

# Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

## w.e. 16th May 2025



### UPCOMING DATES

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Year 9 Mental Health Awareness Course

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Trust Rounders Tournament

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Morgan Stanley Event

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Year 7, 8 and 9 PGL Boreatton Park Residential Trip

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Emily Shelley Fordhouses Cricket Trip



### ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Self-harm

w/c 19/05 - Building Confidence

w/c 02/06 - Term Ahead - Expectations

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

It has been another busy week in school with a significant number of exams for our Year 11s, and a few for our Year 13s. Students are very well organised for their exams and have adjusted very quickly to the 'new' routine which such a period brings with it. As parents and carers of our Year 11s and Year 13s will know from their daughter and/or son's timetable and the daily messages which are being sent about the exams, there are some parts of the day – or, indeed, whole days depending on student options – where there are no exams; students are being supported at these times by class teachers to ensure that revision is taking place for upcoming exams. I would ask, too, that you check when your daughter and/or son leaves home in the morning that they have revision materials in their bags so that they are able to maximise every possible opportunity to revise.

Ms. Edwards spoke to our Year 11s before their English Literature exam on Monday morning about exams being “a marathon and not a sprint”. I was reminded of this when Elevate, a student study company who have worked with both our Year 11s and post-16 students this year, sent me the flyer for their parent webinar series again earlier this week; you will be able to see a copy of this later in the newsletter. These free webinars are available to parents and carers of students in all year groups; next week's focuses on how you can help to improve your daughter and/or son's memory. We are often asked in school about ways in which you can support learning at home, and you may find this useful. If you have any feedback on it, please let us know via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).

“A marathon and not a sprint” is also extremely relevant when it comes to homework, and ensuring that homework supports good exam results. Getting into good habits starts in Year 7 and it is vital that students are working outside of school as well as in school. Please keep ensuring that your daughter and/or son is completing homework, and talk to them about their wider learning; a reminder to our Year 10 parents and carers of the booklet which has been provided to support this process: [Y10-Summer-HT1-home-learning-revision-booklet.355062510.docx](#) Our Parents' and Carers' Forum provided us with some very useful feedback about homework and plans are being worked on to develop our provision in this area for the next academic year.

It has been Mental Health Awareness Week this week, and Mr Mason has led an excellent and most informative assembly about mental health this week. He has reminded students of the opportunities to access support which are available to support; amongst these, are our youth mental health first aiders. Student leadership and supporting others are key aspects of school life; further information can be found here: [Gospel Oak School - Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)


As always, thank you for your support of the work of the school; I hope the beautiful weather continues to hold for a sunny weekend.

# YEAR TEAM UPDATES


YEAR 7


**🏆 A Tough Fixture for Year 7!** This week, our Year 7 football team had a challenging fixture against Forge in the Sandwell Schools Cup. The match took place on Thursday, and our players showed determination and teamwork on the pitch. Well done to all those who represented our school – keep up the hard work, and let's keep improving!


**📊 Attendance – Let's Aim Higher!** Our attendance last week dipped to 92.58%. We know we can do better! Remember, strong attendance is crucial for success – students with higher attendance tend to perform better in assessments because they benefit from more learning time. Let's build resilience and make sure we're aiming for 100% attendance. This half term has only 19 days, so every day counts! Our minimum target is 95%, but let's aim even higher!

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	<del>Be present to progress! Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.</del>	<del>Every day counts! Raffle: Prize Box Lucky Dip.</del>	<del>Half way through the week. Raffle: Prize Box Lucky Dip.</del>	<del>Almost a full week of learning. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.</del>	<del>Raffle £20 Love2shop voucher. Every Student: 25 achievement points.</del>	
Week 2	<del>BANK HOLIDAY</del>	<del>Being present opens doors. Raffle: Prize box lucky dip.</del>	<del>Keep attending to the canteen. Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.</del>	<del>Nearly there - keep going! Raffle: Free meal from the canteen.</del>	<del>Raffle £20 Love2shop voucher. Every Student: 25 achievement points.</del>	
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**🧠 Mental Health Matters – Thank You, Mr. Mason!** During our Wednesday assembly, we were privileged to have Mr. Mason speak to us about the importance of mental health. He gave us great advice on how to look after our minds, especially during busy times in school and life. His session was a powerful reminder of the value of self-care. Remember, we have our amazing Mental Health First Aiders here at Gospel Oak, ready to support you whenever you need help. A big thank you to Mr. Mason for his inspiring talk!

