



It was World Mental Health Day on Thursday 10th October, and all students have received praise comments from their form tutors this week. Looking after our mental health is key to a happy and successful life and physical activity and involvement in activities beyond the classroom are a great way to do this; there are many additional opportunities at school and details of many of these can be found by visiting [Gospel Oak School - Extra-Curricular](#). A reminder to all that there are many useful resources on [Home - Kooth](#) and [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#) to support our students and community. It is so important to ask for help when we need it; and so important that we look out for each other and offer support if we think it may be needed. Please do keep talking to your daughter or son, and let us know if we can support in any way.

Worrying about exams is often an area that students raise, and we are moving rapidly towards mock examination season for our Year 11 and Year 13 students; [Exam Stress | How To Deal with Exam Stress | YoungMinds](#) provides useful guidance, and there are a number of resources on GCSEPod - [GCSE Learning and Revision | GCSEPod](#) – which also help. Year 11 and Year 13 students should be revising now for their mock examinations, and guidance has been provided to help them with this. Revision techniques are explicitly taught in school; Year 11 students have information about what to revise ([Y11-Mock-Information-for-Students.339841343.docx \(live.com\)](#)) and Year 13 teachers are explaining to their students in lessons about what needs to be studied. As we move to such a crucial part of the year for Year 11s, a reminder again that it is our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 24th October, 6-8pm; we hope to see many of our Year 11s with their parents and carers on this evening to showcase the fantastic opportunities available for our Post-16 students.

October is Black History Month, and a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students have delivered a fantastic assembly on 'Reclaiming Narratives'; please take the time to explore [Black History Month 2024](#).

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the work of the school. Please remember that [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should be used to contact us as this enables us to track our communications with you and ensure that you are getting the support you request; a huge thank you to parents and carers who do use this. We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 16th October – Year 7 and 8 Utilita Girls Cup 2024

Thursday 17th October – Year 7 Settling In Evening

Friday 18th October – Flu Vaccinations – All Years

Thursday 24th October – Year 9 and 10 Alton Towers Trip

Thursday 24th October – Year 12 RSC Visit - Othello

Thursday 24th October – Post 16 Open Evening

Friday 25th October – Teacher Training Day

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Black History Month

w/c 14/10 – Anti-Bullying

w/c 21/10 - Rewards

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



The poster features a dark blue background with a red top section. At the top right is the Gospel Oak School crest. The main text is centered: 'POST 16' in white, 'OPEN EVENING' in red, '24TH OCTOBER 2024' in white, and '6.00-8.00' in white. Below the text are three circular images: a student working on a project, the school entrance, and two students talking. A yellow starburst contains the text: 'All student attendees will be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 love to shop voucher'. At the bottom, there is an orange bar with the email 'sixthformenquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk' and the phone number '0121 5561351'.

POST 16
OPEN EVENING
24TH OCTOBER 2024
6.00-8.00

Come along to the Post 16 Open Evening for advice and guidance on Post 16

All student attendees will be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 love to shop voucher

sixthformenquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk 0121 5561351

Sixth Form

We have had another productive week in Sixth form with all students working hard and completing extra studies. The Student Ambassadors are campaigning this week and the decision for which charity we will be supporting will be announced next week.

Reminder – To be completing Uplearn, Everlearn and Senica.

Your Sincerely

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Farah F

Year 13 student of the week – Harry F

Year 12 attendance - 87.8 %

Year 13 attendance – 92.1 %

Events –

16th October - Unifrog event Online – students are invited to meet 40 universities in two hours online – giving practical advice from the experts to help them get a step closer to their dream university.

24th October - Post 16 Open evening 6.00pm -8.00pm

ANTI-KNIFE CRIME DESIGN A T-SHIRT COMPETITION

In partnership with **EUROX**
safety and workwear solutions

As Sandwell are welcoming the Knife Angel this October, Sandwell Youth Service are inviting any young person residing in Sandwell aged 11-19 years (up to 25 years for those with SEND) to take part in a anti knife-crime T-shirt design competition.

