



It has been another busy week in school, with a number of Year 13 students sitting BTEC exams and Year 11s getting even nearer to completing their content learning in most subjects in readiness for lots of time to be spent on revision after February half-term. We were delighted to be able to welcome in so many Year 11 parents and carers to discuss next steps towards success in the summer for their daughters and/or sons. Revision plans for this half-term have been shared with Year 11 and we are extremely grateful for the support of parents and carers in ensuring that these plans are followed; we know that students who attend school all the time, and work hard both in school and at home succeed. Sanctions have been introduced this week in Y7-10 for students who have not completed homework; you will be aware that we have been communicating this regularly with you and, again, are grateful for your support in ensuring that homework is completed. A reminder, as always, that if support is needed please use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) to get in touch; for example, if your daughter and/or son does not have access to a device to complete their Sparx, please let us know.

Over 20 of our post-16 students went to Cardiff University for a visit to consider their potential next steps; this was a fantastic opportunity to find out more about university. Careers is a key component of our work and exposing students to as many opportunities as possible to support planning for their future. It is important that students are able to make choices about what they want to do in the future, and this is underpinned by hard work every day in school; good exam results open doors and opportunities.

Additional learning opportunities support academic progress in so many ways; a number of our Year 11 students took part in a 'Poet with a Punch' workshop to help their understanding of poetry with a different approach. And a small group of students from each of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 travelled to Arrow Vale, a school in Redditch which is also part of our Trust, to take part in a number of practical activities with students from across the Trust to support the further development of good practice across schools.

Well done, too, to a group of our Year 10 students who successfully achieved their Young Mental Health First Aider award following a training day on Monday; we look forward to them being able to support other students in school in the future, and thank them for their commitment to helping others.

We hope you have a lovely weekend; a reminder of the importance of punctuality, and we look forward to seeing your daughter and/or son in school at 8.25am in full uniform in line-up.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 21st January – Year 11 GCSE Poetry Live –

Symphony Hall

Thursday 23rd January – Envision Programme, West Bromwich Albion Ground

Friday 24th January - Year 11 Geography Fieldwork, Birmingham

Wednesday 29th January – Championship League Match, Etihad Stadium

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Sextortion.

w/c 20/01 – World Religion Day

w/c 27/01 – Holocaust Memorial Day

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

PARENT ALERT

Could all Year 7, 8 & 9 Parent / Carers complete the below link and ensure all responses are received by Friday 31st January 2025

Year 7, 8 and 9 Rewards Days - 2nd July & 3rd July 2025



Sixth Form

Students have been working hard this week preparing for upcoming exams.

A number of students also received exam grades - Well done to everyone who passed.

Year 13 have been working hard to complete their personal statements as part of their UCAS applications, they have been applying to study a variety of courses and at a number of different universities – Good luck to everyone who has applied.

A reminder to be logging on and completing your online learning.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Shanvir

Year 13 student of the week – Aadam

Year 12 attendance – 98%

Year 13 attendance – 90%

Events –

14th January – Trip to Cardiff University

5th February – Year 12 and 13 Parents evening

27th February – Trip to Bath University

8th – 10th July - Year 12 work experience

Year 12 and Year 13 Parents' / Carers' Evening

Wednesday 5th February 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 Wednesday 5th February 2025.

In-Reach Aspiration Talk

All Year 7 students will be taking part in an **In-Reach Aspirations Talk** with **Cambridge University** on the afternoon of **24th January**.

A fantastic chance to inspire, learn, and dream big with one of the world's leading universities. Let's nurture the future!

#AspirationsDay #DreamBig #CambridgeUniversity #Year7Success

YEAR 9 PARENT ALERT

Please complete the below link for your son / daughter to either receive their vaccine or for you to decline your son / daughters consent:-



<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/dtp/2024/sandwell>

Please also refer to important information provided to us by Vaccination UK found on our website under Parent Tab and then Parent Letters. All information will also be emailed out to Year 9 parent / carers only.

How can you prevent meningitis?

 <h3>Get vaccinated</h3> <p>Meningitis vaccinations are a safe way to develop protection, and some reduce the chance of infections spreading within the population.</p>	 <h3>Know the symptoms</h3> <p>There are many different causes of meningitis. Not all are vaccine preventable. Know the signs, so you know when to seek urgent medical treatment.</p>	 <h3>Play your part</h3> <p>Check the ones you love are up-to-date with their meningitis vaccines, know the symptoms and then help spread the word.</p>
<p>meningitis.org #DefeatMeningitis</p> 		

Vaccination UK will be coming into Gospel Oak School on Friday 7th February 2025 to administer the Meningitis ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio Vaccination. Should you wish for your child to receive his / her vaccine then please complete the above link by midnight on **Thursday 30th January 2025**. Please ensure that you read the information provided by Vaccination UK to answer any queries you may have. If you have any further queries, then please contact Vaccination UK on 0121 592 1110.



