



The weather has been much better this week and students have quickly returned to our 'normal' uniform rules; thank you to all parents and carers for their support with this. A reminder, as always, that our uniform expectations can be found here - [Gospel Oak School - Uniform](#) – along with our PE kit, and sixth form dress code information.

This week, as you know, has seen the introduction of sanctions for students in Year 11 who have chosen not to complete homework; we will update you in the coming weeks on our ongoing work with homework. Please continue to ensure that your daughter or son, regardless of year group, is completing their homework which they are recording in their planners. Sanctions for Y7-10 will be introduced from 13th January. Regular completion of homework is key to success in examinations; thank you for your ongoing support with this.

And a big thank you to Miss Webb and other members of our PE Department for a fabulous trip to Manchester and to the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday evening; it was a great experience for all and a brilliant match for students to watch.

Have a lovely weekend, and we will see your daughter and/or son in school as usual on Monday morning.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 2nd December – Futbol Lingo

Wednesday 4th December – Post 16 KPMG &
Christmas Market Visit

Wednesday 4th December – Year 8 and Year 10
Ogden Trust & CRST
Partnership Launch Visit

Wednesday 11th December – Muay Thai Intervention

Wednesday 11th December – Year 8 Aspire to HE-
Campus Experience Day

Friday 13th-Sunday 15th December – CCF
Christmas Camp

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was The Law and Knife Crime

w/c 02/12 – Homophobia and Discrimination

w/c 09/12 – Dangers of vaping

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



Sixth Form

We have been busy interviewing for Deputy Lead Ambassador – we successfully appointed 6 and a further 7 students have joined the committees as part of the working parties – well done to everyone involved.

Reminder – To be completing 4 hours of Uplearn, Everlearner and Seneca.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Hasti H
Year 13 student of the week – Rheeya S

Year 12 attendance – 92.1%
Year 13 attendance – 96.5%

Events –
2.12.24 – 16.2.14 - Charity weeks
4th December – Trip to KPMG and the German Market
12th December - Year 12 Work experience deadline
19th December – Reward trip to Trafford centre
20th December - Deadline for post 16 application forms



Winter Funland

Could you please complete your son / daughters Winter Funland consent forms if you wish for them to attend Winter Funland at Birmingham NEC on Thursday 19th December 2024.

Payment to attend our Year 7 & 8 Trip can be paid either by School Gateway or Cash to our Reception. If you are making payment by cash, then please ensure that this is in a sealed envelope with your son/daughters name and tutor group.

Year 7 & 8 Team

GOSPEL OAK ✨
SIXTH FORM
APPLICATIONS NOW
BEING ACCEPTED

CLOSING DATE
20TH DECEMBER

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
SEE MR BALA OR MRS CLEE

APPLY ONLINE VIA THE WEBSITE
OR COLLECT AN APPLICATION
FORM FROM RECEPTION OR 6TH
FORM



Gospel Oak Charity weeks
2nd December - 13th December
**Competitions, raffles, cake sale, guess the
teacher and lots more.**
Bring in money to participate.
**All proceeds go to Birmingham's Children
Hospital.**



Birmingham
Children's Hospital
Charity
Doing more for sick kids



Charity Week: Guess the wrapper!



Only 50p a go, and all proceeds go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Prizes will be drawn Friday 13th December

Good luck to all!



Charity Week: Guess the weight of the sweets!



Only 50p a go, and all proceeds go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Prizes drawn on 13th December!

Good luck to all!



Guess The Baby!

Guess The Member Of Staff!

PRIZES DRAWN ON:

.....

DECEMBER | 13

.....

ALL MONEY GOES TO BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



50p A Go!



STAFF RAFFLE

ALL MONEY GOES TO BIRMINGHAM CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

50P PER TICKET OR £2 A STRIP

PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN ON THE 13TH



WATER SAFETY
BLACK COUNTRY PROGRAMME

Come and join our family sessions!

