



Our sixth-formers have been very busy fundraising for charity this week; there have been cake sales, penalty shoot-outs and car washes amongst a range of activities. These activities are such an important of school life, and our sixth formers have really embraced these opportunities. In Key Stage 3, a group of students have done a fabulous job of wrapping a huge number of presents for our school community; there are some very skilled present-wrappers here at Gospel Oak. A group of Year 8 students visited the University of Wolverhampton as part of the 'Aspire to HE' programme, and there was a Muay Thai workshop for a number of Year 8s.

We are very much looking forward to next week and a range of festive activities; our Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening will undoubtedly be a highlight as always. Years 7 and 8 will be visiting Winter Wonderland at the NEC on Thursday and Post-16 will be Christmas shopping at the Trafford Centre in Manchester; all students have a drop-down morning on Friday with a huge number of activities taking place including Christmas movies with popcorn, sports, danceathons, arts and crafts amongst many others. Our catering provider, Aspens, will have a festive menu available at breaktime on Friday, and there will be Christmas Day hamper prize draws and quizzes. Reward assemblies will also be taking place on Monday and Tuesday to recognise the many achievements of our students over this term.

Learning will continue as normal in lessons apart from the festive events. Homework will continue to be set as outlined previously to you, and we know that the hard work that students are putting in both in and out of lessons will be rewarded in the future. A reminder that those Year 11 students who choose not to meet our homework expectations are now receiving after-school detentions, and we will be introducing sanctions after Christmas for Years 7-10 for non-completion of homework. Hard work does bring success, and it is vital that students get into good habits; thank you to the many parents and carers who are supporting us with this. Please remember, too, that our online platforms – Seneca, Sparx and GCSEPod – can be accessed by students to support independent revision and wider learning.

As always, please do get in touch via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if we can help in any way. Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing your daughter and/or son in school on Monday morning.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 16th December – Year 7 & 8 Celebration
Assembly, Year 11 Assembly

Tuesday 17th December – Year 9 & 10 Celebration
Assembly

Tuesday 17th December – Year 11 Veronica Nursing
Home Visit

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Concert, 7pm-
8.30pm

Thursday 19th December – Post 16 Manchester
Trafford Centre Visit

Thursday 19th December – Year 7 and Year 8 Winter
Wonderland NEC Visit

Friday 20th December – Last day of term - break up at
12.20pm

Monday 6th January – Teacher Training Day

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Dangers of vaping
w/c 16/12 – Christmas Rewards
w/c 06/01 – Term ahead - expectations

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

Sixth Form

On Wednesday 4th December 63 year 12 and 13 students attended an 'Opening doors' event at KPMG – seeing how the company worked and having a tour. After the event they had time to explore Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market. Students enjoyed the event and had fun exploring the market.

This week is charity week run by Gospel Oak 6th form – we have many activities and competitions going ahead – bring in your change to participate.

Reminder – To be completing 2 hours of Uplearn, Everlearner and Seneca.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Kaniska

