



REMINDER – a free breakfast is available for students to attend from 8am in the Restaurant.

It has been another busy week in school; assemblies have focused on the importance of Remembrance Day, and all students have had an additional assembly about Black History Month. Many lessons have featured learning linked to Black History Month, too, as we build upon student learning on this year's theme of 'Reclaiming Narratives'. We thank you as parents and carers for continuing these discussions and learning at home. Students have also had assemblies with DECCA – Drugs' Education, Counselling and Confidential Advice – and further information can be found about their work through visiting [Family Information Service Hub | DECCA \(sandwell.gov.uk\)](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/family-information-service-hub).

Thursday evening saw us welcome many of our new Year 7 parents and carers into school for the 'Year 7 Settling-in Evening'; this provided invaluable opportunities for parents and carers to talk with form tutors and other school staff, as well as learning more about Gospel Oak. Information was shared again about Sparx which is the online learning platform we are using in Key Stage 3 – and in Key Stage 4 where relevant, particularly in Maths – to facilitate homework. Please do ensure that your daughter or son is completing their Sparx learning at home and let us know – via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](https://www.gospel-oak-school.co.uk/contact-us) – if you need any support with this. A reminder, too, that as we continue to develop our homework provision, students are receiving positive points for completing their homework; sanctions for non-completion have not been introduced yet, and we would encourage you to revisit the eZine from Friday 27th September to support your understanding of our plans. Our parent and carer consultation on this - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UTeH7weljkS2mO4DGypXkim203fYHApLtyX1rQ-vKqJUNUJIWTIYtEtZTDNaMEY4QU9KV1ZSRUIJNi4u> – closes on 27th October at 5pm, and we would like as many contributions from parents and carers as possible to support us with our next steps; thank you to all those who have completed this already.

Next Thursday sees our Post-16 Open Evening; this is a great opportunity for our current Year 11s to find out more about our Sixth Form provision and we look forward to seeing many of them in attendance; we hope that parents and carers are able to attend too. Year 11s will not need reminding that their mock examinations start immediately after half-term, and their revision should be well underway for these. Students should make sure they are preparing thoroughly and accessing any support they need; following on from last week's eZine, we are running a series of Exam Masterclasses with Year 11 and Year 13 students at October half-term; students have been informed about these via their Year Team and letters to sign up are available from Reception. Please do use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](https://www.gospel-oak-school.co.uk/contact-us) if you have any questions.

As always, thank you for your support and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Upcoming Dates

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
 Wednesday 6th November – Parent/Carer Forum
 Friday 8th November – Year 7 Tamworth Arboretum Trip
 Friday 8th November – Year 8 Loudmouth Performance
 Friday 8th November – Year 11 Birmingham City Centre Art Trip
 Friday 8th November – Yr 9 St Marks Church Trip

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Anti-Bullying
 w/c 21/10 - Rewards
 w/c 04/11 – Term ahead – expectations
 Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.



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

The poster features the school crest in the top right corner. The main text is in white and red on a black background. 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 prize draw information. At the bottom, there is an orange bar with contact details.

Sixth Form



On Thursday the Lead Ambassador attended the CRST student council conference. The conference aim was to decide which charity the trust would be supporting this year. The nominations were Birmingham's Children's Hospital, Develop Africa and British Heart Foundation, votes from different primary schools were counted and the winner is Birmingham's Children's Hospital. A number of events will now be held to raise money for them.

Reminder – To be completing Uplearn, Everlearn and Senica.

Your sincerely

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Caine S
Year 13 student of the week – Kiera J M

Year12 attendance – 95.9 %
Year 13 attendance –92.1 %

Events –
24th October - Post 16 Open evening 6.00-8.00



Barnardo Family Hubs

Barnardo Family Hubs are keen to get a survey link to as many parents who have a child with SEND as possible. This is required so Barnardo's can work in partnership with another agency to create a useful resource for parents and would like them to shape what it looks like. We have been asked to share the following link with you so you can respond:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EF8Je7rdHH>

**WORK
EXPERIENCE
REMINDER...**

**This is a polite reminder
that year 10 and 12 Work
Experience forms need to
be returned by
Friday 13th December 2024
Thanks Miss Wilkins**

Alton Towers

Year 9 and 10 trip to Alton Towers on Thursday 24th October – please send in your consent form as a matter of urgency.



For the first time ever!

Fire Garden

at Sandwell Valley

**Friday 8 - Saturday 9
November 2024**

A blazing installation of fiery sculptures that will transform Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre into a landscape of fire.

www.visitsandwell.com

Exam Masterclasses

Further to our previously advertised Exam Masterclasses at October half-term, two sessions for Design and Technology have now been added on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th October; we have reattached the letter from last week so that you can see all of the opportunities again for Year 11 and Year 13 students.

