

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 3rd July 2026



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July - Year 12
Work Experience

Monday 6th July - Performing Arts Showcase -
Waseley Hills

Wednesday 8th July - Parent / Carer Forum

Friday 10th July - Year 10 Alton Towers Trip

Monday 13th July - Year 8 HPV Vaccine Catch-
Up Session

Thursday 16th July Sports Day



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Misogyny

06/07 - Plastic Free July

13/07 - Highlights

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

LETTERS

MESSAGE FROM MISS LANE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Thank you for another wonderful week here at Gospel Oak. It has been a fantastic week, filled with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences for our students as we approached the end of another successful academic year.

Our reward trips were in full swing this week, and students had an amazing time visiting Alton Towers, Weston-super-Mare, Drayton Manor and many more exciting destinations. Throughout every trip, our students conducted themselves exceptionally well and were an absolute credit to the school. These reward trips were thoroughly deserved and recognised the hard work, commitment and positive attitudes that students have demonstrated throughout the year.

Our Year 10 students were also outstanding during their work experience placements this week. They gained valuable insight into the world of work and the opportunities available to them after they leave Gospel Oak. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from employers, who praised our students for their punctuality, dedication, resilience and professionalism. They represented themselves and the school brilliantly.

Yesterday evening, we celebrated our Year 11 Prom, which provided a wonderful send-off for our students. They looked incredible and enjoyed an evening of celebration, dancing and making lasting memories together. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time at Gospel Oak and wish them every success for the future.

With only a couple of weeks remaining this academic year, we continued to reinforce the importance of maintaining our high standards. Attendance, punctuality, behaviour and uniform remained a key focus as we worked together to ensure that the school year ended as positively and successfully as it had begun.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We looked forward to another successful week ahead.



YEAR TEAM UPDATES

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final weeks of the academic year, it has been wonderful to see how much our Year 7 students have grown in confidence, independence, and resilience. We are incredibly proud of their progress and are excited as they begin to look ahead to becoming Year 8 students!

Attendance Matters

We continue to place a strong emphasis on excellent attendance. Every lesson really does count, and we encourage all students to attend school every day wherever possible.

We understand that illnesses can occur; however, we ask that students **push through minor illnesses where appropriate**. Consistent attendance ensures students do not fall behind in their learning and continue to build positive routines that will benefit them throughout their school journey.

Homework Expectations

Homework remains a key part of our students' success. It reinforces learning from lessons and helps develop important skills such as organisation, independence, and time management.

We kindly ask parents and carers to continue supporting students in:

- Completing homework on time
- Checking tasks regularly
- Taking pride in the quality of their work

Your support at home makes a significant difference.

Communication

To ensure that queries are handled efficiently, please direct any concerns, questions, or communications through our dedicated enquiries inbox:

[✉ year7enquiry@gospeloak.crst.org.uk](mailto:year7enquiry@gospeloak.crst.org.uk)

This helps us respond promptly and ensures your message reaches the appropriate member of the team.

Warm Weather Reminder

With the warmer weather throughout June and July, please ensure students come to school prepared by:

- Bringing a **water bottle** to stay hydrated
- Wearing appropriate uniform for warmer conditions
- Applying **sun protection where necessary**

Staying cool and hydrated helps students remain focused and comfortable throughout the day.

Looking Ahead – Nearly Year 8!

It's hard to believe how quickly this year has gone – we are already preparing for the transition into **Year 8**. Students should feel proud of how far they have come in such a short time.

Welcome to Our New Year Team Lead

***WE HAVE SOME AMAZING NEWS***

We are delighted to introduce **Mr White** as our new Year Team Lead. Mr White brings great enthusiasm, and positivity, and we are confident that he will be a fantastic addition to the year group. We are excited about the positive impact he will have and look forward to working with him moving forward. I hope you can share our student's excitement as **Mr White** takes the lead!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very proud of our Year 7 students and look forward to a strong finish to the year.

Mr White and the Year 7 Team



Attendance

Attendance continues to be one of our biggest priorities. Every lesson counts, and missing school means missing valuable learning opportunities that are difficult to replace. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increasing number of poor reasons being given for absence. We need everyone to make every effort to attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.

Our overall Year 8 attendance has fallen from **93.4% to 92.7%**. This is not where we want to be, and it is not reflective of the high standards we know Year 8 can achieve. We have always aimed to be one of the strongest year groups in the school, and together we need to work hard to get back to being the best. Every student's attendance makes a difference, so let's all play our part in improving this figure over the coming weeks.

