

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 19th December 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 5th January - Teacher Training Day

Monday 12th January - Yr10 H&SC Careers Talk

Wednesday 14th January - Year 8 Parents' Evening



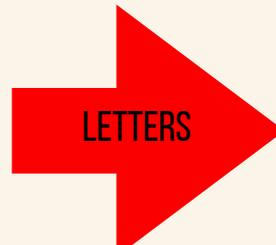
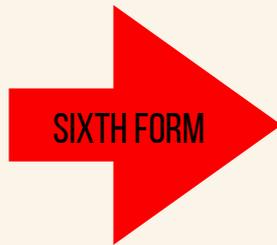
ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Christmas Celebration Rewards

05/01 - Respect - Term head - Expectations

12/01 - Healthy Eating

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 term at Gospel Oak. There have been so many achievements which we have highlighted through our means of communication over the term, and students have made great progress in all aspects of school life; students have shown huge commitment to their learning in the classroom, and the work that has been undertaken this term to improve our homework strategy is undoubtedly meaning that students are working harder for longer. Students have supported community initiatives such as a community litter pick and Tomorrow's Leaders' Conference to help improve future prospects of our area as part of a wider project – Shaping Brighter Futures – working in partnership to further improve aspirations and opportunities for our young people. Sports' teams have excelled, a fantastic Rewards' Evening was held in school, and this week saw a sell-out Christmas Concert with fabulous performances from our talented students across Performing Arts.

Today has seen a more relaxed day with students having an extended late break/early lunchtime to enable them to enjoy festivities with their friends. There has also been a treat for our students who have achieved the top attitude to learning points in each year, and a brilliant hour of activities where students could take part in dodgeball, Just Dance, computer games, board games, drawing, football or Christmas Karaoke. Students have also had time with their tutors for Christmas activities. Father Christmas has made a number of appearances in the school building too! We hope that this has been an enjoyable end to the term for students.

Thank you for all of your support this term; the partnership between school with parents, carers and the community makes such a huge difference to the learning experiences of our students.

We hope you have a lovely break, and enjoy the Christmas period. A reminder that school is closed to students on Monday 5th January, and re-opens to students on Tuesday 6th January; as always, students are expected in line-up at 8.30am.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

As we come to the end of the 2025 school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate what an **incredible year it has been for Year 7** 🌟

From the very first day, our students have shown courage, curiosity, and a growing sense of responsibility. We are so proud of how far you have all come – settling into secondary school, building friendships, and rising to new challenges every single day 🙌📚

A huge **thank you to our amazing Year 7 staff team** 🌟🌟 Your dedication, care, and teamwork have made this year such a success. Together, staff and students have created a positive, supportive, and welcoming community that we can all be proud of ❤️

As we look ahead to **2026**, let's make it a **year to remember** 🚀

- ✅ Outstanding attendance
- ✅ Positive behaviour
- ✅ High expectations
- ✅ Even more success and achievements

Every day counts, and we know that by working together, Year 7 can continue to shine 🌈🌟

🎄👶 As the festive season begins, we would like to wish all our students and families a very **Merry Christmas** 🎁❄️ and a **Happy New Year** 🥳🌟

Enjoy a well-earned break, stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming you back ready for an exciting 2026!

With best wishes.

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



What a fantastic term we have had in Year 8. The students have been truly amazing and have returned to school each day ready to learn, showing maturity, resilience, and a positive attitude across their lessons. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made both academically and personally this term.

Attendance continues to improve, which is very encouraging to see. As we move into the new year, our year group target is **95% attendance**, and this is something we know Year 8 can achieve with continued commitment from students and families. Regular attendance plays a vital role in student success, and we appreciate your ongoing support with this.

The **Winter Wonderland trip** was a huge success and a real highlight of the term. The students represented the school exceptionally well, displaying excellent behaviour, respect, and enthusiasm throughout the day. They were a credit to themselves, their families, and the school.

As we look ahead to the new year, it is important to reflect on the many successes we have achieved this term and use them as motivation moving forward. In **2026**, we aim to build on these achievements, continue raising expectations, and push ourselves even further in all areas of school life.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy a well-earned break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for another successful term.

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a busy, exciting, and productive week in Year 9 – here's everything you need to know! 📌

🎉 **Celebration Assembly**

This week, Year 9 took part in a brilliant Celebration Assembly recognising students who have gone above and beyond in their effort, behaviour, and attitude to learning. **A huge shout-out to all our winners** for their continuous hard work, resilience, and commitment – you are fantastic role models for the year group, and we are incredibly proud of everything you've achieved! 🌟🌟

📅 **Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!**

Mr Johnson also delivered a powerful morning meeting on the importance of attendance, especially as Year 9 begin preparing for KS4 and their upcoming GCSE Options.