Sparxs homework for Year 7, 8 & 9

Well done to all students completing their Sparxs Maths, Science, and Reader homework each week. Students can log in at either sparxmaths.com, sparxscience.com or sparxreader.com. They will need to add Gospel Oak School as their school and log in using Microsoft. These details have been given to students by their form tutors and should be in their planners. Please use the contact us emails on the website if you have any questions.



October Half Term



October half term holiday is approaching and SPDC have a range of activities on offer. Would you please carefully read the following information.

Who can access SPDC Activities
Families who care for a disabled child/young person, who live in the Borough of Sandwell. You MUST be registered with SPDC

Family Activities
The Family Disco is for all Family members, this includes siblings and parent carers.

Children/Young People aged 4-11 years & 11-18 years activities
Activities offered under these headings are for the Disabled Child/Young Person. You can however request a sibling place and we will do our best to accommodate.

Half Term at a glance!

Thursday 31st October - Family Fancy Dress Disco
Tuesday 29th October - 4-11yrs/11-18yrs Cooking
Friday 1st November - 4-11yrs/11-18yrs Cooking

How to book for the Activities
Please email your expressions of interest to spdcbooking@sp-dc.org

Your email should clearly state
*Your name and the names of each person taking part
*Which date(s) you would like to attend
*How many (adults/children) will be taking part in the sessions.

Please provide this information in full as without it we may not be able to process your booking properly.

Please make sure you get your requests to us as soon as possible as we are unable to accept booking after:
Thursday 10th October 9am.
Please note that bookings will not be accepted via Facebook or Messenger.

Once the team have processed all of the bookings you will receive an email confirming the places you have been allocated.
Confirmation emails will be sent out Week commencing 14th October.

If you have requested or have been allocated places on a particular activity but can no longer attend, we would ask you to let us know as soon as possible by calling Diane 07594 486930 or Gary 07763 593877 so that we can offer a family on our waiting list the opportunity to join us.



SPDC's Fancy Dress Family Disco!



Thursday 31st October

- Churchills Bar - 8 Walsall Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9BZ
- Join the team for an evening of Dance and Fun
- No limits to your creativity
- Please do not feel you have to come in a costume
- Free car park opposite the venue
- Doors open 5:45pm
- Dancing begins at 6pm and ends at 8pm

Available to purchase at the venue

Hotdog & Chips £4-95
Chicken strips & Chips £4-95
Chilli-con-carne & Chips £10.95
Tandoori Chicken curry & Chips £10.95
Veggie Lasagne and garlic bread £9-95
Hot roast cobs
Choice of Beef, Turkey or Pork and chips £7-95
Fried crispy chicken wings and chips (choice of hot sauce or bbq) £9-95

Aged related activities

Wanted Up Coming Chef's

Tuesday 29th October 2024 & Friday 1st November 2024
Dorothy Parkes Centre, Church Road, Smethwick, B67 6EH

4-11 Years
10am-12pm

Lets rustle up a tasty stir fry.
Join us at the Dorothy Parkes Centre
Fiona from Fallan Nutrition will be guiding/helping us to prepare a meal to enjoy eating with parents/carers/siblings.
Young people will be preparing and cooking a 2 course meal that will consist of vegetable stir fry and a jam/syrup sponge pudding with ready made custard.

11-18 Years
1pm-3pm

Lets cook up a stir, get out the frying pan and produce a stir fry like no other.
Join us Dorothy Parkes Centre
Fiona from Fallan Nutrition will be guiding/helping us to prepare a meal to enjoy eating with parents/carers/siblings.
Young People will be preparing and cooking a 2 course meal that will consist of vegetable stir fry and a jam/syrup sponge pudding with ready made custard.

Sandwell Parent for Disabled Children
Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66 1DH
Tel 0121 565 2410
Email info@sp-dc.org
Website www.sp-dc.org

Charity Reg: 1125576



Sandwell Falls Prevention Service

**Feeling unsteady?
Are you worried about having a fall?**

Sandwell Falls Prevention Service offers you free exercise support to improve your mobility, strength and balance and reduce your risk of falling.

ELIGIBILITY:


- ✓ 50+
- ✓ At risk of falls
- ✓ Fear of falling/ had falls
- ✓ Live in Sandwell
- ✓ OR registered to a Sandwell GP

Did you know?
Our 'Staying Steady' guide is free to download on our website and provides information and tips on how to reduce your risk of falling.



sandwellfallsprevention@ageuksandwell.org.uk

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sandwell/our-services/> 0121 437 0033




How it works...

