



We hope you enjoyed a restful half-term; for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, it was a very busy week as they continued their revision for their exams. They continue to impress us with their conduct through exams, and the start of study leave has been very successful; thank you, as always, to parents and carers who play such a key role in this process. It has been the second week of assessments across many subjects in Years 7, 8 and 9; as you are aware, these assessments have been sat by all schools in our Trust and these play a crucial part in getting ready for external assessments in Key Stages 4 and 5.

Many students in the school have been involved in ‘food tasting’ as Aspens, our catering provider, on Wednesday this week. Their feedback is really important in helping us to continue to develop our food provision and we look forward to seeing this evolve in response to our students’ thoughts over the coming weeks and months. You will be aware that, in order to support the external exam series and to keep disruption to a minimum, we moved our school lunchtime from 1.20pm to 12.20pm; we will be keeping lunch at 12.20pm as a permanent measure now to ensure that routines can remain embedded throughout the academic year. Please remember, too, that we continue to run our Breakfast Club each morning from 8am to 8.20am; toast or bagels are provided free of charge to any student who wishes to access this provision. Where parents and carers are dropping students off at school, please consider the ‘school run’ taking place a little earlier so that your daughter or son can attend Breakfast Club and support us with keeping congestion to a minimum on Bilston Road.

Parents and carers of students who are eligible for Free School Meals should make sure that they have used the supermarket voucher emailed out before the half-term break; if there have been any problems with this, please do contact us at school. You will see a letter linked to our eZine about our communication systems – thank you to all parents and carers who have helped us with understanding how we can look to improve these – and we would ask that you use this method with queries, positive comments and anything you need support with.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 11th June – Attendance Coffee Morning, Year 7 and 8 Parents

Thursday 13th June – Year 9 Southpaw Boxing Club Visit

Friday 14th June - Attendance Coffee Morning, Year 7 and 8 Parents

Friday 14th June – Year 10 and Year 12 visit to Wolverhampton University

Thursday 20th June – RSA8 Project, Newman Uni

Thursday 20th June – Year 9 Southpaw Boxing Club Visit

Thursday 20th June – Year 11 Prom, Village Hotel

Friday 21st June – Year 7 and Year 10 Trust Sports Day, Abbey Stadium

Wednesday 26th June – Year 10 and Year 12 ‘Year Ahead’ Evening

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Pride Month

w/c 10/06 – Race Unity Day

w/c 17/06 – National Sports Week

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

Life in Community

Life in Community CIC's will be working in collaboration with the Illegal Money Lending Team and Moneyline as part of our Money Hub support service.

We will be hosting a number of events over Bite Back Week which will be in partnership with the Black Country Housing Group. The events will be held from Monday 24th June 2024 to Friday 28th June 2024.

- **Monday 24th (10:30am -12pm): Sid the Shark Walkabout, Moat Farm Estate** (Leaflet Drop)
- **Monday 24th (1pm-2pm): St Johns Church Hall, Upper Church Lane, Tipton, DY4 9ND** - Loan Shark Training - This event is for professionals only
- **Tuesday 25th (11am-1pm): Life in Community - Market Place Event@ St Johns Church Hall, Upper Church Lane, DY4 9ND** - This event is for residents to find out about support available locally. If you are an organisation that works with residents around finance and wish to have a stall at the Market Place event, please contact myself on 07752 659257.
- **Weds 26th (11am - 2pm): Sharky Walkabout, Eastfield Road & the Tibbington Estate** (Leaflet Drop)
- **Thursday 27th - (11am -2pm): Outreach in Tipton & Dudley Port** (Leaflet Drop)
- **Friday 28th (11am-3pm): Life in Community - Drop in Session, St John's Church Hall, DY4 9ND** - This event is for residents who may have seen the literature from the Illegal Money Lending team, and want to find out further information on Loan Sharks.

