

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 5th September 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 15th September - Year 7 Photographs

Thursday 18th September - Year 6 Open Evening

Wednesday 24th September - Year 12 Settling In Evening



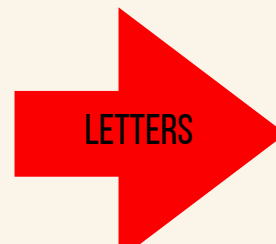
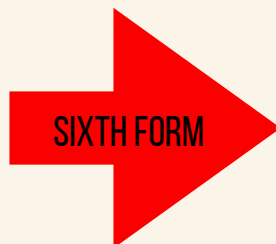
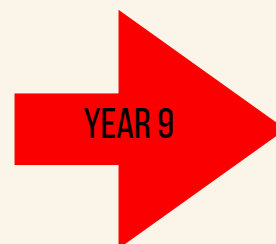
ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Year Ahead - Expectations

w.c 08/09 - International Literacy Day

w.c 15/09 - Caring for each other - moral responsibility for the well-being of others

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

Welcome to a new school year and to the Autumn Term! It has been lovely to welcome students back into school this week, including our new Year 7s and Year 12s who are new to our school. We have also welcomed some new staff, and are delighted to remain fully staffed; this consistency makes such a huge difference to student learning. Whilst it has been a shorter week for our students with a 'staggered start' – Year 7, 11 and 12 returned on Wednesday, with Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 on Thursday – school staff have been in all week and began the term with two training days to support our plans for this year. There is a very common theme around the importance of ensuring that our students attend regularly and work hard both inside and outside of the classroom; these are messages that you will be very familiar with and will understand underpin good exam results. Homework has, as explained in the summer term, a much bigger profile this year and you will read more about this later in the newsletter. Miss Bott's assembly this week and tutor time sessions have reinforced with all of our students our expectations for this year. As always, your support in making sure your daughter and/or son attends every day and works hard every day is much appreciated; everyone working together ensures strong academic outcomes which means better life chances. 2025-26 will be a very exciting year for the school and its students.

Uniform expectations have also been explained to students; thank you for your support with this. A reminder that students do need a school bag; with more homework, there will be times when exercise books or other resources need to be taken home to support learning. Please do get in touch with your daughter or son's Year Team using [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if any help is needed; we will, of course, be in touch with you should there be issues that we need to make you aware of so that you are able to support too. Students have all been issued with lanyards in which they have copies of their timetables; please make sure they leave home with these as they must wear them around school, and not doing so will be treated as a uniform infringement and sanctioned. The reason for the lanyard and timetable is simple; students need to know where their lessons are so that they can arrive promptly. It also enables them to decide whether to go to the Restaurant or Bistro at break and lunchtime based on their next lesson to ensure that they are not late and do not miss out on learning times.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES



YEAR 7

Welcome Back!

We have been truly thrilled with the way that the new year 7 students have started this week - with such a positive attitude, great manners and a smile on their faces, as parents and carers you should be so proud.

We're really looking forward to the year ahead and everything we'll achieve together.

Lanyards – Uniform Update

Lanyards are a **compulsory part of your uniform**. They must be worn **every single day** – no exceptions.

Attendance

Your attendance is more important than ever. First day back we had attendance over 98% which is a fantastic start, but we must now maintain this for the rest of the year. Every single day in school counts – We believe in you!

Staying in Touch

We want to remain strong in our communication with you and your families. If you have any concerns, questions, or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can contact the Year 7 team

Year7enquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk

Thank you to everyone for making it such a positive start to the year.

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



Welcome Back!

We're thrilled to see students return this week with such a positive attitude. You've come back ready to learn, and it's been fantastic to see everyone getting stuck into their work straight away – **we are so proud of you!**

We're really looking forward to the year ahead and everything we'll achieve together.

🌟 What's New?

🎉 Congratulations to Mrs Parsons!

Miss Hampton got married over the break and is now known as Mrs Parsons!

👑 Lanyards – Uniform Update

Lanyards are being **reintroduced and are now a compulsory part of your uniform.** They must be worn every single day – no exceptions.

📅 Attendance Matters

Your attendance is more important than ever. Every single day in school counts, we had a target of 95% last, and we didn't quite reach that, but I know we will get there this year – We believe in you! Let's aim high and be in school **every day to better your chances at amazing grades in year 11!**

📞 Staying in Touch

We want to remain strong in our communication with you and your families. If you have any concerns, questions, or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can contact **Mr Bowser** and **Mrs Parsons** directly at:

✉ Year8enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk

We are very proud of how you've started the year – let's keep the momentum going. Here's to a fantastic year ahead

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



Year 9 have returned to school this week with fantastic energy and focus, rising to the new challenges ahead after a hugely successful Year 8 🌟. Mr Johnson and Mr Marris have both praised how seamlessly students have slipped back into routine, showing maturity, enthusiasm, and a real drive to succeed 🙌. Expectations remain high—as always—and this impressive cohort is already showing signs that they're ready to meet them head-on.

Students have engaged brilliantly with tutor time activities, showing excellent participation, teamwork, and creativity 🧠💡. Many have already stepped up to take on leadership roles within their tutor groups—whether as form reps, organisers, or simply by setting a positive example every day. Their contributions are helping to shape a supportive, focused, and respectful classroom environment where everyone can thrive 🙌.

As always, we value strong communication between school and home. If parents or carers require support or need to get in touch with the Year 9 team, please contact year9enquiry@gospeloaksschool.co.uk. This email is monitored by both Mr Johnson and Mr Marris, who aim to respond within **2 working days** of receiving your message 📧.

We'd also like to take a moment to thank Miss Smith, who supported our students so well last year. She has now moved on to work with our Year 11s, and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role 🍀.

The hard work doesn't stop here, and the year team are incredibly excited to see what this group can achieve in the months ahead. From academic excellence to extra-curricular brilliance, there will be countless opportunities for students to shine this year 🌟—so watch this space! 📖📚🏆

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



The Year 10 family have been welcomed back to Gospel Oak and welcomed into KS4 this week and what a successful first few days it has been! Miss Ralph and Mrs Kler couldn't have been more excited to see all the students return on Thursday morning and to greet them with big cheesy smiles and lots of enthusiasm as we embark on the first year of our GCSE options! Students returned extremely well and it was clear they have returned with the 10/10 mindset that Miss Ralph reminds them of daily and that they are prepared and ready to embark on this journey!

On their first day back on Thursday, they were welcomed back in by the amazing Year 10 tutor team who had the pleasure of not only handing over their gorgeous green lanyards to wear with pride every day but also delivering key messages and notices and supporting them with a couple of writing tasks thinking towards their futures. The whole Year 10 cohort engaged exceptionally with the tutor time activities, showing excellent a real drive for success and the want to achieve! One of the tasks got the students thinking about their future selves and writing a letter to that future self with goals, targets and motivational messages to get them through the year! This handwritten letter has been placed into individual envelopes and sealed and kept away safe until the last day of Year 10 where students will be able to open it and reflect on what I know already is going to be an incredible year! How many goals and targets can our wonderful students achieve I wonder? ✨

Now it may be a new academic year, but not everything has changed and as always, Miss Ralph and Mrs Kler are here for each and every student and family member to support with whatever is necessary. If parents or carers require this or need to get in touch with the Year 10 team, please contact year10enquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk and one of us will be able to pick this up and support and hopefully resolve as soon as!

Week 1 of Autumn 1, Year 10 at GOS done already. Let's see what our 10/10 attitude towards learning, our 10/10 mindset towards success and achievement and our 10/10 positivity every single day can get us – Let's go TEAM GREEN! ❤️

Miss Ralph and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Welcome Back!

This is it ! Not even a year to go. Wow. It was wonderful to see Year 11 return, smiles and hugs galore. This year we are looking to achieve, achieve, achieve.

Lanyards – Uniform Update

Lanyards are **a compulsory part of your uniform**. They must be worn **every single day** – no exceptions.

Attendance

Your attendance is more important than ever. First day back we had 91.5% which is extremely disappointing. As a team we **MUST** increase this and maintain resilience throughout the year. In our Year 10 Mocks we smashed it but this needs to be every day in Year 11 – You can do it !

Homework

Any homework not completed will result in a lunchtime detention. When homework is completed consistently throughout the year this results in students gaining a further 5+ months of learning.

Prefect Campaign

What a tense moment when we revealed the prefect team, the votes were extremely close.

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



Welcome Back, we hope you all had a wonderful and restful break.

In sixth form we are looking forward to a brand new and exciting year for our new year 12 cohort and our year 13 students entering their final year at the school.

We are coming back into the new academic year stronger with a good set of results and students heading to the destinations of their choice.

We Look forward to the year ahead and have planned many enrichment opportunities for the 6th form students including university visits, apprenticeship visits, specialist talks from employers and reward trips.