 **WBA Foundation Darts Tournament** – Exciting Opportunity! We're thrilled to announce that twelve lucky Year 7 students have been selected to participate in the WBA Foundation Darts Tournament on **Friday, 24th May**. This event isn't just about playing darts – it's an opportunity to support the WBA Foundation, which helps young people with learning needs. Good luck to our students, and let's aim for a great experience!

 **Morgan Stanley Session 2 – Get Ready!** Morgan Stanley session 2 will take place on **Wednesday, 21st May** during P4 and P5. Our Morgan Stanley students will be finalizing their pitches, getting ready to present them in session 3 to Morgan Stanley executives. It's an incredible opportunity to develop skills and gain experience – make sure you are prepared!

 **Brilliant Club Graduation – Mark Your Calendars!** We're excited to announce that our Brilliant Club students will have their graduation on **Thursday, 10th July**. Students will be offsite with Mr. Bowser, enjoying a fantastic day at Warwick University until 3:00 pm. This is a celebration of all your hard work, so make sure to save the date!

Mr Bowser and the Year 7 Team




Happy Week 3 of Summer 1, Year 8! Can you believe we're already heading into the penultimate week of the term? Time has truly flown by! Let's take a moment to reflect on the past week and celebrate all the amazing progress we've made as a team.

Now, let's dive into our attendance stats from last week:

- Monday = 93.3%
- Tuesday = 95.2%
- Wednesday = 93.5%
- Thursday = 93%
- Friday = 91%
- 

This gives us an impressive average of **93.2%**! We're doing really well, but let's keep pushing to hit that 95% mark. It's clear everyone is putting in the effort, and to maintain this great momentum, we need to stay focused for the final two weeks of the term.

**Attendance is one of the basics**, and it plays a crucial role in helping our students succeed and achieve their best. The more we're in school, the closer we get to that **10/10** standard! So, how do we keep this streak going? By sticking with our fun **"19 Day – Don't Break the Streak!"** challenge! Every day you're in school gives you a chance to win some amazing prizes. The more you're here, the better your chances – it's a win for everyone! Let's keep up the great work and finish the term strong!

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This week, during our Wednesday Assembly, we were fortunate to have **Mr. Mason** speak to us about an incredibly important topic – mental health. He shared some valuable advice on how to look after our minds, particularly with everything going on in school and in life. His talk was a powerful reminder of just how essential it is to take care of ourselves. We're also lucky to have the amazing support of our Mental Health First Aiders here at Gospel Oak, who are always ready to help whenever you need it. A big thank you to Mr. Mason for delivering such an inspiring and helpful session!

In exciting news, **twelve lucky students** have been selected to participate in the **WBA Foundation Darts Tournament**, taking place on **Friday, 24th May**. These students were chosen for their enthusiasm and dedication, and they will have the chance to compete in a fun and friendly competition. What makes this event even more special is that it's not just about playing darts – it's also an opportunity to raise money for the **WBA Foundation**, which supports young people with learning needs. It's a fantastic chance to have fun while contributing to a great cause and making a positive impact in the community!

**On Friday, 9th May**, a group of Year 8 students had the incredible opportunity to attend the **Federation Police Dog Show** at **Tally Ho Police Station** in Edgbaston, a specialist training facility.

The afternoon was filled with excitement as students watched thrilling demonstrations by police dog handlers, explored riot gear, and met paramedics, air ambulance crews, Fire and Police motorbike units, the first response team, and even members of the Army. One student summed it up perfectly, saying, "This was the best day!" It was an unforgettable, hands-on experience that gave students real-world insights into the work of emergency services.

But this visit was about more than just fun – it sparked many of our students to think about potential future careers in policing and public services. One student shared, "I'm so happy I got to be part of this!" Seeing the dedication, teamwork, and expertise of the professionals gave them a deeper appreciation for the wide range of roles within the police force and beyond. Events like these connect classroom learning to real-world careers, opening students' eyes to new opportunities for the future.

The beautiful weather made the experience even more memorable, and our students showed incredible pride and enthusiasm as they represented **Gospel Oak** and the **Tipton community**. As one student said, "It was amazing meeting the police officers – they were so nice and funny."