1. **Get in touch**
Once you have contacted us, our team will be in touch with you to arrange an assessment.
2. **Assessment**
 - A simple questionnaire to help us understand your health and circumstances
 - A falls risk assessment to help us understand your current level of balance and mobility
 - A wellbeing assessment to keep your mind healthy
 - A short walk (Timed Up and Go) test to find out your risk of falling
3. **Falls Prevention Support**
Following your assessment, we can offer you:
 - Strength and balance exercise for 12 weeks at one of our community venues led by a qualified instructor
 - Information Advice and Guidance on reducing the risks of falls and exercising safely at home
 - Information about other suitable community services and support

BENEFITS:

- ✓ Improves strength and balance
- ✓ Improves mobility
- ✓ Reduces social isolation
- ✓ Reduces the risk of falls for older adults
- ✓ Reduces the risk/severity of health conditions related to inactivity
- ✓ Access to appropriate services



AgeUK Sandwell is an operating brand of AgeUK Birmingham. Registered Charity no. 1138240

SPARXS HOMEWORK FOR YEAR 7, 8 & 9

Well done to all students completing their Sparxs Maths, Science, and Reader homework each week.

Students can log in at either sparxmaths.com, sparxscience.com or sparxreader.com. They will need to add Gospel Oak School as their school and log in using Microsoft. These details have been given to students by their form tutors and should be in their planners.

Please use the contact us emails on the website if you have any questions.

SouthPaw Boxing

We are ready to launch the OSF SouthPaw Boxing Afterschool club from Thursday this week, see flyer below.

We will continue to run the provisional from 3.30 – 16.30.



Let's get ready to rumble ..

With the support of Active Black Country, we are pleased to announce a new exciting 12-week Boxing program. Our Focus will be aimed to support pupils with coordination, speed, agility and Mental Health. Participants will also develop key interpersonal skills with the support of Aaron Cope a local certified Coach and Mentor.

Start date: Thursday 10th October 2024 x 12 weeks

Time: 15.30pm – 16.30 pm

Location: New Build/Bistro (Refreshments not provided).

Parents welcome.

Please contact Mrs Rolls to book your space which will be booked on a first come basis.



**Active
Black Country**
Creating a healthy, active region



Talking Futures

Home Pathways ▾ Start Talking ▾ Careers ▾ Resources About WhatsApp CAN I HELP? 🗣️

TALKING FUTURES

A parents' toolkit for career conversations

Have more informed and constructive conversations with your child about training and education using the Talking Futures resource.

[DISCOVER THE PATHWAY OPTIONS >](#)

[Parents Advice for Career Conversations - Talking Futures](#)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Mactworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.08.2024

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about QR CODE SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

QR code scams (also known as 'quishing') involve the malicious use of Quick Response (QR) codes to deceive people into revealing personal information or downloading harmful software. These scams exploit QR codes' convenience and widespread use – for example, in adverts, restaurant menus and public notices, with criminals installing fake QR codes which direct users to bogus sites.

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Cybercriminals may seek to change a QR code that's related to a legitimate payment service, such as in a restaurant. If a customer scans the QR code expecting to order and pay for goods or services (such as a meal in this case), they may be directed to a site controlled by the scammers. Entering their payment details would then allow the criminals to defraud them.

DISCOUNTED GOODS

A poster promises goods or services at a discounted cost, requiring people to scan a QR code to register and pay. The poster, however, is malicious, and there is no discount. Again, providing your payment details would allow the criminal to access your funds. This scam is reasonably common and is often found in car parks in major cities.

PRIZE DRAWS

A QR code is provided for a prize draw, advertised on a poster which is likely an display in a public space. Scanning the QR code will result in being asked to provide further information (such as your email address, name, address or phone number), which is then used by criminals for further social engineering attacks or even identity fraud.

WIFI CONNECTION

Scanning a QR code may be the means of connecting to the Wi-Fi network in a hotel or other public area. This is usually legitimate, but if the QR code is a fake, it could result in criminals viewing your browsing history and even your login details. These can subsequently be used for phishing attacks and identity fraud – and even financial fraud, if they're able to access your banking credentials.

FAKE EVENTS AND TICKETS

A poster highlights news regarding an upcoming event, or regarding an additional allocation of tickets for a sold-out concert or other performance. It directs the user to scan a QR code for more information, to register or possibly to pay. The QR code then leads to a fake site hosted by scammers, aiming to gather data on the user for future attacks or to exploit or defraud them immediately.

Advice for Parents & Educators

BE VIGILANT

QR codes are becoming more prevalent, and cyber criminals are increasingly seeking to use them to steal information and commit fraud. As such, it is important to remain aware of the risks. Always consider these safety concerns before scanning a QR code and avoid doing so unless you're certain it's legitimate. Be sure to keep your device's operating system updated as well, to keep you protected from known safety risks.