We have noticed a small drop in attendance over the last two weeks, and it's vital this improves. Here are the key stats we shared with students:

- ✅ **95%+ attendance** = Strongest chance of achieving a Grade 4+ at GCSE
- ⚠️ **90–95% attendance** = Up to a 30% drop in securing a Grade 4+
- ❌ **Below 90% attendance** = Very unlikely to achieve a Grade 4 in Maths & English*

Core subjects are gateway qualifications that all employers, colleges, and apprenticeships look for. At GOS, we are committed to opening doors for our students' futures – and being in school every day is the key! 📚🌟

📅 **Homework Reminders & 1-Hour Detentions**

A reminder that 1-hour detentions for missed homework deadlines have now begun. Homework is set weekly on the following days:

- 📅 **Maths – Tuesday**
- 📅 **English – Thursday**
- 📅 **Science – Friday**

Please support your child in staying organised and keeping on top of their homework each week. If there are any issues, the Year 9 Team is here to help. 🤝

If login details have been forgotten, students can speak to their tutor, or parents can contact the Year 9 Team via the school website. Students must log in through Microsoft using their school email and password. 📧👤

🎁 **Shoebox & Food Donation Appeal**

Our Year 9 Shoebox Appeal is still going strong, and we are now also collecting non-perishable food items to support families within our community. Your generosity means so much – every single donation makes a real difference. ❤️🎁

As always, thank you for your continued encouragement and partnership. Year 9 have shown fantastic engagement this week – let's keep the momentum going! 🌟💙

From all of us in the Year 9 Team, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🎄🌟

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



Happy Week 7 of Autumn 2 from the Year 10 family – The final one of 2025! 🌟

Week 7 of Autumn 2 has been a festive and positive way for Year 10 to finish the term. **On Tuesday Period 5**, we enjoyed our **Year 10 Christmas Awards**, celebrating students' hard work, effort, and achievements this term. It was fantastic to recognise success and share some well-deserved celebrations together – The Year Team were bursting with Pride at the names shared and the rewards given! 🎄

To continue with the festivities, we also ended the week in true festive spirit with the **Christmas Extravaganza on Friday**, bringing the year group together to mark the end of term with cheer and community and doing our favourite things: Sport, Karaoke, Just Dance, Arts and Crafts and even just chilling watching a film! A great final Friday! ✨

As we head into the break, we would like to wish all our students and families a safe and restful holiday. Enjoy the celebrations, take care of yourselves, and we look forward to welcoming Year 10 back ready to embrace 2026 with positivity and ambition. 🎉

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 in the new year – Let's go **TEAM GREEN!** ❤️

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Year 10 team! 🌟😊

Miss Ralph and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Year 11 Updates & Celebrations

Parents' Evening – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who attended our recent Year 11 Parents' Evening. We were delighted to see a **65% turnout**, which really shows the strong partnership between home and school in supporting our Year 11 students at such a crucial stage of their education. Your support makes a real difference as we move closer to the final GCSE exams.

Rewards Assembly Celebrations

On **Thursday**, we held a fantastic **Year 11 Rewards Assembly** to celebrate the hard work, effort, and positive attitude shown by so many students. It was brilliant to recognise students for their commitment to learning, resilience, and progress – they should be incredibly proud of themselves. Well done to everyone who was celebrated!

Attendance Success

An extra well done to Year 11 for continuing to show excellent commitment to school. Attendance remains **2% above the national average**, which is a huge achievement at this stage of the year. Consistent attendance is one of the biggest factors in exam success, so keep it up!

Christmas Well Wishes

As we come to the end of term, we would like to wish all Year 11 students and their families a **very happy and restful Christmas break**. Please take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the holidays – you've earned it. We look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for the final push towards GCSE success. 💜

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



It has been a busy term for 6th form with students working hard throughout this term, with many year 13's completing their UCAS application alongside their studies.

Anyone that is interested in applying to the 6th form is welcomed to apply online or to collect a paper application form. If you require any further information, please contact me or see the sixth form team. The deadline for applications is Friday 19th December.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful break and a Happy New Year.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16



To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

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West Midlands DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

19th December 2025

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3460

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: English Tutor Time Masterclasses

As you will be aware, there are now just over five calendar months until Year 11 students begin their GCSE exams. We are pleased to inform you that the full content of the Year 11 English curriculum has now been covered. From January 2026, the English department will therefore focus on revisiting high-frequency topics, targeted revision, and extensive practice with past examination papers to ensure students are fully prepared for their exams.

Given the breadth and demands of the English curriculum, additional support will be provided from January 2026 through English sessions delivered during tutor time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. These sessions will take place in the Bistro and will be led by an experienced English specialist. The initial focus will be on poetry, with students engaging in both re-teaching and the creation of effective revision materials.