FREE Careers Event for 14 – 19 year olds

NEW YEAR NEW START

Saturday 1 February 2025
9.30am - 2pm

Discover your next steps with the help of Employers, Training/Apprenticeship Providers, Colleges, Universities and Connexions Sandwell Careers Advisers.

At West Bromwich Albion Football Club,
The Hawthorns, West Bromwich, B71 4LF

This is Ticketsource bookable event
Book your tickets via our website.

www.connexionssandwell.co.uk



Year 11 – GCSEPod

GCSEPod is available to all of our students and covers a number of the courses that our students follow in Year 11. Homework is set in English using GCSEPod; however, not all subjects choose to use this platform. Lots of students, though, do find this a valuable resource to support revision. If you would like to find out more, please see below which is information sent to us from GCSEPod:

For Parents and Students:

Title: *Learning from Your Mocks: Building on Strengths, Bridging the Gaps*

Date and Time: 28th January 2025, 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

What You'll Learn:

- *Turning mock results into a revision roadmap with RAG playlists.*
- *Boosting study skills using Study Smart pods.*
- *Prioritising physical and mental wellbeing with Keeping Fit and Healthy pods.*
- *Follow a student's journey as they balance their strengths and tackle areas for improvement.*

How to Register:

Click [here](#) to register!

Can't make it live? Register anyway, and we'll send you the recordings so you don't miss out.

Join the Olio Community

What's Olio?

It is a sharing app for local communities, on a mission to reduce waste. From food to furniture to clothing.

☀️ Share and receive items

- **Grow together:** Pass on outgrown clothes, toys, books, and more to other families
- **Save money:** Get free items that your children need, from other local parents
- **Declutter:** Free up space in your home by giving items a new life with another family

🍏 Give and get free food

- Collect free food that would otherwise go to landfill - perfect for feeding your family on a budget
- Don't let surplus food go to waste, share it with people in your neighbourhood instead!

🌱 Protect our planet

- Help reduce waste and your carbon footprint by reusing and sharing items and build a better future for our children



How to get started?

- 1 **Download the Olio app**
Available for free on iOS and Android
- 2 **Create a profile**
Join our growing community of over 8 million users
- 3 **Start sharing**
Post items you no longer need or browse items available nearby

Scan to download the Olio app



olio
Your local sharing app



EVERYONE WELCOME

Our Youth Space meetings for 2025 are on:

Tuesday 21st January	Tuesday 29th July	Time: Doors open at 5.30pm, Meeting starts 6.15pm through to 8.00pm Food and drinks provided from 5.45 p.m.
Tuesday 25th February	Tuesday 26th August	
Tuesday 25th March	Tuesday 30th September	
Tuesday 29th April	Tuesday 28th October	
Tuesday 27th May	Tuesday 25th November	
Tuesday 24th June	Tuesday 16th December	

BSL Interpreter available on the evening

Are you aged 13-21? Interested in Health? Want to know more about our hospitals & community services?

BENEFITS:

- Improve services
- Opportunities for volunteering and work experience
- Helps with CV's, UCAS applicants etc.
- Fun quarterly thank you activities, for example, Go Karting, Ice-Skating, Bowling, Adventurous Activities

What is it?

- The purpose of our forum is to give young people a voice, to work with us and tell us about the good stuff and help us make the others things better
- It's an opportunity to help shape future services
- A great way to meet other young people interested in health

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Booking essential 0121 507 2671 or email the team at swbh.engagement@nhs.net

Interested? Join us on the last Tuesday of the month at Sandwell Education Centre, Hallam Street, West Bromwich B71 4HJ

Understanding Terrorism

Community Workshop

FREE samosas and refreshments

Would you like to know more about tackling terrorism?

This workshop will support members of the community in Sandwell (including parents/carers) and community groups/leaders to understand issues relating to al-Qa'ida/ISIS 'inspired' terrorism and Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism. It will also cover other emerging concerns and how vulnerable people in Sandwell may be affected.

PLUS

- Speak with specialist training providers and network
- Receive free resources
- Look at local case studies
- Understand the Sandwell referral process

DETAILS

Tuesday 25th February 2025
1PM - 3PM

Ileys Community Association, Corbett Street, Smethwick, B66 3PU

To reserve your space, email: prevent_inbox@sandwell.gov.uk

British Sign Language

Join the BSL Club

B S L

Day: Friday Time: 12:30pm
Room: Top Yellow S1A

For more information please see Mr Hughes or Mrs Mistry based in the Hive

Every week we will learn new signs, building up to having a full conversation



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Our Ref: SBO.KH.3179

Your Ref:

To: Parents/Carers

17th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Winter Illness

I am delighted to share with you that levels of attendance at Gospel Oaks School are continually improving. So far this academic year we have improved overall attendance by a further 3.5%. This is a significant improvement and I would like to thank you for your help and support. We strive to further improve our students' attendance to school and I continue to value the contribution that parents/carers make to this endeavour.

At present, as is typical during the Autumn and Winter, the main reason for student absence from Gospel Oak School is illness. Several parents/carers have asked for clarification about absence from school for illness and we recognise that when your son/daughter is unwell it can be hard to decide whether to keep them off school. Whether you send your son/daughter to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. I hope the guidance in this letter will help you to make that judgment.