CHECK FOR SIGNS OF TAMPERING

Where QR codes are printed or displayed, check for any sign of tampering: as a sticker with a new QR code being placed over the top of the previous code, for instance. Where there are signs of tampering, you should consult a member of staff (if you're in a hotel or restaurant, for example) or simply avoid scanning the code altogether.

CHECK THE URL

Most phones now show the web address or URL which a QR code connects to, and they typically require users to accept being taken to this address before progressing. Check that the web address matches that of the site or service you're expecting to access via the QR code you've scanned. If it seems dubious in any way, don't click on it.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES

Consider the source of the QR code and its trustworthiness. A QR code for payment in a restaurant, for example, is likely to be legitimate if you can see it printed on every menu; a random poster pinned up in the street or in a building's corridor is more likely to be fraudulent. If you're unsure, err on the side of caution and don't scan the code.

USE THE DEFAULT QR CODE SCANNER

Most mobile devices come with the ability to scan QR codes built into the camera app. Where possible, you should seek to use this default functionality and avoid the use of third-party QR scanning apps which may have themselves been tampered with or compromised. Stick to reputable methods.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



Safeguarding and Safety Updates

Safety Online

Please use the link below to access information on how you can help keep your child safe online.

[Online safety blog | NSPCC](#)

What Parents need to know about QR Code Scams

QR code scams (also known as ‘quishing’,) involve the malicious use of Quick Response (QR) codes to deceive people into revealing personal information or downloading harmful software. These scams exploit QR codes’ convenience and widespread use – for example, in adverts, restaurant menus and public notices, with criminals installing fake QR codes which direct users to bogus sites.

Please see the embedded pdf above to read about the risks and advice to prevent this.

What Parents need to know about Using and Reviewing Parental Controls

Phones and computers are essential parts of children’s lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people

Please see the embedded pdf above to read about the risks and advice to prevent this.

Gospel Oak School



Years 12 and 13

Parents/Carers Information Pack 2024-25

Contents

▪ General information	Page 3
▪ Term dates	Page 4
▪ School Day	Page 5
▪ School Policies	Page 6
▪ Trust Policies	Page 7
▪ Attendance Information	Page 8
▪ Dress code	Page 10
▪ Mobile phones	Page 12
▪ Home school agreement	Page 13
▪ Frequently asked questions	Page 15
▪ Mobile Phone Policy	Page 17
▪ Communication	Page 19

General Information

Executive Principal

Mr Brownlow

Senior Vice Principals

Miss Middlehurst
Miss Tanner

Vice Principals

Miss Bott
Dr Grewal
Miss Nutting
Mrs Quirk

Assistant Principals

Mr Dunkley
Mr Hickinbottom
Mrs Law
Mr Mole
Mrs Pabla
Mr Singh

Associate Assistant Principals

Mr Bala (Director of Post 16)
Mr Mason

School contact details

Telephone

0121 556 1351

Main office email

GOSreception@gospeloakschool.co.uk

Website

www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

Attendance Officers

Mrs Badhan
Ms Bevilacqua

TERM DATES

Academic Year 2024/25

Autumn Term 2024

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Monday 2nd September 2024

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

TERM STARTS

Wednesday 4th September 2024 *for Years 7 and 12*

TERM STARTS

Thursday 5th September 2024 for all Year groups

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Friday 25th October 2024

HALF TERM

Monday 28th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Friday 22nd November 2024

TERM ENDS

Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Monday 6th January 2025

TERM STARTS

Tuesday 7th January 2025

HALF TERM

Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025

TERM ENDS

Friday 11th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

TERM STARTS

Monday 28th April 2025

HALF TERM

Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025

TERM ENDS

Friday 18th July 2025

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Monday 21st July 2025

School Day

Time	Activity
08.30	Tutor Time
09.00	Lesson 1
10.00	Lesson 2
11.00 – 11.20	Break
11.20	Lesson 3
12.20 – 13.00	Lunch and extra-curricular opportunities
13.00	Lesson 4
14.00	Lesson 5
15.00	End of school day
15.00 onwards	Extra-curricular opportunities

School Policies

The following school policies are available on our school website at

www.gospeloaksschool.co.uk

- [Accessibility Plan](#)
- [Admissions Arrangements 2023-2024](#)
- [Admissions Arrangements 2024-2025](#)
- [Admissions Arrangements 2025-2026](#)
- [Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- [Attendance & Punctuality Policy](#)
- [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#)
- [Careers Policy & Strategy](#)
- [Drugs and Alcohol Policy](#)
- [First Aid Policy](#)
- [Home School Agreement](#)
- [Intimate Care Policy](#)
- [LAC & PLAC Policy](#)
- [Post 16 Attendance Policy](#)
- [Post 16 Bursary Policy](#)
- [Provider Access Policy Statement](#)
- [Pupil Premium Strategy Statement](#)
- [Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy](#)
- [SEND Information Report](#)
- [Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy](#)
- [Young Carers Policy](#)

