

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 9th January 2026



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 12th January - Yr10 H&SC Careers Talk

Wednesday 14th January - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd January - Ski Trip Information Evening



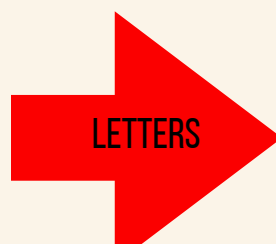
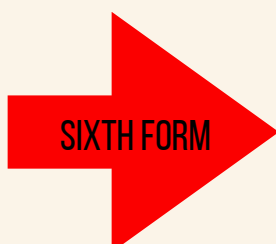
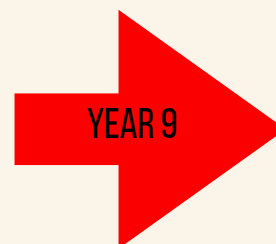
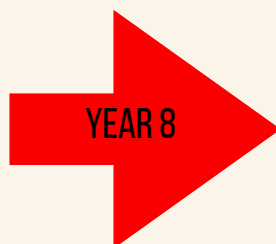
ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Respect -
Term head - Expectations

12/01 - Launch Reward System

19/01 - Knife Crime

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



MESSAGE FROM MISS LANE, ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome back and a very happy New Year to you all! It has been lovely to welcome our students back into school after the Christmas break, and to see them return refreshed and ready for the new term ahead. Despite the snowy conditions earlier this week, we have had a productive and exciting start to the term, and I would like to thank students, staff and families for their support in ensuring the school day continued to run smoothly.

As always at the start of a new term, our focus this week has been on maintaining our high standards and starting as we mean to go on. Assemblies and tutor time sessions have reinforced our expectations around behaviour, attendance, punctuality and effort, both in and out of the classroom. These messages are familiar to students and parents alike, but they remain vitally important in ensuring that learning time is maximised and that students are able to achieve their very best outcomes.

This week, some of our Year 11 students have also sat a BTEC Sport exam and a BTEC Business exam. We are very proud of the mature and focused way in which these students approached their assessments, particularly so early in the term, and wish them every success with their results.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that our uniform policy remains the same this term. High standards of uniform help to set the tone for learning and reflect our shared commitment to a purposeful and respectful school environment. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in ensuring that students arrive at school correctly equipped and in full uniform each day.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and I look forward to updating you on all of the exciting things happening here at Gospel Oak!

Have a lovely weekend.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

★ Year 7 Attendance Update – Every Day Counts! ★

We are so proud of how our **Year 7 students** are settling into secondary school life 🏫★ Starting a new school is a big step, and regular attendance plays a **huge role** in helping students feel confident, connected, and successful 🙌📚

📅 Why attendance matters:

- ✓ Builds strong routines 🕒
- ✓ Helps students keep up with learning 🧠📖
- ✓ Supports friendships and wellbeing 🤝💛
- ✓ Boosts confidence and independence 🚀

❄️ **We know the recent snowy weather has made attendance more challenging**, and we really appreciate the efforts of families during this time. We are especially proud of the Year 7 students who have managed to attend despite the conditions – fantastic resilience and determination! 🌨️☀️

👏 We'd like to say a **big well done** to all our Year 7 students who are attending every day and arriving on time – fantastic effort! 🏆🎉

👨👩 How families can help:

- 📅 Encourage a good morning routine
- 📺 Support early bedtimes
- 📞 Let us know if there are any worries or challenges – we're here to help! 🤝

💡 Remember: **Every lesson matters, every day matters, and every student matters!** ❤️

Let's keep working together to make Year 7 a happy, successful, and high-attendance year! 🌈👏

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



We are delighted to welcome everyone back and are pleased to report that **Year 8 have had a fantastic first week back** after the break. Students have returned refreshed, focused, and ready to learn, and it has been wonderful to see classrooms full of energy, positivity, and enthusiasm.

Despite the challenging weather conditions this week, students who were able to attend have shown great resilience and commitment. **Attendance has dipped slightly due to the weather**, which is completely understandable; however, over the coming weeks we will be working closely with students to ensure attendance improves and returns to its usual high standard. Regular attendance is vital for progress, and we appreciate your ongoing support in reinforcing this message at home.

We would like to take a moment to celebrate an outstanding achievement. **A huge congratulations to Josiah S**, who achieved his **first Black Belt** over the Christmas holiday! This is an incredible accomplishment that requires discipline, perseverance, and determination. We are immensely proud of Josiah and hope his success inspires others to pursue their own goals both inside and outside of school.

Looking ahead, **Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 14th January**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school to discuss students' progress and achievements so far. Please note that there will be **no appointment times this year**, allowing you the flexibility to speak with teachers throughout the evening.

As we move forward into **2026**, Year 8 will continue to focus on high expectations, personal growth, and striving to be the very best they can be. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and are committed to supporting every student to succeed academically, socially, and personally.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another successful and rewarding term with our fantastic Year 8 cohort.

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



We are delighted to share what has been a **fantastic return to school** for our Year 9 students! 🎉 They have come back with real enthusiasm and determination, and this has been reflected in their **excellent attendance** all week. Despite the snowy conditions ❄️, Year 9 have either been **top or second** for attendance every single day – a huge achievement that truly shows their **resilience and commitment**. Well done, Year 9! 🌟

Mr Johnson has visited a number of lessons this week and has been incredibly impressed by what he has seen. The quality of conversations between staff and students has been excellent 🗣️, alongside strong work rates, focus, and effort across lessons 📖. It has been wonderful to see students so engaged and eager to do well.

Our first assembly back focused on **resetting expectations** and setting students up for success this term 🚀. Students were reminded of what is expected in terms of **uniform** 👕, **punctuality** ⌚, **behaviour** 😊, **attendance** 📅 and **homework** 📚, ensuring a clear and positive start moving forward.

🎬 Trip Reminder – Showcase Cinema, Dudley

Our much-anticipated cinema trip is coming up fast and will take place on **Wednesday 11th February 2026**. To ensure the trip can go ahead, **all consent forms must be returned by the end of next week**. If your child needs a replacement form, these can be collected from the **Year Team Office**.

📌 Homework Reminder 📖

If students are unsure of their **ClassCharts login** or their **computer login at home**, they can speak to their tutor, Mr Johnson, or visit the **IT team during break or lunchtime** – help is always available! 💻💡

Please note that any homework not completed on time will result in a **1-hour detention the following day** ⏰.

📅 Homework deadlines:

- **Maths: Tuesday** ➗
- **English: Thursday** 📖
- **Science: Friday** 🧪

📖 Homework Club

Mr Johnson also runs Homework Club every Wednesday after school in the LRC, offering a calm, supportive space for students who want help with their work or prefer to complete homework in school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support 🙏. It has been a brilliant week for Year 9, and we are excited to see them continue this positive momentum in the weeks ahead!

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



Happy Week 1 of Spring 1

Welcome Back, Year 10!

I hope you all had a restful and fun Christmas break and are ready to dive into the new term! This term, we're putting a special focus on **attendance**—it's important that we're all present, on time, and fully engaged. Let's aim to improve this across the board and make the most of our learning opportunities.

We also have something exciting to look forward to at the end of the term—a **trip**! We'll share more details soon, but make sure you're ready for it. Don't forget to hand in your permission slips if you haven't already.

And a quick reminder—**Work Experience** letters are still due in **6 weeks**! Make sure to get those submitted on time so everything runs smoothly.

Looking forward to a great term ahead. Let's make it one to remember!

Miss Ralph and the Year 10 Team



I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a warm welcome back.

This term sees year 13 submitting their UCAS application, they will then start receiving offers from their chosen universities. Students can also start applying for apprenticeships to ensure that they are prepared for life after sixth form.

At the start of this term, we would like to remind you the importance of attending each day and been punctual to lessons. Including supervised study and tutor.

We are still taking sixth form applications from Year 11 and interviews for sixth form will start next week.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming events:

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

9th January 2026

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



Gospel Oak School

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

To: Year 11 & 13 Parents/Carers

9th January 2026

Our Ref: HT.KH.3463

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Exam Declaration

As you know the exam season is fast approaching for your son/daughter and we are keen to help and support them. I am writing to remind you of the importance of adhering to the examination rules and regulations during this critical period.

It is essential that your son/daughter carefully reads all the statutory guidance provided and signs the declaration to confirm they have read and understood the expectations. Please ensure your son/daughter does this by Friday 30th January 2026. This process is mandatory and ensures they are fully aware of their responsibilities during the exam process.

All the relevant guidance along with the declaration can be found by scanning the QR code below,



As your son/daughter will recall from previous exams or mock assessments they have undertaken, there are strict rules and regulations that must be followed at all times. These rules are in place to maintain the integrity of the examination process and ensure fairness for all candidates.

Failure to comply with these regulations could result in malpractice, which carries serious consequences. Such actions may lead to disqualification from one or more examinations, significantly impacting their results and future opportunities.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of these expectations with your son/daughter. Should you or your son/daughter have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#)

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and we wish your son/daughter every success in their upcoming exams.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Machin
Exams Coordinator



To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

9th January 2026

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3457

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Mock Examinations

I hope you and your families had a lovely Christmas.

As you will be aware, there are now just over five months until the GCSE examinations begin. I am pleased to confirm that all curriculum content across every subject will be completed by February half term. This is a significant positive, as it will allow teaching staff to focus fully on revision during lessons in the lead-up to the examinations.

Revision lessons will include a range of proven strategies, such as the re-teaching of key topics, retrieval practice through quizzing, the use of flashcards and mind maps, revisiting high-frequency topics, and extensive practice with past papers and examination-style questions. Please be assured that the homework set for Year 11 students during this period will also be revision-based. I would like to emphasise that the homework being set is specifically designed to support exam preparation.

To enable staff to be forensic in identifying and addressing knowledge and skill gaps, we have made the decision for Year 11 students to sit an additional set of mock examinations during the week commencing 2nd February 2026. These mocks will not only help identify areas for improvement but will also provide valuable practice in working for extended periods under exam conditions and becoming familiar with the formal examination environment, all of which will benefit students greatly.

Mock examinations will take place under full exam conditions for English, mathematics, science, history and geography. Please note that other subjects may also choose to complete mock examinations or assessments within their timetabled lessons in the classroom.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to prepare students for their forthcoming examinations. I look forward to seeing their hard work reflected in positive outcomes this summer.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Head of School



To: Parents/Carers

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Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

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Our Ref: MM.KH.3473

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: CRST Arts Award 2026

We are pleased to share an exciting creative opportunity for students at **Gospel Oak Secondary School** and across the wider Central Region Schools Trust: the **CRST Arts Award 2026**.

This year's theme, "**Who We Are, Who We Become,**" invites students to explore ideas around identity, community, belonging, culture and personal growth. The theme is intentionally open, allowing students to respond in a way that is meaningful to them and reflective of their own creative voice.

Students may submit work in one of the following categories:

- **Fine Art** (drawing, painting, mixed media)
- **Photography** (digital or traditional)
- **3D Design** (sculpture, construction or model making)
- **Food Art** (creative food design or presentation)

To enter, students should email a clear photograph of their completed work to crstartsaward@crst.org.uk. The submission deadline is **Friday 15th May**.

All entrants will receive a certificate, with gold, silver and bronze awards presented in each category and key stage. Selected work will also be showcased to celebrate creativity across the Trust.

We would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your son/daughter to take part. This is a valuable opportunity for students to express themselves creatively and be part of a Trust-wide celebration of the arts.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,

Mrs M Martin
Assistant Principal
Trust Director of Arts



To: Parents/Carers

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Bilston Road
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Tipton
West Midlands DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

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9th January 2026

Our Ref: HN.KH.3470

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: SEND Support

I am writing to explain what SEND support looks like in our school and how we help students feel confident and successful in lessons.

SEND support does not always mean that a student will work with an extra adult, such as an achievement assistant. Most support comes from **good classroom teaching** that is adapted by the class teacher to meet different needs. This means support is part of everyday lessons and is the same across subjects.

Adaptive teaching may include:

- Clear explanations and step by step modelling from the teacher
- Breaking work into smaller, manageable steps
- Using supports such as writing frames, checklists, or visual prompts
- Regular checks to make sure students understand
- Time to practise with scaffolding before working independently


These strategies help remove barriers to learning and support students to build confidence and independence. Information about SEND needs and helpful strategies is shared with all teachers so that support is consistent.

Some students with SEND also benefit from having access to a quiet space during unstructured times, such as break or lunchtime. We have *'The Hive'* a calm space on the first floor, for students who find these times challenging. Students need a pass to use The Hive, which can be arranged by the SEND team if appropriate.

Sometimes, extra support or short-term interventions may be put in place. We will always let parents know if this happens. SEND support is reviewed regularly using teacher feedback, student views, and progress checks to make sure it is working well.

We encourage students to understand their own strengths and needs and to use helpful strategies on their own where possible. This helps them become more confident and independent learners. We know that parents and carers know their child best, and we value your views when planning and reviewing support. If you have any questions, concerns or feel that your son/daughter needs have changed, please contact the SEND team so we can discuss this together.

Thank you for your continued support.



Hayley Nutting
Vice Principal

COMMUNITY

YEAR 8 PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 14th January 2026 between 5 – 7.00pm

No appointments necessary

Year 9 Trip



£24.95



Please make all payments to secure your son / daughters place by Tuesday 13th January 2026 via Arbor Pay.

300 Class Charts Points can be exchanged for 25% reduction.

Dudley Showcase Cinema for film, popcorn, drink and Tenpin Bowling for 2 games and Meal on 11th February 2026.

Year 10 Trip

STARCITY
Food. Film. Fun.

11th February 2026

£24.00

Please make all payments to secure your son / daughters place by Tuesday 13th January 2026 via Arbor Pay.

300 Class Charts Points can be exchanged for 25% reduction.

Film, popcorn, drink and Tenpin Bowling for 2 games & Meal