Year 13 student of the week – Kiera

Year 12 attendance – 100 %

Year 13 attendance – 86.1 %

Events –

2.12.24 – 16.2.14 - Charity weeks

12th December - Year 12 Work experience deadline

19th December – Reward trip to Trafford centre

20th December - Deadline for Post 16 application forms

14th January – Trip to Cardiff University

27th February – Trip to Bath University





REMINDER

REMINDER

Winter Funland

— ❄️ 🌲 ❄️ —

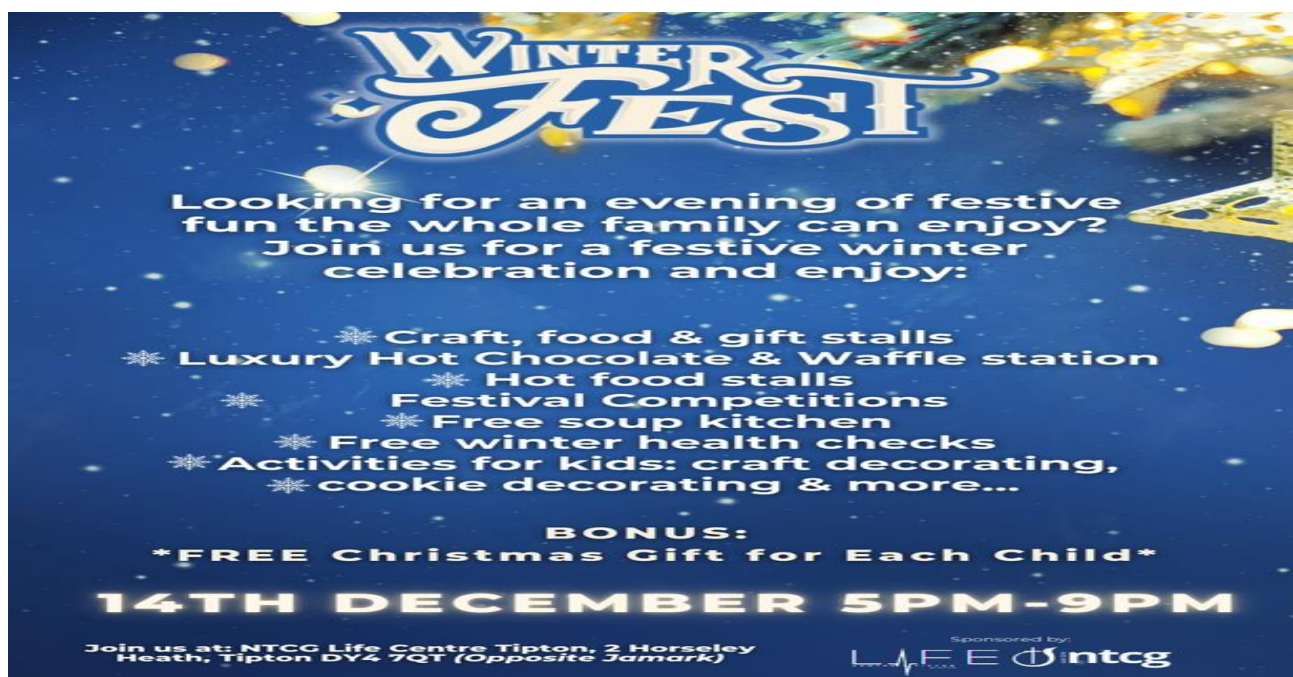
Could you please complete your son / daughters Winter Funland consent forms if you wish for them to attend Winter Funland at Birmingham NEC on Thursday 19th December 2024. **Please also ensure that you have also returned your son / daughters Ice Skating Consent Forms or access will be denied for Ice Skating.**

Payment to attend Winter Wonderland can be paid either by School Gateway, Cash to our Reception or your son / daughter can purchase 25% discount from their class charts awards. 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.

Collection of Artwork and Sketchbooks

Past Year 13 and Year 11 students can collect their artwork and sketchbooks next week from Monday 16th December to Thursday 19th December between 3pm – 3.30pm.

Please sign in at Reception and one of the art team will collect your work for you.



WINTER FEST

Looking for an evening of festive fun the whole family can enjoy?
Join us for a festive winter celebration and enjoy:

- * Craft, food & gift stalls
- * Luxury Hot Chocolate & Waffle station
- * Hot food stalls
- * Festival Competitions
- * Free soup kitchen
- * Free winter health checks
- * Activities for kids: craft decorating, cookie decorating & more...

