

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 18th July 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 14th August - A Level Results Day

Thursday 21st August - GCSE Results Day

Thursday 21st August - Sixth Form Enrolment Day, 10:00am - 12 noon.

Wednesday 3rd September - Year 7, 11 and 12 Start

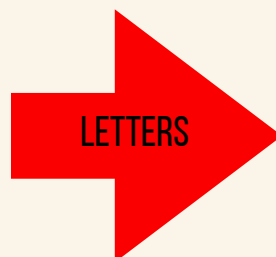
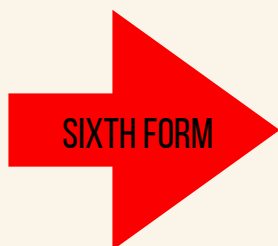
Thursday 4th September - All Year Groups in School



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Enrichment and Work Experience Week

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



MESSAGE FROM MISS MIDDLEHURST, SENIOR VICE PRINCIPAL

Today brings to an end a fantastic year at Gospel Oak; students have taken part in Rewards' Assemblies and have been recognised for all of their fabulous achievements. There has been so much to celebrate and there are far too many to list!; please have a conversation with your daughter and/or son about the multitude of activities and achievements that were showcased during the assemblies. A huge thank you, too, to our Year Teams who have coordinated all of the awards and to the many staff who have contributed so much of their own time and energy to ensuring that there are so many fabulous opportunities outside of as well as inside the classroom.

At the time of writing last week, I did not know that our Year 12s were victorious in the Trust Post-16 Sports' Day; congratulations to them on their victory over the other three schools in our Trust with sixth forms. It has been a really busy time for our PE Department; not only did they host and run the Trust Post-16 Sports Day – with a number of last-minute adjustments to take account of the heat! – last week, but they also organised a brilliant Sports' Day for Y7-10 students yesterday with athletics, dodgeball, football, rounders, quizzes and banners. Thank you to all of our PE staff and particularly Mr Field and Miss Thacker for their work on this. It is a reminder, too, of just how fortunate we are with our school grounds that we have so much space for so many sports' activities to be taking place at the same time; we do sometimes take our wonderful site for granted.

Monday evening saw us host our Parents' and Carers' Forum; we discussed rewards, reports, reading, and homework and how changes and improvements can be made and implemented. As always, this was an extremely helpful meeting and we look forward to this partnership continuing next year; please look out for further information about how you can get involved with these meetings.

Please do take the time over the summer break from school to make sure that uniform and PE kit are ready for September; a reminder that information about this is here: [Gospel Oak School – Uniform](#). A school bag is a necessity, and, with our increased focus on homework, should be large enough to hold enough a number of exercise books.

Please send any queries to [Gospel Oak School – Contact Us](#); please be aware that these may not be responded to until the start of the Autumn Term.

We very much look forward to seeing your daughter and/or son back in school in September.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

🎉 Year 7: A Year to Remember! 🎉

🏆 Celebration Assembly Success 🏆

On Monday, we came together for our special Year 7 Celebration Assembly. It was a brilliant moment to recognise the hard work and achievements of so many students. Awards were given out for fantastic effort, kindness, progress, and more. A huge well done to everyone who received an award!

A special shout-out to Megan M, our Most Improved Student 🌟, and Oshaylan G, our Student of the Year 🏆 — both very well-deserved!

The assembly also included an important safety video from the police 🚓👮, helping everyone to stay safe and make good choices over the summer holidays.

🔄 Looking Ahead to Year 8 🔄

Tuesday morning was a chance for Year 7 to reflect on how far they've come. We spoke about the journey from starting secondary school to now, and how the skills, friendships, and lessons learned will help everyone as they move into Year 8.

We also reminded students that they'll soon be role models for the new Year 7s. It's a big responsibility, but we know they'll set a great example. 🌟

🏃♂️ Sports Day Fun 🏃♀️

Thursday was an action-packed day as Year 7 took part in their first-ever Gospel Oak Sports Day! 🏆 Students competed in races, relays, and other events, proudly representing their tutor groups. Everyone showed great team spirit and dressed for the occasion with energy and enthusiasm.

A big thank you to all the staff who organised the day, and well done to everyone who took part! 🏆

💙 A Fond Farewell 💙

Friday brought some emotional goodbyes. We said goodbye to a few students moving on to new schools — we wish you all the very best in your next chapters.

