



GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL

A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1 – HEAD OF SCHOOL'S ADDRESS

WEEK COMMENCING:

DATE: 7th September 2026



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S ADDRESS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

A very warm welcome back to all our students, parents and carers as we begin the new academic year.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our students this summer. Congratulations to all those who received their GCSE and A Level results, and a huge thank you to the staff, parents and carers who supported them throughout their journey. We are delighted that these results have helped Gospel Oak School become the most improved secondary school in Sandwell – a fantastic achievement that reflects the hard work, determination and commitment of our students and staff.

We are excited about the year ahead and are determined to build on this success. Our key priorities for 2026/27 are:

Continuing to improve GCSE and A Level outcomes, building on the excellent progress made this summer.

Providing the highest quality teaching, ensuring every student receives the consistency, challenge and support they deserve. We are delighted to be fully staffed again this September, reducing our reliance on agency and supply staff and providing greater consistency for our students.

Maintaining excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning. Thank you for your continued support. Students deserve a calm, purposeful and disruption-free environment in which they can thrive. We will continue to focus on appropriate homework and high-quality feedback so that students understand how they can improve.

Improving attendance and punctuality. Thank you for your support in helping us reduce absence significantly over the past year. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in academic success, and we want every student to achieve 100% attendance and punctuality wherever possible.

Attendance Matters

Every lesson matters. Missing school means missing valuable learning, including discussions, practical activities, group work and feedback that cannot always be recreated at home.

National evidence shows the significant impact attendance can have on GCSE outcomes. For example, students with 97% attendance or above have a 73% chance of achieving grades 9–4 in English and maths, compared with just 27% for students whose attendance falls below 90%.

We therefore ask all parents and carers to support us by prioritising excellent attendance and punctuality. As a reminder, leave of absence during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, and family holidays do not meet this threshold.

Any exceptional request should be made to the Principal in advance, rather than retrospectively.

Please make use of our published school calendar and term dates when planning ahead for the year. Helping your son/daughter attend school every day and arrive on time is one of the most important ways you can support their progress and success.

We look forward to welcoming our students back and to working closely with you throughout the year. There is much to be proud of and much to look forward to, and together we can make 2026/27 another highly successful year for Gospel Oak School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Bott



GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL

A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2 – EVENTS THIS WEEK



EVENTS THIS WEEK

PHOTOS & HIGHLIGHTS

A Calm and Positive Start

This week at Gospel Oak has focused on establishing strong routines and making a positive start. Year 7 have settled brilliantly into school life, while Year 10 have begun their GCSE courses with maturity and purpose. The school has been calm and focused, with students engaged in lessons and working incredibly hard. We are very proud of the start they have made.



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3 – UPCOMING EVENTS & ENRICHMENT

WEEK COMMENCING:

DATE: 7th September 2026



UPCOMING EVENTS

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14th September - Year 7 Photographs
Tuesday 15th September - Year 7 - 11 Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 17th September - Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 24th September - Year 12 Settling In Evening
Friday 25th September - Coffee Morning
Wednesday 7th October - Year 7 Settling In Evening
Monday 12th October - Thursday 22nd October - Year 11 Mock Exams
Monday 12th October - Thursday 22nd October - Year 13 Mock Exams
Thursday 22nd October - Post 16 Open Evening
Friday 23rd October - Teacher Training Day

