



Today brings to an end a very busy half-term where there have been a huge amount of learning opportunities both within and beyond the classroom. Many sports' fixtures have taken place, music lessons held, with visits to universities and football stadiums too. This week has seen a number of our students working with Matt Windle, 'Poet with a Punch', and formerly Birmingham's Poet Laureate to develop their creative writing skills; this is just another example of the many activities taking place in school on a regular basis. As we have referenced so many times before, learning is not just about what happens in lessons and we know that these fantastic opportunities have such a positive impact on our students.

The half-term break brings further opportunities for revision and preparation for upcoming exams for our Year 11 and Year 13 students; there is a huge amount of hard work to be done to ensure success in the summer examinations. Good exam results take a lot of effort, and a lot of time; our Year 11 and Year 13s need to be using this week to continue their revision, and many will also be coming in to school to take part in revision sessions. Seneca, DrFrost, and GCSEPod should be being used by students; practice makes permanent, and lots of practice is required to ensure that skills and knowledge are 'sticking'. Preparations are well underway in school, too, for Year 10 and Year 12 mock examinations which will take place in the last two weeks of term before the Easter holiday; we know that many of our Year 10s and Year 12s will be making sure they are using this week to support their revision. Parents and carers of Year 8 students should be making appointments for our Year 8 Parents' and Carers' Evening on 27th February; any questions, please get in touch via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).

We held our Parent and Carer Forum on Wednesday evening; as always, a huge thank you to our parents and carers who give of their time to discuss some of the key areas of our school improvement and to make suggestions to help us to continue to move forwards. We discussed our communication with parents and carers, attitude to learning and Year 11 revision amongst other topics; as always, these were very productive discussions. A reminder, too, that with the upcoming holiday period, our usual 'Contact Us' process with replies from school within two working days will mean that responses will not come until after the half-term break; it is important that our staff are able to have a break too.

Thank you for all of your support this half-term; we look forward to seeing your daughter and/or son back in school on Monday 24th February at 8.25am.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 25th February – RAF & ICC Chef Workshop

Wednesday 26th February – Yr 9, Yr 10 & Yr 11
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

Wednesday 5th March – RSA8 Trust Project – Launch
Event, Waseley Hills High
School

Friday 7th March – Culture Day

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was UK Race Equality

w/c 24/02 – Term Ahead Expectations

w/c 03/03 – World Book Day & Importance Of
Reading

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

Sixth Form

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

In silent study we have introduced upskill 60 – this is dedicated time where students will be practicing their exam papers, this will be running Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays lessons 1 and 3.

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.

We wish everyone a restful break.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Shanvir S

Year 13 student of the week – Luke M

Year 12 attendance – 94.6 %

Year 13 attendance – 96.9%

Events –

13th February – Parent meeting re New York

27th February – Trip to Bath University

8th – 10th July - Year 12 work experience

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

DR. EAM ASPIRE

SATURDAY | 08 MARCH 2025 | 10.00 AM - 3.30 PM

Online Zoom Webinar

ARE YOU A YEAR 10-12 STUDENT
CONSIDERING A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE?



Free outreach conference for Year 10-12 students!

- ✓ Talks from nurses, physiotherapists, doctors, and other healthcare professionals.
- ✓ Guidance on the university application process & work experience.



BWAMS Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/dream-aspire2025>



**It's not
culture.
It's a
crime.**

Together we can end FGM

February Half Term Adventure Days at Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre

For young people aged 8+ who live in Sandwell

Canoeing - Climbing and Abseiling - Archery



Monday 17, Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 February 2025

**9.30am - 3pm
£40.00 per day**



**Book your place and find out more:
ian_clews@sandwell.gov.uk**



Being a Parent

Please find below link to the first edition of Being a Parent – A guide for parents and carers in Sandwell.

[5DD3BEED25B84CF67DAF2EBE15D27B12.pdf](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/5DD3BEED25B84CF67DAF2EBE15D27B12.pdf)

Choices

Making family memories!
For families in Sandwell with children aged 5 – 12.

Physical Activity
Icons: Three people playing football, a child on a bicycle, a person swimming.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing
Icons: A smiling face, a person meditating, a person holding a child.

Food and Nutrition
Icons: A shopping bag, a cooking pot, a lunchbox.

Growing Your Own
Icons: A basket of vegetables, a watering can, a potted plant.

Quality fun family time together whilst discovering new activities.

Bring your family together and book onto one of our activities using the website or QR code:

Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk
www.bookwhen.com/choices
0121 569 5100



 Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

 **HEALTHY SANDWELL**
We find the support you need

FREE HALF TERM BOXING SESSIONS

WHEN? Tuesday 18th February - Friday 21st February,
10:30am - 12:30pm.

