



Exam season feels like it is very much upon us now; many of our Year 11 Hospitality students have taken their 'practical exam' now and the remainder of the students will take theirs next week. Our GCSE Photography and Fine Art students are also well on with their preparations for their final 'exam' piece. We know that many of our Year 11s are working extremely hard on their revision too; thank you to our many parents and carers who are supporting at home and reminding their daughter and/or son to keep on top of this using [download.asp](#). You may be interested, for example, to know that 178 hours and 12 minutes of learning has taken place on Seneca for Science in January.

We were delighted, too, to welcome in many of our Year 12 and Year 13 parents and carers on Wednesday to provide further updates on how their daughter or son can achieve success in their exams; it is very much the final straight for Year 13s and it is vital that they are working hard at all times. There can be no such thing as "no work to be done" and students should be focused on all of the individual guidance that they have been given to support their progress.

Year 7, 8 and 9 should also be heavily engaged in their Sparx to support progress in English, Maths and Science; the number of students completing their Sparx is regularly increasing and it has been brilliant to see the number of positive achievement points given for homework. Across all year groups, 6568 points have been issued for homework completion in the last month. As you know, there has been a significantly increased focus on students working harder, including working harder outside of school, and it is really encouraging to see the benefits for all members of our school community.

As always, please do get in touch using [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if we can help in any way.

Upcoming Dates

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

Tuesday 25th February – RAF & ICC Chef Workshop

Wednesday 26th February - Virtual Schools Career Event at Dudley College

Thursday 27th February – Post 16 Bath University Visit

Thursday 27th February – Year 8 Parents Evening, 4pm – 6.30pm

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Children's Mental Health Week

w/c 10/02 – UK Race Equality

w/c 24/02 – Term Ahead Expectations

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

YEAR 8 PARENTS EVENING

Thursday 27th February 2025 between 4 – 6.30pm
Appointments will be available to book on Arbor
from Thursday 6th February 2025 at 9.00am

February Half-Term Revision

Our half-term revision programme is as follows:

Monday – DT for Y11 and Y13; Hospitality for Y11; Art for Y11; Maths Foundation for Y11; Maths for Y13; Sociology for Y11.

Tuesday – DT for Y11 and Y13; English Language and Literature for Y11; Maths Higher for Y11; Combined Science for Y11.

Wednesday – DT for Y11 and Y13; Chemistry (Triple) for Y11; Maths Foundation for Y11.

Letters will be available from Reception for Monday, with consent forms for students to return. Please note that numbers for each group will be capped at 30. Sessions run 9.30am – 12pm.

Sixth Form

Students have continued to work hard this week on their studies.

The 6th form team are excited to launch the 2026 February Trip to New York – letters with all information are going out this week.

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 half 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 – Ruth
Year 13 student of the week – Gerard
Year 12 attendance – 89.9%
Year 13 attendance – 91.7%

Events –

5th February – Year 12 and 13 Parents evening
13th February – Parent meeting re New York
27th February – Trip to Bath University
8th – 10th July - Year 12 work experience



We're teaming up with local organizations to host a workshop focused on addressing important social issues.

 | 

Half-Term Football Fun Day

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Year 4 & 5

George Salter Academy
Davey Rd, West Bromwich B70 9UW
10:00AM - 2:00PM



SIGN UP



We're teaming up with local organizations to host a workshop focused on addressing important social issues.

 | 

Half-Term Football Fun Day

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Year 6 & 7

George Salter Academy
Davey Rd, West Bromwich B70 9UW
10:00AM - 2:00PM



SIGN UP



We're teaming up with local organizations to host a workshop focused on addressing important social issues.

 | 

Half-Term Tournament

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Year 8 & 9

George Salter Academy
Davey Rd, West Bromwich B70 9UW
10:00AM - 2:00PM



SIGN UP

We're teaming up with local organizations to host a workshop focused on addressing important social issues.



SIGN UP

Half-Term Tournament
 Friday, February 21, 2025
Year 10 & 11
 George Salter Academy
 Davey Rd, West Bromwich B70 9UW
10:00AM – 2:00PM

Futures

SKILLS FOR LIFE

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025



WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?
 8 key facts you need to know

- 1** An apprenticeship is a real job. Available to individuals aged 16+ (with no upper age limit), apprentices are typically employed for at least 30 hours per week.
- 2** Apprentices are paid a salary. All apprentices will earn a salary of at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices, which will increase to £7.55* per hour from April 2025. Many employers pay more!
- 3** Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months. Most apprenticeships take between 1 - 4 years to complete. It will depend on the level and delivery model of the apprenticeship.
- 4** Apprenticeships range from level 2 to level 7. There are apprenticeships at levels equivalent to GCSEs right up to master's level and you can now achieve a degree through an apprenticeship.
- 5** Apprentices do not pay for their training. All apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government, meaning that an apprentice will never have to pay for their training.
- 6** Apprentices will receive paid off-the-job learning. The equivalent of 6 hours per week of an apprentice's paid time will be spent undertaking off-the-job learning, gaining valuable skills and qualifications.
- 7** Apprentices will spend the majority of their time on-the-job. Most of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience of the workplace.
- 8** There are thousands of apprenticeships in more than 170 Industries. New apprenticeships are advertised each week covering a wide range of job roles. You will be amazed at the variety and breadth available!

