

# Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

## w.e. 22nd May 2026



### UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June - Year 13 Leavers Assembly

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Year 8 HPV Vaccine  
Catch-up Session

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Send Transition Day

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - RSA8 Away Day -  
Newman University

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Send Transition Day

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Trust Sports Day - Year 7 to  
Year 11, Abbey Stadium



### ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Mini  
Whiteboards and YTL highlights

01/06 - Social Media and Scams

08/06 - Mens Health Week

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, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Thank you for another wonderful week here at Gospel Oak as we reached the final week before the Easter break. Our students continued to work incredibly hard throughout the term and thoroughly deserved the opportunity to rest and recharge over the holidays.

We also wanted to recognise how fantastic our Year 11 students have been during this exam season. They have shown great maturity, resilience and determination, and all of their hard work and dedication has truly been paying off. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude they have shown towards their studies.

On Friday, we were delighted to celebrate students who achieved 100% attendance this week with a special rewards event. Students enjoyed an ice cream van and bingo as a reward for their excellent commitment to attendance. It was wonderful to celebrate their efforts together and recognise the importance of being in school every day.

We were also excited to share an opportunity for students to showcase their talents at Black Country You've Got Talent 2026. Whether students can sing, dance or act, this could be their chance to shine and demonstrate their talents to a wider audience.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope everyone has a restful break and we look forward to seeing all students return on 1st June.



# YEAR TEAM UPDATES

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share some positive updates from Year 7 this week.

Firstly, we have seen an improvement in attendance across the year group. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students arrive at school every day, on time, and ready to learn. Every day in school truly does matter.

There has also been a noticeable improvement in homework completion, with more students submitting work on time and showing pride in their learning. This consistency is helping students build strong routines and positive habits.

We are also very pleased to report a decrease in detentions this week, alongside a slight improvement in behaviour across the year group. Students are responding well to expectations, and we encourage them to continue making positive choices both in lessons and around school.

## **Trips Reminder**

Please note that the payment line for upcoming trips is now closed. All consent forms must also be returned as soon as possible. Unfortunately, students without completed consent forms will not be able to attend the trips.

Finally... happy last week before the break! Only 4 more sleeps to go! However, please remember that everyday counts, and we want all students to finish the week strongly. We will also be holding a reward on Friday to celebrate students who continue to meet expectations and show excellent effort.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team**



As we come to the end of another busy half term, we would like to take the opportunity to speak about the importance of attendance. Currently, attendance across Year 8 is lower than it should be, and we need all students aiming for at least **95% attendance every single day**. Unfortunately, this is not currently being achieved, with many absences linked to minor illnesses.

We cannot stress enough how important good attendance is. Coming to school every day helps students build resilience, routine, and responsibility – all essential skills for life after school and future success. Every lesson matters, and missing school can quickly lead to gaps in learning and confidence.

### **Homework Focus After Half Term**

After half term, there will be a major push on homework expectations. All Year 8 students are expected to complete **three pieces of homework each week** – no excuses. Students are entering a very important stage of their school journey and will soon begin preparing for their Year 9 options and the transition towards their GCSE years. Developing strong study habits now will set them up for success in the future.

### **100% Attendance Reward Celebration**

On Friday, we celebrated all students who achieved 100% attendance this half term. Students enjoyed ice cream, bingo, and time away from lessons as a reward for their fantastic commitment. We are incredibly proud of every Year 8 student who achieved this milestone – well done!

Finally, we would like to wish all students and families a wonderful half term break. The weather looks lovely, so we hope everyone gets some well-earned rest and returns refreshed and ready for the final term of Year 8.

Let's finish the year strong by being on top of our attendance, behaviour, and effort in school.

**Year 8 – YOU CAN DO THIS!**

**Mr Minton and the Year 8 Team**



As we reach the end of another half-term, we would like to thank you for your continued support and wish all of our Year 9 students and families a restful and well-deserved break.

There will be no homework set over half-term, allowing students the opportunity to recharge, relax and return refreshed for another positive half-term ahead.