We are still currently taking applications for year 12 so contact us on - sixthformenquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk.

We look forward to another exciting year.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal Post 16

Upcoming events –

24th Sept – Yr 12 Settling In Evening

23rd Oct – Post 16 Open Evening



To: All Parents/Carers

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5th September 2025

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3336

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Senior Leadership Team

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had an enjoyable summer break.

I thought it would be sensible to share the roles and responsibilities for each member of the senior leadership team. The senior leadership team is vital in any school. With every member understanding, fulfilling and contributing their particular skills and responsibilities, it becomes the vehicle around which a successful school can be both built and operate. At Gospel Oak School, there are five posts in the senior leadership team: Executive Principal, Senior Vice Principal, Vice Principal, Assistant Principal and Associate Assistant Principal. The following table highlights the seniority of the posts:

Most senior	Executive Principal
	Senior Vice Principal
	Vice Principal
	Assistant Principal
Least senior	Associate Assistant Principal

The table on page 2 of this letter indicates the main roles and responsibilities that each member of the senior leadership has for the 2025/26 academic year, so you can fully understand what each of the team is here to deliver.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

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Our Ref: SBr.KH.3346

5th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Ofsted

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had an enjoyable summer break.

I am writing to you following the publication of our most recent Ofsted report, which follows a monitoring inspection which took place on 2nd July 2025. This was the third monitoring inspection to take place since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses following the graded inspection that took place in October 2022 and its purpose was to assess the school's progress since the previous graded inspection. The report can be found on our website at [Gospel Oak School - Ofsted Report](#) and I am delighted that the overall finding of the monitoring inspection was that we have made progress to improve the school. We agree with all the findings in the report and I would like this opportunity to thank you again for your help and support in improving attendance and behaviour last year.

I hope you agree this is a great step forward and you and your son(s)/daughter(s) are starting to see and feel the positive impacts taking place in school. We are not complacent and as the report says 'more work is necessary for the school to be no longer judged as having serious weaknesses'. We want to reassure you we are taking the issues identified in the report incredibly seriously and will work tirelessly to improve these as quickly as possible. We are determined to make Gospel Oak School a trusted part of the wider community and look forward to welcoming Ofsted back to the school in due course to see first-hand the further positive changes we will have made by then.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the Parent/Carer Forum that takes place termly, with the next one due to take place in late October/early November. If you are interested in being a member of the Forum, please complete the form [here](#). Alternatively, you can email us on info@gospeloakschool.co.uk stating your name, your son's/daughter's name and their year group.

We will continue to keep you updated on positive changes within the school. Thank you as always for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr SBrownlow
Executive Principal



To: Parents/Carers

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5th September 2025

Our Ref: RL.KH.3345

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Feedback

I am writing to update you on our school's marking and feedback policy, which has recently been reviewed and refined. These changes are designed to support our whole-school priority of improving attainment and achievement. We know that in order to make strong progress, students need clear guidance on how to improve their work and opportunities to act on this feedback.

From September, the following expectations will be in place across all subjects:

- Live feedback in every lesson will continue, so students receive immediate guidance on how to develop their work.
- Written feedback and feedforward tasks twice per half term, in addition to feedback provided through summative assessments such as mock exams.
- Dedicated feedback lessons following each piece of written feedback, so students have time to reflect and improve.
- Collective feedback on all homework, ensuring that every piece of homework is read.

We are confident that these steps will ensure students receive regular, purposeful feedback that makes a real difference to their progress. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain high standards and in encouraging your son/daughter to engage fully with the feedback they are given.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Lane
Associate Assistant Principal



To: KS3 Parents/Carers

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5th September 2025

Our Ref: AHi.KH.3344

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Years 7, 8 & 9 Homework

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of homework in supporting your son's/daughter's progress at Gospel Oak School. Homework is set regularly in Years 7, 8 & 9 and plays a vital role in consolidating learning, developing independent study habits and preparing students for future assessments.

When students submit their homework on time, they will receive 3 achievement points as recognition for their effort and commitment. Where homework is not completed or is submitted late, sanctions will be applied in line with our school behaviour policy. This will include a next day lunchtime detention to complete the homework. We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your son's/daughter's homework is completed on time and to the best of their ability.

Homework Plan for Core Subjects:

- **English:** 1 piece of homework per week (written or online)
- **Maths:** 1 piece of homework per week (written or online)
- **Science:** 1 piece of homework per week (written or online)
- **Reading:** A minimum of **1 hour independent reading at home per week**. Students will then complete a **weekly quiz** based on their reading.