As we head into the final week of Summer 1, it's the perfect time to pause and celebrate the fantastic efforts of our Year 8 students. Day in and day out, you've consistently demonstrated a positive attitude and a 10/10 mindset, setting yourselves up for success here at GOS. As we approach the end of this term and look ahead to Summer 2 – before the excitement of Year 9 kicks in – the Year Team wants to take a moment to express how proud we are of each and every one of you. Keep up the amazing work and continue bringing that positive energy into everything you do.

So, what new opportunities and experiences await us, Y8?

Mr Johnson and the Year 8 Team

# YEAR 9

Happy Week 3 of Summer 1 Y9 Family! Crazy to think we are in the penultimate week of this half term – What more can we praise and recognise from the last week with our wonderful team?

Now, let's start by praising and looking at our attendance thinking about our whole year group figures from last week:

Monday = N/A Bank Holiday

**Tuesday = 92.5%**

**Wednesday = 94.5%**



**Thursday = 92%**

**Friday = 89.5%**

**Average = 92.1% - A LOVELY INCREASE for us team and a strong week for statistics, BUT we MUST keep the figures this high so, I need us all working together to do this over the next two weeks.**

**Attendance should be a priority for all, it is one of our BASICS and we need to be in school every day in order to succeed and achieve in that 10/10 way! So, what can we do to ensure that happens?**

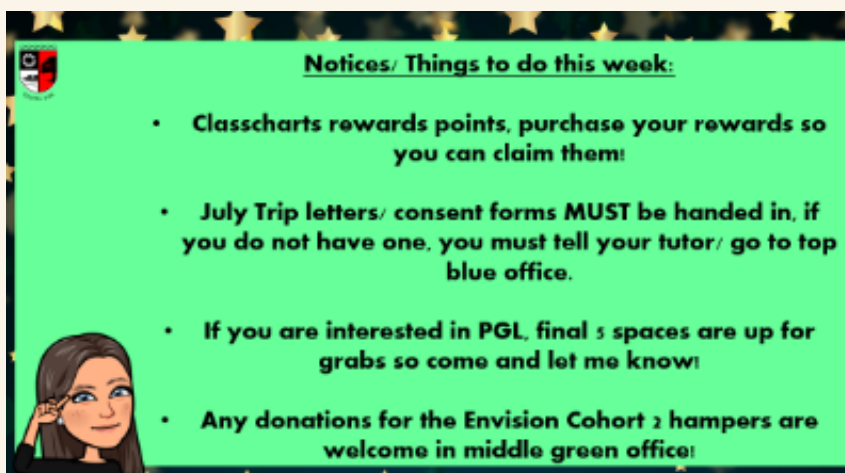
Well we still have our positive incentive in the shape of the “19 day – Don't break the streak!” attendance incentive that is currently running and all you have to do Y9 is follow that BASIC rule of BE IN SCHOOL to be in with the chance of some amazing prizes – Sounds good right? Make sure you are in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

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Secondly, on Tuesday during our Tuesday Morning Assembly we were lucky enough to have Mr Mason deliver an inspirational assembly all supporting your mental health and how to look after that incredible mind of yours! Mr Mason was able to discuss **why** mental health really does matter and how we can best support ourselves with the stress of adolescence and school life! During the assembly, Mr Mason highlighted the incredible support that we can offer at Gospel Oak in the form of our wonderful student **Mental Health First Aiders** who are literally trained and ready to aid and support that brain of yours in whatever way needs! Thanks Mr Mason for reminding us of the importance of our self care and positive mindset!



**And finally, some key notices for Team Green this week...**



As we approach the final week of Summer 1, it is important to as always praise and recognise our Y9 students who mostly have continued to showcase a great attitude and persona day in day out with the correct 10/10 mindset and attitude in order to succeed and achieve here at GOS. As we go into the final week and look ahead to Summer 2 before the madness of Year 10 begins, the Year Team want to take a moment to say how proud they are of you all for all you do every day, keep up this positive attitude towards learning, 10/10 always! What more opportunities and experiences can we take Y9 family? Let's wait and see and let's show everyone why we really are the #BestYearTeam! ❤️

Miss Raltph and the Year 9 Team



## YEAR 10

**Unfortunately, some upsetting figures this week across the board for punctuality, attendance and behaviour concerns. We can do better; we must do better to be able to achieve the grades we deserve !**