BONUS:
FREE Christmas Gift for Each Child

14TH DECEMBER 5PM-9PM

Join us at: NTCG Life Centre Tipton, 3 Horseley Heath, Tipton DY4 7QT (Opposite Jamark)

Sponsored by: **LIFE @ ntcg**

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 SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS




More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES



Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labeling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD



Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

Friday 20th December 2024 – Drop Down Day

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
8.30am	Normal tutor time				
Period 1 & Period 2	<p>Period 1 -Sporting activities in the Sport Hall</p> <p>Period 2 - Tutor party – music, movies, hot chocolate, snacks</p>	<p>Period 1 and 2 Christmas movie with popcorn in theatre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>FIFA tournament</p> <p>Sporting activities.</p>	<p>Period 1 and 2 in tutor rooms</p> <p>Family board games</p> <p>Arts and crafts</p> <p>Christmas</p>	<p>Period 1 and 2 in tutor rooms</p> <p>Christmas Film/ Arts and Crafts</p> <p>Option period 2 - Just dance in the bistro</p>	<p>Period 1 and 2</p> <p>Choose between:</p> <p>Christmas movie – all you can eat Nachos</p> <p>Football Festival - Astro</p> <p>Dance till you drop</p> <p>Art Christmas workshop</p> <p>Drama and music Christmas workshop</p> <p>Draw for discounted prom tickets</p>
Year teams will co-ordinate all activities and give form tutors and students all information.					
11.00am	Break				
11.20am Tutor	<p>Christmas hamper prize draw</p> <p>Christmas quiz</p>				
Leave site 12.20pm - Christmas music at the front of school					



To: Parents/Carers

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DY4 0BZ

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F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

6th December 2024

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3163

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: No Aerosol Policy

I am writing to inform you that, as of 7th January 2025, Gospel Oak School will be implementing a **no aerosol policy**. This decision has been made following careful consideration of the potential dangers associated with the use of aerosol sprays within the school environment.

Aerosol sprays, such as deodorants, air fresheners and other similar products, can pose serious health risks due to the chemicals they contain. The use of such products in closed spaces can lead to allergic reactions, respiratory issues, and may cause discomfort for some individuals, particularly those with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students and staff, we are asking that aerosol sprays no longer be brought onto the school premises. We will be communicating this message clearly to both staff and students, and we will ensure that everyone understands the rationale behind this policy.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this change with your son/daughter and helping us to create a safer school environment for all.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal



To: Parents/Carers

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6th December 2024

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3164

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: School Uniform – No Leggings

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about our uniform expectations at Gospel Oak School. We have provided detailed information about the uniform, including visuals, on our website. You can find all the details here [Uniform Information](#).

Unfortunately, we have noticed an increase in students wearing leggings. Please be reminded that leggings are not part of our school uniform policy and, in fact, are not considered appropriate for school. We appreciate that this time of year can be busy, and we understand that the holiday season is fast approaching. Therefore, we will not be enforcing this uniform expectation until the new year.

However, from 7th January 2025, students will no longer be permitted to wear leggings as part of their uniform. To support this transition, we have purchased a large number of trousers that will be available for students who may need them.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to maintain high standards of uniform.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal



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Our Ref: SBr.KH.3158

Your Ref:

To: Parents/Carers

13th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Staffing Update

We are now approaching the end of a very successful autumn term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support of the school. We are pleased that the behaviour in lessons and around the school is significantly better this year and that the number of students absent from school is significantly lower than this time last year. We are confident that this will help improve attainment and achievement.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of two new teachers for January 2025: Mrs Martin (assistant principal and director of learning and standards-art & design) and Mr Patel (teacher of science). I am delighted these new members of staff have chosen to work at Gospel Oak School as I am very confident they will contribute significantly to the school's improvement journey.

Naturally there are always staff that move on and at the end of term we will see the following teachers leave Gospel Oak School: Mr Chapman (teacher of computing), Mrs Geal (director of learning and standards-creative arts), Mrs Harper (lead practitioner-science), Mrs Law (assistant principal) and Mrs Pabla (assistant principal). I would like to thank them for their many great contributions at Gospel Oak School and wish them all the best for the future.

I am delighted that the school continues to be fully staffed providing our students with the consistency and visibility of staff that they deserve. We have therefore not had to use very much agency and supply staff so far this academic year. To add extra capacity, I am pleased to announce the appointment of some new teachers for September 2025: Mr Hackett (teacher of computing), Mr Hussain (teacher of science), Miss Stanley (teacher of science) and Mr Wickham (teacher of maths).

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

May I also take this opportunity of wishing you and your family a happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal