parents and carers have been made aware where adjustments in line with our school uniform policy were required. Please visit [Gospel Oak School - Uniform](#) if clarification is needed around this.

A reminder, too, about the strategies we are employing to improve communication as the new system takes a little time to embed; please do ensure that all email communication to the school goes through [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#). Please do not email individual members of staff; the ‘Contact Us’ is monitored every day and our processes for responding to these emails are outlined on the website. A huge thank you to the many parents and carers who are using the new system as we work together to improve processes.

Have a lovely weekend; we know that many countries represented in our school community are still involved in Euro 2024, and we hope it will be a successful weekend for those of you with strong allegiances!

### Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Art Exhibition  
 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Parent / Carer Forum  
 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Award Evening  
 Friday 12 July – P16 Trust Sports Day, Tipton Sports Academy  
 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Yr10 Photography Workshop  
 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Summerfest

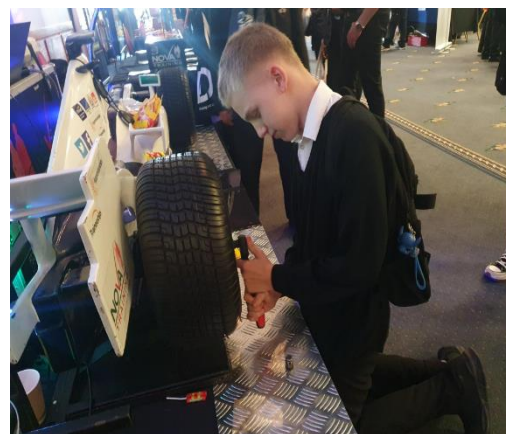
### Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Learning from failure  
 w/c 08/07 – International Day of Friendship  
 w/c 15/07 – Keeping Safe Over Summer / End of Year Rewards  
 Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

### Communication with School

Please remember that all email communication to school must go through the 'Contact Form' on the school website; you are invited here to let us know the reason for your enquiry so that we can ensure that it is directed to the relevant member/s of staff and monitor that your communication is replied to. Full details about this were included in a letter in the eZine dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 ([Gospel Oak School - E-Zine 07/06/24](#)). Emails may be missed if this system is not used. If you have any feedback about this, please do contact us via the Contact Form - [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) – selecting the year group of your daughter or son as your reason for enquiry.

### SEND Visit to Dunstall Park



Just Youth website: Transition advice for children and parents

The Just Youth website transition pages have launched to support both children and parents through the move from primary to secondary school <https://www.justyouth.org.uk/transition/>

# Moving to Secondary School?

Moving from primary to secondary school is a big time in your life. You may feel excited, worried or even a bit of both.

**This is completely normal.**

Do you want to look at some useful links to videos or websites?

They may help to answer any questions you might have about your transition to secondary school.

Do you feel like you need some advice about moving to secondary school?

It may help you to calm your nerves about starting secondary school.

Visit [www.justyouth.org.uk/transition](https://www.justyouth.org.uk/transition) for more information!

Remember that there are lots of people you can speak to for help - your teachers, your parents / carers, your siblings and your friends too!

# Is your child moving to Secondary School?

Moving from primary to secondary school is a big time in yours and your child's life.

Do you want some useful links to videos and websites for you and your child to look at?

Do you want to know what you need to do and when, to ensure a smooth transition to secondary school?

Do you need some advice about how to support your child on their journey?

Do you need to know the process you need to follow to apply for your child's place at secondary school?

Visit [www.justyouth.org.uk/transition](https://www.justyouth.org.uk/transition) for more information!



# SPDC SUMMER 2024

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It's nearly the summer holidays, so, to help you all make the most of them SPDC have a whole range of activities on offer. Before we get to the details of the activities, we would ask you to read the following information carefully so that we can ensure that we are able to offer opportunities to all those who want to take part.

### WHO CAN ACCESS SPDC ACTIVITIES?

Families who care for a disabled child or young person, who live in the Borough of Sandwell and are registered with SPDC.