There have been some very encouraging improvements across the year group recently. One major success has been our minutes late to lesson, which have dropped drastically over the past few weeks. Year 9 are now the second best year group in the school for punctuality to lessons — a fantastic achievement. However, we know there is still room for improvement, and our next target is to reduce this figure to below 100 minutes late across the whole year group for the week. We know Year 9 can achieve this with continued focus and determination.

We have also seen a significant improvement in behaviour across the year group. Behaviour points have reduced considerably, and Year 9 currently have the biggest decrease in behaviour points across the entire school. This is excellent progress and reflects the positive choices students are making every day through improved attitudes and conduct around school.

This week, Mr Johnson led assembly and updated students on the progress Year 9 have made in relation to attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning. It was important to celebrate the improvements made and recognise how far the year group has come this half-term.

However, attendance has unfortunately dipped this week, and this is something we must address together. Year 9 usually maintain weekly attendance figures of around 92–93%, but this week attendance dropped to 90%. While we understand that illness does occur, it is important that we bounce back strongly after half-term and continue striving for excellent attendance. Every lesson matters and being in school every day has a direct impact on achievement and success.

Thank you again for your ongoing support throughout this half-term. We are proud of the progress Year 9 are making and look forward to seeing students return refreshed and ready to continue building on these successes.

Have a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

**Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team**



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another half-term, we would like to thank you for your continued support and wish all of our Year 10 students and families a restful and well-deserved break.

There will be no homework set over half-term, giving students the opportunity to recharge and return refreshed for the busy weeks ahead.

This half-term, we have seen many positive improvements across Year 10, particularly in behaviour and attitudes to learning. Staff have commented positively on the maturity and focus many students are showing as they continue their GCSE courses, and behaviour incidents have reduced across the year group.

However, lateness to lessons has recently become an issue for some students, and a number of students have now been placed on punctuality report to help improve this. Arriving to lessons on time is essential to ensure students are fully prepared and ready to learn from the start of every lesson.

This week, assemblies celebrated the progress Year 10 have made so far, while also reminding students of the importance of maintaining high standards as they move closer towards mock examinations and future GCSE assessments.

Attendance has unfortunately seen a decline in recent weeks, and this is an area we must continue to work on together. Good attendance is essential in Year 10, as every lesson plays an important role in preparing students for their examinations. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring students attend school every day wherever possible and arrive ready to learn.

Thank you again for your ongoing support throughout this half-term. We are proud of the progress Year 10 are making and look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for another successful half-term.

Have a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

**Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team**



Firstly, a huge well done to all of Year 11 for the effort, maturity and resilience you have shown over the exam period so far. You are now halfway through your exams, and we are incredibly proud of the way many of you have approached this challenging period.

The key message now is simple: **DO NOT LOSE MOMENTUM.**

There are still so many marks left to gain over the next few weeks, and the students who continue working hard through half term will give themselves the best possible chance of success in August. Keep attending revision sessions, keep revising daily, and keep pushing right until the very end.

### **HALF TERM REVISION**

Half term is an opportunity to rest and recharge slightly, but it is **NOT** the time to switch off completely. A little bit of revision each day will make a huge difference going into the final run of exams.

### **LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY – 15TH JUNE**

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

Students should bring:

- Their leavers' shirts
- Pens for signing shirts

Please note this will take place after morning exams on that day.

### **PROM – 2ND JULY**

A reminder that Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday 2nd July.

**PROM TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY 1ST JUNE ON ARBOR PAY.**

If tickets are not purchased by this date, students will not be able to attend, so please ensure this is completed before the deadline.

### **FINAL PUSH**

You are so close now. Every revision session attended, every practice question completed and every exam approached with effort matters.

Keep going.

Keep turning up.

Keep working hard.

Finish strong.

**Miss Smith and the Year 11 Team**



This Thursday we are looking forward to speaking to as many parents as possible for our Year 12 Parents evening 4.00-6.30pm.

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

Year 12 attendance – 90.5 %

Year 13 attendance – 88.9 %

Your sincerely,

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

Upcoming events

21st May – Year 12 Parents' Evening

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: All 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](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

**Our Ref:** AHi.KH.3593

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: School Uniform Guidance**

I am writing to reassure parents and carers that Gospel Oak School already meets the updated government guidance regarding school uniform expectations and the number of branded items families are required to purchase.