Follow these simple steps to enter the competition:

1. Visit the Just Youth website and download the design template to print
2. Illustrate your design (make sure it is in the box!)
3. Fill in your information on the design template
4. Send your design to us:
 - Scan in your design or take a photo of it to email it to:
youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk
 - Post your design or drop it in to:
Coneygre Arts Centre, Tipton, DY4 8UH

For more information about the competition, and to enter, please visit:
WWW.JUSTYOUTH.ORG.UK/KNIFEANGEL

Competition closes on Sunday 20 October 2024



Please complete the below link for your child to receive their vaccine:-
<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/sandwell>



**FLU VACCINES:
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED
TO KNOW**

Vaccination UK will be coming into Gospel Oak School on Friday 18th October 2024 to administer the flu vaccine. Should you wish for your child to receive his / her vaccine then please complete the above link by midnight on Friday 11th October 2024. Please ensure that your son / daughter has no allergies to the vaccine and should you have any queries then please contact Vaccination UK on 0121 592 1110.

Tamworth Arboretum

Year 7 trip to Tamworth Arboretum on Friday 8th November – students will be arriving back to school at normal time.

Year 7 Tamworth Arboretum Trip Friday 8th November 2024



If you wish for your son / daughter to attend our Year 7 Trip to Tamworth Arboretum on Friday 8th November 2024 then could you please return their consent form as a matter of urgency.

The voluntary contribution of £11.00 is required by Friday 25th October 2024 and all payments are to be made via School Gateway.



SPDC Parent Carer Newsletter October 2024

October at a glance!

- Thursday 3rd October
Coffee Shop Stop
- Thursday 10th October
SPVU Session
- Monday 14th October
Zumba with Vince
- Thursday 17th October
Carers M.O.T
(Mindfulness Techniques)
- Sunday 20th October
Soundbath with Jas
- Monday 21st October
Coffee & Craft
- Thursday 24th October
Carers M.O.T week 2
(managing stress & anxiety)

Each Tuesday throughout October
Cost of living Team

Welcome!

What a busy month September has been at SPDC and things are not slowing down, that's for sure!

October promises to be just as packed with, opportunities to meet other parent carers, relaxation and wellbeing, information sessions, plus the odd physical activity.

SPDC are making plans for our Annual General Meeting and craft fayres, giving parent carers the opportunity to both showcase their skills and sell handmade gifts ready for Christmas celebrations.

I am contactable on:
0121 565 2410, 07969 519701 or
email admin@sp-dc.org



Take Care
Claire x

How to book activities!

Please email
spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org to
book activities by
Monday 7th October

October Activities for parent carers



Coffee Shop Stop

Thursday 3rd October 10am-11.30am
The Bellwether, 3-4 Walsall St, Wednesbury, WS10-9BY



The SPDC Coffee Shop Tour continues, so join us at our next stop for a chat, some laughs and a coffee on us. We will also be joined by Carol Wilson from Kaleidoscope to promote the all new Carers M.O.T 6 weeks wellbeing programme on offer to parent carers through SPDC from 17th October 2024.

This is a drop in and you do not have to book!



Sandwell Parent Voice United

Thursday 10th October 10.00am-11.30am
Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur St, Smethwick B66 1DH



SPDC are delighted to welcome Daniel McKenzie from Sandwell Parent Voice United (SPVU) who will be available to discuss their work in areas that have been highlighted amongst parent carers including transport, sendias and much more!

This is also a great opportunity to find out about becoming part of SPVU.

Light refreshments will be available
This is a bookable event.



Zumba with Vince

Monday 14th October 12.10-12.55pm
West Bromwich Leisure Centre, Moor St, West Bromwich B70-7AZ



Back by popular demand, Vince will be providing a lively dance workout for parent carers to enjoy! This will be a 45 minute workout.

We'll meet in reception and the session is to be held in studio 2.
Feel free to socialise in reception afterwards.
Wear comfy clothes, bottled water is provided.

This is a bookable event.

