

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 3rd October 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday 8th October - Year 7 Settling in Evening

Thursday 9th October - WBA Rewards Experience

Friday 10th October - Futures Fair

Thursday 23rd October - Post 16 Open Evening



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Misogyny and Incel Culture

w.c 06/10 - World Mental Health Day (10th October)

w.c 13/10 - Healthy Eating

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 for our school community. Year 11 and Year 13 move ever closer to their mock examinations and it is evident that many of them are working extremely hard on their revision. I know that parents and carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students will have noticed that a lot of the homework recently has been focused on exam practice and recalling of learning from last year; this is absolutely vital to support success next summer. Extra-curricular clubs are up and running and it is lovely to see so many students using lunchtimes and/or staying after-school to further their learning beyond their timetabled curriculum; please see [Gospel Oak School - Extra-Curricular](#) for full details.

I'm delighted to let you know that we seem to have had less problems in the last week with 'lost property'; we're very grateful for all of the reminders from home about making sure your daughters and/or sons are looking after their belongings. There does, though, remain an issue with water bottles and we are accumulating a number of these in Reception! If a water bottle has been lost, please ask your daughter or son to check at Reception in case it has been handed in. It's really important that students have a water bottle in school; water is available for all students in a variety of locations around school and students should be filling up water bottles at break and lunchtime.

As always, if you have questions or need support, please do let us know via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#). We hope you have a lovely weekend.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

Attendance

Our attendance is up this week. After a dip – we hit a high of 98% in the week and the last 7 days is 94%- overall for the month of September we are at 96% - this is compared to a national average of 93%. - let's keep pushing on attendance it is so important!

Punctuality & Uniform

- Line-ups are continuing daily – arrive on time, in full uniform, lanyards visible and around your neck.
- No excuses: punctuality shows discipline and sets the tone for your learning.

Lunchtime Detentions

- Lunchtime detentions run from **12:20 – 12:40**. You go up at 12:20, complete the detention, and then get your food afterwards.
- The best way to avoid this is by completing your homework on time. If you do slip up, accept it, attend the detention, and use that time to **rectify the issue and complete the work**.

Social Media – Think Before You Share

This week's morning meetings focused on how we use social media. A reminder:

- Be careful what you are sending, sharing, and viewing online.
- Once something is shared, you cannot take it back – it could affect friendships, reputation, or even future opportunities.
- Always make sure you are using social media appropriately and responsibly. Protect yourself and think before you post.

Thank You – Macmillan Bake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed or donated to our **Macmillan Bake Sale** last Friday. Your support makes a difference.

Key Dates to Remember

8th October – Y7 settling in Parents Evening – 4:30pm to 7pm

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



★ Year 8 Weekly Newsletter ★

Let's finish strong and start fresh!

Attendance Alert – Let's Get Back on Track!

Oh no, Year 8! Our attendance took a real dip this week and dropped as low as **86%**. That's way below where we should be! Every single day in school counts – not just for learning, but for building friendships, confidence, and your future success.

We know it's getting darker and colder in the mornings, and it's tempting to hit snooze... but pushing through and showing up is what resilience is all about. The more you're in school, the more you learn – and the better your grades will be. Let's make a big effort next week to bounce back and aim for **above 95%**! 💪

Running Late? Let's Fix That!

We've noticed more of you arriving after the bell lately. Remember, **you need to be at line-ups by 8:25am** – ready, on time, and set for the day.

Every minute counts in the morning, and being late can leave you feeling rushed and stressed – not a great way to start your day! Set that alarm a little earlier, pack your bag the night before, and plan your route to school. Small changes can make a big difference!

Let's show everyone that Year 8 can be on it, organised, and ready to go!

Think Before You Share – Stay Safe Online

This week in our morning meeting, we had some real talk about **social media**. It can be fun, creative, and a great way to stay connected – but it can also be risky if we're not careful.

Remember: once you share something online, it's out there. Even if you delete it, someone might have already seen it or taken a screenshot. Whether it's a comment, photo, or private message – **think before you post.**

Would you say it face to face? Would you want your parents or teachers to see it? If not, it probably doesn't belong online. Let's look after ourselves – and each other – online and offline.

Football News – Come and Support the Team!

We're super proud of our Year 8 football team who have an exciting **fixture against Q3 Tipton on Wednesday, 9th October!** 🏆⚽

They've been training hard, showing real teamwork, and representing our year group with pride. If you can, come along to show your support and cheer them on – every bit of encouragement helps!

