

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 13th February 2026



UPCOMING DATES

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

Tuesday 3rd March - GCSE Information Evening



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Chinese New Year

23/02 - Term Expectations

02/03 - World Book Day

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

Thank you for another positive week at Gospel Oak as we reach the end of another successful half term. It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks, and we are proud of the continued focus, resilience and enthusiasm our students show each day.

This week in assemblies we have been celebrating Chinese New Year, learning about the traditions and significance of this special festival. Students also enjoyed a themed Chinese New Year lunch, which was a lovely way to mark the occasion together as a school community. We were delighted to see some of our fantastic Year 9 students rewarded for their outstanding effort in PE with a free padel coaching session. The students thoroughly enjoyed this well-deserved opportunity and represented the school brilliantly.

It was also a pleasure to welcome so many families to our Year 9 Options Evening this week. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended and supported students as they begin thinking about their next steps. We have also launched our new rewards league table, which will help us continue to celebrate students for their hard work, positive attitudes and commitment to school life.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please have a restful and well-deserved break, and we look forward to seeing you all after half term.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

🌟 Year 7 Newsletter Update 🌟

Keeping you in the loop!

Dear Parents & Carers 🤝😊,

We've had a fantastic start to the term with Year 7, and we'd like to share some important updates, reminders, and exciting news with you! 🎉

⚽ Attendance Football League – NEW! ⚽

We are thrilled to launch our Attendance Football League 🏆👏

- Every day in school counts 📅
- Students earn points for excellent attendance
- Winning teams will receive prizes and vouchers 🎁📄

🌟 Every day matters! Regular attendance supports learning, friendships, and confidence. Thank you for continuing to support us with this ❤️

📚 Education & Homework – A Winning Team 📖

Education is incredibly important, and homework plays a big role in reinforcing learning 🧠🌟

- ✓ Homework helps build independence
- ✓ It supports progress in lessons
- ✓ It prepares students for future success

We also have lots of resources available in school to support homework, including:

- Homework clubs 📅
- Access to computers 💻
- Support from staff 👩🏫👨🏫



Please encourage your child to make the most of these opportunities 🙌📄

👉 Uniform Reminder 📢


We've noticed a few trainers creeping in recently 👉😅



We understand the weather hasn't been great 🌨️❄️, however, we kindly ask that full school uniform is worn every day and meets all school standards and expectations 🎓🌟



Thank you for your support in maintaining high standards and pride in our school community ❤️




 Important Date – Please Save the Date! 

Wednesday 26th February

 Year 7 Parents' Evening

This is a great opportunity to discuss progress, celebrate successes, and ask any questions  
More information will follow soon!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership  

Together, we help Year 7 thrive!   

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



What a week, Year 8!

First things first — we need to talk about attendance. We've seen a bit of a dip this week, and we know that's not the Year 8 way! Every single day in school matters, and every lesson is a step towards success. Let's bounce back, show resilience, and prove what we're capable of. We've got this, Year 8 — let's get back on top! 💪

On a much brighter (and tastier!) note, we had a fantastic **Chinese New Year assembly** this week. We learned all about the traditions, the zodiac animals, and how this special celebration is marked around the world. A huge highlight was Thursday's special themed menu — what a great way to celebrate together as a school community! 🥳

Now, the countdown to half term is on! School breaks up on **Friday 13th February at 3:00pm**, and we return on **Monday 23rd February**.

Use the break to:

- ✨ Rest and recharge
- ✨ Spend time with family and friends
- ✨ Reflect on your goals
- ✨ Come back ready to smash the next half term!

Enjoy your well-earned rest, stay safe, and come back with a positive mindset and big energy.

See you on the 23rd, Year 8 — ready to shine! ✨

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



It has been another **excellent week for Year 9**, with attendance **rising once again** 📈 — a clear sign that students are continuing to build strong routines and commitment to their learning. It has been great to see students in school, on time, and ready to engage, and this momentum is something we are very keen to keep going. Well done, Year 9! 🌟

📚 **Options Evening – An Exciting Step Forward**

This week also saw students and parents attend a **fantastic Options Evening**, where Year 9 began exploring the subjects they may choose for their GCSE years. The buzz around the event was brilliant, and staff were genuinely **competing to have Year 9 students in their classrooms** — a real testament to the positive reputation this year group has built 🌟. It is an exciting time, and students showed maturity and enthusiasm as they started thinking about their next steps.

🎓 **Aspire to Higher Education – Wolverhampton University Trip**

Miss Wilkins took students from our **Aspire to Higher Education programme** on a visit to **Wolverhampton University** this week 📖📚. Students had a wonderful time exploring the campus, learning more about university life, and gaining valuable insight into future opportunities. It was an inspiring experience that many students came away from feeling motivated and ambitious — a fantastic outcome all round!

🚀 **Envision Programme – Next Cohort Selected**

Mr Marris and Mr Johnson have also selected the **next group of students** who will form the upcoming cohort of the **Envision programme**. We are excited to be launching this next phase and are confident this group will rise to the challenge. This time, we are fully focused on **bringing that trophy back where it belongs** 🏆 — more details to follow as the programme develops!

We would also like to make parents aware of a recent concern we are addressing as a year team. We have noticed an increase in students leaving lessons without permission and walking away from detentions. This is not acceptable and must come to a stop, as it disrupts learning and undermines the clear boundaries that help students succeed. We are approaching this in a supportive way, working closely with students to help them make better choices and understand the importance of following instructions and seeing consequences through. We kindly ask for your support at home by reinforcing expectations around behaviour, respect, and responsibility — when school and home work together, students are far more likely to get it right. Thank you for your continued support 🙏🌟

Thank you, as always, for your continued support 🙏. It has been a week full of progress, opportunity, and excitement for Year 9, and we look forward to building on this positive momentum in the weeks ahead 🚀.

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



Dear Year 10 Parents and Carers,

Attendance: Every Day Counts

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of success at GCSE. This half term, we are celebrating improved attendance as well as recognising students who maintain 100% attendance. Tutor groups are also competing weekly for the Attendance Cup, reinforcing the idea that turning up every day is a shared responsibility and a team effort.

This is not about perfection – it is about commitment, consistency, and showing up even when things feel challenging.

High Standards for Uniform and Appearance

We are reinforcing clear and non-negotiable uniform expectations. A smart appearance helps students feel ready to learn and reflects our shared commitment to high standards. Tutors are checking uniform daily to ensure consistency and fairness for all.

We ask for your continued support in ensuring students arrive at school correctly dressed and ready for the day.

Punctuality Matters

Arriving on time sets the tone for learning. Students who arrive late miss important learning and routines, and new systems are now in place to address lateness more firmly. Your support in reinforcing punctuality at home is greatly appreciated.

Last week we had a massive improve in this! Let's keep it up!

Homework: Expectations and Support

Homework completion is an expectation for all students. To remove barriers, Year 10 students have access to quiet after-school study spaces, including the Sixth Form Silent Study Room, where they can work independently in a focused environment.

We encourage students to use these opportunities responsibly and to seek help early if they are struggling.

Our Message to Year 10 Students

With high expectations, strong support, and a shared commitment between school and home, we are confident that our Year 10 students can rise to the challenge ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Upcoming dates:

Year 10 Mock Exams - March 16th - 27th

Work Experience - Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July

Year 10 Parents Evening – 25th June - 4 - 6.30

Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Hello & Well Done

Welcome back, Year 11 – and **huge well done** for your excellent attitude and attendance during mock exams. The exam entry process ran smoothly, revision sessions were well attended, and you should be proud of how maturely you handled yourselves.

We are now **just 11 weeks away from GCSE exams** – the final stretch is here.

Focus for the Weeks Ahead

This half term is all about **consistency**:

- Turning up every day
- Being on time
- Engaging fully in lessons and interventions

Every lesson matters now – small gains each week will add up to big results in the summer.

Attendance Matters

Attendance has been **brilliant**, with many of you hitting **95%+** regularly.

Let's push for that magic **96%+ target** – it genuinely makes a difference to grades.

Remember: you cannot revise what you were not there to learn.

Important Routines Update

- **No more lining up** on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – go straight to your scheduled interventions from **Monday 9th February**.
- **Homework will restart after half term**, so be ready to get back into routine.

Prom & Bake Sale

- **Prom tickets are LIVE on ArborPay** 📄
- We are holding a **Year 11 Bake Sale on Thursday 12th February**.
If you're able to bake or help, please email Miss Davies at
✉ ndavies@gospeloak.crst.org.uk

Revision Tip of the Week

Don't just read your notes – test yourself.

Try:

- Blurting key facts onto a blank page
- Flashcards with answers covered
- Teaching a topic out loud to someone else

If it feels hard, it's working.

Final Motivation

You have already shown you can rise to expectations.

Stay focused. Stay consistent. Keep showing up.

We believe in you – now it's time to believe in yourselves.

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



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

Year 13 students are continuing to complete their mock exams and will receive their results this week.

Over half term a group of Year 12 and 13 students will be going on a culture trip to New York City. This is an exciting opportunity for our students where they will see all the sights and experience the big apple. We will soon be releasing another trip for our new intake.

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

Year 12 attendance 89.1 – %

Year 13 attendance 91.3.–%

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming events:

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: Yr 11 Parents/Carers

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Our Ref: SBO.KH.350

6th February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: GCSE Information Evening

As you will be aware, during the week commencing 2 February 2026, our Year 11 students sat their second round of mock examinations. We are feeling increasingly confident about the outcomes this summer and the positive life chances these results will provide for our students.

As we move closer to the GCSE examinations, it is vitally important that we all work together to support our students — both academically and in terms of their wellbeing. One of the most important ways we can do this is through effective preparation.

All GCSE content has now been fully covered across every subject area, and our focus for the remainder of the year will be revision. Research shows that only a small number of revision strategies have a significant impact on outcomes, and it is essential that students are supported to use these methods effectively, both in school and at home.

To support you in this, we would like to invite you to our GCSE Information Evening. During the evening, subject leaders from English, Maths and Science will:

- Explain what the GCSE exam papers will look like
- Highlight the high-frequency topics students must know
- Model effective revision strategies so you can better support your son/daughter at home

I cannot stress enough how important it is for your son/daughters next steps that they achieve at least a Grade 4 in their core subjects.

The event will take place on **Tuesday 3rd March 2026**, from 5.30pm, in our theatre. At the end of the presentations, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and speak with our experienced staff.

Please complete the Microsoft Form to indicate whether you will be attending. [Gospel Oak School GCSE ParentInformationEvening - Tuesday3rdMarch2026-Fillinform](#)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you on 3rd March.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Head of School



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Our Ref: AHI/JLE/3838

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to make you aware of an online issue that has affected a number of our students over the past few days.

We have been informed that a social media profile has been directly messaging students, initially presenting as someone who was struggling with their mental health and then apologising for things in an attempt to gain sympathy. Shortly afterwards, a second account appeared claiming that this individual had taken their own life.

We want to reassure you that this information is false. This is fake content that appears to have been deliberately created to cause distress, attract attention and provoke reaction amongst young people.

We recognise that messages of this nature can be upsetting and unsettling, particularly when they reference something as serious as suicide. A number of students have understandably been affected by what they have seen online.

As a school, we have:

- Addressed the matter directly with students to prevent speculation and the spread of misinformation
- Reinforced clear guidance about not engaging with, sharing or reposting harmful content
- Reminded students how to block and report accounts on social media platforms
- Made pastoral and safeguarding support available to any student who feels worried or affected

We would appreciate your support in reinforcing the following messages at home:

- Encourage your son/daughter not to respond to, share, or speculate about unverified online content
- Remind them to block and report suspicious accounts
- Encourage open conversations about anything they see online that causes concern
- Contact the school if you feel your son/daughter has been affected or requires additional support

If this incident has raised any worries for your son/daughter, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's Head of Year or our safeguarding team. We take matters relating to student wellbeing extremely seriously and are here to help.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our students safe, informed and resilient online.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal – Student Support

COMMUNITY

Antonia Bance, our local MP for Tipton, Wednesbury and Coseley, recently visited our school. Antonia and her team are always available to help local people. Recently she has helped residents having difficulties with housing, with Universal Credit, with the local council and with residency issues, among others. If you have a problem that you think your MP may be able to help with, you can email Antonia on antonia.bance.mp@parliament.uk (please include your full postal address) or call her office on 0121 716 5233.



February Half Term Free Activities 2026

Tuesday 17th Feb' & Wednesday 18th Feb'

10.00am-12.00pm
12.30pm-2.30pm

**Brook Street Community Centre,
1 Brook Street, Tipton, DY4 9DD**

These sessions are open to
* 5-16 year olds
* Parents/carers to stay.
Younger siblings are welcome

To find out more text 'PLAY' to
07752 659257

Funded by:




FREE HOLIDAY CAMP

TIPTON SPORTS ACADEMY, DY4 OBS

SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

19TH FEB 2026 9am to 1pm
20TH FEB 2026

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT
michelle.jones2@korewellness.co.uk

- WIDE RANGE OF SPORTING ACTIVITIES
- HEALTHY SNACKS INCLUDED
- FREE TO ALL SANDWELL RESIDENTS

Kore SANDWELL
WELLBEING STARTS AT THE CENTRE

GO PLAY SANDWELL FREE PLAY SESSIONS

FEBRUARY HALF TERM:

17TH FEBRUARY

TIPTON LIBRARY (DY4 8SR) 10AM-12:30PM

VICTORIA PARK (DY4 8PP) 1:30PM-4PM

19TH FEBRUARY

GLEBEFIELDS LIBRARY (DY4 OSZ) 10AM-12:30PM

JUBLIEE PARK (DY4 ORL) 1:30PM- 4PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOHNNY AT:
JOHNNY.LOMAX@GROUNDWORK.ORG.UK
OR 07872857437 OR VISIT [HTTPS://GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK](https://goplaysandwell.co.uk)

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, LOOSE PARTS PLAY, TABLETOP GAMES
AND SO MUCH MORE!
ALL GO PLAY SESSIONS ARE FREE, OPEN ACCESS (SO COME
ALONG AT ANY TIME) AND DO NOT REQUIRE BOOKING.
SESSIONS ARE AIMED AT FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED
6-12 AND UP TO 16 WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS.

SESSIONS ARE NOT DROP-OFF SESSIONS.

Choices

Making family memories!

For families in Sandwell with children aged 5 - 12.

Physical Activity



Emotional Health and Wellbeing



Food and Nutrition



Growing Your Own



Quality fun family time together whilst
discovering new activities.

Bring your family together and book
onto one of our activities using the
website or QR code:

Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk
www.bookwhen.com/choices
0121 569 5100