Relaxation Soundbath




Sunday 20th October 10.00am-11.30am
West Smethwick Park Pavillion,

Come and experience a carefully selected sound bath. Relax your mind and body and allow yourself to let go of your stresses and anxieties. The session will be led by local parent carer Jas, who started training as a sound healing practitioner after seeing the positive effect it had on her son's mental health.



All you need to do is, dress in comfy clothes, bring something that you can lie down comfortably on and relax. Whilst lying down is recommended, if that would not work for you, you can still join in sitting on a chair. A cushion or pillow and a blanket might be nice too and there's no shame in falling asleep!

This is a bookable event.



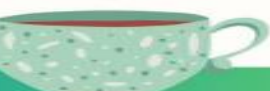
Coffee & Craft

Monday 21st October 10.00am-11.30am
Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66 1DH

Our popular monthly craft session returns again with a session hosted by Cassie, a fellow parent carer. This month we will be exploring wire art. This session is an opportunity to chat with fellow parent carers and staff whilst we craft. If crafting is not your thing, you are still very welcome to join us for a chat.

Refreshments and toast provided!
This is a bookable event.




Email spdcparentcarerbooking@sp-dc.org to book sessions



October Activities for parent carers



Carers M.O.T

Starting Thursday 17th October

Galton Valley Childrens Centre, Great Arthur St, Smethwick B66 1DH



Do you support a family member or friend?
If yes...
Who is supporting YOU?



Join the Kaleidoscope Plus Group team to connect with others in a confidential non-judgemental environment, aiming to end the stigma associated with mental health. Including Self Compassion Workshops helping you to focus on yourself and your own wellbeing.

Our MOT Sessions are a 6 week course to give you the opportunity to 'put your own oxygen mask on first' and gain ways to manage your own mental wellbeing whilst caring for someone else.

The main purpose of these sessions are to raise awareness and encourage self reflection on ways which both the person caring and the person being cared for can improve their life-style in simple stages.

Thursdays 10am-12noon

- 17th October - Mindfulness Techniques
- 24th October - Managing Stress & Anxiety
- 7th November - Self Care Strategies
- 14th November - Nutrition and Diet
- 21st November - Sleep Hygiene & Relaxation
- 28th November - Information & Advice on Sandwell Services (free buffet included)



SANDWELL BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

Galton Valley Childrens Centre
Great Arthur St
Smethwick
B66 1DH



Book your place with Claire Brookes
on 0121 565 2410 or
call Carol on 0121 565 5605

All participants attending the sessions will automatically be offered a free place on our Mental Health Awareness course

This is a bookable event and has been previously advertised and so if you have booked previously, please wait for your confirmation.

SPDC are conscious that not all parent carers can join weekday sessions and so I would appreciate it. If this is you please contact with Claire 0121 565 2410 so we can establish if there is capacity to provide an evening/weekend Carers M.O.T session in the future.



To: Parents/Carers

11th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Black History Month

As we embrace the vibrant and diverse community that our school represents, I am excited to inform you that we will be celebrating Black History Month throughout October.

Black History Month is a time for us to understand and recognise the significant contributions of Black individuals and communities throughout history. It is an opportunity for our students to learn about the rich cultural heritage, achievements and struggles that have shaped our society.

To commemorate this important month, we have planned a series of activities and events that will engage our students and foster a deeper understanding of Black history and culture. These will include:

- Assemblies delivered by students from various backgrounds.
- A poetry competition focusing on this year's Black History Month theme: "Reclaiming Narratives".
- Performances by students focusing on Black history and culture.
- Discussions in lessons around Black history and its impact on different subjects.
- Cultural decorations in the reception area.
- Food served in the canteen as part of the different cultures
- A panel of inspirational black people from the local community for a Q&A session

We believe that these initiatives will not only enhance our students' understanding of Black history but also promote values of respect, empathy and inclusion within our school community.

We invite you to join us in this celebration by discussing the importance of Black history with your children at home. Your support and engagement are vital in helping us create a rich learning environment for all students.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. Together, let us honour the past and inspire the future.