WHERE? Southpaw Boxing & Fitness Gym, Unit 67 Queens
Court Trading Estate, Greets Green Road, B70 9EG.

HOW MUCH? All sessions are FREE!! No need to pre-book.

WHO? Children & young people aged 10 - 17 years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BOXCLEVER MENTORING ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS
BELOW**



@boxclevercj



BoxClever Mentoring

BOXCLEVER
Mentoring



Life in Community

CREATING A PLAYABLE SANDWELL

February Half Term Free Activities 2025

Monday 17th Feb' & Friday 21st Feb'

10.30am-12.30pm
12.45pm-2.45pm

**St Johns Church Hall,
Upper Church Lane, Tipton, DY4 9ND**

These sessions are open to
*** 5-16 year olds**
*** Parents/carers to stay.**
Younger siblings are welcome

To find out more text 'PLAY' to 07752 659257

Funded by:
 Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Go play Sandwell

GO PLAY FREE PLAY SESSIONS IN TIPTON

FEBRUARY HALF TERM SESSIONS:

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 10AM-12PM TIPTON LIBRARY MAYFAIR GARDENS

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 1PM-4PM VICTORIA PARK, MAYFAIR GARDENS, TIPTON, DY4 8SD

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 11AM-4PM, NEW ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, MOUNT ST, TIPTON DY4 7DE

TERM TIME SESSIONS:

EVERY MONDAY 24/02/2025 UNTIL 31/03/2025 , 3:00PM- 5:30PM, AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, 53 UPPER CHURCH LN, TIPTON, DY4 9ND

EVERY THURSDAY BETWEEN 27/02/2025- 10/04/2025, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, AT THE FIELD OUTSIDE WEDNESBURY OAK ACADEMY (DY4 OAR)

All Go Play sessions are FREE, open access (so come along at any time) and do not require booking. Sessions are aimed at families with children aged 6-12 and up to 19 with additional needs.

Sessions are NOT drop-off sessions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOHNNY AT:
JOHNNY.LOMAX@GROUNDWORK.ORG.UK
OR
07872857437
OR VISIT [HTTPS://GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK](https://goplaysandwell.co.uk)

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Metropolitan Borough Council



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: SB/DP

Your Ref:

To: Yr 11 & Yr 12 Parents/Carers

14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: **New York Trip February 2026**

We are excited to propose a school tour to New York alongside the other trust schools from the 16th to 20th February 2026 to expose students to diverse cultures and their understanding of global perspectives and have a bit of fun!

We are arranging this trip through NST Travel, the UK's leading educational travel company for schools with more than 50 years of experience. They will work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your son/daughter gets the best learning experience while away. More detailed information regarding the trip and NST can be found by clicking on the following link [Cultural School Trips and Tours to New York | NST](#).

Cost of Trip

The provisional cost is £1,750.00 per student. This price includes:

- Return executive coach travel to and from school
- Return flights – these are to be confirmed
- Accommodation (room only)
- NST 24-hour emergency contact service whilst on tour
- In addition to the tour cost, we recommend that your son/daughter has spending money for the trip to cover the costs of breakfast, lunch and spending money.

Trip Itinerary

Please see below the key details about the trip:

- 2 Course Meal with Soft Drink at Hard Rock Cafe (Set Menu)
- 2 Course Meal with Soft Drink at Tick Tock Diner
- Dinner at Westway Diner
- Visit to Brooklyn Bridge
- Visit to Central Park
- Broadway Theatre Performance (show TBA)
- Ferry to Liberty and Ellis Island
- Visit to Empire State Building
- Visit to Times Square

- Visit Top of the Rock
- 9/11 Memorial Visit
- Visit the American Museum of Natural History

Travel Requirements

They will also require a passport and an ESTA visa, for which you should budget an additional amount. A passport currently costs £88.50, and an ESTA visa is £17.00. You can click on the links below for more information.

[Apply online for a UK passport - GOV.UK](#)

[Official ESTA Application Website, U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)

We require the completed permission slip by Tuesday 25th February 2025. Once the place has been confirmed we will need a deposit of £150 paid via the gateway by Friday 28th February. Mrs Clee will call you to confirm confirmation of your place.

Due to limited spaces, we will be offering places on a first-come, first-served basis. A reserve list will also be in place.

We will be unable to offer any refunds on any payments made.

