



It has been another busy week at Gospel Oak with a variety of different activities to support learning and development taking place beyond the curriculum; World Book Day saw many of our school staff dress up as characters from their favourite books with students having a competition to guess the character. This is such a positive way to encourage conversations around books and reading, with our assemblies this week highlighting the hugely important role that reading plays in our education and future careers; please do keep encouraging your child to be reading in their own time. It does not matter what reading they do – it could be a report on a football match, an online article about a favourite TV programme, a science-fiction novel, or absolutely anything – as long as they are enjoying reading and are regularly engaged with this. Last Friday saw another excellent link into careers and looking at our futures as Year 10 girls met with a number of professionals from the world of work to support with knowledge and understanding of career pathways and opportunities. Some of our Year 8 students, too, travelled to Waseley Hills High School to take part in the RSA8 project; further details will follow about that in the future.

Thank you to so many of our Year 9 parents and carers who came to our Guided Choices' evening; this is such a key time for our Year 9s as they make important decisions about the subjects they would like to study in Key Stage 4. Teaching staff have taken time in lessons to talk to students about what their subjects 'look' like in Years 10 and 11 to help with those informed choices; where subjects are offered in Key Stage 4 but not taught in Key Stage 3 – such as Sociology, Health and Social Care, Business and Citizenship – students have also been provided with information via assemblies, lessons and PSHE. A reminder to Year 9 parents and carers that the deadline for the return of this information is 15th March, and information about the process for this has been provided to you already, and you can revisit Miss Tanner's presentation about this here: [Year 9 presentation](#). Please do contact the Year 9 Team if you have any questions. You may also find [Gospel Oak School - Curriculum](#) useful to support an awareness of what is covered across all year groups; in some of our Parent View surveys at parent and carers' events, you have let us know that you do not feel we keep you informed about what is being learnt in school and this information should help this process.

Year 10 and 12 students have been provided with their booklets to support preparation for their mock exams in April and May - Year 10 Summer mocks [Year 10 timetable](#) and Year 12 Summer Mocks [Year 12 timetable](#). Please encourage revision and, as always, get in touch if we can support. A reminder that we do recommend a number of online learning platforms such as GCSEPod and Seneca; if your child does not have access to a laptop or wi-fi to support their learning, please contact the Year Team for support.

Information will be coming out shortly about our Year 11 Core Subjects' 'Final Preparations for Exams' Evening' on Wednesday 20th March; advance notice that this will start at 3.30pm, and is an opportunity for our subject leaders in Maths, English and Science to share some brief guidance with you around the final revision activities your child can be taking part in to support progress. Our programme of Easter holiday revision sessions will also shortly be finalised and shared with Year 11 and Year 13 students; we will keep you updated on this as soon as we are able to do so.

Finally, we are working hard on ways to improve our communication to help to keep you up-to-date with what is happening. We plan over the next few weeks to start to include links to letters which are sent out in the eZine so that you have all of the information in one place. Please do let us know if you have ideas for ways in which we can improve our communication by emailing Miss Middlehurst – cmiddlehurst@gospeloakschool.co.uk. As always, we are very grateful for your continued support of the work of the school.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 14th March – Year 9 & 10 Yonex All England Open Badminton Visit – Utility Arena

Monday 18th March – Year 11 Carding Mil Valley Geography Fieldtrip

Thursday 21st March - Year 11 Carding Mil Valley Geography Fieldtrip

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was World Book Day

w/c 11/03 – Science Week

w/c 18/03 – Easter Rewards

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

World Book Day - Free Resources

There are a number of free audio books for children with a variety of different reading ages available by visiting [World Book Day Audiobooks](https://www.worldbookday.com) and video books ([Share a Story Corner \(worldbookday.com\)](https://www.worldbookday.com)) which you may wish to explore at home.

School Holidays 2025/26

Whilst this may seem a long way off, Sandwell have published the school holiday dates for 2025/26; please see <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schools-education/school-term-dates-holidays-202526>. Please note that we will publish our school term dates and holidays nearer the time; for example, the Sandwell dates do not include training days which are for schools and Trusts themselves to determine when these will fall, but you may find this information useful at this stage if you are planning ahead for future plans. You may also wish to visit <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schools-education/holidays-term-time-penalty-notice> for information regarding penalty notices and holidays in term time.



**BOOK YOUR FREE
NHS HEALTH CHECK
THIS MONTH**

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF...

You are aged 40 – 74

You have a Sandwell address and/or registered to a Sandwell GP

You do not have a pre-existing health condition.