Warm regards,

Mrs C Law
Assistant Principal

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Our Ref: CL.KH.3120

Your Ref:



To: Yr 7, 8 and 9 Parents / Carers

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11th October 2024

Our Ref: SP.KH.3122

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Sparx Learning

We're excited to let you know that we've partnered with Sparx Learning to use their online Reading, Maths & Science platforms.

It's important to us that young people can practice careful, silent reading for a decent amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures us as teachers and parents that focused reading is happening and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.

Sparx Maths & Sparx Science allows students to carefully practice questions based on concepts taught in lessons.

Your son/daughter is now using Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths & Sparx Science to complete at least one task in each of English, Maths & Science fortnightly for homework.

Your son's/daughter's homework will be set on Monday each week and due on the following Sunday.

In Sparx's reader students can choose from an appropriate range of ebooks at their reading level and as they read, they answer questions to check they're reading carefully. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can prove they've been focusing and ultimately climb the league table!

We encourage you to watch a series of short videos, explaining what Sparx Reader is and how it works, available at <https://sparxreader.com/parents/> or by scanning this QR code:



How do they log in?

Students log in at either sparxmaths.com, sparxscience.com or sparxreader.com. They will need to use their school email to log in using Microsoft details which will have been given to them by their form tutor and should be in their planners.

Which devices are supported?

Your son/daughter can access Sparx on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

How can I support my son/daughter with their homework?

Sparx Reader, Maths & Science adapts to each student's level, so it's important that you don't help by answering questions for them.

You can help by providing a quiet space and a set amount of time for your son/daughter to focus on their reading homework each week.

The library is available every day after school if your son/daughter would like to work at school.

The best way to support your son/daughter is to ask them about the homework they have completed and the books they're reading, which aspects they're enjoying, which characters and events they've recently read about or what they think could happen next.

How can I monitor the reading my son/daughter is doing?

You can keep track of your son's/daughter's homework by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email.

On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx Learning system your son/daughter is using.

For Sparx Reader, you can see progress with the current and previous homework's and browse books that your son/daughter has been reading as part of their current homework.

For Sparx Science & Maths you can see what questions your son/daughter has completed.

What support is available at Gospel Oak School?

Students can access support to log in or complete homework on a computer after school in the library each day.

If you have any questions, please contact school via the 'contact us' link on the website.

Kind regards,



Mrs S Pabla
Assistant Principal

Year 11 Exam Masterclasses

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Before school</u>		<u>Psychology, 7.30-8am – LRC (Week A)</u>			
<u>Lunchtime</u>	<u>Art/Photography – S13, F17, G3</u> <u>Dance – Dance Studio</u> <u>Drama – F18</u> <u>Music – F15</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>	<u>Art/Photography – S13, F17, G3</u> <u>Dance – Dance Studio</u> <u>Drama – F18</u> <u>Music – F15</u> <u>RE – F6</u> <u>Sociology – F8</u> <u>Spanish – LRC (Week B)</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>	<u>Art/Photography – S13, F17, G3</u> <u>Dance – Dance Studio</u> <u>Drama – F18</u> <u>Music – F15</u> <u>GCSE PE – F1</u> <u>BTEC Sport – F1</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>	<u>Art/Photography – S13, F17, G3</u> <u>Dance – Dance Studio</u> <u>Drama – F18</u> <u>Music – F15</u> <u>Spanish – LRC (Week A)</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>	<u>Art/Photography – S13, F17, G3</u> <u>Biology – F20</u> <u>Chemistry – F20</u> <u>Combined Science – F20</u> <u>Dance – Dance Studio</u> <u>Drama – F18</u> <u>Music – F15</u> <u>Physics – F20</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>
<u>After-school</u>	<u>Maths – L2</u>	<u>Geography – F12</u> <u>History – G5 (alternate weeks)</u> <u>Hospitality and Catering – F3</u> <u>Maths – L1</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>		<u>Art – F17</u> <u>Drama – F18</u> <u>Maths – L1</u> <u>Product Design – G14 and F17</u> <u>Psychology – G11 (Week B)</u> <u>Statistics – L1</u>	<u>Art – G3</u> <u>GCSE PE – F1 (Week A)</u> <u>Sociology – G12</u> <u>Spanish – S10 (Week B)</u> <u>BTEC Sport – F1 (Week B)</u>

- LRC is available at lunchtime as a revision space for Y11 students.
- Sixth Form Silent Study is available as a revision space for Y11 students after-school



To: Year 7 Parents/Carers

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11th October 2024

Our Ref: AHi.KH.3125

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 7 Settling In Evening

We are excited to invite you to our Year 7 Settling In Evening on Thursday 17th October 2024, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. This evening offers a key opportunity to discuss your son's/daughter's transition from primary school and hear how they have settled into life at Gospel Oak School.