The Department for Education has confirmed that, from September 2026, schools should not require parents and carers to purchase more than three branded uniform items. Secondary schools may request four branded items if one of these is a tie.

At Gospel Oak School, we already meet this guidance. The only branded or school-specific items that parents and carers are asked to purchase are:

- School tie
- School blazer
- School polo PE top

All other uniform items can be purchased from supermarkets, high-street shops or other suitable retailers, provided they meet the school's uniform expectations.

We have taken this approach to ensure that our uniform remains smart, consistent and affordable for families. We recognise the financial pressures many households face and will continue to keep uniform costs under review.

We also encourage families to contact the school if they require support with uniform, so we can work together to remove any barriers to attendance and participation in school life.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining high standards of uniform at Gospel Oak School.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr A Hickinbottom**  
**Assistant Principal-Designated Safeguarding Lead**

# COMMUNITY

WEST BROMWICH AFRICAN CARIBBEAN RESOURCE CENTRE  
PRESENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
CARER'S WEEK 2026

## COFFEE Morning

AFRICAN CARIBBEAN & DUAL HERITAGE UNPAID CARERS  
**TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**  
10 AM - 1PM

Note Speakers:  
Sharon Clarke from Sandwell Carers  
Angela Mitchell from African Caribbean Carers Champion

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 12.30PM - 1PM



For more information, please contact:  
Deska Howe – Health & Well Being Divisional Manager  
Phone: (0121) 525 9177 (Select Option 1: Health & Well Being Division)  
Email: [deska.howe@wbacrc.org.uk](mailto:deska.howe@wbacrc.org.uk)

West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre  
Thomas Street, West Bromwich. B70 6LY  
[www.wbacrc.org.uk](http://www.wbacrc.org.uk) | Company Registration Number 3916617  
Registered Charity Number 1091956



COFFEE Morning  
PROGRAMME


10 AM	START
10AM - 11AM	TEA, COFFEE & NETWORKING
11AM - 11.30AM	SHARON CLARKE (SANDWELL CARERS)
11.35AM - 12.30PM	ANGELA MITCHELL (AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CARERS CHAMPION)
12.30PM - 12.50PM	LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, SNACKS & NETWORKING
1PM	CLOSE

The aim of our Coffee Morning is to:

- Inform unpaid African Caribbean & Dual Heritage Carers about the right as carers and find out more about Forward Carers and Sandwell's Carers Centre (Forward Carers).
- Receive information and advice from Angela, Keymn and Chantelle on the roles play for ASC around implementation of Sandwell Carers Strategy and work with Black Led organisations.
- Meet other unpaid carers African Caribbean & Dual Heritage Carers.

Another aim of the day is to identify a day for us as an organisation to set up formal monthly or bi-monthly Carers Support Group specifically for African & Dual Heritage Carers so they:

- Receive information & Advice from wider health and social care system partners about local and lifestyle services including how to manage long term help condition and employment/digital support.
- Promote and refer new carers into Forward Carer Sandwell Carers Centre
- Act as a befriending and support group African Caribbean & Dual Heritage Carers.
- Run activities and outings/trips specifically for African Caribbean & Dual Heritage unpaid carers.




The Active Wellbeing Society

## Beginners 2 Runners Sandwell

Improve your running form and boost your confidence in a supportive group environment. Suitable for all abilities. No previous experience required.

Whether a beginner or improver, this 10 week course will empower you to achieve your running goals, with the option to build up to a 5K.

 Saturdays 9:30am, Start date 30th May

 Lightwoods Park and House B67 5DP  
Meet by Bentley the Bear

Free limited places available.  
Please contact TAWS on email below to secure your places!