*The National Minimum Wage for apprentices is reviewed each April.

Discover more about apprenticeships:
www.amazingapprenticeships.com

FINDING THE BEST APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU
 Top tips to help you know when and where to look

Research different employers. Apprenticeships are offered by large companies and small companies, right throughout England. The full range of apprenticeship job roles and levels that a company offers may not always be obvious to you, especially that company is well known for a particular product or service, or if you've never heard of the organisation before. Take some time to research the types of employers that offer apprenticeships, and think about the kind of company you see yourself working in.

Know what interests you most. A great place to start is to spend some time thinking about what interests you and the subjects, activities and tasks that you enjoy the most. It can be really useful to try and think about what you don't like as much as what you do like!

Follow these top tips for finding the best apprenticeship for you:

INSPIRE ME! Go hear from real apprentices, exploring how they found their apprenticeship and what they love most about their job roles, scan the QR code with your phone or visit: www.amazingapprenticeships.com/inspire-me

Take the [@inspireme](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/inspire-me) app to help you to research the variety of apprenticeships available.

Listen to real apprentice stories. The range of apprenticeships is really huge. One of the best ways to help you to decide what you're interested in is to hear from other apprentices.

FINDING THE BEST APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU
 Top tips to help you know when and where to look

Know where to look. There are lots of ways you can search for apprenticeships, including:

- Find an apprenticeship website
- Company websites
- Social media
- Through friends and family
- Local job sites

If you have a particular employer in mind, you can always send in your CV.

Understand the recruitment cycle. There is not one fixed application date for apprenticeships. Vacancies are advertised throughout the year and the employer will decide when they want to recruit. Some employers will advertise almost a year ahead of the planned start date (this is typical for large schemes) and other employers will advertise with a fairly short application window and closing date.

Be clear on what matters to you. The best apprenticeships are not necessarily the ones paying the highest salaries or the biggest global brand. There are many other factors you can consider when researching your options and the different programmes available. Being clear about what is most important to you can really help in your decision making process. For example, you could consider:

- What does the company do?
- Do the company's values and ethos fit with your own?
- What level is the apprenticeship?
- What progression are they offering?
- Is the position fixed term or permanent?
- How many apprentices do they employ?
- How long will the apprenticeship last?
- Do they support apprentices to join networks of other apprentices?
- How far away is the apprenticeship?
- What kind of tasks will you be doing day to day?

TOP TIP Never wait for the timing (even before submitting your application). If an employer receives a lot of applications, they may decide to close rather than expected and you don't want to miss out!

Discover more about apprenticeships:
www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Futures

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**

**NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2025**



PARENT & CARER ZONE

EXPLORE THE OPTIONS TO SUPPORT AND ADVISE YOUR CHILD



amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/apprenticeships-hints-tips-for-parents-carers

Protect our children!

Learn more about the dangers faced by our children in the community and online.

Join a free one-hour parent awareness session to give yourself a head start in an ever-changing society.

Tuesday 4th February at 09:30
Friday 7th February at 10:00
Tuesday 11th February at 10:00
Monday 24th February at 19:00

All events are hosted on Microsoft Teams via Eventbrite. Book here [Exploitation and vulnerability training | West Mercia Police](#)



FREE Exploitation & Online Safety Training for Parents/Carers



Lifeline Wellbeing Hub

Life in Community at St John's Tipton Church Hall



Have you recently been discharged from hospital or are you feeling isolated?

New to Life in Community is the **Lifeline Wellbeing Hub** it provides a two a day programme designed to enhance community health and reduce social isolation.

The schedule includes:

Tuneful Tuesdays which consists of Lifeline Dinner and a Singer – (Featuring live entertainment, social activities, and a hot meal) and a Warm Space evening session funded by The National Grid.

Well-being Wednesdays will offer a light exercise class, followed by "Coffee, Cake and Crumpets" a community session that provides a hot meal and entertainment or crafts.

To make the Wellbeing Hub as accessible as possible, we will be collaborating with Ring and Ride to provide travel support for residents who experience mobility issues.



Tuneful Tuesdays
1pm-5pm

You can make an online referral for Lifeline Wellbeing Hub by clicking this image or you can call us the number below.