The event will take place in the New Build, and you will have the chance to book a 5-minute conversation with your son's/daughter's tutor to discuss their progress so far. Bookings are now live on Arbor, so please log in to secure your slot.

In addition to discussing academic progress, this evening is a valuable opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have about the support available for your son/daughter. Our SEN team will be available to provide information about the provisions in place to support students with special educational needs, and the Year Team will be present to offer pastoral guidance, ensuring your son/daughter feels supported emotionally and socially.

Furthermore, we will be offering hands-on assistance to help parents/carers and students sign up to ClassCharts, our platform for tracking homework, attendance and behaviour. This is a fantastic opportunity to ensure you are fully connected to your son's/daughter's progress and can easily monitor their day-to-day performance. If you haven't yet registered, we encourage you to do so on the evening to make the most of this tool.

This is a key part of the support we offer to help both students and parents/carers stay informed and engaged throughout the school year. We strongly encourage your attendance, as this evening plays an essential role in supporting a smooth transition into secondary school and ensuring your son's/daughter's success and well-being.

We look forward to welcoming you on the evening!

Best regards,

Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



To: Yr 7 Parents/Carers

11th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 7 Transition Event

We are delighted with how well our Year 7 students have settled into their start at Gospel Oak School. They are already showing great enthusiasm and engagement, and this event will be a wonderful opportunity for them to continue building new friendships, gaining confidence and exploring new interests.

We are excited to inform you about an upcoming event that will support your son's/daughter's transition into Year 7 at Gospel Oak School. On Thursday, 31st October 2024, there will be a Big Step Forward Year 7 Transition Event at the Coneygre Arts Centre, in Tipton, from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

This event is organised in partnership with a variety of local organisations, including the Albion Foundation, Barnardo's, Sandwell Children's Trust, Go Play Sandwell and many more. The event will provide a fantastic opportunity for Year 7 students to participate in sports activities, games, and workshop sessions, all designed to support their transition into secondary school.

Key Details:

- Date: 31st October 2024
- Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm
- Location: Coneygre Arts Centre, Tipton
- Free lunch provided
- Information stalls for parents and young people to access helpful resources

This is a great opportunity for your son/daughter to engage with their peers, build new friendships, and enhance their confidence during their first year at Gospel Oak School. There will also be plenty of support available for parents/carers, including information stalls offering guidance on how to support your son's/daughter's well-being and success in secondary school.

If you would like your son/daughter to attend, please contact Mrs Rolls at Gospel Oak School for a sign-up form or more information. We highly encourage your participation to ensure your son/daughter gets the best start in their new school environment.

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Our Ref: AHi.KH.3126

Your Ref:

We look forward to seeing many of our Year 7 students take part in this exciting event and thank you for your continued support as we work together to help them thrive.

We are also looking forward to meeting all parents at our **Settling In Evening** on **Thursday 17th October from 4:00pm - 6:00pm** in the New Build at Gospel Oak School. This will be a chance for you to meet with tutors, discuss your son's/daughter's progress and learn more about their journey in secondary school so far.

Best regards,



Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



To: Parents / Carers

11th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: October Half Term Masterclasses

We will be offering Exam Masterclasses in a number of subjects to support students in their continued preparations for their examinations and assessments. Interventions will start in classrooms at 9.30am, and finish at 12.00pm and students will be expected to leave the school site immediately on the completion of their session.

Students are not expected to wear school uniform and should bring their own snacks and drinks with them if they wish to do so. Students need to report to Reception at 9.20am.

