

# Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

## w.e. 8th May 2026



### UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Year 8 Future Thinking Programme Campus Visit

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Year 9 Horizons Trip, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Year 12 Parents' Evening



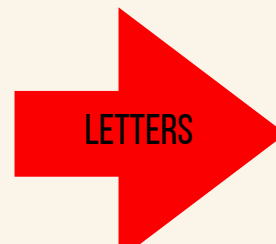
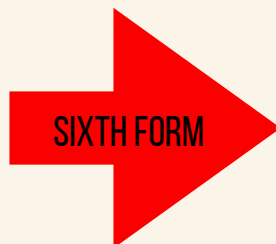
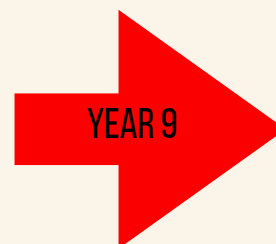
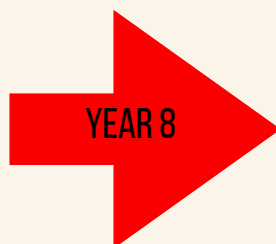
### ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Healthy Eating

11/05 - Managing Finances

18/05 - Mini Whiteboards and YTL highlights

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



## MESSAGE FROM MISS LANE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Thank you for another great week here at Gospel Oak, especially during such an important time in the run up to exams. We were incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience and focus our students continued to demonstrate throughout the week.

We had a wonderful time celebrating our Friday rewards event, where 40 students were selected to enjoy pizza, nachos and music. Students were chosen in recognition of either 100% attendance or their excellent attitude to learning, and it was fantastic to celebrate their achievements together.

At such a crucial point in the academic year, we also wanted to highlight the importance of attendance and punctuality. Every moment in school is a moment of learning, and attending school every day and arriving on time remained paramount to students' success. With the exam period now underway for our Year 11 and 13 students, it was important that they continued with one final big push as they approached their examinations.

We also reminded students of the importance of maintaining high standards in school uniform and adhering to our uniform policy, including ensuring that skirt lengths remained appropriate.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

# YEAR TEAM UPDATES



YEAR 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move further into the term, we would like to thank all families for the continued support you provide to our school community. Your partnership plays a vital role in helping our students succeed both academically and personally.

## **Attendance Success**

We are delighted to report that student attendance continues to remain strong and is currently above the national average for our area. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment shown by both students and families.

Thank you especially for supporting the school by encouraging students to attend whenever possible, including during minor illnesses where they are well enough to participate in learning. Excellent attendance has a direct impact on progress, confidence, and wellbeing, and we appreciate your ongoing support in this area.

## **Upcoming Educational Trips**

We are excited that several educational visits and trips are approaching over the coming weeks. These opportunities provide valuable experiences beyond the classroom and enrich students' learning.

A reminder that:

- All consent forms must be completed and returned by the stated deadlines.
- All payments should be made through the school payment system only.
- Students may not be able to attend trips if forms or payments are outstanding.

Please check communications carefully for trip-specific details and deadlines.

## **Homework Expectations**

Homework continues to be an important part of reinforcing classroom learning and helping students develop independent study habits. We encourage all students to complete homework tasks on time and to a high standard.

Unfortunately, we have seen a recent increase in detentions being issued due to incomplete or missing homework. We would appreciate your support in helping students establish regular homework routines and checking that tasks are completed before deadlines.

Working together ensures students develop the responsibility and resilience needed for future success.

## **Thank You**

Finally, thank you once again for your continued encouragement, communication, and support. The positive relationships between home and school make a significant difference to our students and wider school community.

We look forward to another successful and productive half term ahead.

**Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team**



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a fantastic week! Here are some important updates and reminders from the Year 8 team.

### **Attendance Matters!**

This week, our attendance dipped lower than we would like, with Tuesday reaching **89% attendance**. Our Year 8 target is **95% or above every single day**, and we know we can achieve this together!

Every school day counts. Excellent attendance helps students:

- Keep up with learning and make better progress
- Build resilience and independence
- Develop positive habits for future work life
- Strengthen friendships and confidence

Just like in the workplace, showing up every day and being on time is an important life skill. We want all Year 8 students to develop these habits now so they can be successful in the future.