Wellbeing Wednesdays
1pm-4pm

Venue: St Johns Church Hall,
Upper Church Lane, Tipton, DY4 9ND

For more information call 07752 659257




Life in Community at St John's Tipton Church Hall

Weekly Timetable Winter 2025
Term Time Only
Jan 2025 - March 2025

Motivation Mondays Mondays 12pm - 7pm

LIC Community Money Advice Connect Centre Life and Debt	Go Play Sandwell Youth Club 3pm - 5:30pm Go play Sandwell	Lifeline Ladies Support Group 6pm - 7pm Lifeline ladies	Walk & Talk 6pm - 7pm Walk & Talk
---	--	--	--

Tuneful Tuesdays Tuesdays 1pm - 7pm

Lifeline Wellbeing Hub 1pm - 5pm	Life Line Dinner & a Singer 1pm - 5pm	Lifeline Warm Space 5pm - 7pm	Warburtons
-------------------------------------	--	----------------------------------	-------------------

Wellbeing Wednesdays Wednesdays 11am - 4.30pm

Lifeline Light Exercise 9:30am - 10:15pm Lifeline Light Exercise	Life Tots - Family Playgroup 10:45am - 12:15pm Life in Tots	Coffee, Cake & Crumpets Well-being Session 1pm - 4pm Coffee, Cake & Crumpets	Don't Forget to 'Come and grab a loaf!' Every Wednesday
---	--	---	---

Focus Fridays Fridays 11am - 3pm

Lifeline Moneywise Cooking on a budget 10:30 - 12:30pm Lifeline Money Wise	Lifeline Advocates Support Drop In Lifeline Advocates	Lifeline Community
---	---	---------------------------

Call or text LIFE' to 07752 659257 for further information

Supported by

You can find us at:
St Johns Church Hall,
Upper Church Lane,
DY4 9ND

WDH Sandwell Promoting health equality
NHS Localgiving nationalgrid
Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Life in Community CIC activities from January 2025 - March 2025

Motivation Mondays



Kick start your week and seize the opportunity to either deal with any financial challenges, unemployment worries, or housing issues. We are here to help, as well as give you a safe space for your kids aged 6-12 (up to 14 for regular users). Mondays are an opportunity to access advice and guidance, a free play session for the kids and/or to talk through your issues with like-minded women or walk and talk to clear your head.

-Life and Debt, Go Play Sandwell, Lifeline Ladies Group, Walk and Talk

Tuneful Tuesdays



It is time to get musical, giving residents to access live entertainment or group activities to be enjoyed, with a light meal. In addition it is a chance to gain some valuable money and energy saving tips via our Warm Space. Come on in, meet new people, get help with your fuel tariffs and keep warm.

-Tuneful Tuesdays, Lifeline Diner and a Singer, Lifeline Warm Space

Wellbeing Wednesdays



It is our favourite day of the WEEK! Join us for activities that assist in improving your physical wellbeing by increasing your fitness levels. If you have little ones, enjoy a family play time session. Then finally, access our wonderful residents session, where you are able to meet liked-minded people and enjoy a light meal. If you want to laugh, join us. This group will make your Wednesdays wonderful.

-Lifeline Light Exercise, LifeTots and Coffee, Cake and Crumpets

Focus Fridays



Join us for our intergenerational activities, bringing the old and young together to cook and share. If you need assistance with anything that is concerning you, please drop in or if you would like a bit of company just pop in.

-Lifeline Money wise, Lifeline Advocates and Lifeline Community Drop in

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [LifeinComTipton](#)
Twitter/X: [@LifeinComTipton](#)
Instagram: [LifeinComTipton](#)



Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust



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.3200

Your Ref:

To: Parents/Carers

7th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Jewellery Policy

We are writing to remind all students and families of the school's policy regarding jewellery during PE lessons. For the safety and well-being of all students, we enforce a strict no jewellery policy in PE lessons irrespective of the activity; this includes earrings, necklaces, nose studs, bracelets, rings and other accessories. [Gospel Oak School - Uniform](#) outlines our whole-school policy on jewellery. As a department, we appreciate that a number of students may want their ears pierced. However, they are not appropriate in a school sporting environment. Jewellery can pose a risk of injury during physical activities, both to the wearer and to others, and therefore must be removed before the lesson begins.

We would advise that any piercing is made over the summer break or if a two-week healing period is sufficient then the Christmas or Easter break may be appropriate. Non-participation is unfortunately not a suitable alternative. In instances where students have not followed the policy, removal from the lesson and sanctions given will be necessary. Plasters given by the school and notes to request non-participation are not permitted.

Please note that staff are unable to assist students in removing jewellery, as this is a responsibility for students themselves to manage. Any item of jewellery a student chooses to wear must be in line with the school uniform policy and worn to school entirely at the risk of the student.

We kindly ask that you ensure your son/daughter is aware of this policy and removes any jewellery at the start of the PE lesson. We are pleased to report we have very few instances where this situation arises. However, if removal is refused then the PE department will follow the school behaviour policy.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all students.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school through the enquiries email on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Miss P Thacker
Director of Learning and Standards (Physical Education)