We also said a special goodbye to the one and only Miss Barlow. You've made such a difference to so many students, and we're all sad to see you go. From everyone at Gospel Oak: thank you, good luck, and don't be a stranger! 🌈

💍 Celebrating Miss Hampton's Wedding 💍

We're also thrilled to share some happy news: a huge congratulations to Miss Hampton, who is getting married over the summer holidays! 🎉 When we see her again in September, she'll be returning as Mrs Parsons. We hope you have a fantastic wedding day and wish you lots of happiness for the future. 💕

🙌 Thank You to Our Parents 🙌

Finally, from all of the Year 7 Team: thank you to every parent and carer for your support this year. It's been a pleasure working with you and being part of the Year 7 family.

We're so proud of everything our students have achieved and can't wait to see them again as they begin Year 8.

Stay safe, enjoy your well-earned rest, and spend time with family and friends. See you in September! ☀️

Mr Bowser and the Year 7 Team



As we reach the end of the academic year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly memorable and uplifting week for our Year 8 students.

This week, we held our **Year 8 Celebration Assembly**, recognising the hard work, effort, and progress made by students throughout the year. A special congratulations goes to all those who achieved **100% attendance** – a remarkable achievement that shows true perseverance and resilience.

We would also like to highlight a few exceptional individual achievements:

- ★ **Harry H** – the top ClassCharts points earner in the year group – an outstanding accomplishment!
- ★ **Riley E R** – a shining example of how turning things around is always possible with effort and commitment.
- 🏆 **Lola Belle A** – crowned Year 8 Student of the Year for her impeccable standards, zero negative behaviour points, and consistently excellent attitude.

Alongside our assembly, Year 8 gave it their all on Sports Day – showing true grit, determination (and plenty of fancy dress!) as they competed for gold and the coveted title of Year 8 Sports Day Champions. A big thank you to the staff who brought the fun and team spirit by dressing up as their tutor group mascots – an unforgettable highlight for the students! Students really did push themselves to the limit, and did everything they could. Those on the sidelines did not stop screaming in support of their fellow tutees, and it is now evident that Mr Marris has suffered the repercussions of this, as he keeps hearing the dinner bell. It's that or the ringing in his ears.

This week also marks a bittersweet moment as we say goodbye to **Miss Smith** from the Year 8 pastoral team, who will be moving on to support Year 11 from September. She has been a vital part of the team, and we know her care and dedication will be missed. Students shared some heartfelt words about her, including:

- 💬 “She is just amazing.”
- 💬 “She’s always there for me – no matter what.”
- 💬 “Miss Smith always listens and does her best to support me.”

We wish Miss Smith the best of luck moving forward.

We are incredibly proud to share that Year 8 finished the year with a **92.5% attendance rate** – a fantastic **5% improvement** on last year – and a **70% reduction in negative behaviour points** across the cohort. This progress is a testament to the hard work of our students, families, and staff. As Mr Johnson put it, “When I hear the word progress, I think of Year 8.”

It has been a fantastic year, and Mr Johnson and Mr Marris are full of excitement and optimism as they continue leading the year group into **Year 9**.

We wish all of our students and families a safe, happy, and well-deserved **summer break**. Thank you, as always, for your continued support – we can't wait to begin the next chapter of this journey together in September.

Mr Johnson and the Year 8 Team

YEAR 9

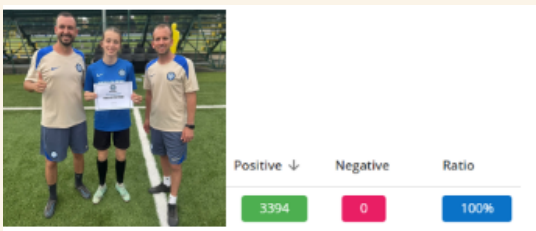
Happy Final Week of Summer 2 and this academic Y9 Family! As we reach the end of the academic year, the Green Team wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredible year with lots of memories, opportunities and experiences! We couldn't be prouder of all you have achieved this year – Let's continue to smash it as we embark on the options journey in September!

On Tuesday, we held our **Year 9 Celebration Assembly**, one of the best moments of the year where we are able to recognise, reward and praise the hard work, effort, and progress made by students throughout the year.

