

# Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

## w.e. 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026



### UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - Year 11 Geography  
Fieldwork Trip

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - Ski Trip Information  
Evening

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Year 11 Geography Fieldwork  
Trip



### ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Launch  
Reward System

19/01 - Knife Crime

26/01 - Holocaust

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 LANE, ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Firstly, thank you for your continued support following the snow day earlier this week. After the long weekend, it was lovely to welcome students back into school on Monday and see routines quickly return to normal. We would like to remind families that students should now be wearing full school shoes, as the site is once again fully accessible.

This week's assembly marked the launch of our new reward system. It is important to us that students feel recognised and valued for their effort, commitment, and excellent work, and we look forward to celebrating their successes more regularly through this initiative.

We are also very excited to announce that we will be offering a ski trip in Easter 2027. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for some of our students, and we look forward to sharing further details in due course.

Thank you to our Year 8 parents and carers who attended parents' evening this week. It was fantastic to see so many of you and to have the opportunity to share positive conversations about learners' progress.

Homework remains a key focus at Gospel Oak, and we appreciate your ongoing support in ensuring learners are completing tasks to the best of their ability and striving for excellence.

Finally, good luck and well done to our Year 11 students who sat their GCSE Health and Social Care and Hospitality exams this week. We are proud of their hard work and dedication.

Have a lovely weekend!

# YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

## ★ Year 7 Weekly Update ★

What a fantastic start to the week, Year 7! 🎉 Your attendance has been brilliant so far, and it's been wonderful to see so many of you arriving on time, ready to learn, and showing such a positive attitude 💡. Let's keep that momentum going — every day in school really does make a difference!



## 📖 Homework Matters!

Homework is a key part of your learning journey. It helps you practise new skills, build confidence, and stay on top of your subjects 💡. Please make sure you're completing all tasks on time and speaking to your teachers if you need any support. If there are any concerns at home about homework or anything else, please contact the Year 7 team — we're always here to help 😊.

## 📅 Upcoming Dates

There are no important dates for the coming week, which means it's the perfect time to focus on keeping attendance high, working hard, and continuing to make us proud 💪🌈.

## ★ Keep shining, Year 7! ★

Your enthusiasm, kindness, and effort make our school community stronger every day. Let's keep aiming high and supporting one another 💙.

**Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team**



### **Parents' Evening – Thank You!**

What a fantastic Parents' Evening! A huge **thank you** to everyone who came along. It was brilliant to see so many Year 8 students proudly sharing their learning and parents chatting with staff. Events like this really help us work together to support our amazing Year 8s!

### **Attendance – Let's Get Back on Track!**

After the Christmas holidays, we're still warming up—and so is our attendance! Our target is **95%**, and we need your help to get there.

Why does attendance matter?

- More lessons = more learning 🧠
- Strong routines = stronger resilience 💪
- Every day in school builds success for the future ⭐

Let's make every day count!

### **Punctuality – Beat the Bell!**

We've noticed a few too many sleepy starts recently! School begins at **8:25am**, and being on time is super important.

Some students are arriving as late as **9:30am**, which means missing:

- Tutor time check-ins
- Important messages
- Valuable learning time

Let's challenge Year 8 to **beat the bell** and start the day right!

### **Star of the Month – January**

Who will shine this month?

Will it be someone who:

- Boosts their attendance 📈
- Collects the most achievement points 🏆
- Shows effort, pride, and determination every day?

Step up, stand out, and be someone you're proud to be!

### **Quote of the Week**

"Learning is the passport to a future you get to design yourself." 🌍📖

Thank you for your continued support—let's make January a great month for Year 8!

**Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team**



Another fantastic week for Year 9! 🎉 Attendance continues to climb, and we are incredibly proud of how Year 9 are consistently driving attendance standards in the right direction. Well done to all students and families for this ongoing commitment. Regular attendance is absolutely vital, and attending every day gives students the best possible chance to succeed as they move towards their GCSEs. 📈📚

This week also saw the launch of Miss Wilkins' **Aspire to Higher Education Programme**, and what an excellent start it has been! ✨ Students explored higher education through the power of language and the written word, producing some thoughtful and impressive work. Mr Marrs and Mr Johnson are extremely proud of the selected cohort and what they have achieved so far. More updates to follow as this exciting programme develops.

In assembly, Mr Bowser spoke to students about **rewards** 🎁 — how they can earn points, spend them, and make the most of the opportunities available to them. He also launched an **exciting new trip**... yes, that's right! 🏔️❄️  
A **ski trip for Easter 2027** has been announced. Students who are interested should collect a letter from the Year Team Office for further details.

Mr Johnson also led a morning meeting focused on the **importance of homework** and why completing it consistently plays such a key role in academic success. 📖💡

#### 🎬 **Trip Reminder – Showcase Cinema, Dudley**

Our much-anticipated cinema trip is coming up quickly 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**. Replacement forms are available from the Year Team Office if needed.

#### 📌 **Homework Reminder** 📝

If students are unsure of their **ClassCharts login** or their **computer login at home**, support is always available. They can speak to their tutor, Mr Johnson, or visit the IT team during break or lunchtime. 💻🙌

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 runs Homework Club every Wednesday after school in the LRC, providing a calm and supportive environment for students who would like help or prefer to complete their homework in school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support 🙏. It has been a brilliant week for Year 9, and we look forward to seeing this positive momentum continue.

**Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team**



It has been a pleasure welcoming Year 10 students back to school and seeing such a positive start to the new term. Students have settled in well, are engaging positively in lessons, and we are delighted to share that attendance has already reached over 90% – a fantastic achievement and a great foundation for the term ahead 🌟📈 This will continue to be our priority until our attendance improves consistently.

We would also like to remind families of the importance of punctuality. The school day begins promptly at 8.25am, and arriving on time helps students start the day calmly, confidently, and ready to learn 🕒📖

As students continue their GCSE journey, home learning plays a vital role in supporting progress. Home learning is not a choice; it is an expectation, and completing it consistently helps students build confidence, resilience, and strong study habits. Thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging this at home 💪📖

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us. We look forward to a successful and productive term ahead ✨

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team**



# YEAR 11

Welcome back everyone! We are now properly into exam-season mode and the way you have come back after Christmas has been really encouraging. Let's keep that momentum going – small habits now make a huge difference in the summer.

## Attendance Matters 📈

A **huge well done** to Year 11 – we have been over **95% attendance on most days this week**, which is brilliant.

Our next target is the **magic 96%**. Every lesson really does count at this stage, so let's keep pushing to be in, on time, and learning every day.

## February Mocks 📖

The **February mock exams** will begin week commencing 2nd February, they will cover:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Geography
- History

**Sport** will not be in the exam hall – it will be sat in class.

This is an important set of mocks, so revision should now be structured, focused and happening little and often.

## Revision Support ⭐

For future reference, please keep an eye on the **school website**. Teaching staff will be uploading **topic overviews for each subject** to guide revision and help students focus on what matters most.

## Leavers Hoodies 🧥

If you would like to order a **Leavers Hoodie**, the details are below:

**Website:** <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/>

**Unique ID:** 26564YR11

**Deadline:** 1st February at 12am

The hoodie is **black with the GOS logo on the front** (please ignore the orange one in the picture).

We hope to see lots of you ordering – it's a great keepsake for the end of Year 11.

## New Homework Timetable 📅

We have updated the **Year 11 homework timetable** so that **core subjects are no longer due on the same day**. This means students will no longer have two long core homework tasks landing together.

The new timetable is shown below and will start from **Monday 19th**.

Week A

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

Week B

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

This should help students plan their time better and complete homework to a higher standard.

### **Lateness – What's Changing** 🕒

Because of persistent lateness to both school and lessons, we are tightening up our approach so that routines are fair and consistent for everyone.

From **Monday 19th**:

#### **Late to school**

- Late = 60-minute same-day sanction

#### **Late to lessons (weekly total)**

- 30–45 minutes late = 30-minute detention (following Monday)
- 45–60 minutes late = 45-minute detention
- Over 60 minutes late = 60-minute detention

Being on time matters. Every minute missed adds up, especially this close to exams.

#### **Final thought**

You are in the home stretch now. Strong attendance, punctuality, and consistent revision will make the biggest difference between now and the exams. Keep showing up, keep trying, and keep aiming high.

Let's go get that **96%**!

#### **Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team**



Students have returned to 6th form with a positive attitude and great work ethic. It is fantastic to see how hard they are working, especially year 13 who will be sitting their exams in a matter of weeks.

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

Year 12 attendance – 97.8%

Year 13 attendance – 100%

Your sincerely,

**Mr Bala**  
**Director of Post 16**

Upcoming events:

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: All Parents/Carers

16th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Homework**

I am writing to outline our approach to homework at Gospel Oak School and to explain how homework is being used to support students' learning and academic progress.

Evidence shows that when homework is carefully designed and closely linked to classroom teaching, it can play a meaningful role in improving outcomes for students. In line with this, our approach to homework places a strong emphasis on revision and consolidation. Students will be set homework that encourages them to revisit key knowledge, practise core skills, and strengthen long-term understanding, helping them to build confidence and prepare effectively for assessments and examinations.

We recognise that students work best in different environments and that access to a quiet, structured space and guidance can be beneficial for many learners. As a school, we want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to complete their homework to a high standard and to develop effective independent study habits.

To support this, the following provision is available:

- Students in Years 7 to 9 are welcome to attend the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) every lunchtime and after school from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday. This provides a calm environment where students can complete homework and access support if needed.
- Students in Years 10 and 11 are able to use the Sixth Form Study Room after school from 3:00pm to 4:00pm to complete homework and independent revision in a focused setting.

These opportunities are in place to support all students in engaging positively with homework and developing strong study routines.

We encourage you to speak with your son/daughter about their homework expectations and about making use of the support available in school where appropriate. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help every student achieve their best.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr A Hickinbottom**  
**Assistant Principal**

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**Our Ref:** AHi.KH.3481



To: Year 11 Parents/Carers

## Gospel Oak School

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16th January 2026

**Our Ref:** SBO.KH.3477

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Homework**

I am writing to you to reaffirm the importance of homework at Gospel Oak School and to reassure you that our approach is firmly focused on improving outcomes for all students.

Research is clear that regular, well-structured homework has a significant positive impact on student achievement, particularly when it is purposeful and closely aligned to classroom learning. As a school, we are strengthening our homework offer so that it directly supports revision, knowledge retention and exam performance. For this reason, the homework set for students will now focus explicitly on revision, ensuring that students regularly practise, retrieve and apply what they have learned.

### Why revision-based homework?

The purpose of setting 2 hours of core homework per week is to:

- Build strong long-term memory through regular retrieval practice
- Identify gaps in knowledge early and address misconceptions
- Improve confidence and exam technique
- Ultimately raise attainment and outcomes across all core subjects

### Research-proven revision techniques

The homework students complete will draw on revision strategies that are well-evidenced by educational research, including:

- Retrieval practice (answering questions from memory)
- Spaced practice (revisiting topics over time)
- Exam-style questions and past papers
- Practice with immediate feedback
- Interleaving (mixing topics rather than studying them in isolation)
- Self-quizzing and low-stakes testing
- Metacognitive reflection (reviewing mistakes and misconceptions)

### Core subject homework overview

All core homework totals 2 hours per week, split across subjects as outlined below:

#### English

- One week: English Language past paper
- One week: English Literature past paper

This approach ensures students regularly practise exam skills, timing and extended responses across both components.

### Mathematics

- 1–2 online tasks set on the MathsWatch platform: <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/>
- Homework typically takes 60–90 minutes
- Tasks are directly linked to:
  - o Current learning in lessons
  - o Any mini-mock papers completed that week

### Science

- High-frequency topic exam question booklet
  - o Spring 1: Topics from Paper 1
  - o Spring 2: Topics from Paper 2
  - o No more than 1 hour 20 minutes
- 30 questions on Educake based on current content
  - o No more than 40 minutes
  - o Homework schedule

Homework will be issued on a clear two-week cycle:

Week A	Week B
Wednesday – English	Tuesday – English
Thursday – Science	Wednesday - Maths
Friday - Maths	Thursday - Science

Triple Science Homework (11XT) is set on a fortnightly basis, see cycle below:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
BWed (SDA)	BTues (PGR)	BThurs (BPA)

To clarify, for example:

Homework set in Week A will be submitted in Week B on the corresponding day.

We appreciate your continued support in encouraging students to complete their homework to a high standard. By working together and focusing on effective revision, we are confident that this approach will strengthen learning, build confidence and improve outcomes for all our students.

If you have any questions about homework or how best to support your son/daughter at home, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,



**Miss S Bott**  
**Head of School**



To: Yr 13 Parents/Carers

## Gospel Oak School

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16th January 2026

**Our Ref:** HT.KH.3483

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Year 13 Spring Mock Exams**

As part of our preparations for your son/daughter for the examinations they will sit in the summer term, we will be holding a second mock examination period between **Monday 2nd February and Friday 6th February 2026** in particular subjects. The exams identified on the attached mock exam timetable will be held in the exam hall, however your son/daughter may also get assessments in addition to these in all subjects around this week in order that we can get a complete overview of where they are at, at this crucial point in the lead up to the summer.

These assessments will be used by the class teacher to tailor a revision programme that will lead up to their summer examinations and therefore it is imperative that they are prepared.

As BTEC subjects have recently sat external examinations there will be no additional formal assessments in these subjects and students will continue to work on completing any final coursework elements prior to the submission to the exam board at the beginning of May. Once the external exam January results have been received in March further guidance will be given to your son/daughter as to what external assessments they will sit in the summer.

Our desire as a school is to ensure that students are fully prepared for their exams in the summer, in order to do this, the mock exams are used to help students get used to all expectations with sitting a formal examination and the experience of sitting an examination under examination conditions. This is potentially an emotional and stressful time for your son/daughter and yourselves and we will endeavour to support as much as possible. Mr Bala and I will be speaking to students in the coming week in assembly regarding the mock examination arrangements.

In the assembly we will share the following exam etiquette with them:

- Check seating plans prior to going to the theatre to line up, these will be displayed on the wall in the restaurant, in the theatre corridor and with the P16 team.
- Leave bags and coats in the sixth form area.
- Ensure:
  - o All equipment is in a clear plastic pencil case and in your hand.
  - o All pockets to be emptied.
  - o Lanyards to be removed.
  - o All watches removed.
  - o Water bottles to have no labels.

- o All phones to be switched off and either handed in or left in bags prior to entry into exam. NO PHONES should be left in your pockets as this will lead to sanctions being put in place.
- Wait outside the exam hall in silence.
- Enter the exam hall in silence and sit in the correct seat quickly ready to start.

Your son/daughter will be provided an individual timetables for the mock examinations and these will detail what day they have an examination and their seat number. Their class teacher will provide them with the overview of the subject content that will be on the assessments they will sit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Helen Tanner**  
**Senior Vice Principal**

## Year 13 Mock Exams Programme

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Monday 2.2.26	Physics 2hours			Biology 2hours	
Tuesday 3.2.26	History 1hr 30			Law 2hours	
Wednesday 4.2.26	Chemistry 2hours			Maths 2hours	
Thursday 5.2.26	English Lang/Lit 2.5 hours				
Friday 6.2.26				Psychology 2 hours	



To: Parents/Carers

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16th January 2026

**Our Ref:** PG.KH.3488

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carers

**Re: Children's Commissioner's guide to keep children safe online**

I am writing to inform you about the new Children's Commissioner's guide to keeping children safe online, which offers helpful advice for parents/carers on supporting their sons/daughters in their digital lives.

The guide explains some of the common risks children may face online, including exposure to inappropriate content, online communication, gaming and social media. It highlights the importance of talking regularly with your sons/daughters about their online activities, setting clear boundaries and encouraging them to share any concerns if something online makes them feel worried or unsafe.

Online safety is an important part of young people's wellbeing. By working together at home and in school, we can help them develop the skills they need to enjoy the online world safely and confidently.

The guide, *What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew: A guide for Parents and Carers on Managing Children's Digital Lives*, is based on young people's own experiences of being online. It provides practical advice on screen time, social media, gaming and online safety.

The guide can be found on our website at: [Gospel Oak School - Safeguarding](#) or '[What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives](#) | [Children's Commissioner for England](#) I encourage all parents/carers to take a few moments to review the guide.

If you have any questions or would like further support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

**Parm Grewal**  
**Vice Principal – Designated Safeguarding Lead**

# COMMUNITY

## YEAR 9 ONLY

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

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

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Meningococcal ACWY



Vaccination UK will be attending Gospel Oak School on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to administer the Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP) and Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY). Should you wish for your child to receive his / her vaccine then please complete the above link by midnight on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. 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.