Good luck, team – we'll be rooting for you!

Final Thoughts

Let's keep working hard, supporting each other, and showing everyone just how brilliant Year 8 can be. We believe in you – now let's believe in ourselves, and keep stepping up.

Have a great weekend and see you bright and early on Monday!

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



Attendance is still something we need to focus on. At the moment, our figures are going up and down, and we really need to get this right. Our Year To Date attendance is currently **91.7%**, which is a decrease of nearly 2% compared to last year. The two most important BASICS we can all stick to are:

Being on time every day

Attending every single day

These are the keys to success – so let's all commit to smashing this from next week onwards! 🌟

Celebrations this week 🎉

★ **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

A huge shoutout to everyone in Year 9 who baked, brought in, or bought cakes and treats for the Macmillan Coffee Morning last Friday. As a school, we raised over **£320** – an amazing achievement, and we couldn't have done it without your support! 🍰

★ **Assembly on Respect and Equality**

Finally, massive credit to all of Year 9 for how you handled this week's assembly. The theme of **misogyny and respect** is a serious and important issue. You listened with maturity and showed real thought in your responses and conversations afterwards. This shows your growth and the role model qualities we want to see from Team Blue. Well done! 🌟

Important Reminders 📌

On Tuesday, the year 9 football team will play their first derby match against Q3 Tipton, a very exciting and much anticipated game. The lads are very much looking forward to seeing who has bragging rights in Tipton. They've been putting in lots of effort, working together brilliantly, and representing Year 9 with real pride. If you can, come along to cheer them on – your support makes a big difference!

Best of luck, Team Blue – we're all behind you! ❤️

Looking Ahead

We've noticed more of you arriving after the bell lately. Remember, **you need to be at line-ups by 8:25am** – ready, on time, and set for the day.

Every minute counts in the morning, and being late can leave you feeling rushed and stressed – not a great way to start your day! Set that alarm a little earlier, pack your bag the night before, and plan your route to school. Small changes can make a big difference!

Let's show everyone that Year 9 can be on it, organised, and ready to go!

As we move into **Week 6**, let's keep pushing with our **10/10 attitude**, **10/10 effort**, and **10/10 positivity**. Every day is a chance to achieve more – let's show everyone what Team Blue is made of! ❤️

Proud of you all,

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team

YEAR 10

Week 5 of Autumn 1 has been another one to celebrate for the Y10 family!

Attendance still needs to be our priority please Y10 as our figures are up and down at the moment so we must resolve this by following the BASICS and ensuring that every day we are on time and attending. Our Year To Date figure is currently 91.3% compared to 90.6% from last year which is an increase of 0.7% from last year. This is good BUT could be better so we really need to ensure we are prioritising the top two basics of “**Being on time**” and “**Attending every day**”. By doing this, it is the way we are all going to succeed and achieve, so let's smash it from next week please! 🍌

So, where shall we begin this week?

A big super star shout out goes to all of the wonderful Y10 humans who took time to bake and make or go and buy to bring in or even buy at school any cakes and sweet treats at our Macmillan Coffee special event last Friday! As a school we raised over £320 which is incredible and we wouldn't be able to achieve these huge milestones without you all so thank you Year 10! 🍰

Another big super star shout out goes to all of the amazing Y10 students who were involved in yet another special event on Thursday this week! The Y10 family were lucky enough to have representatives from The Royal Navy present at GOS delivering a motivational 'Career and Life skill presentation' followed by a hands-on workshop with students in small groups of 25-30. Students were able to showcase their active listening skills during this session and the respect shown for the visitors was 10/10! Not only did students get a chance to experience this but once the active listening was complete, students were asked to participate in a 'Dragon's den style' team building challenge which was very entertaining to watch! Of course, the members of staff including Miss Ralph and Mrs Kler had to get involved too! 🐉



Finally, a super star shout out and recognition has to go to the whole year group for how they responded to both **morning meeting** and **assembly** this week as the theme was quite serious but ever so important in the world we live as it was all around misogyny and understanding fully what it is. The Y10 family showed respect to Miss Edwards when delivering her powerful assembly but also showed maturity and personal growth and development with how they responded to the information that was shared. Students had conversations with staff and peers following from this showing the emotional maturity that has been gained by many of you and how you want to ensure that 10/10 attitude and mindset at all times – Something to be proud of and something to keep developing as you are now the role models for so many younger students in our school! Well done Y10 family, proud of you for this! 🌟

What else do we need to know?