### ACTIVITIES LABELLED 4-11 & 11-18 YEARS

Activities offered under these heading are primarily for your disabled child or young person. That said, you can request a sibling place at the time of booking and we will do our best to accommodate such requests but, unfortunately, we are unable to prioritise bookings for siblings over disabled children. Although parent carers are required to stay on the premises for the duration of these activities, short breaks from your caring responsibilities are offered in the form of a chance to meet other parent carers, to enjoy a drink and a snack or to simply sit quietly whilst your child takes part in the session.

### HELP US TO OFFER SERVICES TO AS MANY FAMILIES AS POSSIBLE

Our activities are very popular and are usually oversubscribed. When booking please list the activities you are interested in attending in order of preference. We do operate waiting lists. Therefore, if we offer you a place(s) on an activity, it is really important that you let us know if you are unable to attend, by not doing so you may be preventing another child or family attending that activity.

### ACTIVITIES LABELLED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Activities offered under this heading are aimed at all members of the family including siblings and parent carers. As well as children, parent carers may take part in an activity under this heading, or may choose to watch their children take part. Please let us know at the time of booking if parent carers want to take part in this.

### THE BOOKING PROCESS

Email your booking to [spdcbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcbooking@sp-dc.org) remembering to include the date/s that you are interested in if there is more than one session. You will receive an email confirming the places you have been allocated. To enable us to process your booking efficiently, we will not accept bookings after 9am on Tuesday 2nd July.





# 4-11 YEARS DISABLED CHILD ONLY

### HORSERIDING & GROOMING

SANDWELL VALLEY RIDING CENTRE, WIGMORE FARM, WIGMORE LANE, WEST BROMWICH, B71 3SU

WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY  
THURSDAY 25TH JULY  
TUESDAY 30TH JULY  
THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE 10AM-12PM

ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH THE STUNNING HORSES AT THE FARM, HAVE FUN TREKKING AND GET A TASTE OF HOW TO CARE FOR THESE ANIMALS.

### TOBOGGANING

GOLDEN HILLOCK ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B11 2PY

TUESDAY 6TH AUGUST

WHO NEEDS SNOW, JOIN US FOR A SESSION OF TOBOGGANING DOWN THE DRY SLOPE AT ACKERS. 2 SESSIONS AT 10AM-11:00 AND 11:00AM-12:00PM. PLEASE STATE YOUR PREFERENCE WHEN BOOKING. THERE WILL BE A CHANCE FOR YOU TO HAVE A DRINK AND A SNACK, CHILL AFTER YOUR SESSION HAS ENDED. LONG SLEEVES AND TROUSERS, SENSIBLE SHOES (TRAINERS, FLAT BOOTS, NO OPEN TOE SANDLES, CROCS).

### CANOEING AT MALTHOUSE

MALTHOUSE STABLES ACTIVITY CENTRE, HURST LANE, TIPTON, DY4 9AB

WEDNESDAY 7TH AUGUST  
WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE 10AM-12PM

ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT GENTLY DOWN THE CANAL! SPDC STAFF AND MALTHOUSE STAFF WANT YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR A RELAXING SESSION ON THE CANAL. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

### REAL ARTS WORKSHOP

WEST SMETHWICK PARK PAVILLION, PARK ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 7JJ

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST

SESSION TAKES PLACE 10AM-12PM

CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS! WE WILL BE JOINED BY REAL ARTS WORKSHOP WHO WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP PRODUCE YOUR VERY OWN MASTERPIECE! SNACKS & DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED







ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE SENT TO [SPDCBOOKING@SP-DC.ORG](mailto:SPDCBOOKING@SP-DC.ORG)

## 11-18 YEARS DISABLED CHILD ONLY

### MIDLAND SAILING

MIDLAND SAILING CLUB, ICKNIELD PORT ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, B16 0AA

**MONDAY 22ND JULY**

THE SESSION TAKES PLACE 10AM-3PM



ENJOY A DAY SAILING AT THE RESERVOIR, UNDER THE SAFE SUPERVISION OF PHIL AND HIS TEAM OF EXPERT INSTRUCTORS ALONG WITH SPDC STAFF.