Trust Policies

The following Trust policies are available on our school website at

www.gospeloaksschool.co.uk

- [Anti-Bullying Statement of Intent Policy](#)
- [Behaviour Principles](#)
- [Charging and Remissions Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- [Complaints Policy](#)
- [Conflicts of Interest Procedure](#)
- [Conflicts of Interest Policy](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Donations Policy](#)
- [Education Visits Policy](#)
- [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#)
- [Finance Policy](#)
- [Fire Safety Management Policy](#)
- [Freedom of Information Policy](#)
- [Freedom of Information Publication Scheme](#)
- [Health & Safety Policy](#)
- [LGPS Discretions Policy](#)
- [Lone Working Policy](#)
- [Mental Health & Well Being Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phone Principles Policy](#)
- [Modern Slavery Statement](#)
- [Offsite Alternative Provision Principles](#)
- [Online Safety Policy](#)
- [Premises Management Policy](#)
- [Privacy notices](#)
- [Pupils Attendance Policy](#)
- [Records Management Policy](#)
- [Recruitment and Selection Policy](#)
- [Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy](#)
- [Risk Management Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy \(please refer to each school's website for their localised version\)](#)
- [SEND Policy](#)
- [Subject Access Request Form](#)
- [Surveillance and CCTV Policy](#)
- [Suspension & Exclusion Policy](#)
- [Trustee and Governor Expenses Policy](#)
- [Whistleblowing Policy](#)

Attendance Information

Introduction

Our expectation is for all students to have 100% attendance and 100% punctuality to school and all lessons. There is strong statistical evidence to show that students who achieve this are more successful in school, make greater progress and that they are more likely to achieve their academic potential. The table below further highlights the link between attendance and learning:

If attendance over the school year is..	..the student will miss this many days	..and this many lessons
100%	0	0
95%	10	50
90%	19	95
85%	29	145
80%	39	195
75%	49	245
70%	58	290

Attendance thresholds

Stage	Attendance	Category
1	95%- 100%	Expected
2	90% - 94.9%	Below expected
3	<90%	Concern

At Gospel Oak School we value achievement of every kind and we believe that we all respond well to having high expectations placed upon us.

All students must arrive to school and all lessons on time.

- School begins with a tutorial session at 8.30am. If a student is marked late to school they are expected to complete at 15 minute breaktime detention. If a student chooses not to attend, this will be escalated to a 30 minute detention afterschool.

Monitoring

There are a number of staff at the school who monitor attendance and punctuality: designated member of SLT team, Attendance Officer, form tutor, year team lead, assistant year team lead and head of year.

- A designated member of the SLT team has oversight of the whole system. Their role is to oversee attendance and punctuality procedures and be aware of students who are a cause for concern. This member of staff keeps the Principal informed of any attendance/punctuality concerns.
- The Attendance Officer is responsible for monitoring the attendance and punctuality of all students and informing the year team leads/heads of year of any causes for concern. The Attendance Officer checks the registers and if a student is still absent by 9:30am and no communication has been received from the student's parent/carer then contact will be made with the student's parent/carer. On a weekly basis, the Attendance Officer will

provide data to show each Year group's attendance, authorised absence, unauthorised absence and persistent absence. This information will be disseminated to the year team lead/head of year, headteacher, and designated member of SLT.

- The form tutor's role is to monitor the attendance of his/her tutor group on a daily basis and ensure every student knows his/her attendance.
- The tutor is also responsible for ensuring that absence notes are collected on a student's return to school.
- Mr Bala monitors attendance for the whole year group. He is responsible for ensuring that their year group meets or exceeds the school attendance target.

Parental/Carer support

We ask that parents/carers support us by:

- not letting their son/daughter(s) take time off school for minor ailments
- arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays
- not taking holidays during term time
- ensuring that their son/daughter attends punctually at 8.30am every day
- if a student cannot attend school on a particular day, that the parent/carers phones the Attendance Officer (0121 556 1351) by 9.00am to report the absence. We ask that this procedure is repeated for any subsequent days' absence.
- sending in a note explaining the reason for absence on the student's return to school after an illness (this is a legal requirement)
- keeping us informed by telephone or via the Arbor app on every subsequent day of absence after the first day
- letting us know if there is any on-going medical reason that prevents their son/daughter attending school.

Dress Code

Students in Sixth Form are expected to wear business wear which is in-keeping with the smart, professional image we want all in our school community to portray.