School Trips

A huge well done to all of our Year 8 students who attended school trips this week. You were fantastic ambassadors for the school, representing yourselves and our community exceptionally well. Staff were incredibly proud of the way you demonstrated our core values of **Respect** and **Pride** throughout the day. Thank you for being such positive role models.

Maintaining Our High Standards

As we approach the final few weeks of the school year, it is important that we do not let our standards slip. We have recently seen a significant increase in students arriving late to school and not meeting our uniform expectations. This needs to improve.

Arriving on time ensures students are settled, ready to learn, and make the most of every lesson from the very start of the day. Wearing the correct uniform demonstrates pride in ourselves and our school and helps maintain the positive learning environment that everyone deserves.

Let's finish the year strongly by continuing to demonstrate the excellent behaviour, punctuality, attendance, and presentation that we know Year 8 is capable of. We know you can rise to the challenge, and we look forward to seeing everyone end the year on a high.

Mr Greatrex and the Year 8 Team



What an exciting week it has been for Year 9! Our students have enjoyed an incredible range of enrichment opportunities, creating memories that will last a lifetime while representing the year group brilliantly.

This Week's Enrichment Trips

Students have had an amazing time on a variety of trips this week, including:

- Drayton Manor
- Cliff Lakes
- Dudley Cinema & Bowling
- Alton Towers
- NPF Bassetts Pole Paintballing
- Weston-super-Mare

We have received some fantastic feedback from staff, who were incredibly proud of the behaviour, manners and enthusiasm shown by our Year 9 students throughout the week. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school and should be extremely proud of themselves.

Year 6 Transition

A huge thank you to all of our Year 9 students who volunteered to support our new Year 6 students during Transition Week. Whether welcoming them into school, helping them find their way around, answering questions or simply being a friendly face, you represented both yourselves and the school exceptionally well. The maturity, kindness and leadership you demonstrated did not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly proud of every one of you.

Attendance Update

After last week's dip during the hot weather, it was fantastic to see attendance bounce straight back. Year 9 finished the week with an impressive **92% attendance**, once again sitting **above the national average**. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring students attend school every day.

Attendance Prize Draw

Don't forget that students who achieve **100% attendance this half-term** will be entered into a special prize draw to win **family tickets to either Alton Towers or Drayton Manor**. Every day in school is another chance to be entered, so let's finish the half-term strong!

Homework Reminder

If students are unsure of their ClassCharts login or experience any difficulties accessing homework at home, they should speak to their tutor, **Mr Johnson**, or visit the IT team during break or lunchtime. Support is always available.

Please remember that homework not completed by the deadline will result in a **1-hour detention the following day**.

Homework Deadlines

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

Homework Club

Homework Club continues every **Wednesday after school in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC)**, providing a quiet and supportive environment for students to complete homework or receive help from staff.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been another week full of opportunities, success and memorable experiences for Year 9. We look forward to ending the school year on a high and celebrating everything our students have achieved.

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of another fantastic school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. It has been wonderful to see the children's hard work, resilience, and achievements throughout the year.

We still have lots to look forward to before we break up for the summer! One of the highlights will be our exciting trip to Alton Towers on Thursday, 10th July, and we know the children are eagerly anticipating a fun-filled day together.

I would also like to congratulate all of our students who have recently completed their work experience. They have represented themselves and our school brilliantly, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the positive feedback they have received.

Although the holidays are just around the corner, our expectations remain the same right up until the final day of term. We encourage all students to continue showing respect, kindness, responsibility, and a positive attitude towards their learning and each other. Finishing the year positively helps ensure everyone enjoys a safe, happy, and successful end to the term.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another successful year.

Best wishes,

Miss Dunn and the Year 10 Team



Next week Year 12 students will be out on work experience, this is a great opportunity for students to experience different opportunities within workplace settings and to give them hands on opportunities.

We are also excited about the annual Trust Sixth Form Sports Day which will be held here on the 3rd July. The day will comprise of a round of competitive sporting challenges in the morning followed by a university challenge style quiz in the afternoon. The trophies of both will then be presented at the end.

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

Year 12 attendance – 92.5%

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming events

6th July – 10th July – Work experience



To: All Parents/Carers

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Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351
F 0121 506 7833
W www.gospelookschool.co.uk

12th 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* 1st 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 1st 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									
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Date of birth (Child 4)					School Child 4 Attending														
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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

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

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