

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 2nd May 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday 7th May - Year 9
Armed Forces Showcase

Wednesday 7th May - Envision
Programme

Monday 19th May - Year 9 Mental
Health Awareness Course

Thursday 22nd May - Trust
Rounders Tournament



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Term
Ahead - Expectations

w/c 05/05 - VE Day
w/c 12/05 - Self-harm

Please take the time to talk to your
daughter and/or son about what
they have learnt in Assembly.

YEAR 7

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

SIXTH FORM

LETTERS

COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM MISS MIDDLEHURST, SENIOR VICE PRINCIPAL

We've had some beautiful weather this week to mark the beginning of the summer term. It has been lovely to see the students enjoying the sunshine at break and lunchtime; the school fields have now been opened up with the better weather. Uniform expectations remain the same and students have been reminded of this in assembly. A reminder, too, that aerosols are not to be used on school site; for students, staff and visitors with asthma and other medical conditions, aerosols can cause some very serious health problems. If students need hayfever medication, this should be given to School Reception so that its use can be monitored in line with our procedures; please do get in touch via Gospel Oak School - Contact Us if you have any questions about this.

Year 11 and Year 13 students are very much in the final stages of preparation for their summer exams; I cannot overstate the importance of effort and hard work at this point in the academic year for these students. Good exam results improve life chances; and achieving a grade 4 or above in English and Maths now means that Year 11 students will not have to repeat these exams in their post-16 studies. Please do keep ensuring that your daughter and/or son is completing their revision at home; thank you for your support. I know that parents and carers of our students who are not sitting external exams this summer will be making sure that the importance of hard work in all year groups is being reinforced at home; this key message will bring rewards in the future. I would also remind you that nerves from students at this time of year is perfectly normal and natural; these are vitally important exams.

Preparations are well underway for Year 7-9 assessments in a number of subjects from 19th May; further information will be provided to parents and carers and students about these in due course.

I hope you have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend, and look forward to seeing your daughter and/or son back in school on Tuesday morning at 8.25am.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES



YEAR 7

Year 7:

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a fantastic Easter break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the final push before summer! This half term is a short one – just 19 school days – so it's really important that everyone makes the most of every day.

Attendance Matters

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support with attendance. We finished the last week of the previous term on 95% attendance, which is absolutely outstanding! Let's aim even higher this half term – 100% attendance is our goal.

Positive Behaviour

It was fantastic to see a real improvement in behaviour during the final week of last term. Well done to everyone who showed kindness, respect, and responsibility – let's keep that going!

Year 7 vs Year 8 Football Fixture

We're excited to announce a friendly football match between our Year 7 and Year 8 teams, taking place on Tuesday 6th May at Gospel Oak School on the astroturf. Parents and carers are welcome to attend but must sign in at reception and will be escorted to the pitch. Come along and support the teams!

Mr Bowser and the Year 7 Team



YEAR 8

Year 8:

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. As we begin the Summer 1 half term, we're excited to share just how much is in store for your child over the next few weeks here at Gospel Oak. This half term may be short, but it is packed with meaningful opportunities – in the classroom, across enrichment experiences, and beyond.

★ A Half Term Full of Opportunity

Over the next four weeks, Year 8 students will be diving into some brilliant learning across subjects, with engaging lessons designed to inspire curiosity, confidence, and creativity. Whether it is exploring exciting new topics in English and Science, or solving real-world problems in Maths and Humanities, this half term is all about challenge and discovery.

We are also offering a range of wider opportunities to help students grow – including guest speakers, enrichment sessions, and important PSHE discussions that tackle difficult and exciting topics. It is a valuable time for students to try new things and create memories that will shape their school journey.

🎯 “Don’t Break the Streak” – Attendance Challenge

We have launched our “19 Day – Don’t Break the Streak!” attendance challenge to encourage consistent attendance this half term. The idea is simple: attend school every day for 19 days and you could win exciting prizes!


More importantly, every single day in school counts. Students who are present, engaged, and taking part in lessons and activities have a far better chance of achieving their full potential – not just academically, but socially and emotionally too.

Please support us by encouraging your child to attend daily, arrive on time, and give every day their best.