### HORSERIDING & GROOMING

SANDWELL VALLEY RIDING CENTRE, WIGMORE FARM, WIGMORE LANE, WEST BROMWICH, B71 3SU

**WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY  
THURSDAY 25TH JULY  
TUESDAY 30TH JULY  
THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST**

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE 1PM-3PM

ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH THE STUNNING HORSES AT THE FARM, HAVE FUN TREKKING AND GET A TASTE OF HOW TO CARE FOR THESE ANIMALS.



### CANOEING AT MALHOUSE

MALHOUSE STABLES ACTIVITY CENTRE, HURST LANE, TIPTON, DY4 9AB

**WEDNESDAY 7TH AUGUST  
WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST**

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE 1PM-3PM

ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT GENTLY DOWN THE CANAL!

SPDC STAFF AND MALHOUSE STAFF WANT YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR A RELAXING SESSION ON THE CANAL. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!



### REAL ARTS WORKSHOP

WEST SMETHWICK PARK PAVILLION, PARK ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 7JJ

**FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST**

THE SESSION TAKES PLACE 1PM-3PM

WE WILL BE JOINED BY REAL ARTS WORKSHOP WHO WILL HELP/GUIDE US TO PRODUCE YOUR VERY OWN MASTERPIECE! SNACKS & DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED





ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE SENT TO [SPDCBOOKING@SP-DC.ORG](mailto:SPDCBOOKING@SP-DC.ORG)

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WELCOME

### HYDRO POOL

PORTWAY LIFESTYLE CENTRE, NEWBURY LANE, OLDBURY B69 1HE

**WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY 10AM-11AM  
WEDNESDAY 7TH AUGUST 10AM-11AM  
WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST 10AM-11AM  
SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST 2PM-3PM  
WEDNESDAY 28TH AUGUST 10AM-11AM**

PLEASE STATE PREFERRED DATE ON BOOKING

THESE THERAPEUTIC SESSIONS ARE AIMED AT FAMILIES THAT HAVE CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PMLD OR COMPLEXED NEEDS AND FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCESS OTHER ACTIVITIES.

### OAK HOUSE FUN!

OAK HOUSE MUSEUM, OAK HOUSE ROAD, WEST BROMWICH, B70 8HJ

**FRIDAY 9TH AUGUST**

SHOW STARTS AT 12PM-3PM

JOIN SPDC TO ENJOY THE SLEEPING SEEDS OPEN AIR SHOW, FOLLOWED BY A CHANCE TO PLANT SEEDS IN A PLANT POT DESIGNED AND CREATED BY YOU!

SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE INTERVAL BUT WHY NOT BRING ALONG A PICNIC!



### FAMILY TRIP TO WESTON

**THURSDAY 15TH AUGUST**

LEAVING FROM GALTON VALLEY CHILDRENS CENTRE, GREAT ARTHUR STREET, SMETHWICK, B66 1DH AT 8.30AM PROMPT & LEAVING WESTON AT 5PM

TAKE A COACH TRIP TO THE SEASIDE, ENJOY BEACH GAMES WITH SPDC STAFF OR TAKE A STROLL ALONG THE PIER FOR FISH & CHIPS!



### SYCAMORE ADVENTURE

SYCAMORE GREEN, DUDLEY, DY1 3QE

**MONDAY 19TH AUGUST**

SESSION TAKES PLACE 11AM-2PM

ENJOY AN EXCLUSIVE SESSION WITH SPDC. SYCAMORE ADVENTURE OFFERS A SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING, CRAFTS, GAMES, SENSORY PLAY AND INDOOR FUN. ALL IN A SAFE & SECURE ENVIRONMENT.

THE CAFE WILL BE OPEN FOR DRINKS BUT WHY NOT BRING A PICNIC!





ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE SENT TO [SPDCBOOKING@SP-DC.ORG](mailto:SPDCBOOKING@SP-DC.ORG)



**FAMILY ACTIVITIES**  
**IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS**  
**WELCOME**

**LIVE DANCE PERFORMANCE AT FORGE MILL**  
FORGE MILL FARM, FORGE LANE, WEST BROMWICH, B71 3SZ  
**TUESDAY 20TH AUGUST**  
SHOW STARTS AT 6PM-8PM  
STREET GAMES BY AUTIN DANCE THEATRE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BLACK COUNTRY TOURING WILL BE JOINING US FOR A LIVE DANCE PERFORMANCE WHICH WILL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF YOUR VERY OWN DANCE MOVES!  
HOT DOGS WILL BE ON OFFER AND A CHANCE TO EXPLORE FORGE MILL FARM & TAKE AN EVENING TRACTOR RIDE.