Male students

- Jacket, smart tailored cardigan or smart jumper
- Trousers
- Shirt-long or short sleeves with a collar (no large motifs). Coloured or patterned T-shirts are not to be worn under shirts
- Shoes (leather or leather looking)

Female students

- Jacket, smart tailored cardigan or smart jumper
- Skirt (knee length)
- Trousers
- Smart dress
- Shirt/Blouse with a collar (no large motifs). Coloured or patterned T-shirts are not to be worn under shirts.
- Shoes (leather or leather looking)

Students studying BTEC sport must attend school following the dress code and then change into their kit for practical lessons only.

The following items of clothing are not allowed: hats, trainers, canvas shoes, high heels, flip-flops, shorts, thin strapped tops, sun dresses, leggings, jeggings, any type of, tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirts, hoodies (unless used as a coat) and denim shirts.

Hairstyles, Jewellery and Make-up

Permitted

- Students are allowed to wear one small pair of plain metal (silver/gold) stud earrings in the lobe of the ear
- Wristwatch

Not Permitted

- A smartwatch
- Rings, bracelets, necklaces and wristbands
- No nail polish or false nails
- Heavy make-up
- False eyelashes
- Facial piercings of any description

Hairstyles

Hair should be neat, tidy and safe with no extremes of fashion permitted. Where hair is coloured or extensions added, it must be of natural shades only.

The school reserves the right to send students home to change if they are not wearing clothes in line with our dress code.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a conducive learning environment for all students, Gospel Oak School is a no phone school. 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.

In Sixth Form, we allow students to utilise their mobile phones during social time in the common room. If mobile phones or smart watches are seen or heard in lessons or the Silent Study Area, staff will confiscate them.

Home School Agreement

In sending your son/daughter to Gospel Oak School, you and your son/daughter agree, along with the staff and governors, to abide by the Home – School Agreement.

Gospel Oak School - We will:

- Provide a safe, well-ordered and caring environment for all students.
- Value and respect everyone as an individual.
- Provide outstanding learning and teaching opportunities.
- Provide exciting and rewarding enrichment opportunities.
- Encourage and support all students to reach and exceed their potential.
- Provide a challenging, balanced and innovative curriculum.
- Assess work at regular intervals.
- Monitor, record and report on student progress termly.
- Record and reward success.
- Keep you informed of meetings, events and performances.
- Listen and respond to concerns you may have through regular communication.
- Contact you promptly if concerns arise.
- Expect the highest levels of attendance, punctuality, effort and behaviour.
- ~~Recognise~~ and celebrate the support given by parent/carers.
- Offer support to parent/carers when appropriate to help your son/daughter achieve the agreed levels of achievement, attendance and behaviour.

Students - I will:

- Be punctual, attend every day and display outstanding behaviour.
- Take pride in and wear full uniform every day.
- Adopt a positive attitude and participate fully in the Ethos of Gospel Oak School.
- Show consideration to others, my environment and community at all times.
- Value and respect the opinions of others.
- Co-operate with staff, students and visitors at all times.
- Be fully equipped every day for learning.
- Work and learn to achieve and exceed my full potential.
- Not stop anyone else from learning.
- Keep my planner up-to-date and ensure I look after loaned resources.
- Be responsible for taking communications to and from home and Gospel Oak School.
- Agree to attend additional sessions should my achievement, attendance or behaviour fall below agreed levels.
- Follow the Acceptable Use Policy when use ICT resources.

Parent/Carers - We will:

- Send my son/daughter to Gospel Oak School on time, every day, in full uniform.
- Only take holidays during term breaks and understand that holidays cannot be taken during term time.
- Ensure that they are fully equipped and prepared for learning and to engage in activities related to learning, enrichment and 'Academic Life'.
- Take an active interest in their education by encouraging them to complete their work fully and participate in other opportunities for learning.
- Monitor their progress and support them in achieving or exceeding their potential.
- Keep Gospel Oak School informed about any problems which may affect their learning.
- Support Gospel Oak School and its policies.
- Attend all meetings as required.
- Read and respond as required to all correspondence.
- Respond accordingly to emails and phone calls from Gospel Oak School.
- Be courteous when visiting the school and meeting with staff and other parent/carers.
- Promote the ethos of Gospel Oak School in a positive manner in the community.
- Work in partnership with Gospel Oak School to make a real difference to my son/daughter.
- Contact my son/daughter via reception when they are in school, not via their mobile phone.
- Participate in support sessions, should my son/daughter fail to meet agreed levels in respect of achievement, attendance, or behaviour.