We are also delighted to be launching **Deep Learning Projects** this year across Years 7, 8 & 9. These projects are designed to encourage creativity, independence and a deeper exploration of topics beyond the classroom. Each half-term, students will complete a project based on a set subject area, with the opportunity to present their work in a variety of formats. Deep Learning Projects will not only build key skills such as research and presentation but also allow students to explore their own interests within the wider curriculum.

Deep Learning Project Rota 2025/26

- **Half Term 1 (Sep–Oct):** PE
- **Half Term 2 (Nov–Dec):** MFL
- **Half Term 3 (Jan–Feb):** Art and Design
- **Half Term 4 (Mar–Apr):** RE
- **Half Term 5 (Apr–May):** Performing Arts
- **Half Term 6 (Jun–Jul):** Humanities (History and Geography)

This academic year, students will not be issued with planners. All homework will instead be set and recorded on **ClassCharts**, allowing both students and parents/carers to easily access homework tasks and deadlines. We encourage all parents/carers to regularly check ClassCharts to support their son's/daughter's organisation and ensure homework is completed on time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise standards and provide exciting opportunities for all students. Please contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



To: KS4 Parents/Carers

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5th September 2025

Our Ref: RB.KH.3347

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Years 10 & 11 Homework

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of homework in supporting your son's/daughter's progress at Gospel Oak School. Homework is set regularly plays a vital role in consolidating learning, developing independent study habits and preparing students for future assessments. Where homework is not completed or is submitted late, sanctions will be applied in line with our school behaviour policy. This may include same-day detentions or a **next day lunchtime detention to complete the homework**. We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your son/daughter completes all homework tasks on time and to the best of their ability.

Homework Plan for Years 10 and 11:

Homework schedule for Year 10

Week A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option A Option D	Option C	English	Option B	Maths Science

Week B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option A Option B	Option D	Option C	Science	Maths English

Homework schedule for Year 11

Week A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option A Option D	Option C	Option B	Science	Maths English

Week B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option B Option C	Option D	Option A	Science Maths	English

Your son/daughter will be expected to complete 2 hours per week for each core subject (English, Maths, Science) and 1 hour per week for each of the option choices; a total of 10 hours of homework per week.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise standards and provide exciting opportunities for all students. Please contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Burrows
Assistant Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

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Our Ref: SBO.KH.3324

5th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Pharmacy First

We are writing to inform you about an important health initiative in our local area called Pharmacy First, launched by the NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board.

Pharmacy First is a new service designed to help your son/daughter and young people access quick and convenient healthcare for common illnesses and minor ailments, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, ear infections and skin conditions. Instead of needing to see a doctor for these issues, you can visit your local pharmacy where trained pharmacists can assess your son's/daughter's symptoms, provide advice and supply appropriate medicines if needed.

Why is this helpful?

- It saves time and avoids unnecessary trips to the doctor or emergency services.
- Pharmacists are highly qualified healthcare professionals who can manage many common health concerns safely.
- It helps reduce pressure on GP surgeries, allowing doctors to focus on more complex cases.

Who can use Pharmacy First?

This service is available to your son/daughter and young people registered with a GP in the Black Country area, including those attending our school. It is simple to use and free of charge under the NHS.

How to use Pharmacy First?

If your son/daughter feels unwell with a minor illness, you can take them to any participating local pharmacy. The pharmacist will assess their condition and, if appropriate, provide treatment or refer you to another healthcare service if necessary.

We encourage all parents/carers to consider using this service for minor health issues to ensure your son/daughter gets timely care. For more information, please visit the NHS Black Country website or speak with your local pharmacist. [Pharmacy First :: Black Country ICB](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

MissSBott
Senior Vice Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

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5th September 2025

Our Ref: PG.KH.3335

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: SHORE (Sexual Harm Online Resource for Education)

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety, wellbeing and personal development of our students, I would like to inform you about a valuable online resource called SHORE (Sexual Harm Online Resource for Education).

SHORE is a website designed to provide clear, age-appropriate advice and support around topics related to sexual behaviour, including what is considered healthy and developmentally appropriate. It is intended to help young people, families and professionals navigate concerns around harmful sexual behaviour, with a focus on early intervention, education and safeguarding.