We had SO many students who were recognised for their efforts in specific subjects, attitude to learning, attendance, Envision, Community Champion work and so much more! Far too many to note down here, but it is worth mentioning that the whole Y9 family are so incredibly proud of you all!

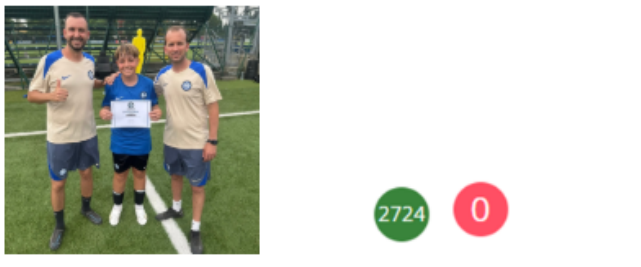
We would like to take a moment to give a SUPER STAR SHOUT OUT to our exceptional individual achievements:

- ★ Ronnie-May C – the top ClassCharts points earner in the year group – an outstanding accomplishment with 3394 points this year!



- ★ Lamar A – an amazing example of how you can make the right choices and turn everything around! Keep up the hard work and change in attitude!

- 🏆 Ianis R – Year 9 Student of the Year for his incredible efforts, achievements, attendance and being an all-round incredible student! Staff could not resist complimenting Ianis for being, “outstanding”, “exceptional”, “reliable”, “bubbly” and “completely representing all of Gospel Oak’s school values”.



As well as an amazing final assembly, Year 9 gave it their all on **Sports Day on Thursday**. It was incredible as always to see the effort our tutors went to represent our family mascots, from Bees, to Crocs, to Flamingos, it really was a great day and an unforgettable highlight for the students as always – We get better every year team so let's keep this going! Throughout the field events, the rounders, football, dodgeball and track events all students put 10/10 effort in as expected and represented our Y9 Family in the best way – What a great final full day at GOS!

Now, without getting too emotional and we all know what Miss Ralph is like, this week we also had to say goodbye to **Mr Bhatti as Assistant Year Team Leader** (but don't worry, he is staying in Team Green next year as E's tutor!).

Sir has been a such an important part of the team this year, immersing himself into Gospel Oak life and consistently going above and beyond to support all students. We know his care will be missed by many, so how lucky we are to keep him in our tutor team!



Now...it is time to look ahead to KS4 and our options starting after a well-deserved summer break (YAY!).

We really do hope that you have the rest and are able to relax but enjoy the break together with loved ones, it has been a full on year and we thank you, as always, for your continued support with everything Y9 – we can't wait to begin the next chapter of this journey together in September and strive for the best for our students always!

Our year team family is built on respect, kindness, care but also effort in everything we do and put our mind to – So let's continue to show and start the new academic year STRONG! 💪

See you all in September #BestYearTeam!

Miss Ralph and the Year 9 Team

YEAR 10

This is it ! We should be saying Year 11 now, how exciting. We truly cannot ask for a better year group and when we reflect back on this year it has been a fun, full memorable one. Let's keep pushing now we are on the home stretch

On Tuesday, we held our Year 10 Celebration Assembly, an incredible day where we recognise, reward and praise all the hard work, effort, and progress made by students throughout the year.

☀ Lexie C – Year 10 Most improved student of the term. An amazing example of how you can make the right choices and turn everything around! Keep up the hard work girl!

🏆 Meena H – Year 10 Student of the Year for her incredible efforts, achievements, attendance and being an all-round incredible student! As well the highest achieving student in the year with an amazing 2,533 points

And of course our very very last Sports Day which happened Thursday. We had some fabulous mascots from the Giraffes, to Flamingo's, to Hippo's to the Eagles It means so much to all our students when we have the opportunity to come together as one community. I can assure you that this week has been filled with enthusiastic chanting and high energy, setting a positive and encouraging tone for the start of their biggest year.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Lowndes who will be moving to the Year 9 into 10 team next year. He has played such an important role this year building and supporting relationships we wish you all the best in your new year group!

We would also like to welcome Miss Smith who will be joining us as the new AYTL for Year 11, please join us and ensure Miss Smith feels welcome to the year group.

Please stay safe and have a wicked 6 weeks !

Miss Malkin and the Year 10 Team



SIXTH FORM

On Friday students took part in the Central 6th sports day – students competed against the 3 other 6th forms - participating in different activities including a relay, sprints and archery. The student's competitiveness and efforts were well rewarded, and they took the title of overall winners for a second year running.

