



The end of this half-term also marks the end of the main period of Y11 and Y13 mock exams; thank you to our many parents and carers who have supported their child through this process. We recognise that exams can bring some worries and pressure, and it is important to recognise that much of this is normal as it is a stressful period with additional organisation and time management skills required. We hope that students will be able to relax over the half-term break, following all of the hard work they have put in over the last few weeks. A reminder, too, that if additional support is needed, [Gospel Oak School - Safeguarding](#) provides a range of links and strategies.

We must say a huge well done to our U13 boys' football team who finished in second place following a nail-biting penalty shoot-out in the Sandwell Schools' tournament last week, hosted at Gospel Oak. It was lovely to see the effort, commitment and determination from our students as they progressed through the tournament. Thank you, too, to our PE staff for the work and time that they put in to ensure that our students are able to access such great additional learning opportunities.

The Year 10 Parents' and Carers' Evening takes place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February; please do make every effort to attend if you are able to do so, and do get in touch if you are having any difficulties booking via Arbor as this new system embeds. The timetable for the Y10 summer exams will be provided, along with all the information about what students need to revise in preparation for these exams. Teaching staff will be able to provide detailed guidance to students, parents and carers on 21<sup>st</sup> February about the specific areas each student needs to focus on to support their own progress.

Please take time at half-term to ensure that your child's uniform is in line with expectations and let us know if we can support in any way. We hope your child has a restful week off, and we look forward to seeing them in school at 8.25am on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Upcoming Dates

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 Geography Grand  
Central Station Field Trip  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 GCSE Fine Art  
Mock Exam  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Year 11 Geography Grand  
Central Station Field Trip  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Year 11 GCSE Fine Art  
Mock Exam  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Year 10 Parents' Evening  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Post 16 Careers in Sport Visit  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 Photographs

#### Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Safer Internet Day  
w/c – 19/02 – Woman's History Month  
w/c – 26/02 - Respect  
Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

#### Reading Assessments

After half term all students will be participating in reading assessments during form period. Please follow the link below for more information.

#### World Book Day 7<sup>th</sup> March

There will be many activities celebrating world book day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please encourage students to get involved with the Trust wide competitions. Please follow the link below for more information.

[https://www.gospeloakschool.org.uk/site/data/files/parent\\_letters/F6E7958AE07C39D683B0FFC790A43237.pptx](https://www.gospeloakschool.org.uk/site/data/files/parent_letters/F6E7958AE07C39D683B0FFC790A43237.pptx)

**REMINDER**

**Uniform expectations**

**Uniform Day – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As per my previous letter, I would like to remind you about the importance of uniform expectations at Gospel Oak School. Uniform plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and conducive learning environment for our students.

**As of the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the expectation will be for all students to be wearing a blazer, tie, appropriate black school shoes and have their shirts tucked in.** This includes the days when students have PE/Dance lessons. PE kit should not be worn to school, we have the facilities within school for students to get changed. We would like all parents/carers, students and staff to support and uphold our uniform policy.

The pastoral teams will be ensuring all students are in the correct uniform, students who are not, will be taken out of circulation until their uniform is corrected.

As I said in my previous letter, we appreciate that we have recently had Christmas and many of us are struggling financially due to the cost of living. Therefore, we have purchased a bulk order of ties which we will be gifting to students who do not have one on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Furthermore, we will financially support any families who need money towards a blazer or appropriate black shoes. If you require support, please contact your child's Head of Year prior to our half term break.

Consistent enforcement of these expectations ensures a cohesive and focused atmosphere where each student can reach their full potential.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining the high standards of Gospel Oak School.

Kind regards,

**Miss Bott**  
**Vice Principal**

**Year 9 Options**

We have had some enquiries from parents and carers about the options' process for our Year 9 students ahead of the start of their Key Stage 4 in September. Students have begun the process of indicating which subjects they think they may be wanting to study next year, and teaching staff will be explaining about what their subjects entail in Years 10 and 11 in the weeks after the half-term break; please note that no firm commitments have been asked from students at this stage and these indications are just to support with planning. Parents and carers are asked to put 6<sup>th</sup> March into their diaries please for our 'Guided Choices' Evening' where the option process will be explained in detail and there will be time for you to meet with Maths, English and Science teaching staff, and discuss options with relevant staff; further details will follow in due course, including the time-scale for confirmed option choices.

**Education and Outreach Newsletter**  
 January 2024

**A Year Of The Education and Outreach Team!**  
 @Forge Mill Farm

Celebrating One Year of Education and Outreach Visits to Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell's Green Spaces

It's been an incredible year since we started running education and outreach visits to Forge Mill Farm, Sandwell Valley, and other green spaces in Sandwell. We've developed several programmes, including Welly to Belly, The Great Outdoor Challenge, and Farmer/Ranger for the day. We're thrilled to welcome students from Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Dudley, and Birmingham.