Payment plan

Payment Amount	Payment due by:
£150	28 th February
£200	28 th March
£200	2 nd May
£200	30 th May
£200	27 th June
£200	25 th July
£200	29 th August
£200	26 th September
£200	31 st October

Yours sincerely,



Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal

New York Consent Form

Trip to:	New York	Date:	16 th to 20 th Feb 2026
Name of Child:	Year:	Tutor:	
I give permission for my child to attend the trip.	Yes	No	
My Child is entitled to Free School Meals. Please provide a grab bag	Yes	No	
My child will be collected from:			
By (Name of person collecting)			
Emergency contact name:			
Emergency contact telephone number:			
Medical Conditions/Medication:			
Special Needs:			
Dietary Needs/Allergies:			
I give permission for my child to be photographed/filmed during the trip to be used on:	Gospel Oak School website: Yes / No Gospel Oak School Twitter/Facebook accounts: Yes / No Marketing materials for the Gospel Oak School (newsletters etc) Yes / No Gospel Oak school display purposes: Yes / No Central Region Schools Trust promotional materials: Yes / No		
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Print name:	Date:	

Please return to Reception



To: Parents/Carers

14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: **Drop Down Day – Friday 14th March 2025**

We are pleased to inform you that Gospel Oak School will be holding a Drop-Down Day on Friday 14th March 2025. This day is designed to provide students with unique educational experiences tailored to their year group, focusing on academic enrichment, career readiness, and skill development.

What will the day include?

Year 7 – CSI Science Day: Students will take part in a forensic investigation led by the Science Department, using fingerprint analysis, chemical testing, and DNA examination to solve a crime scene.

Year 8 – Poetry Workshop: Students will take part in a poetry workshop with professional poet Matt Windle, exploring themes of injustice and creative writing. They will have the opportunity to enter their work into a Young Writers' Competition.

Year 9 – Dictators on Trial: A high-energy, engaging event led by the Humanities Department where students will investigate and debate key historical figures and their impact on society. This event has been a firm favourite among students in previous years, offering a unique mix of history, debate, and role-playing, making learning both fun and immersive.

Year 10 – Careers Fair & Elevate Workshops: Students will work with their option subjects, engage in career-based activities, and take part in mock interviews throughout the day to develop their employability skills.

Year 11 – Exam Preparation: Students will rotate through revision sessions in Maths and participate in a one-hour session with Elevate to enhance their revision techniques. Targeted students will also attend specialised revision sessions by MADE.

Elevate is a study skills program designed to help Year 11 students improve their revision techniques, time management, and exam strategies. It provides practical workshops and resources focused on areas such as note-taking, memory techniques, managing stress, and structuring revision effectively. The goal is to equip students with the skills and confidence they need to maximize their performance in GCSE exams.

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: AHi.KH.3201

Your Ref:

MADE (Motivational Academic Development & Education) is a revision and study skills program designed to help Year 11 students improve their learning strategies and exam preparation. It focuses on key areas such as memory techniques, effective revision planning, motivation, and managing exam stress. Through interactive workshops, students gain practical tools to enhance their retention and performance, ensuring they are well-prepared for their GCSE exams.

How can you support?

We encourage you to discuss the importance of these activities with your son/daughter and support them in making the most of the day. Ensuring they arrive prepared, engaged, and ready to participate will help them gain valuable insights and experiences that contribute to their academic and personal growth.

As an additional incentive, every student who attends school on Drop Down Day will receive 100 achievement points.

We look forward to an enriching and engaging Drop Down Day and appreciate your support in making it a success. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



To: Parents/Carers

14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: **Culture Day – Friday 7th March 2025**

We are excited to announce that Gospel Oak School will be celebrating Culture Day on Friday 7th March 2025. This special event will provide our students with the opportunity to explore cultural diversity through art, music and expression, fostering an inclusive and vibrant school community.

The theme for this year's event is 'Exploring Culture Through Art and Expression,' and we have arranged for a beatboxer, a graffiti artist and a spoken word poet to lead interactive sessions with our students. These artists will share their unique talents, highlighting how cultural identity and traditions are expressed through creative mediums.

What will the day include?

- A Culture Lesson (Period 1) where students will reflect on cultural identity and express their own heritage through writing, drawing, or poetry.
- Assemblies with Guest Artists (Periods 2-5), where students will engage in live demonstrations of beatboxing, graffiti art, and spoken word performances.
- A Collaborative Artwork Project that will be displayed in the school reception to celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community.
- A Social Media Showcase, where students will share greetings in their home languages to highlight linguistic diversity.

Students must wear full school uniform for Culture Day. A variety of delicacies from different cultures will be available for purchase at break and lunch.

How can you support?

We encourage you to speak with your son/daughter about their own cultural background and traditions, as well as help them think about how they may want to express their identity during the event.

We look forward to an enriching and engaging Culture Day and appreciate your support in making it a success. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal

centralregionschoolstrust.co.uk
info@centralsacademies.co.uk
@CRSTrust
0121 270 3117

Registered Office:
Suite B06 Assay Studios,
141 Newhall Street
Birmingham, England, B31SF

Company Number: 08166526
Limited by Guarantee

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

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