 **Contact us: [sandwellags@theaws.org](mailto:sandwellags@theaws.org)**



# BUILDING CARERS WEEK '26

CARER FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Art Sessions

Workshops

ParkRide- FREE Adapted Bikes

Wellbeing Walks

Family & Dog Friendly

Information Stands

Refreshments

**Friday 12th June | 10am – 2:30pm**


**Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, Salters Lane, West Bromwich B71 4BG**

If you are providing care and support for someone, this event is for you.  
Come along to this fun, family day to find support, information and celebrate the impact Unpaid Carers in our communities.

**Contact us for more info:**  
 [info@sandwellcarers.org.uk](mailto:info@sandwellcarers.org.uk)  
 0121 798 2372

**SCAN HERE TO BOOK A SPOT, OR TURN UP ON THE DAY!**




 @tawsociety

 @theaws

 The Active Wellbeing Society



**Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 – Taking action with WorkWell**

Dear Colleagues,  
As part of Mental Health Awareness Week 2026, we want to remind people across the Black Country that WorkWell is still here to support you.

This year's theme is *Action* and sometimes **taking action** for your mental health and wellbeing starts with reaching out for support.

At WorkWell, we understand that physical health, mental health, and employment are closely connected. If you are struggling to stay in work, currently off work, worried about returning to work, or finding that your health is affecting your wellbeing and confidence, you do not have to face it alone.

Our Work and Health Coaches provide free, personalised support to help people:

- 🏠 Stay in work
- 🔄 Return to work after time away
- 🧠 Manage health and wellbeing alongside employment
- 📍 Access local support services
- 🏋️ Build confidence and resilience
- 🗣️ Talk through barriers affecting work and wellbeing

Whether you are employed, self-employed, off sick, or looking for guidance around work and health, WorkWell can support you to take positive steps forward at your own pace.

Small actions can make a big difference - having a conversation, asking for support, or taking the first step towards improving your wellbeing and work situation.

Employers, professionals, family members, or individuals themselves can all make referrals into the service.

To find out more about WorkWell support and referral information, please visit:  
<http://www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/workwell>

Please help us spread the word so more people know support is available across the Black Country.

**IMMERSE YOURSELF IN BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS**

# SOUND RELAXATION

**AT**  
**DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE**  
**CHURCH ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6EH**

**WE USE GONGS, SINGING BOWLS, RAIN SOUNDS AND OTHER SENSORY INSTRUMENTS TO HELP YOU RELAX AND RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES**

**Experience some quality 'me-time.'**      **Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am**  
**Helps with stress and anxiety.**      **May 19<sup>th</sup> June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 14<sup>th</sup> August 25<sup>th</sup>**

**A calm, gentle experience where you can forget everything and re-connect with yourself.**

**Enquiries: call Beat It Percussion 07875 090946**





**DOROTHYPARKES**  
Community Centre  
THE DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE  
CHURCH ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 6EH  
0121 556 2988  
CHARITY NO. 1093189




SCAN HERE



Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR




**Beat It**  
Percussion



Where booking is required via ticketsource visit [www.ticketsource.com/sandwell-museums-and-arts](http://www.ticketsource.com/sandwell-museums-and-arts)

## Myths and Legends

### Half Term and more at Sandwell Museums



**Green Man Springtime Celebration: Sunday 17 May, 11am-4pm.** Celebrate with us at Oak House Museum our annual Green Man event with children's entertainment, historical music, nature crafts, Morris Dancing, have a go at Tudor dancing with Gioriana, costumed characters and join in our parade with the Dhol Drummers to welcome spring with the green man himself! Lots of fun, games and activities for all ages. Enjoy refreshments in our tearoom or bring a picnic and relax in our lovely grounds. House open to explore, free entry, drop in, no booking required.

**Oak House Museum.** Oak Road, West Bromwich, B70 8HJ—0121 553 0759.  
Have a go archery: Tuesday 26 May, 11.30am-2pm. Meet Robin Hood and practice your archery skills suitable for all ages. Test your knowledge with our flogging legends trail and enjoy our outdoor games. Crafts available from 50p. House, gardens and tea room open from 11pm. Free entry.  
Myths, Monsters & Legends from the Sky: Wednesday 27, May 11.15pm and 1pm. Join us for a bright, story-rich journey through the night sky, uncovering how ancient cultures mapped their myths onto the heavens. A playful blend of folklore and astronomy, perfect for curious minds! Expect stories, crafts, games and fun. Suitable for ages 7+. Booking is essential via Ticketsource, £4.00 per ticket. Sandwell Reflexions will be here with crafts and games. Trails and outdoor games. House, gardens and tea room open from 11pm. Free Entry.