A second reminder this week of everything **work experience!** Letters were given to all students to take home to start discussing and finding their placements – Please can we urge that this is looked at and prioritised early so that all students have that opportunity to go out into the big wide world and experience a day in the life of what their futures WILL look like! It is so important that we make this happen for all students, so please look into this with and for them and get in touch if you need anything! If students are unsure, they must speak to their tutors and can also book an appointment with Mrs Wilkins who will be able to support with their journey into the big wide world!💎💎

Now, as we look ahead to week 6 of Autumn 1, 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 Y10, TEAM GREEN FOREVER! ❤️

Miss Ralph and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

★ Attendance Focus

Our attendance has dipped to 90% this week. This is not good enough – remember, our minimum expectation is 96%. If we aren't in lessons, we can't succeed.

- Only 11C hit above 95% this week – well done to them! The rest of the year group must step up.
- Every single day counts towards your GCSE success.

🕒 Punctuality & Uniform

- Line-ups are continuing daily – arrive on time, in full uniform, lanyards visible and around your neck.
- No excuses: punctuality shows discipline and sets the tone for your learning.

🕒 Lunchtime Detentions

- Lunchtime detentions run from 12:20 – 12:40. You go up at 12:20, complete the detention, and then get your food afterwards.
- Our biggest issue right now is people not attending these detentions. If you miss it, it will be upscaled and the sanction will be more serious.
- The best way to avoid this is by completing your homework on time. If you do slip up, accept it, attend the detention, and use that time to rectify the issue and complete the work.

🌐 Social Media – Think Before You Share

This week's morning meetings focused on how we use social media. A reminder:

- Be careful what you are sending, sharing, and viewing online.
- Once something is shared, you cannot take it back – it could affect friendships, reputation, or even future opportunities.
- Always make sure you are using social media appropriately and responsibly. Protect yourself and think before you post.

📍 Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 23rd October

Every Year 11 must attend. You need to start thinking about your next steps and the subjects you want to study. Come prepared to ask questions and explore your options.

🍰 Thank You – Macmillan Bake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed or donated to our Macmillan Bake Sale on Friday. Your support makes a difference.

📅 Key Dates to Remember

- 📅 Mock Exams – Week commencing Monday 13th October
- 📅 Year 11 Parents' Evening – Thursday 11th December
- 📍 Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 23rd October

💡 Weekly Message

We're now fully into the term – it's time to set the standards that will carry you through the year. Attendance, punctuality, completing homework, and being mindful online are the keys to success. Stay focused, support each other, and let's push together.

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



Students are continuing to work hard in both supervised study and the collaborative learning hub, it is important that students attend these sessions to support with their in-class learning.

Year 13 are preparing for the up and coming mocks which will take place week commencing 13th October.

Attendance- it is vital that students attend every day and arrive on time. Missing one day can have a big impact on learning, being present improves outcomes.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming events –

23rd Oct – Post 16 Open Evening



Gospel Oak School
Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands DY4 0BZ
T 0121 556 1351
F 0121 506 7833
W www.gospelookschool.co.uk

To: All Parents/Carers

3rd October 2025

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3371

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Ofsted Inspection Update

As you know we were inspected by Ofsted on Tuesday 30th September and Wednesday 1st October. There were 6 inspectors who visited a large number of lessons and met with trustees, governors, staff and students.

I would like to thank all the parents/carers who sent in such positive messages and continue to support us on our improvement journey.

The students' behaviour and conduct during the inspection was fantastic and is a reflection of the standards we see on a daily basis. Many of our students took part in meetings with the team of inspectors and I'd like to say how proud we are of how well they conducted themselves.

The inspection went exceptionally well and I am looking forward to sharing the report with you in early November.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: KS3 Parents/Carers

3rd October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: PE Exploration Project

As part of our Key Stage 3 PE curriculum, students will be completing a PE Exploration Project at home. This project supports our focus on helping students understand the importance of healthy eating, balanced nutrition and how diet supports physical activity and wellbeing. It is an opportunity for students to be creative while applying what they have learned in their PE lessons.

The project will be handed out on Monday 6th October and should be returned by Monday 20th October. It will count towards their overall PE exploration grade and forms part of their home learning.

There are two tasks to complete:

Task 1 – Design Your Healthy Plate

Students should create their own version of a Healthy Plate to show what a balanced meal looks like. This can be drawn and coloured, made as a collage using magazines or food packaging, designed on a computer, or photographed if cooked at home. Each plate should label the main food groups and include 1–2 sentences explaining why each group is important for health and activity.