19

Don't break the **streak** 19 days of attendance



Day of the week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY Prize Draw 100% all week
Week 1	Be present to progress. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Every day counts! Raffle: Prize Box Lucky Dip.	Half way through the week. Raffle: Prize Box Lucky Dip.	Almost a full week of learning. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Raffle £20 Love2shop voucher. Every Student: 25 achievement points.
Week 2		Being present opens doors. Raffle: Prize box lucky dip.	Keep attending :) Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Nearly there - keep going. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Raffle £20 Love2shop voucher. Every Student: 25 achievement points.
Week 3	Be present to progress! Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Keep attending :) Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Every day counts! Raffle: Prize Box Lucky Dip.	Almost a full week of learning. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Raffle £20 Love2shop voucher. Every Student: 25 achievement points.
Week 4	Be present to progress! Raffle: Free meal from the canteen,	Every day counts. Raffle: Prize Box Lucky Dip.	Nearly there - keep going. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Keep attending :) Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.	Raffle £50 Love2shop voucher. Every Student: 50 achievement points.

A Strong Start, A Stronger Finish

Your child has already achieved so much this year. Their growing confidence, independence and determination haven't gone unnoticed, and we're incredibly proud of how far they've come. Let's work together to help them end this half term even stronger. With exciting lessons, positive routines, and daily attendance, we know Year 8 can continue to shine.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Johnson and the Year 8 Team



YEAR 9

Year 9:

Happy Summer 1 Half Term Y9! Crazy to think we are halfway through another incredible Year together on this Gospel Oak Journey!

A big welcome back and happy first week for all of the Y9 Family! As Miss Ralph stated on Monday during the first line up of the week to students, this half term is a short and sweet but an extremely important one for our Y9 family as we continue to knuckle down in our lessons and look ahead on our journey at Gospel Oak to our options that will start in Y10. Over the course of the next 4 weeks there will be lots of opportunities and experiences thrown in Y9s direction and I urge all students every day to take all experiences and opportunities with both hands as it is important we build up these memories that only come once in our schooling lifetime!

Starting strong we have the “19 day – Don't break the streak!” attendance incentive that is currently running and all you have to do Y9 is follow that BASIC rule of BE IN SCHOOL to be in with the chance of some amazing prizes – Sounds good right? Make sure you are in every day to get your name in the raffles and the draws!

Reflecting on our success so far and thinking ahead over the next 4 weeks is crucial for us all - The Y9 students have sustained a great attitude and persona so far this year with the correct 10/10 mindset and attitude in order to succeed and achieve here at GOS and the Year Team look forward to them continuing to progress and develop in a positive way over the next 4 weeks! Let's show everyone why we really are the #BestYearTeam! ❤️

Miss Ralph and the Year 9 Team



YEAR 10

Year 10:

After a challenging term working through our mocks we are all extremely intrigued and excited to hear how and where we have succeeded and where our focus needs directing to. Students have today been handed a revision booklet to follow and use which outlines deadlines, topics and resources to help with the organisation of their courses. This term is short and sweet but of course we continue to strive achieving The Basics...

- **Being on time** = After seeing students arriving for their 8:25 start time last term we are expecting exactly the same, every day is a mock day as far as we are concerned now.
- **Attend every day** = Of course attendance taking the same stance, we hit some incredible numbers last term and we continue to call every morning and every night for absences.
- **Show respect** = As a school we are working hard on respecting the environment around the school, please encourage your child to put their litter in the bin and use our new recycling bins designed by the students, this also refers when on the field.
- **follow Instructions first time round** = Detentions have increased in some areas for silly behaviour, please keep yourselves posted on Classcharts to ensure conversations are being had at home. If you need any log in's please email year10enquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk
- **Come equipped** = Pens, pens, pens please.
- **Smartly dressed** = We are finding a much better turn out to following the uniform policy, thank you, students know that if they arrive in non-uniform they will borrow if not they will be placed into refocus until 4pm for defiance. Please keep an eye out for ties.

Exciting opportunities to look forward to...

Police Recruitment Friday 20th June
Work Experience Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd July

Miss Malkin and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Year 11:

This is the final push — the last few weeks before your exams begin. Every single decision you make now matters. These next few weeks are about giving yourself the best possible chance on results day.

Your focus needs to be clear:

- Be in every lesson, on time, ready to learn.
- Make the most of every single minute with your teachers — they are here to support you, but you need to show up, engage, and ask for help where you need it.
- There is no time for standing around on corridors, wasting moments that could be spent preparing yourself properly. The students who succeed are the ones who turn up, focus, and keep going.