**Wednesbury Museum—**Holyhead Rd, WS10 7DF 0121 556 0683  
Anglo Saxon Week: Wednesday 27 May & Thursday 28 May 11am – 3pm. Design and make Saxon brooches, shields, swords and crowns. Enjoy our grave goods activity and trail. Suitable for all ages. Free entry, small charge for crafts £1-3. Drop in, no booking required.  
Saxon Takeover Day – The Saxons are coming! Saturday 30 May 11am – 2pm. Step back in time with costume characters from the Thegns of Mercia as they takeover the Museum. See the display of reconstructed Saxon items including Jewellery, warrior gear and weapons, enjoy demonstrations and music. Also young visitors can enjoy our Saxon crafts and trails. Free entry, charge for crafts.

**Bromwich Hall Museum.** Hall Green Rd, West Bromwich, B71 2EA—0121 588 2985  
The Bromwich Hall Guide to Magical Creatures & Where to Find Them: Tuesday 26 May, sessions at 11.15am and 1.00pm. Step onto the grounds of Bromwich Hall and help us search for friendly magical creatures hiding in the trees and secret corners. Expect hands-on crafts and a treasure hunt around the grounds. A perfect day of imagination, discovery, and a little bit of magic. Suitable for ages 6+. Tickets cost £4, booking essential via Ticketsource. Please note the house will not be open to visitors, this is an outdoors activity so please dress accordingly.  
Nature Day: Thursday 28 May, 11am – 3pm. Join SandNats for nature activities including pond-dipping and enjoy hands-on nature crafts in the grounds. Go Play are here with games and activities. All ages welcome, no booking required. Entry free  
Join us in the grounds: Friday 29 May, 11am – 3pm. Enjoy a relaxing day in our grounds with outdoor games, find our fairy houses, and follow the trail.

**Haden Hill House Museum and Old Hall** off Barrs Rd Credenley Heath, B64 7SH (for cars) - 01384 560 444  
Jaws & Claws: Thursday 28 May 11.15am & 1pm. Uncover the real life animal encounters that were so strange, unusual or bizarre that they have inspired modern myths or reached legendary status in their own right. Expect stories, crafts, games and fun. Suitable for ages 7+ booking is essential via Ticketsource, £4.00 per ticket. Also join in with themed trails or activities from Sandwell Reflexions from 11am-3pm FREE  
Wings, Fire & Water: Friday 29 May 11.15 & 1pm Discover the giant beasts, clever tricksters and magical creatures that challenged heroes and taught important lessons about courage and kindness. Expect stories, crafts, games and treasure hunt. Suitable for ages 7+ Booking is essential via Ticketsource, £4.00 per ticket Join in with themed trails from 11am-3pm FREE

Discover Sandwell Museums  
Late May, June and Early July  
General information at [visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums](http://visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums)  
Check out current events at: [www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums)  
Follow us on social media: @sandwellmuseums



# Walk with us for men's mental health

Join one of our six community park walks this June



## Friday 12 June

**Victoria Park, Tipton**  
Meet at the War Memorial at 10.30am

**Brunswick Park, Wednesbury**  
Meet at the Play Area at 1.30pm

## Saturday 13 June

**Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich**  
Meet at the War Memorial at 10.30am

**Britannia Park, Rowley Regis**  
Meet by the multi-games area at 1.30pm

## Sunday 14 June

**Lightwoods Park, Smethwick**  
Meet at Lightwoods House at 10.30am

**West Smethwick Park, Smethwick**  
Meet at the Pavilion at 1pm, **plus**  
family activities from 2pm - 3.30pm!

You don't need to sign up – just turn up, walk with us, and show your support for men's mental health in Sandwell

[www.healthysandwell.co.uk/walkinthepark](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk/walkinthepark)