Task 2 – Create an A4 Poster

Students should design a bright and informative A4 poster explaining the six key nutrients: carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and water. The poster should clearly outline the role of each nutrient and give examples of foods that contain them.

Rewards for Completion

All students who hand in their project on time will receive 50 achievement points and be entered into a prize draw to win shopping vouchers. The best pieces of work will each receive a £20 voucher.

We greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete this project to the best of their ability. If you have any questions, please contact us through [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Greatrex
Director of Learning and Standards in Physical Education

Gospel Oak School

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F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

Our Ref: DG.KH.3372

Your Ref:

COMMUNITY

**POST 16
OPEN EVENING**
23RD OCTOBER 2025
6.00PM-8.00PM

Come and see what we have to offer
Discover new opportunities

An exciting opportunity to engage with the Post 16 teaching staff and explore the subjects on offer

✉ sixthformenquiry@gospelookschool.co.uk
☎ 0121 5561351

Central Sixth Form

Sandwell Deaf Community Association

What's on in October

1st, 15th & 29th 10am - 12 noon Hard of Hearing Group West Bromwich Community Centre	1st 2pm - 4pm Cochlear Implant group - Adult 18+ West Bromwich Community Centre	2nd, 9th 16th, 23rd & 30th 10am - 1.30pm Social Club (Bingo) West Bromwich Community Centre
3rd, 17th & 31st 5pm - 7pm Deaf?! West Bromwich Community Centre	8th 10am - 12 noon Coffee Morning The Interceptor	8th 2pm to 4pm Health Group West Bromwich Community Centre
9th 4.30pm - 6.30pm Cochlear Implant group - Children 8-11 years Friar Park Millennium Centre	15th 2pm to 4pm Deafblind group West Bromwich Community Centre	

@deaf.sandwell @sandwelldca.com www.sdca.co.uk

For more information, please email craig_pothecary@sdca.co.uk or Text / WhatsApp / FaceTime: 07791 921011

Sandwell Deaf Community Association

Cochlear Implant Groups for Children

Agnes 8-11

JOIN US

...Are you aged 8-11?
...Do you use a Cochlear Implant?
...want to make new friends?
...want to share experiences?

If yes, then come and join us!

When: 8th November from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Venue: Friar Park Millennium Centre, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10 0JS

For more information, please email craig_pothecary@sdca.co.uk or Text / WhatsApp / FaceTime: 07791 921011

FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and vulnerable friends and family from flu.

NASAL VACCINE



No needles - just quick, painless, effective flu protection (contains gelatine)

OR

THE INJECTION




We offer a PORK-FREE, GELATINE-FREE injection considered a faith-friendly alternative.

Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/sandwell>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM

 sandwell@v-uk.co.uk
 01215 921 110

Need more information?
Please see our FAQs sheet attached with this letter.

Or visit our website:



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, they can still receive this important vaccine by attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.

LEARN MORE

<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/flu>
www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk

PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy
For data protection queries, please contact: gdpr@vaccinationuk.co.uk

Please complete the below link for your child to receive their vaccine:-

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/sandwell>

FLU VACCINES: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Vaccination UK will be coming into Gospel Oak School on Friday 5th December 2025 to administer the flu vaccine for a catchup session. Could you please complete the link to accept or decline if you wish for your son / daughter to receive his / her vaccine to update your son / daughters NHS record by midnight on Monday 24th November 2025. Please ensure that your son / daughter has no allergies to the vaccine and should you have any queries then please contact Vaccination UK on 0121 592 1110.

Please note that unless you accept or decline to update your son / daughters NHS record Vaccination UK will continue to contact you.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?

Flu can make children feel very unwell and can sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia or ear infections. Some may even need hospital treatment. It's especially important for children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?

The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help your child build protection without causing illness. Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used for over 10 years in countries like the US without any major concerns. All vaccines available in United Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing measures. The regulators continually monitor them all the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?

Let us know if your child:

- Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain antibiotics
- Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is 'wheezy on the day'
- Has a seriously weakened immune system

Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close contact with people who have very weak immune systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose, headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?

Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that contains no pork (porcine gelatine).

While the nasal spray is generally more effective and painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out both.

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY

While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not generally considered better than vaccine-induced immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural immunity to one strain might not protect against a different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of flu viruses.

Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE

If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our team or attend one of our community clinics, all information can be found on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their questions. You can find information and how to join on our website.