We will continue to monitor attendance closely and may invite parents/carers to attendance meetings where concerns remain. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school every day and arrive on time.

### **Homework Heroes!**

Homework completion has been a challenge across the year group recently, so we would like to remind all students that homework must be completed every week and handed in on time.

Homework Timetable:

- **Science** – Due Monday
- **English** – Due Tuesday
- **Maths** – Due Wednesday

Students have a full week to complete each homework task. If homework is not completed, students will receive a **1-hour detention**.

Completing homework regularly helps students:

- Improve grades and test results
- Practise and strengthen new skills
- Build responsibility and organisation
- Prepare for GCSE success in the future

Let's work together to make homework a priority!

### **School Trips Reminder**

Excitement is building for our **July school trips**! Please ensure that all payment and consent slips are handed in as soon as possible so students do not miss out on these fantastic opportunities.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 8 team.

Have a wonderful weekend!

**Mr Minton and the Year 8 Team**



As we move further into the summer term, I wanted to share an important update about Year 9 and the exciting (and important!) journey ahead.

### **GCSEs Are Closer Than You Think...**

While it may feel early, GCSE preparation has already begun. Year 10 is just around the corner, and the habits students build right now will have a huge impact on their confidence and success next year.

We've been really pleased to see many students stepping up—showing greater focus, maturity, and effort in lessons. However, this is the stage where **consistency is everything**. The students who succeed at GCSE are the ones who build strong routines now: staying organised, working hard, and not giving up when things feel challenging.

### **Attendance – Let's Bounce Back!**

Following the recent Bank Holiday, we've seen a slight dip in attendance. Now is the time to reset and refocus.

Every lesson counts. Missing school = missing learning, and those gaps can quickly build up—especially as we begin to approach GCSE-level work.

We'd really appreciate your support in helping students:

- ✓ Attend every day
- ✓ Arrive on time
- ✓ Be ready to learn

Let's aim high and push towards our **93% attendance target**.

### **Staying in Lessons Matters**

We've also seen a small number of students choosing to walk out of lessons when things feel difficult.

We understand that learning can be challenging at times — **but walking away is not the solution**. GCSE success is built on resilience. Learning to stay in the room, ask for help, and push through challenges is a life skill that will make a real difference.

### **Homework Expectations**

Homework remains a key part of developing strong habits as students move closer to GCSE study.

Core homework is set weekly on:

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

Failure to complete homework will result in a one-hour detention the following day after the deadline.

We appreciate your support in ensuring homework is completed on time and to a high standard.

**Final Message**

As we head into the final part of the year, our message is simple:  
**what students do now really matters.**

The habits, effort, and attitude they show over the next few weeks will set the tone for Year 10 and beyond.

**Working Together**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it truly makes a difference.

Year 9 are growing into a focused, respectful and ambitious year group, and we are excited to see them continue to thrive.

Let's finish the year strong.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team**



### **Upcoming:**

On Thursday 25th June 2026, we will be holding a Parents'/Carers' evening for Year 10, where you can see specific subject staff to discuss your son / daughter's current progress and the required intervention needed to help them achieve the best possible outcomes, no appointments will be necessary for this evening.

A normal timetable will operate for all students from 8.30am to 3.00pm, with parents evening taking place between 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

We do recommend that you allow enough time throughout the evening to speak to your son / daughter's subject teachers.

During each appointment, staff will discuss:

- What more your son / daughter needs to do to achieve or exceed their target grades
- Where and how you or your son / daughter can receive further help or information if required

**Alton Towers Trip** – We must have payments on arbor as well as consent letters handed to the year 10 team

**Work Experience** – Last day for letters is the 18th May – this allows the team to make the self and welfare checks at the employers which have agreed

### **Important- DROP in attendance**

Attendance is a huge priority, and we are currently experiencing a drop in our attendance. This must change! We are seeing too many students having days off.

**Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team**



Firstly, well done to all students for getting through your first full week of exams. We have been impressed with the calm and mature way many of you have approached the start of the exam season. The hard work now needs to continue over the coming weeks – consistency is what will make the difference.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Attendance remains absolutely crucial. Every lesson, intervention and exam matters now. Missing even one morning can mean missing important exam updates, revision sessions or key subject content.