Governors - We will:

- Ensure that we communicate effectively regarding the school and its development.
- Ensure compliance with statutory obligations including students' welfare, safeguarding and health and safety obligations.
- Ensure we provide outstanding learning, teaching, and enrichment opportunities for every student at the school.
- Monitor, review and report all aspects of Gospel Oak School's work.
- Seek financial efficiency and value for money.
- Consult with parent/carers, staff, students and the community over the issues which concern you.
- Approve and publish Gospel Oak School policies
- Provide a direct link between the Local Academy Governing Board and the parent/carers, students and local community.

Frequently asked questions

What time does my son/daughter need to be in school?

- Every second in school is precious and so students must arrive to school and all lessons on time. School begins with students arriving at their tutor room by 8.30am.
- If a student arrives late to a lesson without an appropriate reason (for example a medical appointment supported by a letter or appointment card) minutes will be accumulated and parents informed by letter each Friday.

What should my son/daughter do if they arrive late to school but before the end of the tutorial session?

If students arrive after 8.30am but before 9.00am, they must go to their tutor room where they will be marked as being late by their tutor.

What number do I ring if my son/daughter is ill?

Please use the Arbor app by 9.00am on the first day your son/daughter is ill and again for any subsequent day's absence.

What should my son/daughter do if they feel ill during the school day?

They should tell their teacher straightaway. They may be sent to First Aid, where a trained first aider will take care of them. If they are too ill to remain at school or if hospital treatment is necessary then parents/carers will be contacted to make suitable arrangements. It is essential we have a minimum of two emergency contact numbers that are up to date. Under no circumstances should students leave the school, contact their parents/carers themselves on a mobile phone or go home without permission.

Who do I write to if I need to take my son/daughter out of school for medical reasons?

Please send a note to your son/daughter's form tutor requesting absence for medical/dental appointments at least 48 hours in advance.

Who should my son/daughter see if they have to leave school for an appointment?

Your son/daughter needs to request inform Mr Bala or Mrs Clee.

Can my son/daughter bring medicines to school?

Please refer to the 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions' policy on our website.

Who should I contact if my personal details change?

If your personal details change, please inform you son/daughter's Mr Bala or Mrs Clee. Alternatively, you can update your personal details using the Arbor app.

Who should I make contact with if I want to discuss a pastoral issue (for example a confidential matter?)

Please telephone the reception desk at 0121 556 1351 and request to speak to Mr Bala or Mrs Clee. A message will be sent to the relevant member of staff. Alternatively, you can use the contact form on our website.

Who should I contact if I want to discuss my son/daughter's progress in a subject?

Please use the contact form on our website, the Sixth Form team will direct the email to the relevant department subject lead, who will deal with the issue and direct the most appropriate person to contact you within 2 working days.

Who should I contact if I have an issue about my son/daughter's education or an issue with the school?

Please make an appointment to discuss the issue with the relevant member of staff. Please use the contact form on our school website. We strongly advise that any concerns or issues are not discussed on social media as this could be potentially damaging for our students. As a school, we discourage the use of social media to criticise and make unsubstantiated comments.

How quickly should I expect a response when contacting the school?

We aim to respond to all queries, questions and concerns from parents/carers within 2 working days and resolve them within 5 working days. Full details can be found on the school website.

What if I need to pass on an urgent message to my son/daughter?

Please contact the school switchboard (0121 556 1351) and we will pass the message on immediately.

Can my son/daughter bring valuables to school?

For reasons of security, valuables and large sums of money must not be brought into school. The school does not accept any payment by cash or cheque. No items of value should be left in bags or pockets in changing rooms during PE lessons. The school is not responsible, or insured for, student loss, theft etc.

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.

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

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.

Communication

We are keen to keep all our parents/carers informed about their son's/daughter's progress and general school events. However, we are also keen to reduce our carbon footprint and so we communicate with parents/carers in the following ways:

- An email on a Friday with the weekly Ezine newsletter and various letters. This will be sent every Friday.
- Class charts for behaviour and rewards.
- Arbor for attendance.

All parents/carers to use the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#). If a parent/carer contacts the school by letter or phone, our reception or admin staff will complete the 'Contact Form' for them. We would be grateful if parents/carers did not email staff directly as we are unable to monitor the speed and quality of responses to such emails.

The options in the 'Reason for your enquiry' box are:



A screenshot of a web form's dropdown menu. The title of the dropdown is "Reason for your enquiry*". The selected option is "Year 7 enquiry". The dropdown is open, showing a list of options: "Year 7 enquiry", "Year 8 enquiry", "Year 9 enquiry", "Year 10 enquiry", "Year 11 enquiry", "Sixth Form enquiry", and "SEND enquiry".

The software that we use for the 'Contact Form' will automatically email the enquiry to the relevant member of staff. You will receive a reply to your email within two working days. If you do not receive a reply, a member of the senior leadership team will be made aware.