24th - 28th June 2024

BITE BACK WEEK

Watch out, Sid the Shark is about! **PRINCES END: TIPTON**

Monday 24th (10:30am -12pm): Sid the Shark Walkabout, Moat Farm Estate


Tuesday 25th (11am-1pm): Life in Community - Market Place Event @ St Johns Hall, Upper Church Lane, DY4 9ND

Weds 26th (11am - 2pm): Sharky Walkabout, Eastfield Road & the Tibbington Estate

Thursday 27th - (11:30am -2pm) Outreach in Tipton & Dudley Port

Friday 28th (11am-3pm): Life in Community - Drop in Session, St John's Church Hall, DY4 9ND

Find out more on how to stay safe from loan sharks and what to do if you encounter one!



Life in Community | STOP LOAN SHARKS | Black Country Housing Group | Moneyline

Life in Community CIC

Community Marketplace Event

Tuesday 25th June 2024 11am - 1pm

St Johns Church Hall, Upper Church Lane, Tipton DY4 9ND

If you want help with the cost of living crisis and shape up your finances whilst getting great tips on how to stay safe from loan sharks then join us for this community event!

AS PART OF BITE BACK WEEK

PRINCES END, TIPTON

24th - 28th June 2024



Life in Community | STOP LOAN SHARKS | Black Country Housing Group | Moneyline

STOP LOAN SHARKS

Intervention . Support . Education

TRAINING SESSION

Monday 24th June 2024 1pm-2pm

St Johns Church Hall, Upper Church Lane, Tipton DY4 9ND

Find out more on how to support people to stay safe from loan sharks and what to do if you become aware of one!

AS PART OF BITE BACK WEEK

PRINCES END, TIPTON

24th - 28th June 2024



Life in Community | STOP LOAN SHARKS | Black Country Housing Group | Moneyline

24th - 28th June 2024

BITE BACK WEEK

PRINCES END, TIPTON

Join us in our cause to raise awareness concerning the dangers of borrowing money from loan sharks

Highlighting safer and alternative ways to save and borrow money.

STOP LOAN SHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education

Life in Community | Black Country Housing Group | Moneyline



PRELOVED UNIFORM DONATIONS



Gospel Oak School are launching a Preloved uniform shop to enable us to relove and recycle.

As our Summer term will soon come to a close we are looking for Gospel Oak uniform in a used, clean condition in order to be sold on.

Collection point for donations will be held in our School Reception.

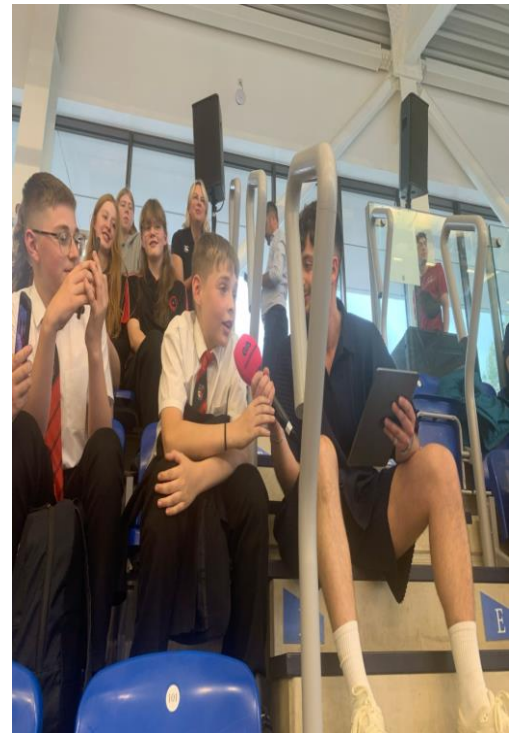
Shop Launch details to follow shortly.

Thank you for your support.

Team GB 2024 Diving Championships

On Friday, 24th May, 15 Year 7 boys attended the Team GB 2024 Diving Championships. Seth and Zak had the remarkable opportunity to present the winning athletes with their gold medals live on BBC.

The entire day offered an incredible experience for the students. Callum also had the chance to be interviewed live on BBC. Their conduct was exemplary, and the staff praised them for being smart and polite.



INTRODUCING.....

Fabulous FRIDAYS

Attend every day for the whole week...



You will receive your sweets in tutor time

Attend every day for the whole week...

