

# Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

## w.e. 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026



### UPCOMING DATES

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Year 8 HPV Vaccines
- 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 - RSA8 Final , Newman University
- 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
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Yr 6 Parent / Carer Evening
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Primary Transition Day
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Yr 7, 8 & 9 Reward Trips
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Primary Transition Day
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Yr 7, 8 & 9 Reward Trips
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Year 11 Prom, Black Country Museum

### ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was World Blood Donor Day

22/06 - Water Safety

29/06 - Misogyny

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

SIXTH FORM

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## MESSAGE FROM MISS LANE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Thank you for another positive week here at Gospel Oak. It has been another busy and successful week, with many opportunities to celebrate the achievements and experiences of our students.

On Monday, we held a wonderful Leavers' Assembly for our Year 11 students, celebrating their journey with us over the years. It was a fitting opportunity to reflect on their achievements, memories and contributions to school life. A special thank you goes to Miss Malkin, Miss Smith and Miss Davies, who organised and delivered an excellent assembly for the cohort. The event concluded with our Year 11 students walking through a guard of honour formed by the rest of the school, creating a memorable send-off as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

This week also saw the launch of our Form Championships darts tournament. Students from each year group have enjoyed taking part in some friendly competition, demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship and plenty of enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing how the competition progresses over the coming weeks.

A huge well done goes to our Year 9 and Year 10 footballers, who represented West Bromwich Albion at the Leicester City training ground this week. The students conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the event and were a real credit to both the school and themselves. We are incredibly proud of how they represented Gospel Oak.

As we move closer to the end of the academic year, we will continue to maintain our high expectations around attendance, punctuality, behaviour and uniform. These standards are key to ensuring all students can continue to learn and achieve in a positive environment.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

# YEAR TEAM UPDATES



YEAR 7

## **Attendance**

As we move towards the end of another successful year, we would like to take this opportunity to address an important concern regarding Year 7 attendance.

At the start of the academic year, Year 7 had the highest attendance in the school. Unfortunately, attendance has declined significantly over recent weeks, and Year 7 now has the lowest attendance across the school. This is disappointing, particularly as good attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring students achieve their full potential.

We completely understand that there will always be occasions when children are genuinely unwell and unable to attend school. Illness cannot always be avoided, and students should not attend school when they are too unwell to learn or when medical advice suggests otherwise.

However, we are increasingly seeing students absent for reasons that could often be resolved with support in school. Concerns about friendships, minor worries, tiredness, forgotten equipment, or requests to stay at home are not reasons for missing valuable learning time. Our staff are here to support students through these challenges and can only do so when they are in school.

Every lesson matters. Missing school means missing learning, missing opportunities to build friendships, and missing important experiences that contribute to a successful transition into secondary school.

## **Attendance and the Law**

As outlined by Sandwell Council and the Department for Education, parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education and attends school regularly. Under the Education Act 1996, children of compulsory school age must attend school unless there is a valid reason for absence. Unauthorised absences can result in intervention from the Local Authority and, where attendance does not improve, legal action may be taken. (Sandwell Council)

Sandwell Council also reminds parents that children should not be kept off school unnecessarily and that schools are available to work with families to resolve any barriers to attendance. Regular attendance helps children make friends, build confidence, develop social skills and achieve their academic potential. (Sandwell Council)

We ask all parents and carers to support us in improving Year 7 attendance during the final weeks of term. Together, we can ensure that Year 7 finishes the year positively and regains its place as a year group that values excellent attendance and punctuality.

## **Upcoming Dates**

1st July – Enrichment Day

2nd July – Enrichment Day

We are looking forward to two exciting days of activities and experiences for our students. Please ensure your child attends and takes full advantage of these opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Miss Smith and the Year 7 Team**



Dear Year 8 Students and Families,

As we move towards the end of another successful year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about some key priorities for the final four weeks of term.

### **Attendance Matters**

Our attendance figures remain below where we need them to be. Our target is for every student to achieve **96% attendance or above**, and currently too many students are falling short of this expectation.

Excellent attendance is one of the biggest factors in academic success. Every lesson counts, and missing school means missing valuable learning opportunities that are difficult to catch up on. We ask all students and families to work together to ensure attendance improves over the coming weeks.

### **Showing Resilience**

Resilience is one of the most important qualities a student can develop. This means attending school consistently, working hard even when things feel challenging, and continuing to give your best effort every day.

The students who make the greatest progress are those who show determination, persevere through difficulties, and maintain positive habits both in and out of the classroom. As we approach the end of the year, let's continue to demonstrate these qualities and finish strongly.

### **Homework Expectations**

Homework remains an important part of learning and helps students consolidate their understanding of work completed in lessons.