### BASICS:

- **Being on time** = We are finding that punctuality to school and lessons have unfortunately increased. Please ensure you are checking in with your child to ensure they have arrived on the MUGA for 8:25. We will be sending daily notifications to show you the impact of the mornings. You can see from below the difference in figures from 8:25 and 15:00
- **Attend every day** = Last week we saw some terrible numbers for attendance. Please try and build resilience. This week is looking better already, thank you

### WEEK B

M - Bank Holiday

T - 89.1% - 92.1%

W - 86.5% - 91.44%

T - 90% - 91.7%

F - 85.8%- 87.7%

- **Show respect** = Please re-iterate that detentions are not a choice if students walk away, they will be in refocus until 4pm the following day. We have put into this position and these students have lost valuable learning time.
- **follow instructions first time round** = Detentions are still at their highest, please keep yourselves posted on Classcharts to ensure conversations are being had at home - HOMEWORK. If you need any log in's please email [year10enquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk](mailto: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 and breaking shoes this time of year.

Work Experience we are down to 50 students yet to have a placement. Please ensure if this is your child they are liaising with the year team to get a careers appointment booked in.

Exciting opportunities to look forward to...

**Knife Crime Visitor Friday 2nd April – Re-arranged**

**Police Recruitment Friday 20th June**

**Parents Evening Thursday 12th June (Arbor opens for bookings Monday 19th May)**

**Work Experience Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd July**

Miss Malkin and the Year 10 Team



## YEAR 11

Thank you for all your support with Y11 exams at this vital time – attendance to the exams has been excellent and we really need this to continue. Next week the exam schedule is as follows

Monday 19th May

8.30am - Chemistry (all pupils)

1.00pm Physical Education

Tuesday 20th May

8.30am - English Literature

1.00pm - Sociology & Computer Science

Wednesday 21st May

8.30am - Psychology

1.00pm - RE

Thursday 22nd May

8.30am - Physics (all pupils)

1.00pm - Media

Friday 23rd May

8.30am - English Language (all pupils)

We also have a bespoke programme of revision sessions for pupils during the day, so attendance on days when pupils do not have an exam is still crucial to their exam success.

Good luck to everyone – keep working hard – you are amazing!

Mr Wilson and the Year 11 Team



## SIXTH FORM

Both Year 12 and 13 students have been working hard towards their exams – we want to take this opportunity to wish them all good luck with their exams.

Year 13 students need to continue to attend each day and all lessons. At present no students will be going on study leave. We are currently in the process of arranging leavers assembly.

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

Year 13 student of the week – Beth

Year 12 attendance – 93.9 %

Year 13 attendance – 94.4 %

Events –

11th June - Year 13 Leavers Assembly  
8th – 10th July - Year 12 Work Experience



To: Parents / Carers

## Gospel Oak School

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12th May 2025

**Our Ref:** HN.KH.3247

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Free School Meals**

The Government gives money to all schools to help students from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called the 'Pupil Premium'. We receive this additional funding for each student on our roll registered as eligible for free school meals (FSM). This is currently £1050 per student. We are using this money to help our students achieve the best possible grades in their GCSE examinations. Being eligible for a FSM clearly has a benefit to the student-namely, a free high quality meal. This saves parents/carers over £500 per year. Another benefit to the student is help with the costs of school trips.

We therefore strongly encourage eligible parents/carers to apply for this status. No one will know who has registered and it will not affect any other benefits being claimed. The eligibility criteria for free school meals is explained below.

### What is the eligibility criteria?

Your son/daughter may be entitled to free school meals if:

- your annual income is less than £16,190; and
- you claim Child Tax Credit (\*Not Including Working Tax Credit) only; and

\*Please note you will not qualify for free school meals if you receive any amount of Working Tax Credit. Before applying please check your latest Tax Credit Awards Notice if you are unsure.

Your son/daughter may also qualify for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit - To qualify if you are in receipt of Universal Credit, your net earned income (after taxes and deductions 'take home pay') must be below £616 per month under the Universal Credit allowance you receive. This will be confirmed on your latest online Universal Credit statement when you received it. If your net earned income shows above the £616 figure you don't qualify.
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (including Child Tax Credit)
- Income-based Job seekers Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

## Parent's with No Recourse to Public Funds 'NRTPF'

For parent's with no recourse to public funds, you will need to apply directly to the school and must meet the relevant Government set eligibility groups. These can be found on the following link; [NRTPF - Eligibility Criteria](#) Applications are made to through Sandwell council ([Free school meals - MySandwell](#)). You will be asked to create an account and submit a few details in order to apply. Should you require any support at all with your application please do not hesitate to let us know as we would be happy to help. You can contact us by phoning the school and asking for the finance team who will guide you through the process.