Sandwell Aquatic Centre
Friday 22nd November at 4-4.30pm & 4.30-5pm


Friday 6th December at 4-4.30pm & 4.30-5pm

For ALL ages
Children must be accompanied by an adult in the water

To book these **FREE** water safety sessions please contact Water Safety Coordinator:
emma.beddowes@activeblackcountry.co.uk




Active Black Country



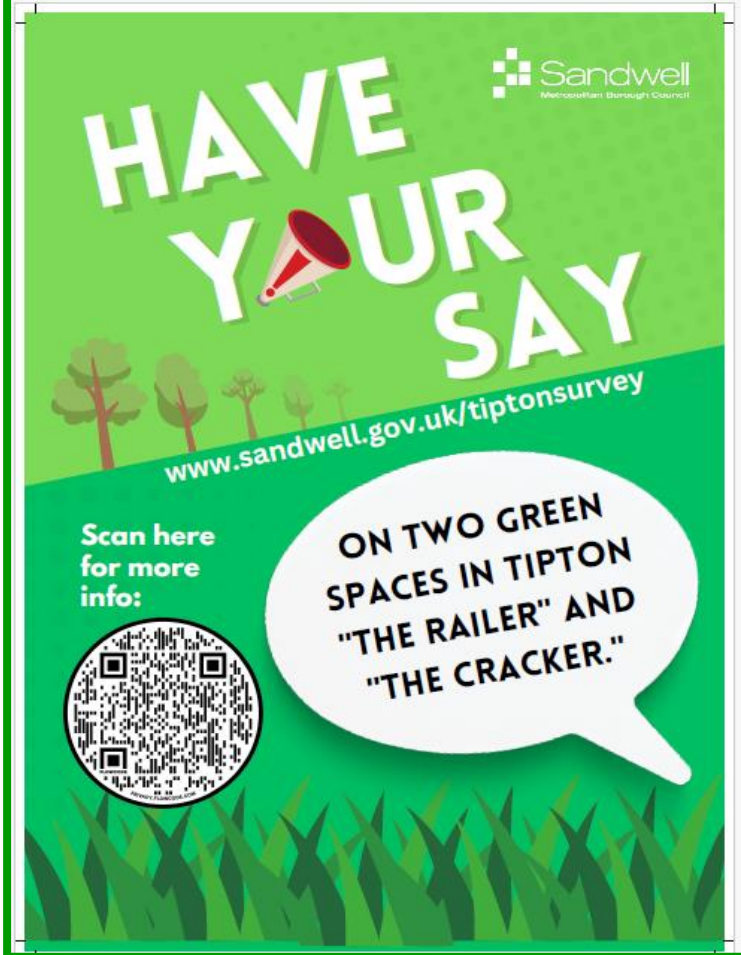
HAVE YOUR SAY

www.sandwell.gov.uk/tiptonsurvey

Scan here for more info:



ON TWO GREEN SPACES IN TIPTON "THE RAILER" AND "THE CRACKER."



Safeguarding and Safety Updates

Keep safe on Snapchat

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

SNAP STREAK
97 DAYS

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS
Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY
Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION
Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES
Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT
If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

29th November 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.3150

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 PE Lessons

As we approach the conclusion of the Year 11 mock exam period, we are writing to remind you about the importance of your daughter or son being prepared for their PE lessons. All students are required to bring their full PE kit to every lesson.

To help you and your daughter or son stay organised, the timetable for PE lessons is as follows:

X Band:

Monday, Week A, Period 3

Monday, Week B, Period 3

Y Band:

Monday, Week A, Period 4

Wednesday, Week B, Period 2

We appreciate your support in ensuring your daughter or son is equipped and ready to participate in these lessons, which are an essential part of their overall development and well-being.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the enquires email for year 11 using [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Field
Directors of Learning and Standards for PE

Miss P Thacker
Directors of Learning and Standards for PE



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Gospel Oak School

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29th November 2024

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3154

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Parent/Carer Survey

I hope this letter finds you well. At Gospel Oak School, we are committed to creating the best possible learning environment for all of our students. To achieve this, we know how important it is to work together with you, our school community, to continually improve in all areas, including student behaviour and attendance.

We value your feedback as parents/carers, as it helps us understand your views and shape the future of our school. In particular, we would appreciate your thoughts on how we can make improvements in these areas, ensuring our students are happy, engaged, and regularly attending school.

To assist us in this process, we have put together a short survey consisting of 9 questions. Your responses will be instrumental in helping us identify areas for improvement and guide us as we move forward. The survey is anonymous, and we encourage you to be as honest as possible in your responses.

Please complete the survey by Friday 13th December 2024. It should only take a few minutes, and your input will be invaluable to us. You can access the survey online

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UTeH7weljKS2mO4DGypXkvKKS125ZeIDj2WmdHiY_dNUMU5BMDJMRDNPTFVFM1ZITIdFMzIUWUk2Vy4u

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in making Gospel Oak School an even better place for our students to thrive.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal