

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 30th January 2026



UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 5th February - Arrow Vale Science Trip

Thursday 5th February - New York Information Meeting - 4.30pm

Wednesday 11th February - Parent / Carer Forum

Thursday 12th February - Year 9 Guided Choices Evening

Friday 13th February - Year 9 DTP Vaccines

Monday 23rd February - Yr 10 Girton College Visit

Thursday 26th February - Onatti Theatre Company

Thursday 26th February - WBA Manufacturing Festival Trip

Thursday 26th February - Year 7 Parents Evening



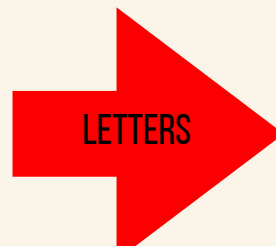
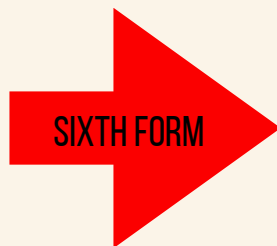
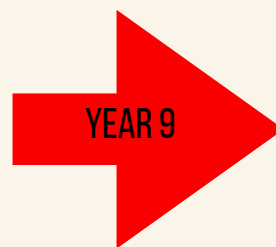
ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Holocaust

02/02 - Children's Mental Health Week

09/02 - Chinese New Year

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

Thank you for another successful week here at Gospel Oak. Our students have once again shown real commitment to their learning, approaching the week with focus, resilience and a positive attitude.

This week, students in Years 11 and 13 have been preparing for upcoming mock examinations in certain subjects, which will take place next week. These mocks are a valuable opportunity for learners to build confidence, identify areas for improvement and prepare effectively for the summer exam season. We encourage parents and carers to speak with their children about their revision plans and to support them in making the most of this important stage in their learning.

Our assemblies have continued to focus on Holocaust education, giving students time to reflect on this significant and sensitive part of history. Learning about the Holocaust is essential in helping students develop understanding, empathy and respect, and we have been proud of the maturity and thoughtfulness shown during these sessions.

Attendance remains a key priority at Gospel Oak. Every day in school matters, and regular attendance has a significant impact on students' progress and outcomes. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring learners attend school every day and on time.

Finally, we would like to thank parents and carers for all the work you do in supporting both the school and our students. Your partnership plays a vital role in helping our learners succeed.

Have a lovely weekend!

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

🌈 Year 7 Newsletter Update 🌈

Hello Year 7 Students and Families! 🙌😊

We're so proud of how well our Year 7s have settled into secondary school life – keep up the fantastic effort! 💪❤️

📊 Attendance Matters – Let's Aim High! 📊

We are continuing to **push for over 95% attendance** ⭐

Being in school every day makes a huge difference to learning, friendships, and confidence 💬📖

Please remember:

🤧 Coughs, colds, and sniffles shouldn't stop students from coming to school

📅 Every day in school counts

🕒 Learning missed is learning that's hard to catch up on

Let's keep pushing through and aiming high together! 🚀🌞

📖 Homework – Building Good Habits 📖

Homework is a really important part of Year 7 learning 🧠🖋️

It helps students:

- ✅ Practise what they've learned
- ✅ Become more independent learners
- ✅ Build strong routines for the future

📖 Homework Support & Resources 📖

We have **lots of support available in school** to help with homework 💙

Students can access:

- 📖 Homework clubs
- 👩🏫 Teacher support
- 📚 School resources and facilities

Please encourage students to ask for help – we're always happy to support! 😊?

📅 Important Date for Your Diary 📅

★ Year 7 Parents' Evening

📅 Thursday 26th February 2026

This is a great opportunity to discuss progress, celebrate successes, and look ahead ⭐

✉️ **All information will be shared and sent home with students this week**, so please keep an eye out! 👁️

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



Dear Year 8 Families,

We hope you are all doing well and ready for another exciting week ahead. As always, we are incredibly proud of our Year 8 students and wanted to share some important updates, celebrations, and reminders from this week.

Attendance Matters – Let's Show Our Resilience!

We have noticed that attendance has dropped again this week. We completely understand that as we approach the end of term, colds and bugs are making the rounds and energy levels can dip. However, this is also the time when resilience really counts.

Coming into school **every day and on time for our 8:25am** start helps build strong routines, positive habits, and a mindset that will benefit students far beyond their school years. Every day in school is a chance to learn, grow, and be part of our Year 8 community. Let's work together to finish the term strong 🤝

Year 8 Kindness in Action – Supporting Amelia

This week, our wonderful Year 8 students showed what it truly means to care for others. On Thursday, students created beautiful birthday cards for **Amelia**, who is turning 8 years old.

Amelia is a young girl from Rowley Regis in the Black Country who is receiving palliative care for cancer. She has been bravely in and out of hospital since the age of two and a half. To celebrate her eighth birthday on **3rd March**, Amelia is hoping to break a UK record by receiving **8,000 birthday cards** from across the UK.

We are absolutely thrilled that **Gospel Oak** could play a part in helping Amelia reach her goal. The compassion, creativity and kindness shown by our Year 8 students was truly heart-warming and something they should be extremely proud of. Moments like these remind us what a special year group we have 🥰

Star of the Month – Coming Soon!

Who will be our **Star of the Month for January**?

Make sure you're watching out next week as we reveal the student who has gone above and beyond. Keep pushing yourselves — it could be you!

Quote of the Week

"The future depends on what you do today." — Mahatma Gandhi

A powerful reminder that every small choice we make each day adds up to something bigger.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a fantastic week ahead, Year 8. Keep showing resilience, kindness, and determination — we are incredibly proud of our **Year 8 family**.

Warm regards,

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



It has been another **brilliant week** for Year 9, with attendance continuing to **rise once again** 📈. Students are clearly responding to the high expectations set, and it has been fantastic to see such strong commitment to being in school every day and on time. Keep it up, Year 9 – you are heading in the right direction! 🌟

🏆 Attendance Tutor League – Game On! 🏆

This week, we officially launched our **Year 9 Attendance Tutor League**, and the competition is well and truly underway! Each week, the tutor group with the **highest attendance** will be crowned champions and rewarded with a **trophy** 🏆 and **sweets** 🍬 for the whole group.

If you want to win, you've got to get yourself in! Every day counts, and with **bragging rights very much at stake**, we're already seeing tutor groups pushing each other to be their best. Who will take the trophy next week? 🤔🔥

📌 Important Update – Signing Out During the School Day

We would also like to share a small but important update regarding students signing out during the school day. If a student needs to leave school and this has been **pre-arranged**, they must collect a **green slip** from the Year Team (Mr Johnson or Mr Marrs) before leaving.

Students should then show this slip to their class teacher at the appropriate time and proceed to **Attendance** to sign out correctly. This helps us ensure all students are accounted for and kept safe at all times.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support 🙏. Attendance is a shared effort between school and home, and the positive momentum we are seeing in Year 9 is something to be really proud of. Let's keep pushing for even higher standards next week! 🚀

Mr Johnson and Mr Marrs led a powerful and thought-provoking Holocaust morning meeting this week 🕯️, helping students to understand what the Holocaust was, why it must always be remembered, and the devastating consequences of prejudice and discrimination. They highlighted the importance of recognising the signs of intolerance early and reflected on how learning from the mistakes of the past can help us to build a kinder, fairer, and more inclusive society today 🌍. The session encouraged meaningful reflection and reminded students of the responsibility we all share to stand up for others and challenge injustice whenever we see it 💬🙏.

📌 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



Hello from the Year 10 Team.

✦ **Homework Reminder** 📝

If students are unsure of their **ClassCharts login or their computer login at home**, they can speak to their tutor, Miss Dunn/Mrs Kler 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** ⏰.

✦ **Important Update – Signing Out During the School Day**

We would also like to share a small but important update regarding students signing out during the school day. If a student needs to leave school and this has been **pre-arranged**, they must collect a **green slip** from the Year Team (Miss Dunn or Mrs Kler before leaving).

Work experience – getting a placement matters (a lot).

Work experience gives you real-world skills you can't learn from textbooks alone. It shows employers you understand how a workplace actually runs, not just the theory. It also helps you figure out what you enjoy (and don't enjoy) before committing to a career path. On top of that, it boosts your CV, builds confidence, and can lead to references, contacts, or even a future job.

Thank you to most of Year 10 for making the right decisions on a daily basis.

Reminder:

Uniform expectations

These expectations are non-negotiable.

- § Shirts must be tucked in
- § No trainers – only correct school shoes
- § Ties and lanyards must be worn correctly
- § Blazers must be worn

Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Hello Year 11,

Next week marks a crucial point in your journey – your **Core Mock Exams** begin. These exams will help us identify strengths, gaps and the support you need before your final GCSEs. Your focus, punctuality and effort over the next two weeks really matters.

CORE MOCK EXAMS – STARTING MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

Your mock exams will take place during the school day as follows:

Mock Exam Timetable

Monday 2nd February

Period 1: **English Language** – 1 hr 45 min

Period 4: **Physics Paper 2**

Trilogy: 1 hr 15 min

Triple: 1 hr 45 min

Tuesday 3rd February

Period 2: **Maths Paper 1** – 1 hr 30 min

Period 4: **GCSE PE** – 1 hr

Wednesday 4th February

Period 2: **Chemistry Paper 2**

Trilogy: 1 hr 15 min

Triple: 1 hr 45 min

Period 3: **History** – 55 min

Period 4: **Geography** – 1 hr 30 min

Thursday 5th February

Period 2: **English Literature** – 2 hr 15 min

Period 4: **Maths Paper 2** – 1 hr 30 min

Friday 6th February

Period 2: **Biology Paper 2**

Trilogy: 1 hr 15 min

Triple: 1 hr 45 min

Period 4: Mop-up exams

Revision Resources

All revision resources are available on the **school website**, including:

Knowledge organisers

Practice questions

Exam technique guides

Subject revision packs

You should be revising every evening using these materials.

Little and often = best results.

Core Interventions – Every Morning in Tutor Time

We have now started **Core Interventions every morning during tutor time.**

These sessions:

- Target gaps in your learning
- Tailor revision to your needs
- Focus on English, Maths and Science
- Support exam technique and confidence

Please arrive on time and ready to work. This time is designed to help you succeed.

PUNCTUALITY FOCUS – Lateness to Lessons & School

Lateness to Lessons

If you rack up over **25 minutes late to lessons in one week**, you will be placed on **Punctuality Report**.

Lateness to School

Consequences are as follows:

- Late once in a week → **1 break detention**
- Late twice in a week → **2 break detentions + 30 minute detention**
- Late three times in a week → **3 break detentions + 45 minute detention + parental meeting**

Being late = missing learning.

There are no excuses during mock and exam season.

Homework Support

Homework can be completed in the **Sixth Form Silent Study Area after school every day.**

This is:

- A quiet space
- Supervised
- A chance to stay on top of your work

Use this time wisely.

Prom Reminder

Prom is coming soon!

Details about tickets and payment will be shared shortly via:

- Ezine
- ClassCharts
- Tutor notices

Don't miss out!

Key Reminders

- Be in school every day
- Be on time to every lesson
- Bring full equipment
- Complete homework on time
- Revise at least 30–60 minutes each evening
- Use the school website revision resources
- Ask for help if you are unsure

These next two weeks matter.

We believe every one of you can succeed — but only if you commit fully.

Let's finish strong

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



Students in both year 12 and 13 have continued to work hard this week.

Year 12 students have expressed an interest in leading our student committees. The committees are Eco, Diversity, Charity, Sport and Civic. Students will then be selected and chosen to lead a particular area. This is important for personal growth and community collaboration.

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

Year 12 attendance – 93.5%

Year 13 attendance –90%

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming events:

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: All Parents/Carers

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30th January 2026

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3503

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Supporting Students with Medical Conditions

As a school we have procedures in place for supporting students with medical conditions and managing any medication whilst it is on the school premises.

We have reviewed and updated our 'Supporting students with medical conditions' policy-please see [Microsoft Word - Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy Sept 2025.docx](#). It contains information on how we support student needs through an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP).

New medical conditions: Could you please contact Mrs Harper (our 'First Aid Lead') by using the Contact Form on the webpage at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) by 27th February 2026 if your son/daughter has a medical condition? She will then consider whether it is necessary to complete an IHP. Should an IHP be necessary, a meeting to discuss the relevant needs will be convened with Mrs Harper, parents/carers, the student and any other necessary health professionals/specialist support services. The aim is to ensure that we know how to support your son/daughter effectively and to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. Although IHPs are likely to be helpful in the majority of cases, it is possible that not all students will require one. We will need to make judgements about how your son/daughter's medical condition impacts on their ability to participate fully in school life, and the level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of their condition and the degree of support needed.

Existing medical conditions: Over the last two years we have completed a number of IHPs. Whilst the school will follow procedures outlined on the plan, where appropriate, it is not our responsibility to update the plans. We therefore rely on you as parents/carers to keep us informed of any changes to your son/daughter's medical condition. If any changes are needed to the existing IHPs we have on file, could you please contact Mrs Harper (our 'First Aid Lead') by using the Contact Form on the webpage at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) by 27th February 2026.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal

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 13th 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 6th 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.