This year, we set out to offer our programmes to families for FREE during school holidays through Sandwell Council's HAF funding. We've been fortunate enough to run activities such as low ropes, pizza making, and building using STEM kits throughout the Summer and Winter school Holiday's. Along with HAF we were able to offer a similar fun filled programme during the October school holiday.

This past year we have also partnered with Changes and Parent Support in Sandwell to create a unique program for parents and young children - Fun at the Farm. These sessions are funded by Sandwell Council and are free for Sandwell parents. Every session is filled with fun activities, including nature walks, messy art creation, and parent-child check-ins.

As we come to the end of our first year we are pleased to announce the arrival of our Brand new Website! Where you can find out about all of the amazing events we have going on and see the programmes on offer!

Make sure you check it out by click the link!



For more information contact,  
[learn\\_well@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:learn_well@sandwell.gov.uk)



**Education and Outreach Newsletter**  
 January 2024

Here at Forge Mill  
 We are always looking for new and innovative ways to support and promote Learning Outside the Classroom



**Exciting News and Offers 2024!**  
 @Forge Mill Farm & Sandwell Valley

Invitation to Nursery and Toddler Groups for an Exciting Farm Visit

Forge Mill Farm is the perfect destination for your next trip! From February 19th to March 22nd, come and enjoy a self-guided visit that includes entry to the farm, a bingo card to help you identify our animals, and a free bag of animal food. With a little luck, your group may even get to see some adorable new-born lambs! Don't miss out on this fun-filled experience!



An Invitation for Primary and Secondary School Students! We have not forgotten about you! Come visit us before the end of the academic year and receive another visit free of charge when you return in September. Join us in early spring to see our new-born lambs and farmers planting this year's crop. Upon your return, see how much our crop and lambs have grown. Don't miss the opportunity to experience our farm across the seasons - book your visit soon!



It's Back! Join Us for February Half-Term Fun! We are excited to announce that we are teaming up with Sandwell Go Play to Create a Playable Sandwell once again. Contact us to learn how Sandwell families can take advantage of this FREE activity!



For more information contact,  
[learn\\_well@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:learn_well@sandwell.gov.uk)




# B15 PROJECT

**B15 PRODUCTIONS WILL BE HOSTING DJ TECHNIQUE WORKSHOPS HERE AT GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL.**

**COURSE 1 FROM: 21ST FEBRUARY 2024 - 12 WEEKS**  
 Time: 15:30 to 16:30  
 LOCATION : THE BISTRO

DEAN AND ANGUS BRING 40 years of experience within the music industry as both established DJ's, promoters, Studio Engineers / Producers, and mentors.

*'Under the B15 Project Banner we aim to bring the academy to children across the region in the hope to nurture and build their confidence to unleash their creativity'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYNg2111yxQ>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1oBUWmz4nM>

PLEASE CONTACT MS ROLLS TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AS THEY ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.



**Inclusion Support**  
Enable Experiences

**Sensory Support Activity Days**

**TEAM BUILDING**

Sandwell Sensory Support invite children from RECEPTION TO YEAR 5 to come along and join the fun and make new friends with other children from across Sandwell who are supported by the vision and hearing support teams.

**YOU CAN BOOK ALL SESSIONS FOR £20**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

10am-2pm  
Connor Education Centre, Connor Road, West Bromwich  
B71 3DJ

- The cost per day is £6. All of our social opportunities are subsidised by donations and funds raised by the team.
  - Children will be developing a range of cookery skills
- Children will have the opportunity to make their own lunch and a snack they can take home with them.
- Children can also bring a small amount of money to purchase a snack from the tuck shop.

To reserve a place contact:

VS Team-  
Ruth Armstrong Mobile:- 07900 466667

HS Team-  
Michelle Croucher Mobile:- 07920 296123  
Lucy Jones Mobile:- 07815 005465

Sandwell Sensory Support Team, Children & Education Directorate  
Inclusion Support, Connor Centre, Connor Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DJ  
Tel: 0121 569 2777

**SPDC**  
sandwell parents for disabled children

**February Half Term 2024**

It's nearly February Half Term and SPDC have a range of activities on offer. Before we get to the details of the activities, we would ask you to read the following information carefully so that we can ensure that we are able to offer opportunities to all those who want to take part.

**Who can access SPDC activities?**

Families who care for a disabled child, who live in the Borough of Sandwell and are registered with SPDC.

**Children aged 4-11 years & 11-18 years activities**

Activities offered under these headings are primarily for the disabled child. That said, you can request a sibling place at the time of booking and we will do our best to accommodate such requests but unfortunately we are unable to prioritise bookings for siblings over disabled children.

**Family Activities**

Activities offered under this heading are aimed at all members of the family including siblings and parent carers.