Please complete and sign the attached consent form if you wish for your son/daughter to take part. Please note that places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 20 places available in each intervention. Consent forms must be returned to Reception by 11.20am on Monday 21st October. In the event of interventions being oversubscribed, a message will be sent to you via Arbor to inform you that there are no spaces.

Thank you for your continued support of our work with your daughter/son; teaching staff are reminding students regularly of the importance of continued preparation for their upcoming mock examinations and summer exams, and we are grateful for your encouragement of revision as we move closer to these. Please remember that Seneca, GCSEPod and Sparx are excellent resources to support progress, along with use of exercise books and revision guides. Further details regarding the November mock examination programme and Autumn Term revision schedule have also been sent to you.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C Middlehurst
Senior Vice Principal

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Our Ref: CM.KH.3123

Your Ref:

October Half Term Masterclasses

Student Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

I give my consent for my son/daughter to attend the following intervention sessions in school. My son/daughter will report to school Reception at 9.20am, and interventions will start at 9.30am in classrooms and end at 12.00pm; my son/daughter will be responsible for making their own way to and from school and will leave promptly at the end of the session. Emergency contact and medical information held in school will be used if needed, and I will ensure that school is updated if this has changed.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)

Date	Year Group and Subject	Please tick if attending
Monday 28 th October	Y10 and Y11 BTEC Dance – Miss Wilkes	
Monday 28 th October	Y10 and Y11 Music – Miss Burke	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Computer Science – Mr. Chapman	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Chemistry (Triple Only), 11Y1 and 11X1– Miss Rafiq	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Combined Science – Mrs Pabla	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Mathematics and post-16 Maths’ resits – aiming for grades 4 and 5 – Mr. Brown	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Spanish – Mrs Brown	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Art – Miss Dixon	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 Design and Technology – Miss Dixon	
Tuesday 29 th October	Y13 Criminology – Mr. Bala	
Tuesday 29 th October	Y11 Geography – Ms. Bailey-Green	
Tuesday 29 th October	Y11 Art – Miss Pope	
Tuesday 29 th October	Y11 Mathematics – aiming for grades 4 and 5 – Mr Shergill	
Wednesday 30 th October	Y11 Geography – Mr. Davies	
Wednesday 30 th October	Y11 Geography – Mr. Cooper	
Thursday 31 st October	Y11 English Literature – A Christmas Carol – Miss Edwards	
Thursday 31 st October	Y11 English Language – Paper One, questions 4 and 5 – Miss Lane	
Thursday 31 st October	Y11 English Language – Paper One, questions 4 and 5 – Mrs Tiso	
Thursday 31 st October	Y10 Drama – Miss Tunnell	
Thursday 31 st October	Y11 Health and Social Care – Miss Southworth	
Thursday 31 st October	Y11 Mathematics – Mr. Dunkley	



To: Yr 11 Parents / Carers

11th October 2024

Gospel Oak School

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Our Ref: CM.KH.3124

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Key Information for Year 11 Students

Year 11 have made a very positive start to the academic year. This is an incredibly important year for them, and the results that they achieve this year will play a key role in determining their choices and opportunities for the future. Students will receive a lot of advice from their teachers and other school staff to support success; you will also be aware that the next steps for your daughter/son at the end of Year 11 will be dependent on their GCSE and BTEC results. It is important that I make you aware at this stage that if your daughter/son does not achieve at least a Grade 4 in Maths and either English Language or English Literature, they will have to resit the qualification at school or college. The partnership between school and home is vital in achieving success; I know that you will be reinforcing the key messages about hard work, revision and preparation to support your daughter/son.

Students are informed regularly about the importance of attendance. The national research is clear – attendance leads to better outcomes. In 2019, secondary school students who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths missed 10 more days on average over the key stage than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths. Regular attendance at school affects exam results and life chances – **your daughter/son needs to attend school every day; not attending school every day has a direct impact on exam results and, therefore, on their life chances.**

Year 11 mock examinations will begin on Monday 4th November and end on Thursday 21st November. The schedule for the mock examinations will run as closely as possible to how this will run in the summer; please ensure that your daughter/son is fully prepared for these examinations as they are a vital part of preparing to succeed and collecting excellent results next August. All students have been provided with information about their mock examinations; this is also available for parents and carers to see by visiting [Y11-Mock-Information-for-Students.339841343.docx \(live.com\)](#).