**SPDC ACTIVE AFTERNOON**  
TIPTON SPORTS ACADEMY, WEDNESBURY OAK ROAD, TIPTON, DY4 OBS  
**TUESDAY 27TH AUGUST**  
STARTS AT 1PM-3PM  
JOIN SPDC ON OUR VERY OWN ACTIVE AFTERNOON!  
WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO CONVINCE PARENTS TO JOIN IN!  
SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE AFTERNOON BUT WHY NOT BRING ALONG A PICNIC!  
EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE FOR TAKING PART!

**CONTACT US!**  
SANDWELL PARENTS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN  
GALTON VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
GREAT ARTHUR STREET  
SMETHWICK  
B66 1DH  
TEL: 0121 565 2410  
EMAIL: [INFO@SP-DC.ORG](mailto:INFO@SP-DC.ORG)  
CHARITY REG: 1125576

**DIANE**  
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR  
07594 486930

**GARY**  
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR  
07763 593877

**Sandwell**  
Children's Trust

THE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES FUND | Funded by UK Government | Community Development Finance Fund | West Midlands Combined Authority | heart of sandwell | LEADERSHIP

**SPDC**  
SANDWELL PARENTS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN  
GALTON VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE



To: All Parents / Carers

5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Staffing**

In my last few communications, I have talked about ensuring that we have consistent and visible teaching staff at Gospel Oak School. I am delighted to announce the appointment of another new teacher for September 2024 onwards which means that we will be fully staffed. This will significantly reduce the use of agency and supply staff but, most importantly, provide our students with the consistency and visibility of teachers that they deserve. In addition to the staff I have already written to you about I am delighted that Mr Norford will join us in September 2024 as a teacher of art and design.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know about some internal staff changes: Miss Nutting (vice principal) will take over as the SENCO from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024; and we have made the following appointments:

- Mr Field and Miss Thacker as the joint directors of learning and standards-PE;
- Mr Jones as the assistant director of learning and standards-RE; and
- Miss Southworth as the director of learning and standards-social sciences/business, computing and IT.

Naturally there are always staff that move on and at the end of term we will see the following teachers leave Gospel Oak School: Mrs Carter (teacher of art), Mr Holt (teacher of design and technology), Mrs Nash (SENCO) and Mr Paskin (director of learning and standards-PE). I would like to thank them for their many great contributions at Gospel Oak School and wish them all the best for the future.

I am looking forward to the school being fully staffed in September 2024, further reducing the use of agency and supply staff but, most importantly, providing our students with the consistency and visibility of teachers that they deserve.

Please do contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr S Brownlow**  
Executive Principal

centralregionschooltrust.co.uk  
[info@centralsacademies.co.uk](mailto:info@centralsacademies.co.uk)  
@CRSTrust  
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W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

**Our Ref:** SBr.KH.3024

**Your Ref:**

## Changes to Aspens food prices from Sept 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Our catering provider is Aspens and further information can be found on our schools' websites in the catering link.

Central Region Schools Trust and Aspens appreciate that continuing inflation in the cost of food presents a significant challenge for us all. Whilst there are signs that this beginning to ease, the cost of food has risen by 25% overall in the last two years, including a further 7% this year.

As a result of this, we are no longer able to offer the current food and drink prices next year and so unfortunately, the price of a meal will increase from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 to £2.60 per day and the price of a number of other items on the menu will also increase. We are not looking at a blanket approach but instead targeting specific products and avoiding healthier items where possible.

Across our Trust, we are committed to securing best value for money. We regularly review our tariffs with Aspens. If or when we see inflation fall, prices stabilise and reduce, we will ensure future tariffs take account of this. In addition, Aspens have committed to increasing the number of promotions offered as part of their commitment to offering strong value for money to our schools.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ian Mellor  
Executive Principal  
Central Region Schools Trust



Mark Simpson  
Regional Operations Manager  
Aspens