**The Booking Process**

Email your booking to [spdcbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto:spdcbooking@sp-dc.org)  
Remembering to include details of the activities that you are interested in.

The team will look at all the requests for places and you will receive an email confirming the places you have been allocated.

We do operate waiting lists, therefore if we offer you a place on an activity, it is really important that you let us know if you are unable to attend.

To enable us to process your booking efficiently, we will not accept bookings after 9am on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Accessibility for wheelchair users**

- Fully Wheelchair accessible
- Call to discuss accessibility
- Unfortunately Inaccessible for wheelchairs

**SPDC Activities on offer overleaf**

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**SPDC**  
sandwell parents for disabled children

**Age Related Activities**  
**Disabled Child only**

**Gaming Party**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Galton Valley Childrens Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66-1DH

**4-11 years activities**  
Morning Sessions (Age appropriate games)

**11-18 years activities**  
Afternoon Session (Age appropriate games)

Join the team for the ultimate gaming experience, offering a variety of games on different consoles and traditional board games with the team on hand to help.

Start your session in the gaming bus, once this is over join us in the chill out zone for board and card games available to play together followed by a drink and snack.

We have two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon.  
The time allocated for your child to arrive will be given in a confirmation email.

**Contact Us!**

Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children  
Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66 1DH  
0121 565 2410  
[info@sp-dc.org](mailto:info@sp-dc.org)  
Charity Reg No 1125576

**Sandwell Children's Trust** **Localgiving**

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**Family Activities**

**SPDC Delivery Cooking Challenge**

The ever popular delivery is back!  
Use your cooking skills this Valentine's Day to prepare and bake your own corned beef or vegetable pasties for loved ones.

In celebration of Shrove Tuesday, dessert will be pancakes, along with various surprise toppings.

Each package will be delivered to your home containing all the ingredients, easy instructions, and even a step by step video for you to follow on how to make these treats via SPDC's You Tube channel.

**Deliveries will be made**  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

We are unable to specify a time of delivery so if you know that you will not be home can we ask that you look at other activities.

**What we need to know when booking:**

- How many people are in your family.
- If you would like to receive a meat or vegetarian pack.
- If anyone in the family has allergies.
- If you have recently moved address or changed contact details, please let us know when booking.

**Hydro pool Sessions**

Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane, Oldbury B69 1HE

These sessions are aimed at families who have young people with Profound/Complex and Sensory Needs to provide a truly therapeutic experience for families who are unable to access other sessions offered.

A 45 minute relaxing family session in Portway's Hydro pool.

Please choose one of the following dates:  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2:00pm-3:00pm  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 10:00am-11:00am  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3:30-4:30pm  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2:30pm-3:30pm

It is important to state which date that you would prefer upon booking to help the team allocate places.

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## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2024

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

<p><b>ASDA</b> Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.</p> <p><b>TESCO</b> Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024</p> <p><b>SAINSBURYS CAFES</b> Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.</p> <p><b>BEEFEATER &amp; BREWERS FAYRE</b> Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p><b>THE REAL GREEK</b> Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult</p> <p><b>GREENE KING PUBS</b> Kids Eat Free all-day with the purchase of an adult's meal. Deal, Monday-Friday, between Mon 12th – Friday 23rd February 2024</p> <p><b>TRAVELODGE &amp; PREMIER INN</b> Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 &amp; up to two kids eat breakfast for free</p> <p><b>SIZZLING PUBS</b> Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.</p> <p><b>TGI FRIDAYS</b> Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase a full priced adult's main meal (App needed)</p> <p><b>IKEA</b> Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p>	<p><b>MORRISONS</b> Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.</p> <p><b>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS</b> Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants</p> <p><b>PRETO</b> Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms</p> <p><b>YO! SUSHI</b> From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend</p> <p><b>BELLA ITALIA</b> Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.</p> <p><b>WHITBREAD INNS</b> Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased</p> <p><b>DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES</b> At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!</p> <p><b>TABLE TABLE</b> Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p><b>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM</b> Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks &amp; a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm</p> <p><b>HUNGRY HORSE</b> Kids eat for £1 on Mondays</p> <p><b>FUTURE INNS</b> Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.</p>
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## Go play Sandwell

Join us for **two FREE Play sessions each week across Tipton this February half term**. Sessions are aimed at children aged 6-12 and up to 19 with special additional needs. **No booking is required so just turn up and have fun!**





Sessions include a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, archery, circus skills, games and giant lego.




**February Half Term Sessions:**

**February 14th:**  
Victoria Park (DY4 8PP) 10am-12pm  
Tipton Muslim Community Centre (DY4 ORJ) 1pm-4pm

**February 16th:**  
Glebefields Library (DY4 OSZ) 10am-12pm  
Jubilee Park (DY4 ORL) 1pm-4pm



Created by



For more information contact Johnny at johnny.lomax@groundwork.org.uk or 07872857437, or visit <https://goplaysandwell.co.uk>

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