**SCHOOL
PHOTO DAY
YEAR 7**

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2026

STUDENTS MUST ATTEND IN
FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM

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ENRICHMENT

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

 GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL RESPECT ASPIRE PRIDE Gospel Oak School Enrichment Timetable 2026-27 Enrichment starts: Monday 14 September 2026 Before launch, this time will be used to introduce the new timetable, promote enrichment, build teacher-student relationships and strengthen belonging.				
School day starts: 8:30	Before-school enrichment: 8:00-8:25	Lunch enrichment: 12:20-13:00	After-school enrichment: 15:00-16:00	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL 8:00-8:25 Breakfast & Games Club – JRO – LRC – All Year Groups Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups	BEFORE SCHOOL 8:00-8:25 • Breakfast & Games Club – JRO – LRC – All Year Groups • Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups	BEFORE SCHOOL 8:00-8:25 • Breakfast & Games Club – JRO – LRC – All Year Groups • Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups	BEFORE SCHOOL 8:00-8:25 • Breakfast & Games Club – JRO – LRC – All Year Groups • Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups	BEFORE SCHOOL 8:00-8:25 • Breakfast & Games Club – JRO – LRC – All Year Groups • Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups
LUNCH 12:20-13:00 History Club – JWE – G6 – Years 7-9 Drop in Sessions – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups Choir – CEM – L4 – All	LUNCH 12:20-13:00 • Drop in Sessions – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups • Dodgeball – HWE/EBO/HGA – Sports Hall – All Year Groups	LUNCH 12:20-13:00 • Drop in Sessions – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups • Booket – MLO – S6 – Year 9	LUNCH 12:20-13:00 • Debate Club – NWH – G5 – Years 10-13 • Multi Sports – HWE/HGA – Sports Hall – Years 12-13 • Drop in Sessions – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups	LUNCH 12:20-13:00 • 'The Apprentice' (Business Club) – JSH – S6 – Years 7-9 – Week B only • Drop in Sessions – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups • Drama Club – MTU/MHE – F18/G9 – KS3
AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00 Geography – DWE – F12 – Years 7-9 Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups – 15:00-15:30 Netball – HWE/HGA – Sports Hall – All Year Groups	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00 • Social Skills – LAS – U7 – Years 7-9 • Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups – 15:00-15:30 • Badminton – EBO – Sports Hall – All Year Groups	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00 • No after-school enrichment • Staff training	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00 • Cosy Club – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups – 15:00-16:00 • Football – DGR/OWH/DJO – Astro – All Year Groups	AFTER SCHOOL 15:00-16:00 • World Cinema Club – JBR – S10 – All welcome – first Friday of every month • Nurture Space – BWI/BHU – G4 – All Year Groups – 15:00-15:30
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GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL

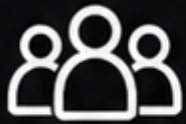
A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4 – ATTENDANCE UPDATES

WEEK COMMENCING:

DATE: 7th September 2026



WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

OUR SCHOOL. EVERY DAY. A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

95.8%



YEAR GROUP ATTENDANCE

STRONGER TOGETHER

Year 7 - 95.35%
Year 8 - 94.66%
Year 9 - 95.58%
Year 10 - 94.21%
Year 11 - 95.28%



ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION / IMPROVEMENT

RECOGNISING SUCCESS

7F - 100% Well Done!
944 Students with 100% attendance.



KEY MESSAGES

ATTENDANCE NOTICEBOARD

Please when booking medical appointments, where possible, can you book them after 9:30am or after 1pm as students will still get their attendance mark.

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GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL

RESILIENCE | ASPIRATION | RESPECT

REWARDS SYSTEM

BRONZE



300

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS
(5 TICKETS)

SILVER



600

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS
(8 TICKETS)

GOLD



800

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS
(10 TICKETS)

PLATINUM



1000

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS
(12 TICKETS)

DIAMOND



1200

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS
(15 TICKETS)

AT GOSPEL OAK YOU WILL BE
REWARDED FOR:



Excellent Achievements & Progress



Working hard in lessons



Excellent attendance



Showing Resilience



Being Aspirant



Showing & being Respectful

RESILIENCE | ASPIRATION | RESPECT

WELCOME TO MELLORS CATERING SERVICES



Your School Meals Caterer.



Mellors is a proud, family-run education caterer with a passion for serving up seriously tasty, wholesome meals in schools and further education settings. With over 350 sites across the North, Midlands, and beyond, we're all about bold flavours, exciting menus, and memorable foodie experiences – right down to the very last crumb!