Frequent absence is a serious problem for students as with each day missed, five hours of learning are lost, leaving students at a significant disadvantage for the remainder of the week and ultimately, over time, their school career. There is a clear, evidence-based link between poor school attendance and lower levels of achievement. Please see [The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

When deciding whether or not your son/daughter is too unwell to attend school, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my son/daughter well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, could they attend school with some pre-arranged alterations to their day?
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?

Please think carefully before keeping your son/daughter away from school for medical reasons. If they wake up saying they are feeling unwell, consider whether the symptoms they have mean they need to stay at home. Do not keep your son/daughter away from school 'just in case' when they could be in school learning and socialising with their friends. More often than not, we see our students 'perk up' throughout the day. Many common conditions can be treated with paracetamol before your son/daughter goes to school. Student reception can also administer paracetamol and/or other named medications during the school day as long as we have permission to do so. Please be reassured that even with consent, we will always telephone you to ask for your permission before giving your son/daughter any medication.

Likewise, if your son/daughter becomes unwell at school or their symptoms worsen, we will always telephone you. There is no reason for your son/daughter to be absent from school for minor ailments such as:

- Athlete's foot
- Ringworm
- Cold sores
- Slapped cheek
- Conjunctivitis
- Sore throat
- Head lice
- Period pains
- Warts and verrucae

On the back of this we have also received a letter from Pharmacy First highlighting this free NHS service which may assist in getting students back to school or college following a minor illness. It allows children and adults to get quick access to healthcare advice as they can walk into a pharmacy and access the service, removing the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. For more details please click [here](#).

If your son/daughter needs to attend a medical appointment, these should be made outside school hours wherever possible and routine check-ups should be arranged during the holiday periods. However, if your son/daughter has an unavoidable appointment during school time you should inform the attendance team on attendance@gospeloakschool.co.uk or your son/daughter's pastoral team via the enquiries contact page, so that your son/daughter's absence can be authorised. Thank you for your help and support in securing the very best attendance, and therefore education, for your son/daughter.

Kind regards,



Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal



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To: Parents / Carers

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3180

Your Ref:

17th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Parent Voice

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the MS forms regarding behaviour and attendance at Gospel Oak School. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand how we can continue to improve and create the best environment for our students.

We are pleased to share that the vast majority of parents and carers feel that behaviour has improved at the school, and this is something we are very proud of. It is only through our partnership with you that we can continue to make positive strides in this area.

- **Homework Club:** We will be offering an after-school homework club to support students with their learning. Further logistical details about this will be shared with you soon.
- **Mental Health Support:** We will share with you the full range of mental health services and support we offer, including details of the external agencies we work with.
- **Weekly Attendance Points:** Students with 100% attendance will now receive automated weekly points as a reward for their commitment.
- **Weekly Prize Draws:** We will hold weekly prize draws for students who are consistently working hard in their lessons and demonstrating positive behaviour every day.
- **Student Voice:** We will also share the findings of the half-termly student voice sessions we conduct, ensuring that you are informed about how our students feel and what they need.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Working together, we can ensure that every student at Gospel Oak School has the opportunity to thrive.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal



To: Parents/Carers

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16th January 2025

Our Ref: MC.KH.3170

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: School Meals Debt Procedure for Parents/Carers

On occasion, arrears on the School Gateway system may arise for various reasons e.g. students forget their lunch or funds are depleted in their school dinner account. However arrears cannot be allowed to accumulate.

We wish to help parents/carers limit unmanageable school meals debts. Therefore, we request that all parents/carers give our procedures their full support.

Information on who is eligible for free school meals is available from the school office or www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals. If you would like assistance with this, please use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#). Parents/Carers should note that free school meals are only awarded from the date of application and therefore the outstanding debt to school must still be paid.

School meals must be paid for in advance.

- If a student is to have meals for the duration of the week, monies must be received before the start of that week or, for occasional meals, monies must be received on the day of the meal.

Parents/Carers who do not want their son/daughter to have a school meal should provide a packed lunch.

Where a debt has accrued:

- Parents/carers will be asked to provide packed lunches from home until the debt has been cleared.
- Procedures for collection of arrears are outlined below:

Day 1 – Meal taken by student – debt accrued	Text / Reminder will be sent to you to remind you of the procedure and to top up money on your son's/daughter's account.
Day 2 – Debt remains unpaid	Please top up money on account. Provide a packed lunch.
Day 3 – Debt remains unpaid	Please top up money on account. Phone call will be made from school to remind to clear debt. If necessary, a basic hot plated meal will be provided.
Day 4 – Debt remains unpaid	Please top up money on account. Provide a packed lunch. Senior Leadership notified of situation. School meal will be refused as long as packed lunch is provided. Basic meal only if no packed lunch is provided by home.
Day 5 and Beyond – Debt remains unpaid	Meeting will be held with the relevant member of staff. Reminder letter to be sent home with student.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr M Clapham
Estates Hub Manager