



*This week has brought a very busy Autumn term to an end with a number of festive activities, and a few treats along the way! Celebration assemblies have been held, Years 7 and 8 have visited Winter Wonderland, and our post-16 have been to the Trafford Centre in Manchester. A real highlight this week, as always, was the fabulous Christmas Concert which was organised by our Performing Arts' staff; students have been rehearsing for months and it showcased the huge number of talents of so many of our students; as always, thank you to parents and carers for your support with attending the performance and ensuring that your daughter and/or son could take part.*

*Learning has continued at what is a very crucial time of the year for many of our students. Year 11 Business Studies' students had an intensive day's preparation for their exam which will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January; they were rewarded for their hard work with hot chocolate and cookies at the end! It is a reminder that the assessment calendar never really relaxes and we know that many of our BTEC students will be using some of the Christmas holiday period to prepare for examinations. Y11 students who study BTEC Sport have a revision session on 7<sup>th</sup> January, ready for their examination the following day, and post-16 students of Sport, Health and Social Care, Business and Art all have examinations in the January period.*

*We hope you have a restful break, and are able to take some time to relax with your family. We look forward to seeing students back in school as usual on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.*

#### **Upcoming Dates**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Teacher Training Day  
 Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 BTEC Business Exam  
 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 BTEC Sport Exam  
 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Level 3 BTEC Sport Exam  
 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care Exam  
 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Post 16 Cardiff University Visit  
 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Parents Evening

#### **Assembly Themes**

Assembly focus this week was Christmas Rewards  
 w/c 06/01 – Term ahead – expectations  
 w/c 12/01 – Sextortion  
 Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

#### **Year 11 Parents'/ Carers' Evening Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 4.00pm – 6.30pm**

A chance for parents'/carers' to arrange a face-to-face appointment with their son's/daughter's specific subject staff to discuss current progress.  
 Please contact school if you have any difficulties booking your appointments via Arbor.  
 We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### Sixth Form

On Tuesday and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> form students took part in activities ran by Powered by Can – participating in team building and community events in the new year.

For the past week, the sixth form student ambassadors have been working to raise money for Birmingham Children’s Hospital. We have been participating in car washes, various raffles, bake sales and teacher penalty shoot outs. Our goal for this week was £1000 and across the school year is to raise £2000. Closer to the summer months we will also be hosting other activities such as pieing a teacher, more car washes and student activities.

Well done to all the 6<sup>th</sup> form students this term for all their hard work.

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

The 6<sup>th</sup> form team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala  
Director of Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Jacob W

Year 13 student of the week – Gracie G

Year12 attendance – 94.9 %

Year 13 attendance – 91.5 %

Events –

19<sup>th</sup> December – Reward trip to Trafford centre

20<sup>th</sup> December - Deadline for Post 16 application forms

14<sup>th</sup> January – Trip to Cardiff University

27<sup>th</sup> February – Trip to Bath University

*Wishing all of our Parents and Families a very*  
**MERRY**  
*Christmas*  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR  
We would like to offer our loyal customers

**15% OFF**  
CODE GS15

MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS OFF  
SCHOOLWEAR - ACCESSORIES - G-STORM

[www.gogna.me](http://www.gogna.me)  
[www.g-storm.co.uk](http://www.g-storm.co.uk)

T&C's Apply  
Exp 10/01/25

**Safeguarding and Safety Updates**

**Safety over Christmas Break**

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

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

**Social Care Contacts:**

Sandwell MASH – 0121 569 3100

Wolverhampton MASH – 01902 555392

Walsall MASH – 0300 555 2866

Gospel Oak Safeguarding Team – Safeguarding@Gospeloakschool.co.uk



<https://go.thesharpsystem.com/>

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](https://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 recognizing 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. Emphasize 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.



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



# Cook Together Eat Together at New Road Methodist Church

Our Cook together programme is a **FREE** 2 hour cooking session each week for six weeks. In each session you will learn new healthy eating habits and get stuck in cooking easy three course meals you can replicate at home.

Contact us on the details below for more information

**Location: New Road Methodist Church, Mount Street, Tipton, DY4 7DE**

**Six FREE Cooking sessions for over 50's  
Starting Thursday 9th January 2025  
10:30 – 12:30pm Email or call to sign up**

**07970725526**

**[cookandeatwell@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:cookandeatwell@groundwork.org.uk)**





To: Parents/Carers

**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](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

**Gospel Oak School**

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6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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:** CM.KH.3173

**Your Ref:**

To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 11 Mock Examinations' Results' Day**

Students will receive their mock examination results on Thursday 9th January following an assembly with the Year 11 Year Team; staff will be available to provide advice and guidance to students afterwards.

Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening is on Thursday 16th January, 4.00pm - 6.30pm; do please make sure appointments are booked via Arbor and you will be able to discuss the progress of your daughter/son with each of their subject teachers.

I wish you a restful Christmas break.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss C Middlehurst  
Senior Vice Principal**



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To: Yr 13 Parents/Carers

**Our Ref:** SBa.KH.3174

**Your Ref:**

19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 13 Mock Examinations' Results' Day**

Students will receive their mock examination results on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January following an assembly with the Year 13 Year Team; staff will be available to provide advice and guidance to students afterwards.

Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 4.00pm - 6.30pm; further information will be sent after Christmas to explain how to book appointments via Arbor, and you will be able to discuss the progress of your daughter/son with each of their subject teachers.

I wish you a restful Christmas break.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr S Bala**

**Associate Assistant Principal Post 16**



To: Parents/Carers

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19<sup>th</sup> December 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 10th January 2025. 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=UTeH7weIjkS2mO4DGypXkvKKS125ZeIDj2WmdHiY\\_dNUMU5BMDJMRDNPTFVFM1ZITIdFMzIUWUk2Vy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UTeH7weIjkS2mO4DGypXkvKKS125ZeIDj2WmdHiY_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**