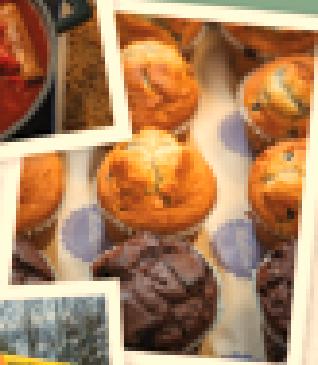
We're here to transform your school dining. From our "wheelie" fun Tuk Truck serving global street food (no passport required!) to a range of creative foodie initiatives, we offer more than just great meals!

Our meals are made fresh from scratch using quality ingredients, sourced from over 30 trusted local suppliers – delivering even more flavour, packed with nutrients, and full of goodness.



We're committed to providing nutritionally balanced meals that don't cost the earth. At Mellors, we don't just fill plates – we "Fuel Minds and Nourish Futures."

**SCAN ME!
FOR MORE INFO**



**WHERE
ELSE CAN
YOU FIND US?**

-  www.mellorscatering.co.uk
-  [Mellors_Catering_Services](#)
-  01695 737 280
-  [Mellors Catering Services](#)



To: KS3 Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

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11th September 2026

Our Ref: RL.KH.3656

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: KS3 Homework

At Gospel Oak School, we believe that homework is an important part of students' learning. Regular homework gives students the opportunity to practise and reinforce what they learn in school, while developing the independent study habits they need to be successful.

Homework in the First Half Term

During the first half term, KS3 students will be set two homework tasks: Reading and Maths. Students are expected to complete 30 minutes of each homework per night.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Maths	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes

Reading

Students will have a reading lesson once every two weeks in our library. During this lesson, they will be given reading materials and a designated number of chapters to read. Students are expected to complete the reading before their next library lesson, two weeks later.

Maths

Students will be set 30 minutes of online Maths homework per evening. This homework will be set on ClassCharts, on a Friday and due to following Friday.

Homework Expectations

At this point in the term, we will not be issuing sanctions for incomplete homework. This initial period is an opportunity for students to establish routines and become familiar with our expectations. From 21ST September 2026, sanctions will be issued where homework has not been completed. We therefore encourage all students to use this time to develop positive and consistent homework habits.

Looking Ahead

After the October half term, we will introduce a regular quizzing and revision strategy as part of our KS3 homework. This will operate on a rota across all subjects, giving students regular opportunities to revisit key knowledge and develop effective revision strategies. Our aim is to help students build strong study habits from KS3 that will support them throughout their GCSEs.

We appreciate your support in helping students establish these routines and complete their homework regularly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Miss R Lane
Associate Assistant Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

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11th September 2026

Our Ref: HN.KH.3655

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Free School Meals

In July, we wrote to all parents and carers whose children had previously been eligible for free school meals to let you know that the Local Authority would be checking eligibility for the new academic year.

We were advised by Sandwell Council that families whose children were no longer eligible following these checks would be contacted directly by the Local Authority.

However, we now have reason to believe that this may not have happened in all cases. We therefore wanted to make sure that any family affected has the opportunity to check their eligibility.

Who is eligible for free school meals?

For the 2026/27 academic year, your son/daughter may be eligible for benefit-related free school meals if:

- you receive **Universal Credit**, regardless of your household earnings; or
- you receive **Pension Credit – Guaranteed Element only**; or
- you receive **support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**.

Sandwell Council has also provided specific arrangements for some families who have **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**.

If you believe that your son/daughter should still be eligible for free school meals, but their entitlement has been removed, or if you have not received any notification from Sandwell Council about a change to their eligibility, **please contact the school by emailing** gosadmin@gospeloak.crst.org.uk

We will be happy to look into the matter and, where appropriate, raise the issue with Sandwell Council on your behalf.

If you are unsure whether you qualify, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would much rather check than have your son/daughter miss out on an entitlement to which they are eligible.

Kind regards,

Hayley Nutting
Vice Principal