Along with this they also took part in the University challenge against the other schools – the competition was tense with the team coming in at 3rd place.

A massive well done to everyone that participated.

Last week also saw the Year 12 completing work experience – we had a wide range of opportunities including experience in schools, law firms and pharmacies. The feedback from the employers has been positive.

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 – all students for their hard work

Year12 attendance – 87%

Events –

14th August – A level results day



To: All Parents/Carers

18th July 2025

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W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

Our Ref: CM.KH.3333

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Homework 2025/26

As you are aware, a number of changes were made to our approach to homework during this academic year end. It is clear that our students need to continue to work hard in order to achieve better examination results, which lead to better life chances and homework is a key part of this.

Extensive use has been made of ClassCharts this year to ensure that students are recognised for their achievements, sanctioned when poor choices have been made and helped us to improve our communication systems. You may be aware that ClassCharts also has a homework feature and we will be making use of this from September for all students in school; if your daughter and/or son has just come to the end of their Year 10 or Year 12, you may be familiar with this already as ClassCharts has been trialled with students in these year groups.

There will be no student planners next year. ClassCharts enables both parents and carers and students to see what homework needs to be completed and when. In September, students will be shown in assemblies how to do this so that they are able to take responsibility for ensuring that they are completing the right homework at the right time. I know that you will also want to be able to check so that you can check that your daughter and/or son is completing homework as needed to support their academic progress; this guide [class-charts-for-parents-guide.docx](#) will show you how to do this.

A further change to our homework is that all subject areas will set at least one piece of paper-based homework per half-term; subjects may choose to set all of their homework on paper if they wish to do so, or make use of 'Carousel Learning', an online platform. Many parents and carers have told us that the wide number of platforms we were using was difficult to manage, and have also requested more homework that is completed on paper as the majority of examinations are completed using traditional examination papers. Carousel Learning enables a focus on retrieval practice which supports learning being committed to the long-term memory, and can also be used in some classroom-based learning which will support continuity from the classroom to homework.

Please note that if your daughter and/or son is in Year 10 or Year 11 from September, some English Language and/or English Literature homework may continue to be set using GCSEPod. There will be no homework set any more on Seneca or Sparx.

Homework timetables will be written in September, and these will be communicated with you. For students in Years 10-13, these will be very straightforward due to the nature of their timetables; for students in Years 8 and 9, there will need to be a little more flexibility in the homework timetable across the year groups. In Year 7, homework will only be set in English, Maths and Science to support students with a smooth transition into the learning habits of a secondary school, and they will be expected to read from a reading book which will be

provided; this will be 'Pig-Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. Days for the issuing and completion of homework will be included on the homework timetables so that you know when to expect to see homework on ClassCharts.

As part of the increase in homework, there will be a need for students to bring exercise books – or equivalent – home; please ensure that your daughter and/or son has a school bag which is large enough for their exercise books. The LRC will be staffed and available every day after-school for students to complete homework should they wish to do so, and will be available until 4pm; Achievement Assistants will also be in the LRC on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to provide guidance and support with homework.

The work that our Year 10 Year Team has undertaken over the last few weeks has helped us to iron out some initial teething issues with this process; the decision was taken to begin this work with Year 10 to support their preparation for a really successful start to Year 11. I expect that there may be some challenges for us to overcome in the early part of the Autumn Term as we embed these processes with all year groups; thank you in advance for your support and patience with this.

Year 10 and Year 12 students have been set homework for the summer holiday; the information provided will enable you to see this on ClassCharts if your daughter and/or son is in Year 10 or Year 12.

Further information and reminders about homework will follow early in the Autumn Term; in the meantime, if you do have any queries please use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#); queries will be responded to at the start of the Autumn Term.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work of the school; homework will impact positively on the attainment of our students.

Yours faithfully,



Miss C Middlehurst
Senior Vice Principal



To: Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

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17th July 2025

Our Ref: MC.KH.170725

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: School Meals Debt Recovery for Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of our final term, we are requesting that all catering debts on the School Gateway system are cleared for the start of the new term in September.

If debts are incurred, the school budget is negatively impacted. It is time-consuming for the office staff to continually chase parents/carers for payment - and embarrassing for all concerned, which can have a negative effect on relationships with families.