£50 food voucher
2 winner per Year Group
EVERY Friday
Third draw is 7th June 24



You've got to be here on Friday to win it

Ice cream for all staff and students on
Friday 7th June 24



Sports Updates

23/24 Term 3a

May 2024

Gospel Oak School Sport Newsletter



Year 9 National Tennis Championships

On Wednesday 17th April, pupils in year 9 participated in the first tennis tournament. Max, Luke and Preston gave it their all, but unfortunately came short losing their doubles game 6-2 and their singles game 6-1. A fantastic display of resilience was demonstrated during the games however.

On Wednesday 3rd May, Hamza joined Max and Preston for this round of the tennis tournament. Visible improvements had been made from the first round, with the pupils learning from their previous mistakes. However, this was not enough and the pupils were outplayed. The boys displayed sportsmanship and represented the school to the highest standard.



Year 7 Netball League

The Year 7 girls played in their second to last game in the netball league against Sandwell Academy (A and B Team). The girls were in good spirits and worked together well throughout both games. The girls took on board all feedback and executed the ideas well within the first game against A team. Unfortunately, they did lose against them 3 - 1. However, against Sandwell's B team, they developed a lot from the first game and put all feedback within this game and won the game 3 - 1.

On Tuesday 23rd April, year 7 played their last netball league game against Ormiston Forge. Throughout the game it was close and a constant battle from both teams. The team worked well together supporting one another and communicating well. There were some great interceptions demonstrated from all within the team. The team were victorious and won 10 - 8 against Ormiston Forge.

Year 7 also placed 3rd place overall in the Sandwell Netball League due to their fantastic performances throughout the competition.

Year 9 Boys Football

Year 9 boys travelled to Q3 Great Barr on Wednesday 24th April to compete in the Sandwell School Cup.

They played an entertaining game that ended 1-1 in normal time, with Tru scoring a penalty in the first half.

The team put in a fantastic effort as it went to penalties and won 5-3, with Hamza securing the victory to move into the next round with a Panenka!



Year 7 and 8 Girls Basketball



On Thursday 25th April, the Year 7/8 girls basketball team travelled to Q3 Tipton for a triangular tournament. Both teams played excellently, beating Q3 Tipton in both and narrowly losing to Sandwell in both games, finishing in a respectable 2nd place.

Year 9 Netball Tournament

Thursday 25th April saw the year 9 netball team playing in their final netball tournament of the year hosted by Q3 Langley. The team demonstrated communication, teamwork and dedication and were an honour to represent the school. The team narrowly missed out on medal position, placing 4th overall in the tournament.

Year 10 Football

On Friday 26th April, the year 10 boys football team travelled to Q3 Great Barr for their turn in the Sandwell Cup. The team played with 10-men and gave it their all, showing commitment and sheer determination. Unfortunately, the boys faced a loss of 5-2 and in the end the extra player made the difference for the team. Despite the loss, all the pupils kept their heads up and showed what outstanding representatives of the school they were.

Year 9 Indoor Athletics

On Tuesday 30th April, pupils travelled to Wood Green Academy for the Year 9 Indoor Athletics competition. All pupils competed in a track, field and relay event, showing speed, power and endurance. Despite the efforts from year 9, they unfortunately did not qualify to represent Sandwell, but put on a fantastic performance and represented the school really well.



Year 7 Netball Tournament



Gospel Oak took two teams to the netball tournament hosted by Q3 Langley on Thursday 2nd May and played across two leagues. Both teams put all their effort into each game and worked perfectly together. They took on all feedback going from each game and put it into the next game and they executed it well. Team A placed 3rd overall and Team B placed 9th overall.

Year 9 Boys 3x3 Basketball

On Thursday 2nd May, Wood Green Academy hosted the Year 9 3x3 Basketball tournament. Gospel Oak's team were enthusiastic and ready to play against some incredible opposition teams. The year 9's demonstrated good tactical ability and skills on and off the ball, but unfortunately could not always take the lead, with games ending in a cruel 1-point difference in favour of the opposition. Notable performances come from Preston with four exceptional shots scored, which even had the opposition flabbergasted. Preston was also awarded player of the tournament.