Students are expected to be engaged in regular revision to support their success; our Directors of Learning and Standards have produced revision plans in all subject areas to support this process. Please support your daughter/son by visiting [Gospel Oak School - Revision Programmes](#) and ensuring that they are completing the necessary revision. Please note that in order to support students with revision, the LRC (Library) is available every lunchtime and after-school; Year 11 students are also able to use the Sixth Form Silent Study area after-school each day. Information can be found in the revision booklet about 'Exam Masterclasses' which are being offered to support revision in each subject. In addition, there are a range of Exam Masterclasses taking place at October half-term; please see the letter which has been sent about this in this eZine and we will provide students with paper copies of this next week so that they can return their consent forms.

Teachers are regularly informing students about their examinations and NEA (non-examined assessment) components of the courses and are working closely with students to ensure that they are fully prepared. This information includes details of NEA that need completing – for example, PSAs in BTEC subjects – and relevant information about the number of examination papers and the length of each for the summer. Please note that dates for GCSE art and GCSE photography examinations will be confirmed in due course; similarly, Spanish and home language speaking examinations and GCSE PE practical moderation will be communicated with you when these dates have been finalised.

Further information will be provided nearer the time regarding the summer examinations, and individual student timetables will be provided based on the courses that your daughter/son is studying. Please ensure that your daughter/son is available to take examinations up to and including Wednesday 25th June; please do not plan any activities before this date.

Key Dates – please continue to refer to communications from the school in case of changes

Date	Event
Thursday 24 th October, 6-8pm	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 28 th to Thursday 31 st October	Year 11 October half-term Exam Masterclasses
Monday 4 th to Thursday 21 st November	Year 11 Mock Examinations
Week beginning Monday 6 th January	Year 11 Reports to Parents/Carers
Thursday 16 th January	Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening
Week beginning Monday 17 th February	Year 11 February half-term Exam Masterclasses
Fortnight beginning Monday 14 th April	Year 11 Easter Exam Masterclasses
Thursday 8 th May	GCSE Examinations begin
Week beginning Monday 26 th May	Year 11 May half-term Exam Masterclasses
Week beginning Monday 2 nd June	GCSE Examinations continue
Wednesday 25 th June	National Contingency Day for GCSE/GCE examinations – all students MUST be available on this day.
Thursday 21 st August	GCSE Results Day

Yours sincerely,



**Miss C Middlehurst
Senior Vice Principal**



To: Parents/Carers

8th October 2024

Gospel Oak School

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Our Ref: CL.KH.3121

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Mental Health

As we approach World Mental Health Day on 10th October, we want to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of mental health and well-being in our school community. This day serves as a reminder of the significance of mental health awareness and the support we can provide to our students.

To honour World Mental Health Day, we have organised a series of activities aimed at promoting mental health, reducing stigma and fostering open conversations about mental health among our students. Here are some of the initiatives we have planned:

- Activities during tutor time to encourage kind messages to be shared between staff and students
- Students must wear their usual school uniform on 10th October. However they can choose to wear odd socks or a yellow accessory (eg hair bobble, hair bows, socks, badge, coat etc).
- Information to be given to students to encourage them to talk positively about mental health
- 'Grounding strategies' shared with staff and students to offer strategies to support
- A 'Rowathon' will be taking place where staff will be taking it in turns to do 15-minute sessions on the rower. The rower will be going nonstop between 9.00am to 3.00pm in the Restaurant for students to see

We believe that by fostering an open dialogue about mental health and providing our students with the necessary tools and resources, we can cultivate a supportive environment that prioritises their well-being.

We encourage you to engage in conversations with your son/daughter about mental health, reinforcing the message that it is okay to talk about feelings and seek help when needed. Together, we can work towards creating a community where mental health is valued and prioritised.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Mrs C Law
Assistant Principal