Poetry forms part of English Literature Paper 2 and is worth one third of the marks for that paper. It is therefore crucial that students attend school on time every day so that they can fully benefit from these additional sessions. Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of this focused preparation reflected in students' outcomes this summer.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Head of School

COMMUNITY

YEAR 8 PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 14th January 2026 between 5 – 7.00pm
No appointments necessary

CC UNIFORMS

Christmas GIFT VOUCHER

Wishing all parent/carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from CC Uniforms, 82 Kings Square, West Bromwich, B70 7NN.

Tel: 0121 448 9199
Email: ccuniformsLtd@hotmail.com

Valid Until : 11th January 2025
vouchers only and not on uniform packages

GOGNA ESTABLISHED 1976

Wishing all of our families and parents a very
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

A small gift from us to you

gogna.me g-storm.co.uk

EXP 31/01/26
Not applicable to packages

NEED SOMEWHERE TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK?

Use our homework and revision facilities:

- Computers;
- Revision guides;
- A quiet working space.

The LRC is open every day at lunchtime and after school until 4:00pm.

Complete it. Submit it. Succeed.

10% OFF GOSPEL OAK UNIFORM

10% offer on everything for Gospel Oak till the end of January.

THE SCHOOL UNIFORM MERCHANT

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Tipton, West Midlands
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0121 520 3120

FUTURES NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN
EDITION



This term has been busy and exciting for everyone at Gospel Oak. Our students have taken part in lots of activities to help them think about their future and explore different career paths.

We started with a very successful Futures Fair, where employers, colleges, and training providers came in to talk to students about the opportunities available after Year 11. The Sandwell College T Level Bus was a big hit, giving students a clear idea of what apprenticeships are really like.

During our College and Training Provider Assembly Week, students heard helpful talks about courses, careers, and the different routes they can take. Royal Navy came in school to run a STEM (Science, technology, engineering and Maths) event. Some of our SEND students also visited West Bromwich Albion for the annual SEND Careers Fair, where they met supportive employers and learned about careers designed to meet their needs.

This newsletter shares all of these highlights and shows how our students are preparing for their futures with confidence and curiosity.

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NEWBY
FOUNDRIES
GROUP



☀ Futures Fair A Day of Discovery and Development

Gospel Oak hosted its Futures Fair — an exciting mix of inspiration and real-world opportunity. More than 30 local employers, universities, and training providers came to share their knowledge, giving students the chance to discover future careers in areas like healthcare, law, public services, engineering, media, and finance. It was a day filled with new ideas, helpful conversations, and a clearer sense of what the future could look like.



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HAYS
Recruiting experts
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UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



FUTURES

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN
EDITION

🚢 Royal Navy STEM & Careers Visit

Year 10 students took part in a hands-on workshop with the Royal Navy, linking STEM subjects to exciting real-life careers. They discovered roles in engineering, technology, logistics, and learned how science and maths are used in the Navy every day.



SANDWELL
COLLEGE
A COLLEGE COLLEGE

Sandwell College came along to the school as part of T Level Week, bringing an interactive bus filled with hands-on activities. Students had the chance to try tasks linked to Health, Business, and Early Years, helping them understand what studying a T Level is really like. The team from Sandwell College also delivered a short talk, explaining the different T Level pathways and how they prepare young people for future careers. The visit gave students a fun and engaging way to explore their next steps and learn more about the exciting opportunities available to them.



Year 11 students had the chance to visit the Think Sandwell SEND Careers Event at The Hawthorns, a day designed to help young people explore future pathways in a supportive and accessible environment. They met a wide range of employers, training providers, and organisations who shared information about jobs, courses, and opportunities tailored to different needs. The event gave our students the confidence to ask questions, try activities, and discover new ideas about their future. It was an inspiring and positive experience that helped them see the many possibilities open to them.

FUTURES NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN
EDITION



One-to-one Connexions interviews are now well underway with our Year 13 and Year 11 one-to-one careers interviews. These sessions are really important, as they give students the chance to receive impartial careers advice and guidance from our wonderful advisor, Danielle.

If any parents would like to get in touch with Danielle, please feel free to send her an email : Danielle_Wells@sandwell.gov.uk

Looking Ahead: What's Coming Up in Our Futures Programme for 2026

Our Futures Programme continues to grow, offering students exciting opportunities to explore their next steps. In 2026, we will be running our Mock Interview Day with Year 10's and 12's, giving students the chance to practise real interview skills with employers.

Year 8 and Year 9 students will take part in an Aspire to HE 6 weeks program with Wolverhampton University looking at skills such as communication.

Year 10 students will be offered a wonderful opportunity to visit Cambridge University, helping them see what higher education can offer.

Year 7 will also begin our ever popular Morgan Stanley project, developing key skills through real-world challenges. This is just a snapshot of what's ahead for 2026, with even more exciting Futures opportunities still to come.

A reminder that Work Experience will run from

29th June – 3rd July for Year 10,

6th July – 10th July for Year 12.

All forms must be returned by Friday 27 March 2026.