



Monday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day, and our assemblies this week have marked this event, which this year also marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme this year is 'For a better future', and more can be learnt and read by visiting [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | HMD 2025 Theme](#). All students in Years 7-10 and Year 12 joined an online broadcast with Eric Schloss telling the story of his grandmother Eva Schloss; Eva was born in Austria and her family escaped from the Nazis by moving to Amsterdam. Her family was betrayed and sent to concentration camps in 1944; Eva and her mother survived Auschwitz, but she lost her father and brother. After the war, Eva settled in London, and her mother married Anne Frank's father Otto. Do please take the time to talk with your daughter and/or son about what they learnt from this broadcast, and how we can all commit to making a better future for us all.

We were delighted that students who attended the Etihad Stadium visit to watch Manchester City in the Champions' League had such an enjoyable time. However, we were disappointed to have to postpone last Friday's Year 11 Geography field trip to Birmingham due to the very strong winds; it was, though, absolutely the right decision and we will be in touch with relevant parents and carers about the rearranged visit.

Year 11 students have had changes to their form time to increase the amount of English, Maths and Science they are having as we move ever closer to exams. In nearly all subjects – the exceptions being Psychology, Statistics and Media Studies, and RE for those students who have only begun this GCSE in Year 11 – all teaching of content will be finished by February half-term, and parents and carers are reminded to keep checking that their daughters and/or sons are completing their revision activities: [download.asp](#). Year 12 and Year 13 parents and carers will be in school next Wednesday evening for the post-16 Parents' and Carers' Evening; please do book your appointments online via Arbor and do not hesitate to get in touch through [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if any help is needed with this.

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 5th February – Year 12 and Year 13
Parents' Evening

Friday 7th February – Year 9 DTP MEN Vaccines

Monday 10th February – Milan Parent Meeting, 5pm –
6.30pm

Wednesday 12th February – Parent/Carer Forum, 6pm
– 7pm

Thursday 13th February – Post 16 New York Parent
Meeting, 5pm – 6pm

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Holocaust Memorial Day

w/c 03/02 – Children's Mental Health Week

w/c 10/02 – UK Race Equality

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

Sixth Form

On Friday 24th January Year 12 and 13 had an assembly from Birmingham Children's Hospital. The presenter spoke about the hospital and where the fundraising money is going to go. Students are continuing to work hard to raise the target of £2000.

Year 13 students are currently working hard to revise for the upcoming exams. Staff will be offering a variety of revision workshops over the February ½ term.

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 – Hasti

Year 13 student of the week – Cody

Year 12 attendance – 90%

Year 13 attendance – 97.2%

Events –

30th January – UCAS deadline

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.







Safer Internet Day 2025

Online safety training for parents and carers by West Mercia Police

Tuesday 11th February 2025
10:00 - 11:00 via Microsoft Teams

This Safer Internet Day, join West Mercia Police for an online session focusing on the topic of exploitation and online safety. This **free** session aims to raise awareness and provide valuable insights on how to protect vulnerable children in an ever changing digital world.

-  Spotting the signs that your child might be being exploited
-  How to keep your child safe online
-  How online influencers might be shaping the views of your child
-  Practical tips for you to help to keep your child safe online

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) 

Spring Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for **FREE** 60-minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

[Click here to Register](#)

In the Spring Term, we'll cover:

1. **How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking**
- 21st January @6:00pm
2. **How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)**
- 4th February @6:00pm
3. **How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams**
- 11th March @6:00pm
4. **How You Can Support Your Child During Exams**
- 25th March @6:00pm

elevate
education





Happy Lunar New Year

“Wishing You Happiness, Prosperity, & Longevity”
A Celebration of Traditions, Unity, and Prosperity

2025 Year of the Snake



Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, is one of the most important celebrations in many East and Southeast Asian cultures, including China, Vietnam (where it's called Tết), and Korea (where it's called Seollal). It marks the beginning of the lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon rather than the sun.



2025
Year of the Snake



Each year is associated with one of the 12 zodiac animals, symbolizing unique characteristics and fortune.

Which animal are you?



The Chinese Zodiac

Each year is represented by an animal from the Chinese zodiac, rotating in a 12 year cycle. These animals "Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig" shape the year's personality and influence individuals' fortunes.



2025: The Year of the Snake

In Chinese culture, the snake represents:

- Wisdom
- Intuition
- & Charm

People born in the Year of the Snake are often seen as deep thinkers, good problem solvers, and calm under pressure. The snake also symbolizes transformation, making this year a great time for personal growth and new beginnings.



Preparations for the Celebration

Preparations begin weeks in advance with thorough house cleaning to sweep away bad luck. Homes are decorated with red lanterns, couplets, and paper cuttings. Families shop for new clothes, gifts, and special foods to ensure a prosperous start to the year.

Why is it celebrated?

It's a time to welcome a fresh start, celebrate family, and wish for health, happiness, and prosperity in the year ahead.

When is it celebrated?

Lunar New Year falls between late January and mid-February, depending on the lunar calendar.