The site includes:

- Guidance for parents/carers on how to talk to children and young people about sexual behaviour.
- Information about identifying concerning behaviours and where to get help.
- Resources for professionals working with children and young people.

I encourage you to explore the site at [Shore - Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#), and make use of the tools available.

These resources can support conversations at home and help ensure that children and young people understand the importance of boundaries, respect and safety.

If you have any questions or would like further support on this topic, please don't hesitate to contact us directly using the contact us form.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting the wellbeing of our students.

Yours sincerely,

Parm Grewal
VicePrincipal– Designated Safeguarding Lead

School Attendance Update-September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Trust Attendance Lead, I want to begin by thanking all our families who have consistently supported good school attendance. Your commitment ensures your children benefit fully from school life. We know that pupils with good attendance tend to enjoy better wellbeing and achieve more in school than those who frequently miss days. Excellent attendance gives children the best chance to thrive – in their learning, their friendships, and ultimately their life chances beyond school.

Why Attendance Is So Important: Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's wellbeing, achievement, and wider development. Being in school every day helps them stay on track academically and keeps them engaged with their teachers and friends. It also helps build good habits like punctuality and responsibility that will serve them throughout life. In short, everyday counts. Even a few days of absence can quickly add up and significantly impact learning and exam results. Thank you again to all parents/carers who send their children to school consistently – your support makes a huge difference, and we celebrate those students who achieved high attendance last year.

Government's Attendance Expectations: You may be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced a new National Framework for school attendance and penalty notices, effective from 19th August 2024. This is designed to improve consistency across England in how schools and local authorities respond to absences.

Please note the key changes:

- **Rolling 3-Year Tracking of Absence:** Unauthorised absences are now tracked on a *cumulative three-year* basis. If a child has 10 or more unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 full school days) within any 10-week period, schools must consider issuing a fine. This 10-week window "rolls" across terms and school years, so absences don't reset at year-end. *Importantly, any penalty notices or unauthorised holiday from last school year will carry forward under the new rules.* In other words, an unauthorised absence recorded in 2023/24 remains on record for 3 years.
- **Higher Fines & Escalation for Term-Time Holidays:** The fine for unauthorised school absence (such as an unapproved term-time holiday) has increased for the first time since 2012. From August 2024, each penalty notice is £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. These rates apply nationwide. If a second fine is issued for the same child within a 3-year period, it will automatically be at the higher £160 rate with no reduced amount. There is also a limit of two fines in any three-year period per parent for the same child. After that (i.e. at a third offence), schools can no longer issue a penalty notice – instead, authorities will move to other legal interventions such as parenting orders or prosecution in court. In court, parents could face much steeper fines (up to £2,500) or other sanctions, so it's crucial to avoid reaching this stage. Please also be aware that by law Headteachers cannot grant any leave for family holidays during term time except in truly exceptional circumstances, nor can they authorise absences after they have occurred.

We understand that these Government rules may sound strict. **Please remember: our Trust's aim is always to support families and avoid fines wherever possible.** We, like the vast majority of schools, view fines as a last resort after all other support steps have been exhausted. The national framework itself emphasises that schools and councils should work with you first – to understand any barriers and help improve your child's attendance – before considering any formal measures. In fact, 89% of fines nationally are for term-time holidays, not routine illnesses. Our priority is to work in partnership with parents so that issues can be addressed early and you are never put in a position of facing a penalty unnecessarily.

What You Can Expect from All Our Schools: Across every school in our Multi-Academy Trust (from Reception through Sixth Form), we follow a clear, supportive process to promote good attendance. The goal is to intervene early with help, long before any legal action is needed. Here is our shared approach that you can expect in every school:

- **Clear Attendance Stages & Early Alerts:** We continuously monitor each student's attendance and have defined *trigger points* for concern. If your child's attendance begins to dip (for example, approaching the persistent absence threshold of 90%), you will receive early warning notifications (phone calls or letters) from the school. This is to keep you informed and to signal that we need to work together to prevent a further slide. Every school in the Trust uses a consistent staged system of letters and meetings as absence levels reach certain points. **Supportive Contact and**
- **Meetings:** Our first response to attendance worries is support, not punishment. School staff (Teachers, Heads of Year, or Attendance Officers) will reach out to discuss any challenges you or your child are facing. We will offer advice and can arrange face-to-face meetings to create an Attendance Action Plan if needed. The aim is to identify and address issues – whether they're health-related, academic, or personal – and put in place help (e.g. adjustments in school, counselling, mentoring, etc.) to improve attendance. We want to reassure you that we're here to help, and we understand that sometimes there are genuine difficulties.
- **Formal Warnings (If Problems Persist):** If attendance does not improve despite initial support, the school will issue formal written warnings or invitations to attendance panel meetings. These letters will clearly explain the concern and what needs to change, and they serve as a more serious notice that absence has reached an unacceptable level. We'll continue to work with you, but it's important to be aware that ongoing poor attendance may lead to involvement from the Trust's Education Welfare Officer (EWO) or equivalent. The EWO works with the school and family to provide specialist support and will monitor the situation closely. You might be asked to sign an attendance contract or agree to certain targets at this stage.
- **Last Resort – Legal Action:** In the unlikely event that a student's attendance fails to improve, even after all the above steps, we will have no choice but to refer the case for legal intervention as a last resort. This could mean the local authority issuing a penalty notice fine, or in severe cases, initiating prosecution for non-attendance. Our sincere hope is to never reach this stage with any family. Legal action is only considered when there is persistent, ongoing absence with no improvement despite all offers of support. We would much rather work together to find solutions long before this point.

Please note that this supportive, staged approach **applies to all students from Reception age through to Sixth Form**. Good attendance is just as critical for a 5-year-old in primary school as it is for a 15-year-old preparing for GCSEs or a 17-year-old in sixth form. The law requires regular attendance once children are of compulsory school age (5 to 16), but our Trust's ethos is to instil good habits and provide support right from the start of schooling and to continue that through post-16 education. Every year of education builds on the last, and we want every child – regardless of age – to have the best chance of success by being in school, on time, every day.

In summary, **we are committed to working with you** to ensure your child attends school regularly, and to navigate any difficulties together. The new Government measures are there to underscore the importance of attendance, but our focus remains on encouragement and support. We will continue to recognize and celebrate good attendance, and more importantly, to help those who are struggling with it. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact your school – we are here to help.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter. By reinforcing the value of education through good attendance, you are opening the door to a brighter future for your child. Let's continue to work in partnership to make sure every student in our Trust can **achieve their full potential**.

Yours sincerely,



Niall Brennan
Trust AttendanceLead,
Central Region Schools Trust

The link between ATTENDANCE & ACHIEVEMENT

 Central Region Schools Trust - Founded by the RSA

Understanding Attendance:

What the Percentages Really Mean

Attendance figures can be misleading at first glance. **95%** attendance means your child has missed **10 full days of school in a year** – that's two full weeks of learning. **90%** attendance means **19 days missed** – nearly a whole month. While 90% might sound good, it actually puts a child in the **persistent absence category**, which can have a real impact on progress and confidence. Every day really does count.



Attendance Band | National % at Expected Standard

95% Or above	61% meet national expected standard
90% Or below	30% meet national expected standard

Primary (Nursery - Year 6)

% of pupils Meeting Expected Standard in Reading, Writing & Maths

At primary school, the pattern is clear: pupils with **strong attendance** are far more likely to meet or **exceed** the expected standards in core subjects by the end of Year 6.



Secondary (Year 7 - Year 11)

% of students Achieving a GCSE Pass (Grade 4+) in English & Maths

By secondary school, the link between attendance and achievement becomes even stronger. National data (2019) shows that students with **higher attendance** are significantly more likely to **achieve** a Grade 4+ in English and Maths GCSEs. (Grade 4 is equivalent to a standard pass or old Grade C.)

Attendance Band | National % achieving Grade 4+ (Maths & Eng)

95% Or above	72% meet national expected standard
90% Or below	Less than 40% meet national expected



Sixth Form (Year 12 - Year 13)

Post 16 Outcomes and Attendance

The same pattern holds at sixth form: students with high attendance are more likely to achieve strong A-Level or BTEC results. **Good attendance** helps build on earlier learning, prepares students for exams, and supports a **smoother transition** to university or employment. Every day still counts in Years 12 and 13.

Attendance Today, Success Tomorrow

Research shows that students with good attendance are more likely to achieve higher qualifications, which directly impacts future earnings. In fact, over a lifetime, someone with strong GCSEs can earn up to **£100,000** more than someone without them. Attendance isn't just about school – it's about setting up a successful future.



Source: Department for Education (DfE) and Education Policy Institute (EPI) research on the link between attendance, attainment, and lifetime earnings.

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Crown Green Bowls Group
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 The Bowling Green, Victoria Park, Tipton, DY4 8SR

 Contact us: sandwellags@theaws.org

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