The full list of conditions is available on the NHS webpage:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check/>





Event	Date	Time
Sandwell Aquatic Centre	Monday 4 th March	13.45 - 19.30
Farley Park Lodge, Great Bridge Community Forum, Whitehall Road	Monday 4 th March	09.45 - 16.30
Wednesbury Leisure Centre	Tuesday 5 th March	10.15 - 15.30
Haden Hill Lesiure Centre	Wednesday 6 th March	09.15 - 16.30
Oldbury Library	Thursday 7 th March	09.45 - 16.30
Tipton Sports Academy	Saturday 9 th March	09.15 - 16.00



Call 0800 2545 163 or visit nhshealthcheck.randox.com

In partnership with



Holiday Activities- Wednesbury

Sandwell Holiday Activities offer exciting opportunities for children who live or go to school in Sandwell to take part in activities during school holidays. There is lots of choice right across Sandwell with different activities happening in each town. Activities are for children aged between school age 4-16 years.

Easter activities will run from Saturday 23 March to Sunday 7 April 2024 (excluding bank holidays)
 If your child is eligible for HAF then you will have received an email or text with a HAF activity voucher containing unique HAF codes for your child and a link that enables you to book activities.
 If your child does not meet the criteria, you can find other activities on our website (some may have a charge attached) visit <https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>

You can access activities anywhere in Sandwell but here are some activities available in your local area:

Friar Park Millennium Centre - activities will range from, football, basketball, team games, dodge ball, tennis, badminton, relay races and obstacle courses. We will also do a range of arts and crafts, role play, story telling and quizzes to get involved in.

Centre Spot at Leisure United - sports and physical activities such as football, multi sports, dodge ball, basketball, and a many more. We also have art and craft sessions.

Pilot IMS Ltd. at Wodensborough Ormiston Academy - join us for fun filled days of adventure, crafts, games and cooking! Every day will be filled with new activities for young people to engage, learn and most importantly have fun! We have everything from multi sports, cooking, arts & crafts, science workshops, dance and much more!

KIDS Specialist Provision at Wednesbury Leisure Pool - our families can access the fun of aqua mayhem, a giant inflatable assault course on the water. Physically and mentally stimulating and fun for the whole family. Activities focused around the social, physical, sensory and emotional needs of the children / young people with SEND.

Go Play Sandwell - FREE play for all ages <https://goplaysandwell.co.uk/>

Provision to meet high level SEND needs- search SEND on our website for more!

4 Community Trust SEND at 4 Community Trust Hub in West Bromwich - offer a range of activities, arts & crafts, drama, dance, cooking, healthy eating, nutrition workshops, sports, digital, games, social play, themed activities, sensory play, water play, plus, many more.


Fantastic Journeys at Windmill Community Centre - Fantastic Journeys is a social enterprise providing a multi-sensory music and movement session for children with additional needs.

KIDS Specialist Provision - provide borough wide activities focused around the social, physical, sensory and emotional needs of the children / young people with SEND. Activities will take place at Forge Mill farm, Langley Lodge and Wednesbury Leisure Pool.

Fun at Forge Mill - unique experience for SEND individuals. They can come and participate in activities that get them even closer to our animals.

Sandwell Young Peoples Services at Malthouse Activity Centre - additional needs activity days at malthouse will consist of team games, canoeing, archery, walking and abseiling.

Stay Social Like us on Facebook @SandwellHAF







Holiday Activities- Tipton

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Sandwell Leisure Trust at Tipton Sports Academy - plenty for your children to get stuck into with various sports activities such as tennis, football, basketball, athletics, dodgeball, cricket, badminton, netball, and team games.

Sandwell Young People's Services at Conegre Arts Centre - we will deliver a School of Rock programme this Easter, music based activities relating to School of Rock!

4 Community Trust at St Martins C of E Primary - we offer wide range of activities like arts & crafts, drama, dance, cooking, healthy eating, nutrition workshops, visiting workshops (poetry), sports, digital media and technology activities, games, social play, themed activities, sensory play, water play, plus, many more!

ELP Sports LTD at Joseph Turner Primary School - providing sports and games which will promote healthy physical lifestyles. They will also be doing enrichment activities such as treasure hunts and orienteering as well as making their own food.

Time step dance at The Conegre Centre - our Easter activity will be the pantomime 'Dick Whittington and the missing Easter Egg'. During the panto there will be physical activities including dancing, action songs and lots of clapping and stomping. There will also be an area outside where the young people can run and free play after the performance. Our activity provides an enriching experience for the children and families by providing a magical activity which families can enjoy together and with other families.

The Albion Foundation at Gospel Oak Academy - a variety of sports including basketball, football, blind football, cricket, and hockey.