Students are expected to complete all homework tasks by the deadline set by their teacher. Any student who fails to complete their homework will receive a **1-hour detention**. Please ensure homework is completed on time and to the highest standard possible.

### **Punctuality**

Punctuality continues to be a concern across Year 8. We currently have **between 17 and 20 students arriving late to school every morning**.

Students must be present and ready for line-up at **8:25am** each day. Arriving late disrupts learning, affects attendance records, and means students miss important information at the start of the day.

Please make every effort to arrive on time and start each day positively.

### **Upcoming School Trips**

We are looking forward to our upcoming school trips on **1st and 2nd July**.

If you have not yet returned your permission slip, please do so as soon as possible. Students will only be able to attend if all required paperwork has been completed and returned before the deadline.

### **Four Weeks to Go**

With only four weeks remaining of the academic year, it is vital that we continue to uphold the high standards expected of Year 8.

This means:

- Attending school every day.
- Arriving on time.
- Completing homework.
- Wearing the correct uniform.
- Demonstrating positive behaviour and respect.
- Continuing to work hard in every lesson.

Let's work together to ensure that the final weeks of the year are our strongest yet.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Greatrex and the Year 8 Team**



As we come to the end of another positive week in Year 9, we would like to thank students and families for their continued support. It has been pleasing to see students continuing to demonstrate positive attitudes towards learning and engaging well in lessons as we move closer towards the end of the academic year.

Attendance remains a key focus for the year group. We would like to remind parents and carers that students should attend school wherever possible, even when experiencing minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, headaches or minor ailments. Every lesson counts, and missing learning time can have a significant impact on progress and future GCSE outcomes. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, please refer to NHS guidance or contact the school for advice. We would like to thank those families who continue to support excellent attendance and punctuality.

We would also like to remind parents and carers about the attendance incentive running this half-term. Students who achieve 100% attendance throughout the half-term will be entered into a prize draw for the opportunity to win a family trip to either Drayton Manor or Alton Towers. This is a fantastic reward and we encourage all students to make every day count.

A reminder has also been issued regarding consent forms for the end-of-year trips. If you have not yet returned your child's consent form, please do so as soon as possible. Unfortunately, if we do not receive parental consent, we will be unable to take your child off-site to participate in the trip. We do not want any student to miss out on these opportunities, so please ensure all paperwork is completed and returned promptly.

Homework continues to be set through ClassCharts and students are expected to check the platform regularly. Homework is set on the following days:

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

Students have 7 days to complete each homework task from the date it is set. Consistent completion of homework plays a vital role in supporting learning, reinforcing knowledge and improving GCSE outcomes.

Any student who fails to complete their homework by the deadline will receive a one-hour detention and will be expected to complete the work during this time.

Finally, we would like to remind all students and parents about the Gospel Oak School Uniform Policy. Over recent weeks we have seen an increase in students attending school wearing trainers and inappropriate nail extensions. Trainers are not permitted and students must wear the correct school shoes in line with school expectations. Artificial nails, acrylic nails and other non-compliant nail styles are also not permitted. We ask all parents and carers to support the school by ensuring students arrive each day in full, correct uniform. Maintaining high standards of presentation helps to promote a positive learning environment and prepares students for future education and employment.

If you wish to contact the Year 9 team, please do so through the enquiries section of the school website or by emailing [enquiries@gospeloak.crst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gospeloak.crst.org.uk). Please do not contact Mr Johnson, Mr Marrs or Mr White directly, as this may result in delays in your enquiry being responded to. Using the enquiries email ensures that your query is directed to the appropriate member of staff and dealt with as efficiently as possible.

Thank you for your continued support. We are proud of the progress Year 9 are making and look forward to another positive and successful week ahead.

**Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team**



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we are writing to raise concerns about Year 10 attendance and behaviour.

Year 10 is a vital stage in your child's education. The routines and attitudes students develop now will have a direct impact on their progress as they move towards Year 11 and their GCSE examinations.

Recently, we have seen:

- A decline in attendance across the year group
- An increase in behaviour points
- A rise in the number of students being placed on report to the Year Team

Regular attendance is essential. Every lesson missed can create gaps in learning and make it harder for students to keep up with the demands of Key Stage 4. We understand that students may be absent when they are genuinely unwell, but absences linked to the following should be avoided:

- Tiredness
- Minor worries
- Forgotten equipment
- Friendship concerns
- Reluctance to attend school

These issues can often be supported in school, but only when students are present. Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time
- Follow instructions
- Be fully equipped
- Work hard in lessons
- Show respect to staff and peers
- Complete any detention they are issued

Please be reminded that detentions issued by the school are not negotiable. If a detention is given, it must be completed. Detentions are part of our behaviour system and help students understand the importance of making positive choices and taking responsibility for their actions. Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Where attendance does not improve, or where absences are unauthorised, further action may be taken in line with school and Local Authority procedures.