Students must now be in school by **8:25am** every day for line-up and morning intervention sessions. Important exam information is regularly shared at this time, and students arriving late are missing valuable support.

Minor illnesses are not a reason to stay at home during exam season. If students feel slightly unwell, we encourage them to attend with paracetamol/water and speak to staff if needed.

### **Revision Timetables**

Students have now received their revision timetables. These are there to be followed carefully each week and should be treated as part of students' daily routine.

The timetables are paper copies, so students should:

- Take a photo of them immediately
- Keep them safe
- Check them daily

Losing them is not an excuse for missing revision sessions.

### **Revision Tip of the Week – Quizzing**

One of the most effective revision strategies is self-quizzing. Reading notes repeatedly is not enough – students need to actively test themselves.

Good ways to do this include:

- Flashcards
- Blurting everything remembered onto paper
- Cover and recall
- Mini quizzes from revision guides
- Asking somebody at home to test them

If you cannot remember the information without looking, that is the area that needs more revision.

### **Prom**

Year 11 Prom will take place on **2nd July**.

Tickets are available on ArborPay and must be purchased by 1st June. Please do not leave this until the final week.

**Leavers' Assembly**

Our Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will take place on **15th June**.

Students can begin getting shirts ready for signing as we move closer towards the end of Year 11.

**Final Message**

We are now fully into exam season. The students who stay disciplined, attend every day, revise properly and keep going even when tired will give themselves the best possible chance of success.

Keep showing up. Keep working. Keep pushing through.

**Miss Smith and the Year 11 Team**



The Year 13 and some Year 12's will be partaking in their exams starting next week. Both year groups need to be working hard, revising and ensuring they are filling their gaps in knowledge in preparation for the exams.

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

Year 12 attendance –85.2%

Year 13 attendance – 85%

Your sincerely,

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

Upcoming events

21st May – Year 12 Parents' Evening

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: Parent/Carer

**Gospel Oak School**

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

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W [www.gospelookschool.co.uk](http://www.gospelookschool.co.uk)

8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Our Ref:** JB.KH.3579

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Uniform Standards**

At Gospel Oak School, we have clear expectations that help students feel safe, ready to learn and proud of their school. These expectations are known as our **BASICS**:

- B** – Be on time
- A** – Attend every day
- S** – Show respect
- I** – Instructions followed first time
- C** – Come equipped
- S** – Smartly dressed

We are writing to ask for your support with the smartly dressed part of BASICS, as we have recently seen a decrease in uniform standards across the school.

Wearing the correct uniform helps students stay focused on learning and shows pride in being part of Gospel Oak School. Please make sure your son/daughter arrives each day wearing the correct uniform:

- Plain white shirt
- Gospel Oak blazer
- Gospel Oak tie
- Plain black trousers or a school skirt of appropriate length
- Smart black leather school shoes with no logos
- No trainers
- No leggings

In addition:

- No excessive make-up
- No hooped earrings (for safety reasons)
- No bracelets
- No acrylic nails
- BIAB nails are allowed only if kept short and suitable for school

Skirt length expectations:

We are currently concerned about the number of students wearing skirts that are too short for school. Skirts must be worn at a modest and appropriate length that sits close to the knee. We recommend that students wear plain black tights with skirts to help keep the uniform appropriate for school.

Skirts that are too short are not suitable for a school setting and create a safeguarding concern. We ask parents and carers to remind students about skirt length before students leave home each morning.

If students arrive at school wearing uniform that does not meet our expectations, they will be placed into isolation until the issue is corrected.

We hope this step will not be needed and are confident that, with your support, standards will improve.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high expectations through our BASICS.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr J Bowser**  
**Associate Assistant Principal**



**Miss K Malkin**  
**Assistant Principal**



To: Year 12 Parents/Carers

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7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Our Ref:** SBA/JL/3851

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 12 Parents'/Carers' Evening**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026, we will be holding a Parents'/Carers' evening for Year 12, where you can see specific subject staff to discuss your son's/daughter's current progress and the required intervention needed to help them achieve the best possible outcomes, no appointments will be necessary for this evening.

A normal timetable will operate for all students from 8.30am to 3.00pm, with appointments taking place between 4.00pm and 6.30pm.

We do recommend that you allow enough time throughout the evening to speak to your son's/daughter's subject teachers.