Please ensure that you have cleared the debts on your son's/daughter's account by the 31st August.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Clapham
Estates HubManager



To: All Parents/Carers

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18th July 2025

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3332

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Ban on Energy Drinks from 1st September

We are writing to inform you that, from 1st September, energy drinks will be banned at Gospel Oak School. Energy drinks are beverages that contain high levels of caffeine and other stimulants, such as taurine and guarana, designed to boost alertness and energy levels. These drinks often contain large amounts of sugar as well. Common brands include Red Bull, Monster, Rockstar etc.

If students are seen with energy drinks on school premises, the drink will be confiscated and disposed of immediately. As these drinks can be costly, we ask for your support in ensuring your son/daughter does not bring them to school.

This decision has been made to support the health and well-being of all our students. While they are marketed to increase focus and physical performance, they are not recommended for children and teenagers due to potential health risks. Energy drinks typically contain very high levels of caffeine and sugar, which are known to have negative effects on young people, including:

- Poor sleep patterns, which impact concentration and learning.
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure, which can pose health risks.
- Mood swings, anxiety, and irritability, which affect behaviour and mental health.
- Energy crashes, which reduce focus and productivity during the school day.

As a school, we are committed to promoting healthy habits and maintaining a safe, supportive learning environment. We appreciate your cooperation in reinforcing this message at home.

If you have any questions about this policy, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal

COMMUNITY

Newsletter copy

Summer asthma tips for parents and carers

As the school term ends and summer begins, it's important to stay on top of your child's asthma care during the holidays.

Asthma is a common lung condition that affects around 1 in 11 children, causing symptoms like coughing, wheezing, and breathlessness. While each child is different, asthma can usually be well managed by taking a preventer inhaler daily, even when symptoms seem to have disappeared. A reliever inhaler (usually blue) should also be kept on hand in case of flare-ups.

Every year, there is a rise in asthma attacks when children return to school in September- often due to breaks in their usual routine over the summer. By following your child's asthma action plan and continuing their prescribed treatment, you can help reduce this risk and keep them well throughout the holidays.

Key summer asthma tips:

- stick to daily preventer medication
- always keep a reliever inhaler with your child
- follow their personal asthma action plan
- don't delay if symptoms worsen – always seek advice.

Now is also a great time to book your child's annual asthma review with your local GP practice to help keep their asthma under control ahead of the new school year in September.

The NHS has created a video with a Black Country respiratory nurse discussing the importance of keeping on top of your child's asthma over the summer holidays. [You can watch the video on YouTube here.](#)

For more information on how to manage your child's asthma, visit the Black Country 0-18 website.

You can also follow #ThinkAboutAsthmaBlackCountry on social media for more helpful tips throughout summer.

ENDS

GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Go play Sandwell

THE GO PLAY TIPTON FUN DAY!

WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY
12 NOON – 4PM
FARLEY PARK
WHITEHALL ROAD
B70 0HF

FEATURING
STEVE THE JUGGLER
&
BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

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
0907872857437 OR VISIT [HTTPS://GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK](https://goplaysandwell.co.uk)

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

mh
MURRAY HALL
COMMUNITY TRUST

Join us for our

Black Country Day Event

Thursday 24th July The Bridge, St Marks Road
Tipton, DY4 0SL

12pm - 3pm

FREE ENTRY

Join us for
Black Country Best Dressed Competition!
DJ
Games
Refreshments
and More!

For further information please call 01902 826 513
Charity No. 1076896 | Company No: 03692018 Registered in England & Wales

TIPTON PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK

Have you got school uniform you no longer need? **FREE**

Drop off any pre-loved, clean uniform you no longer need so other local children can benefit from it!

Drop off:

- 📅 Tuesday 22 July 2025 – Friday 25 July 2025
- 🕒 10am – 2pm
- 📍 Jubilee Park Community Centre, Powis Avenue, Tipton, DY4 0RJ

Need some school uniform for the new term?

Come along to see what school uniform is available and take what you need.

Collection:

- 📅 Friday 15 August 2025
- 🕒 10am – 1pm
- 📍 Jubilee Park Community Centre

Call 0121 520 0234 for more information!

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

HEALTHY SANDWELL

The Community Link
Cradley Heath

Jubilee Park Community Centre