Work experience – 29th June – 3rd July  
Alton Towers – 10th July

**Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team**



This is the final week of Year 13 exams then we will bid them farewell till results day on the 13th August 2026. It has been a good year of productivity and purpose and we wish them all the best.

We are still taking sixth form applications from Year 11 to join us in September 2026.

Year 12 attendance – 90.5%

Your sincerely,

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

Upcoming events

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

12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Our Ref:** HN.KH.3602  
**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent / Carer,

**Re: Free School Meals - Could Your Family Be Eligible?**

We want to make sure that every student gets the best education and support possible. Eating a healthy meal during the school day can help young people stay focused, learn better and build healthy habits for life. The criteria for eligibility for free school meals is changing so that anyone receiving universal credit can claim. Your son, daughter or young person may be able to get free school meals if you receive certain benefits or support. By applying, you could also help the school receive extra funding through the Pupil Premium. This money can be used to provide additional support for students, such as extra teaching, tutoring, resources and after-school activities.

If you think your family may now qualify for free school meals, please contact the school. We will be happy to help you with the application process. You only need to complete the application form once. The local authority will then check your eligibility each year to make sure you still qualify.

We take your privacy seriously. Any personal information you provide will be kept safe and secure. We will pass it on to the local authority who will only use it to check whether your family is entitled to free school meals. In some cases, the information may be shared with other Council services to help identify other support and benefits that may be available to your family.

If you would like to check whether your son/daughter can receive free school meals, please complete the form attached (also available in paper form at school) and return it to the school office either in person or by email. If you would like us to help you with this, please contact us. Please note that there will be the opportunity to apply using an online form but not until *after* 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 where claims may take longer to process.

The local authority is currently checking the eligibility of all students who are currently receiving free school meals. If you no longer qualify, they will write to you before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026. If you have any concerns regarding this, please get in touch.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**Hayley Nutting**  
**Vice Principal**



|                         |                      |                      |                      |                      |                          |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| First name of Child 4   |                      |                      |                      |                      |                          |                      |                      |                      |                      | Surname of Child 4   |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <input type="text"/>    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>     | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Date of birth (Child 4) |                      |                      |                      |                      | School Child 4 Attending |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <input type="text"/>    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>     | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Please complete an additional form if your application is for more than four children.

NOW COMPLETE YOUR CONSENT AND SIGN THE DECLARATION BELOW PLEASE

### Section 4: Your Consent

√ Pleasetick

- I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for free school meals to verify my initial, and ongoing, entitlement; and that you may contact other sources, such as the Department for Education (DfE) as allowed to confirm this.

Please note that where successful, your details will be passed to the applicable school.

**If you do not consent to the above we cannot proceed with your application, so please ensure that you have read and ticked the box before submitting this application form.**

The following is optional and does not have to be completed for this form to be processed.

- I agree that should my initial application be refused; further checks can be automatically made so I can be asked to complete an application form if I later become entitled.

The Data Controller for the information held about you for this purpose is Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 3DB. Phone 0121 569 2200.

The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at the above address and through email at [DP\\_Officer@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:DP_Officer@sandwell.gov.uk)

The information on this form, where you have given us consent to use, will ONLY be used for that purpose and for no other. Where you have not provided us with consent, the information will not be used by the council.

The information provided under consent will only be used and shared for the purposes outlined on this form. However, when a legal duty is placed upon the council then the council will consider the sharing of your information in accordance with that duty (e.g. police etc.).

At any point, you have the right to withdraw your consent by contacting the office below. For further information in relation to how the council will use your personal information, including how long it will be retained for, please see the council's full privacy notice at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotices](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotices)

### Section 5: Your Declaration

The information I have given on this form is complete and accurate. I understand that my personal information is held securely and will be used only for local authority purposes. I agree to the local authority using this information to process my application for free school meals. I also agree to notify the local authority in writing of any change in my family's financial circumstances as set out in this form.

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with our service standards, eligible claims will be processed within five working days from receipt of completed application forms. However, if you require further information or assistance, please contact the Free School Meals Team on 0121 569 8186 or 8189.

Please return your completed form to your child's school or alternatively, post it to;  
Education Benefits, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 3DB

# COMMUNITY



## Safe and Well Fair AT TIPTON LIBRARY

Come along to find out about local services and how to get support with:

- Physical health and wellbeing
- Mental health
- Cancer awareness and screening
- Having a healthy lifestyle
- Quitting smoking
- Community safety
- Cost of living and welfare advice

**SAFER 6**  
Tipton • Sandwell • Wednesbury • Walsley • West Bromwich

**Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

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

 Wednesday 8 July 2026  
11am - 2pm

 Tipton Library, Victoria Road, Tipton, DY4 8SR

 For more information, call 0121 569 4944