Outside of lessons, use your time actively revising. Small, focused bursts of revision, done regularly, will always beat cramming. Use the resources your teachers are giving you. Attend the interventions that are being put on for you — these are designed to help you succeed.

We know that for many of you, Prom is something to really look forward to — a celebration of your hard work and your journey through Gospel Oak. Make sure your choices now mean you can be there, proud of what you've achieved.

On a practical note: you are now not required to wear your blazers for the remainder of this term. If you are willing to donate your blazer to help future Year 11 students, we would really appreciate it. Please hand any blazer donations into reception as soon as possible. Your support with this makes a real difference.

Remember — the effort you put in now will shape the results you open on that envelope this summer. Stay focused, make the right choices, use the support around you, and finish strong.

Mr Wilson and the Year 11 Team



SIXTH FORM

We welcome back all 6th form students; we hope that you had a restful break.

Students are continuing to work hard especially year 13 who have A levels starting next week.

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

We are still taking applications for anyone that would like to join the Gospel Oak 6th Form.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal Post 16



Year 12 student of the week – Ruth O
Year 13 student of the week – Varni
Year12 attendance – 97 %
Year 13 attendance – 96 %

Events –

8th – 10th July - Year 12 work experience



To: Parents/Carers

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2nd May 2025

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3272

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: No Aerosol Policy

I am writing to inform you that Gospel Oak School has 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: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

2nd May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: GCSE and BTEC Summer Exam Series

The external exam series begins on Tuesday 6th May. Lessons will continue in school for all students until 3.00pm on Friday 13th June. Lessons will focus on revision techniques and guidance on maximising every opportunity to gain as many marks as possible on the exam papers. As appropriate to the exam timetable, additional revision sessions for specific subjects will be held before exams; each student will be provided with their own timetable for their exams, lessons and revision sessions each week during this exam period.

A celebration assembly will be held on Friday 23rd May; details will be shared in school with students about this.

Students are responsible for knowing when their exams take place; this information has been provided to you, too, previously. If you require a further copy of this information, please contact School Reception (0121 556 1351) or via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#). Email updates will also be sent to you via Arbor to remind you of the exams taking place the following day which involve your daughter and/or son.

Students have been reminded of how they must conduct themselves in exams through their assembly this week, and I strongly recommend that you read [IFC-Written_Examinations_2024_FINAL.pdf](#) again with your daughter and/or son; this document is the written information for students from the Joint Council for Qualifications. Please note that it is our duty to inform the relevant organisational bodies of any malpractice in order to preserve the integrity of the examination system so that they are able to decide if a student should be penalised and/or disqualified from an individual exam or more. Students have had this information reinforced to them again this week during assemblies.

During the exam period, regardless of whether students have an exam or not, they should arrive at school for 8.25am as usual and will be registered by their form tutor. Please remember that breakfast is available every day free of charge in the Restaurant from 8.00am. If your daughter or son is not in school, a telephone call will continue to be made to you to find out where they are and when they will be arriving; a home visit may then be undertaken with a view to collecting your daughter or son to ensure that they attend their exam. Parents and carers may be invoiced for the cost of an exam should their daughter or son fail to attend an exam that they have been entered for; this is a cost of approximately £65 per examination paper.

Students will remain in school each day in lessons and/or revision sessions until 3.00pm; if they have an exam which ends after 3.00pm, they will remain until the end of the exam. Lessons and revision sessions will be staffed by specialist teachers and will ensure that final revision points and guidance are delivered to support your daughter or son to achieve the best possible grade. I would also ask that you ensure that your daughter or son also

Gospel Oak School

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Our Ref: CM.KH.3271

Your Ref:

ensures that they have their own revision materials with them at all times in school so that they are able to make the very most of every available opportunity to revise.

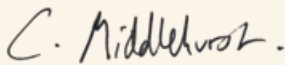
To support our Year 11 students with revision, the LRC (Library) is available from 8.00am each day, and at break and lunchtime; Year 11 students are also able to use the Sixth Form area from 3.00pm each day for revision. Students continue to have access to online platforms to support their revision.

Students must wear their school uniform for exams. They should continue to attend school in either their blazer or hoodie as part of their uniform; students are unable to wear hoodies in the exam and they may choose to not wear their blazer.