During each appointment, staff will discuss:

- Updates on the most recent mock results and content areas that they need to focus on from Year 12 as they move into Year 13.
- Strategies to support your son/daughter in the next few months
- Where and how you or your son/daughter can receive further help or information if required
- Dates of any upcoming coursework deadlines

I am sure you appreciate how important it is for you and your son/daughter to attend. It is only by working together and taking an active part in your son's/daughter's education that we can ensure your son/daughter achieves the best possible outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

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



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8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Our Ref:** JB.KH.3584

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Safeguarding Concern**

We are writing to inform you of an important safeguarding concern regarding students remaining on the school site at the end of the day.

Over recent weeks, we have seen an increase in students staying on site after school hours without supervision. This includes using the astroturf area and remaining on the school grounds on bikes and scooters.

**This is not permitted.**

Once the school day has finished, all students must leave the school site promptly unless they are attending a supervised extra-curricular activity, club or session led by a member of staff or an approved external provider.

Students remaining on site without supervision presents a safeguarding risk. If an incident or injury were to occur after school hours, it may go unnoticed and would still be the responsibility of the school.

To address this:

- The astroturf area will be locked at the end of the school day
- Students must not remain on site or return to the site after school hours unless they are supervised
- Bikes and scooters must not be used on the school site after school

If students are attending an after-school club, they must remain with the supervising adult at all times and leave the site immediately once the session has finished.

We ask for your support in reinforcing this message to ensure the safety of all students.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr J Bowser**  
Associate Assistant Principal

**Miss K Malkin**  
Assistant Principal



To: Yr 11 & 13 Parents/Carers

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8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Our Ref:** SBO.KH.3581

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 11 & 13 Examination Period**

As we approach the examination period, I am writing to wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best of luck in the weeks ahead.

This is an important milestone in their education, and we are incredibly proud of how far they have come. Each student has shown resilience, commitment and determination in reaching this point, and we hope they take a moment to recognise their own achievements.

We are also grateful to our dedicated staff, whose guidance, encouragement and support have helped prepare students so thoroughly for this moment.

Please find attached a message of support from our local Member of Parliament, who joins us in wishing our students every success.

We know that this period can be both exciting and challenging. We encourage all students to take care of themselves, stay focused and approach each day with confidence.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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



## Antonia Bance MP

Member of Parliament for Tipton, Wednesbury and Coseley  
[antonia.bance.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:antonia.bance.mp@parliament.uk)



5 May 2026

To the staff and students at Gospel Oak,

I wanted to write to wish the whole school the best of luck as we go into exams period.

To the students: I hope you feel proud of how far you have come. Whatever difficulties you have faced along the way, the perseverance you have shown will stand you in good stead, not just in your studies but in the years ahead. I know how much effort goes into preparing for exams and assessments, and I want to recognise the hard work you've already put in. Remember to look after yourselves, take each day as it comes, and do the best you can. Good luck.

To the teachers and support staff who encourage and guide young people every step of the way: thank you for believing in our young people, and for everything you have done to get them ready for this moment.

I wish everyone at the school the very best of luck and every success for the weeks ahead, and I look forward to hearing about your successes later in the summer.

As always, should anyone at the school or any of their families ever need assistance from me as their local MP, they can contact me on [antonia.bance.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:antonia.bance.mp@parliament.uk) or call my office on 0121 716 5233.

Best wishes,

Antonia Bance MP

# COMMUNITY



**Tipton Health & Wellbeing Day**

A community event for residents, local organisations & professionals

**FREE**

Mental Health Support, Libraries, Community Organisations, Debt Advice, Family Hubs, Energy saving information, Children, Young People and Families, Alcohol support, Housing, Domestic Abuse, Healthy Lifestyles, ...and more

 **Thursday 14 May 2026 10am-2pm**

 **Jubilee Park Community Centre,  
Powis Avenue, Tipton, DY4 0RJ**

**On the day:**

- ✓ Find out ways to look after your mental health and well-being
- ✓ Get support from local Tipton organisations
- ✓ Information and advice
- ✓ Free refreshments

 **Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

 **SANDWELL BETTER MENTAL HEALTH**  
Better mental health for all

 **HEALTH SANDWELL**  
We find the support you need