Please note that the replies to all enquiries through the 'Contact Form' will come from one of the following email addresses:

- Year7enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year8enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year9enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year10enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year11enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Sixthformenquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- SENDenquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk

If you have not had a reply to a letter, phone call or email within two working days or you feel the matter had not been dealt with appropriately, please contact the Principal's PA (Kerry Hampton) or email her at info@gspeloakschool.co.uk.

We still prefer face to face communication and feel it is the most effective and productive method. We do understand though that meetings during the school day are not always

possible and so communication via email provides parents/carers with an easy and quick way to communicate with us as a school.

However, if an issue cannot be resolved satisfactorily within a two_email exchange (four in total), then a face to face meeting in school should be convened.



To: All Parents/Carers

18th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Diwali at Gospel Oak School

We are pleased to inform you that our school will be celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights, on 5th and 6th November. This vibrant festival, which symbolises the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, holds significant cultural importance for many of our students and their families.

To honour this occasion, we will be organising a series of events and activities that will allow our students to engage with the rich traditions associated with Diwali.

These activities will include:

- Art and craft sessions
- Diya painting
- Rangoli Art
- Display of decorations
- Food tasting in the canteen

We kindly ask students for their support in making this celebration memorable. If students are interested in volunteering or contributing to the events, please feel free to reach out to Mrs Mistry, via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#), who will be leading this event.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion!

Warm regards,

Mrs C Law
Assistant Principal



To: Parents / Carers

18th October 2024

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

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3128

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: School Gateway

We are aware that some parents/carers have been unable to access School Gateway to pay for trips. To help you get access to it please follow these simple steps to update your personal details in the Arbor Parent App or Parent Portal:

- Log in to the Arbor Parent App or Parent Portal.

Parent App

Parent Portal

Log in

Need some help?

For help with Arbor Parent Portal or A Management Information System (MIS) schools, [take a look at our Help Centre](#)

Trouble logging in? No worries! Click help:

- [I'm a guardian](#)
- [I'm a school's MIS user](#)
- [I'm a Group MIS user](#)

Looking for Arbor Insign

To create a free account for Arbor Insign ASP analysis tool, click below.

- Go to your son's or daughter's profile.

- Scroll down to the **Family, Guardians & Contacts** section.

Parent App

Justine Adams

Family, Guardians & Contacts

+ Add Family member, guardian or contact

Connor Adams
 Father
 07700 900900 (Mobile)
 020 8678 3023 (Home)
 connor.adams@arbor-mail.com (Personal)
 1 Longstone Avenue, London, London, NW10 3UL >
 Access Options
 Primary guardian
 Can collect
 Emergency contact

Parent Portal

Family, Guardians & Contacts + Add

Jack Allen 🔒 Father ▶
 07700 900295 (Mobile)
 020 8777 1568 (Home)
 jack.allen@arbor-mail.com (Personal)
 101B Harley Road, London, London, NW10 8AY
 Access Options
 Primary guardian
 Can collect
 Emergency contact

Katie Allen

You cannot see this guardian's details for security reasons

- Edit your contact information (phone number, email address, etc.). Any details with a > symbol can be changed.

Quick Actions ^

Add Telephone Number to Connor Adams

Add Email Address to Connor Adams

Add Postal Address to Connor Adams

User Details

Username
connor.adams@arbor-mail.com

Password
***** >

Identity

Name
Mr Connor Adams >

Relationship to pupil
Father >

- Save your changes.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school, by filling in the contact form on our website, if you are having difficulties. If you need further guidance, you can find more detailed instructions on this page of the Arbor support guide: [Updating Your Guardian Details](#).

Thank you for your cooperation.



Mr L Lyall
Senior IT Technician



To: Parents / Carers

11th October 2024

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

Our Ref: CM.KH.3123

Your Ref:

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

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 – 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	
Monday 28 th October	Y11 & Y13 Design & Technology – Mr Emereole	
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	
Tuesday 29 th October	Y11 & Y13 Design & Technology – Mr Emereole	
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	



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

To: Parents / Carers

18th October 2024

Our Ref: SP.KH.3129

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Sparx Reader

Following on from our previous letter sent about homework set on Sparx for your son/daughter, we would like to share some more information about Sparx Reader.

English teachers will be setting homework every Monday which will be due on Sunday each week. Positive points will be awarded on class charts to all students that complete the Sparx reader homework weekly. After half term we will be also informing parents via an Arbor email if the homework is not completed.

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.

In Sparx's reader students can choose from an appropriate range of ebooks at their reading level and as they read, they'll 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 sparxreader.com. They will need to select Gospel Oak School and log in using Microsoft and the details which will have been given to them by their form tutors and are 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 adapts to each student's reading 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/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 including Maths & Science.
- 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.

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 or email info@gospeloakschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Pabla
Assistant Principal