Following the completion of exams, if students have revision guides that they no longer need, I would be very grateful if you could encourage them to leave these at Reception so that other students in the school can make use of these in the future. Similarly, if there are items of school uniform and/or PE kit – including school shoes and/or trainers - which are no longer needed, please arrange for these to be left at Reception so that they can be put to good use.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support as your daughter and/or son continues their preparation for these exams; good exam results directly link to improved life chances. Please do get in touch via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if you have any questions or need any further support.

Yours faithfully,



Miss C Middlehurst
Senior Vice Principal

COMMUNITY

NEED FINAL EXAM SUPPORT? PREDICTED GCSE MATHS PAPERS

2025



JOIN US!

SUN 11th MAY (before exam on 15th May)

4PM - 5:15PM (FOUNDATION TIER)
6PM - 7:15PM (HIGHER TIER)

SUN 1st JUNE (before exam on 4th June)

4PM - 5:15PM (FOUNDATION TIER)
6PM - 7:15PM (HIGHER TIER)

SUN 8th JUNE (before exam on 11th June)

4PM - 5:15PM (FOUNDATION TIER)
6PM - 7:15PM (HIGHER TIER)

WWW.ACETUITION.ONLINE

FOCUSING ON:

- ✓ MULTI-MARK QUESTIONS
- ✓ MODEL ANSWERS
- ✓ EXAM QUESTIONS STRATEGIES



£22.50 PER COURSE
INCLUDES RECORDING

SELECT MENU, THEN "CAMPS" WHEN BOOKING

GCSE English 'Grade Booster'

FINAL PHASE GCSE CRASH COURSES



BEFORE EACH ENGLISH EXAM!

Saturday 3rd May
3:30 - 6:30pm

DR JEKYLL & HYDE

Saturday 3rd May
6:30 - 9:30pm

GCSE 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Saturday 10th May
3:30 - 6:30pm

GCSE SHAKESPEARE 'ROMEO & JULIET'

Saturday 10th May
6:30 - 9:30pm

GCSE SHAKESPEARE 'MACBETH'

Thursday 15th May
7pm - 9pm £35

GCSE 'AQA' UNSEEN POETRY

Friday 16th May
6pm - 9pm

GCSE 'AQA' POWER & CONFLICT POWER

Saturday 17th May
5pm - 8pm

GCSE 'INSPECTOR CALLS'

Wednesday 21st
6pm - 9pm

AQA LANGUAGE PAPER 1

Saturday 31st May
6pm - 9pm

AQA LANGUAGE PAPER 2

Taught by an experienced and highly successful 'Head of English', Senior 'Director of Learning' and GCSE examiner!



£50 EACH
MASTERCLASS
Follow this link through to "Camps"

Summer Term Parent Support Series Free Parent Webinars

elevate
education

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 Summer Term, we'll cover:

1. Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)
- 6th May @6:00pm (BST)
2. How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory
- 20th May @6:00pm (BST)
3. How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress
- 17th June @6:00pm (BST)
4. How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated
- 1st July @6:00pm (BST)
5. How You Can Set Your Child



Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand how important emotional wellbeing and mental health are for our students as well as those around them. To help support families, we would like to signpost you to the Sandwell All-Age Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Directory.

This directory provides a wide range of services, support groups and resources for all age groups, from children to adults, locally and nationally. Whether you're looking for advice, counselling services, or wellbeing activities, the directory is a useful starting point to find the right support.

You can access the directory here: Gospel Oak School - Community Hub
If you have any questions or need support accessing services, please do not hesitate to contact us via the contacts page.

Dr Grewal
Vice Principal

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate 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. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE GROOMING THREATS**
Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.
- PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS**
Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.
- COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY**
Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.
- PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**
Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.
- LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS**
Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 25-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW ✓

Advice for Parents & Educators

- TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS**
Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.
- ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS**
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.
- KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**
Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert
Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.04.2025

**Sen/Neurodiverse support for
parents over coffee**



**Sen/Neurodiverse support for parents
coffee morning**

Join us on the first Friday of every month (during term time only)

Time- 10am – 12pm

Location – South Staffs Water Community Hub,
Union Street
Wednesbury
WS10 7HD

MAAY

**MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS EVENT**

Free advice & support from different organisations within Sandwell. Why not pop along? There will also be free tea/coffee & biscuits

**Tuesday 13th May
10.30-12.30**

South Staffs Water Community Hub,
Union Street, Wednesbury
WS10 7HD



**MENTAL
health
MATTERS**