Life in community at St Johns Church Hall and Brook Street Community Centre - activities include art, mindful session, self-awareness, creative arts, laughing yoga, walking, sports games, gardening, cooking session, science, performing arts, circus workshops sports, drama, dance and team building activities

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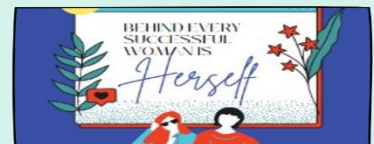
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NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY #INSPIREINCLUSION

This week we celebrate both National Careers Week and International Women's Day. As a school we marked these two events with a panel discussion with some inspirational women from the Black Country. We were delighted to welcome from Serco Melissa Roundz, Courtney Adey and Torres Ferguson, Emma Henlan the Regional Campus Manager at LD Training and Megan Hampton who is the Customer Success Manager at AWS (Amazon). Our visitors talked passionately about their own pathways and what experiences and successes they have had as women in their industries. Our pupils asked some fantastic, thought provoking questions and behaved impeccably throughout.



GCSEPod – Revision Support

We have spoken with our Year 11 students about a revision webinar which GCSEPod held earlier this week; we hope that students who took part found it beneficial. The following resources – which Year 10s may find helpful as they move closer to their summer mocks – can be used as your child continues their revision:

[GCSEPod Revision Pack](#)

[Exam Check List](#)

[Revision Time Table](#)

[Revision Tips](#)

[Top Tips For Studying At Home](#)

[Top Tips For Success in Science](#)

[Top Tips For Success in Maths](#)

[Top Tips For Success in English](#)

[Want to Remember More?](#)

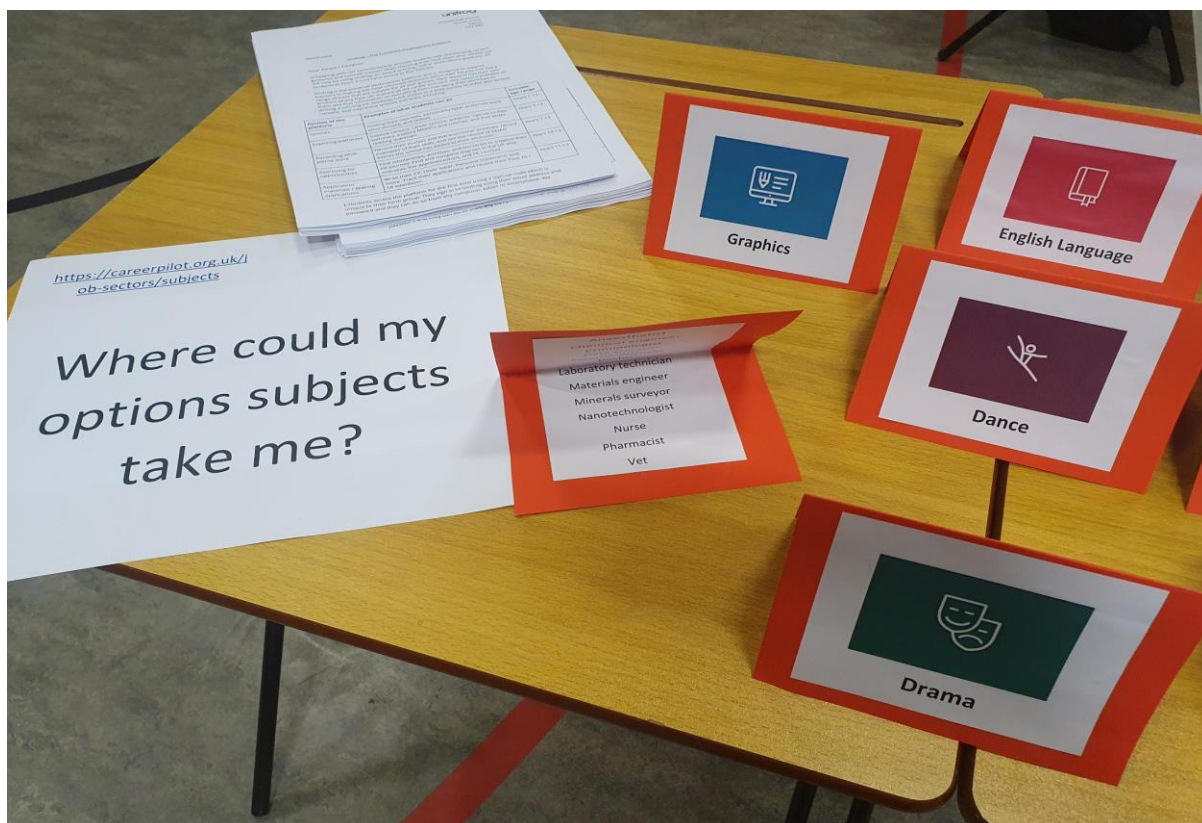
[You'll Forget This in 24 Hours!](#)

[Retrieval Practice](#)

[Spaced Practice](#)

Year 9 Guided Choices' Evening





The Parents' Guide to NCW 2024 For National Careers Week

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Options at 16 and 18
- T Levels and Apprenticeships
- Other vocational routes
- Work experience

THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO **NCW** National Careers Week

Headline Partner:
 NatWest Group