Yours sincerely,



**Hayley Nutting**  
**Vice Principal**



To: Parents/Carers

## Gospel Oak School

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**Our Ref:** MC.KH.3284

16th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Re: Revaluation Machines

I am writing to inform you of the upcoming plans to move to an entirely cashless system within the school. This is intended to enhance efficiency, improve security and provide a more overall convenient experience for both students and parents/carers. This change allows for faster service at mealtimes, much more secure payments without the use of physical cash and helps parents/carers to control the spending of students through the parent portal.

To support this choice the removal of all revaluation machines at Gospel Oak School (pictured below for your reference) will take place on Monday 30th June.



### Key Dates & Next Steps

- The revaluation machines will have been removed from school on Monday 30th June.
- If you have a School Gateway account already set up, please ensure that your son/daughter has sufficient balance in their account to use the dining facilities. You can do this by topping up online via School Gateway or paying cash at shops with PayPoint as this gets directly put into your School Gateway account. Please see the details at [PayPoint Store Locator - find your nearest store](#). Students can continue to bring a packed lunch to school.
- If you do not have a School Gateway account set up, you could log onto School Gateway and create an account at <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/register>.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **What if my son / daughter is eligible for free school meals?** All students that are eligible for free school meals students will be able to continue using the dining facilities as they currently do.
- **How can students find out how much is on their account once the revaluation units have gone?** Via School Gateway or at the till point with one of the catering staff at break or lunchtime.
- **How are the school going to support parents/carers where removing the revaluation units will be a problem?** We are keen to support parents/carers and students. Parents/carers can ask for a meeting at school through our website at <https://www.gospeloakschool.org.uk/contact-us>. Students can ask their Year Team Lead or Head of Year for help and support.
- **Does School Gateway support PayPoint?** Parents/carers are able to pay cash at shops and this gets directly put onto their School Gateway account. Please see the details at [PayPoint Store Locator - find your nearest store](#)
- **How will students be informed of this change?** School briefings will be held throughout the next few weeks.
- **Who can I contact for support?** Please contact the school through our website at <https://www.gospeloakschool.org.uk/contact-us>.

If at any point during this transition you would like more information, advice or just wish to understand anything further, we are here to support you.

Kind regards,



**Mr M Clapham**  
Estates Hub Manager



To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

**Gospel Oak School**

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15th May 2025

**Our Ref:** SBO.KH.3286

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 11 Celebration Assembly**

I am writing to inform you that on Friday 23rd May 2025, we will be holding our Year 11 Celebration Assembly at Gospel Oak School. This special event marks an important milestone for our Year 11 students as they come together for their final assembly before leaving school.

The celebration will include speeches, a look back at memorable moments through photos and the presentation of special awards. There will also be food provided, and students will have the chance to relax, reminisce and reconnect with their peers.

After the assembly, students will have the opportunity to sign each other's shirts – a tradition that many look forward to. We kindly ask that all students bring a spare shirt and pens for this purpose.

We hope that all Year 11 students will attend this joyful occasion. We will be capturing lots of photos throughout the event, many of which will be included in the Year 11 Leavers' Books as a lasting memory of their time at Gospel Oak School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

**Miss S Bott**  
**Senior Vice Principal**

# COMMUNITY

## July Reward Trips

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

Please ensure all consent forms for trips taking place on the above dates are returned to either your Year Teams or School Reception as soon as possible.

To clarify, students can attend a trip on each day and for any students that still wish to attend but have not chosen a reward trip then please speak with your Year Teams as we have limited availability on some trips but not all.

**Payments for all trips are due by no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and this date cannot be extended.**

Please note that we require consent forms for each trip to be returned and full payment or unfortunately, your son / daughter will be unable to attend but will be expected to attend school as normal.

## **Whitsun Week Adventure Days**

at Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre

For young people aged 8+ who live in Sandwell

**Canoeing - Climbing and Abseiling - Archery**



Tuesday 27 May & Thursday 29 May 2025

9.30am - 3pm

£40.00 per day



Book your place and find out more:  
[youngpeople\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk)



## Summer 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 Summer Term, we'll cover:

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

elevate  
education