Key Traditions

01. **Family Gatherings:** Families come together for large meals, often featuring symbolic foods like dumplings (wealth) and rice cakes (growth).
02. Giving **red envelopes** (hongbao) filled with money for good luck
03. **Fireworks & Lion/Dragon Dances:** These are used to scare away bad spirits and bring joy
04. **Wearing Red:** Red symbolizes good luck and happiness



Dumplings
(wealth)



Tangerines and oranges
(luck)



Nian Gao or sticky rice cake
(growth)



Fish
(abundance)



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 30 January 2025

Thursday 6,13,27 February 2025

Thursday 6,13,20,27 March 2025

Thursday 3,10, April 2025

Thursday 8,15 May 2025

Time: 15.30pm – 16.30 pm

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

Please contact Mrs Rolls to book your space which will be booked on



**Active
Black Country**

Creating a healthy, active region



FUTURES NEWS



INSPIRATION AND ASPIRATION

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

What a week our students have had through our "Inspiring Futures" programme.

With the amazing Lauren from **Girton College, University of Cambridge** Year 8 students kicked off the "Pathways to Higher Education" Postcard Competition, completing the sentence: "I aspire to go to university because..."

Laura also supported all our Year 7 students to explore the power of education, future careers, and how university can transform their dreams into reality, through an interactive assembly

It's been an exciting time for our Year 11 students as they've had the opportunity to engage with a variety of Post - 16 providers, helping them explore the many pathways available after GCSEs! Supporting our students to make informed decisions about their next steps, ensuring they choose a route that best supports their ambitions and aspirations.

Pathways to Higher Education
Year 7 Aspiration Day
Activity Book

I'll lead my
my dream career
taken to the education
the wonderful thing you
our. Also, university will open
my opportunities along the
my path to your...

FUTURES NEWS



The Brilliant Club Launches at Gospel Oak!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Brilliant Club at Gospel Oak, with 15 eager Year 7 students embarking on an exciting academic journey. The initiative, designed to challenge and inspire students through university-style learning, kicked off with a fantastic launch event attended by both students and their supportive parents.

The Brilliant Club provides an incredible opportunity for students to engage with high-level academic material, guided by expert tutors, and develop skills that will support their future aspirations. We are proud to see our young learners embracing this challenge with enthusiasm and can't wait to see what they achieve!

Stay tuned for updates on their progress and achievements in the coming weeks.



To: Parents/Carers

31st January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Online Safety and Acceptable Use Agreement

We hope this letter finds you well. As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students, we are writing to emphasise the importance of staying safe online. With technology playing a central role in education and daily life, it is crucial that students understand how to navigate the online world responsibly.

To support this, we require all students to understand and agree to the Online Safety Acceptable Use Agreement. This agreement outlines the expectations and responsibilities for using technology and the internet safely and respectfully whilst using school IT equipment.

Key points from the Online Safety Acceptable Use Agreement:

- **Respectful Communication:** Students must use technology and online platforms respectfully, avoiding any form of bullying, harassment, or inappropriate language.
- **Safe Internet Use:** Students are expected to avoid sharing personal information online and immediately report any concerning or unsafe behaviour they encounter.
- **Appropriate Content Access:** Students should access only appropriate and educational content, refraining from visiting harmful or restricted websites.
- **Careful Use of Equipment:** Students must handle school-provided devices and technology responsibly, ensuring they are not damaged or misused.

We kindly ask you to review the agreement linked [here](#) with your son/daughter, as all students will shortly be required to confirm they have read and understood the agreement before using school IT equipment. This declaration will be via an online declaration when they log into a school device, or via an electronic form should they not use a school device during their normal school day. This declaration will be required by all students before the end of this half term.

By working together, we can create a safe and supportive digital environment for all students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Shergill
Assistant Principal

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Tipton
West Midlands
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F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

Our Ref: AS.KH.3190

Your Ref:



To: Parents/Carers

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31st January 2025

Our Ref: AHi.KH.3191

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Important information regarding communication with the school

I hope this letter finds you well. We would like to remind all parents and carers that any communication with the school should be directed through the Contact Us page on the Gospel Oak School website. This ensures that queries are received by the appropriate team and responded to efficiently.

While we use ClassCharts and Facebook to share information with parents, these platforms are not monitored for direct communication, and we are unable to respond to messages sent via these apps.

For any year group-specific enquiries, please use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#)

Using these designated communication channels allows us to monitor responses and ensure that you are getting a response within 48 hours.

Using the correct communication channels helps us ensure that all enquiries are dealt with promptly and by the right member of staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



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To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

31st January 2025

Our Ref: CM.KH.3192

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 Computer Science

You will know that there have been some staffing changes in Computer Science which have affected our Year 11 Computer Science class; I completely understand that this is not ideal and I share your concerns about how this could impact your daughter or son.

I have been working on support strategies for Year 11 Computer Science and want to update you on those:

- A drop-down morning will be held on 3rd March with a teacher from another school in our Trust to deliver content linked to Unit 6.
- After February half-term, 3 lessons a fortnight will be revision-focused and delivered to students via a live online link with a Computer Science specialist.
- All students have been provided with a GCSE Computer Science revision guide.
- Seneca assignments will be set for students; all students have access to Seneca to support learning.
- GCSEPod has full content for GCSE Computer Science; all students have access to GCSEPod to support their preparation for summer exams.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if you have any further questions. As always, thank you for your support of the ongoing work of the school.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss C Middlehurst
Senior Vice Principal**