Year 7 Football

A well fought battle was demonstrated in the year 7 football match on Tuesday 7th May. The boys were in good spirits at all times and they did not stop running. They executed the game plan perfectly but unfortunately could not take our chance and could not finish our chances. Overall a great learning experience for the lads which ended in a 3-1 Loss.

Year 8 Netball Tournament

Next was the turn of year 8 to compete in their netball tournament at Q3 Langley on Thursday 9th May - one of the hottest days of the half term! The team performed exceptionally well despite the heat and fought through each game played. Khloe received player of the tournament for her excellent performance during each game



Year 8 Football



The Year 8 boys team beat Q3 Great Barr last Thursday 2-1 in the Sandwell Cup. We went 1-0 down against the run of play before turning the game on its head with a fantastic performance. Charlie V. levelled the scores with a great run and finish, before Dylan M smashed home at the near post to nudge us into the lead. We now face Wood Green Academy in the next round on Thursday 16th May.

The Year 8 boys hosted Wood Green a week later in the Sandwell Cup. We raced into the lead through Josh J's close range finish from a corner. We were pegged performance and plenty to look forward to next year.

Year 10 Football

The year 10's played against Ormiston SWB Academy on Thursday 23rd May in a friendly football match.

The game was well contested with GOS having majority of the control in the first half. Harvey saved an excellent shot in the first half, but we just could not grab a goal that would have been deserved. In the second half, it was laggard compared to the first. Kylian was taken out by the opposition keeper and slotted the resulting penalty. SWB received a second penalty which was converted and the game ended 1-1. POTM went to Joe N, who controlled the midfield for GOS as best as he could and encouraged others to get on the ball and be positive.



CRST Rounders Tournament - Year 8/9

Monday 13th May



Pupil's from the middle schools and secondary schools in the CRST Trust attended Gospel Oak School on Monday 13th May to compete in the last of the three trust tournaments held this academic year. It was the turn of Gospel Oak and Holyhead to lead the rounders tournament. Gospel Oak's team demonstrated resilience, a competitive edge and collaborated well as a team. This paid off and the team placed 1st, not losing a single match either.

A special shoutout to the Level 3 BTEC Sport sixth form pupils from Gospel Oak School who officiated the competition.



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CRICKET**

Discount Code:
RJHLM



**Girls only
sessions
available**

dynamoscricicket.co.uk

Join us at:

Coseley Cricket Club

Session dates:

Friday 10th May for 8 weeks (until the 28th June)

Session timings:

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Contact:

Stuart Knight - 07411 867 180

WBL
WOLVERHAMPTON
THURS 30 MAY - 10:00 - 15:00

University of Wolverhampton
Walsall Campus
Corway Road, Walsall,
WS1 3BD



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GIRLS **11-19 YEAR OLDS**
BASKETBALL **FREE TASTER DAY**



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GEN2



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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.gospeloakschool.co.uk

7th June 2024

Our Ref: SBO/MFA/309

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Internal Truancy

Internal truancy is defined as students being present in school but absent from their assigned classes or engaged in unproductive activities during class time. This behaviour significantly affects not only the individual student's academic progress but also the overall classroom environment and learning experience for their peers.

Therefore, I wanted to bring to your attention some important concerns we have recently observed regarding internal truancy and its impact on student learning. With this said, as we do with lateness to lessons, I will be writing to you every Friday, noting the number of times per week your son/daughter has been internally truanting lessons.

We believe that by working together, we can help our students overcome these challenges and ensure they achieve their full academic potential. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughters head of year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Bott
Vice Principal



To: Yr 10 & 12 Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

7th June 2024

Our Ref: CL.KH.2995

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Yr 10 & Yr 12 Work Experience

We are delighted to share with you our arrangements for the students who have not been able to secure a placement during the work experience week, 17th June -21st June 2024.

Over the five days there will be a variety of external companies coming in to deliver some exciting workshops to our students. It is compulsory that students attend every day during 17th – 21st June. Non-attenders will be an unauthorised absence and we will follow the school's attendance policy.

These sessions will include the following:

- Digbeth Dining Club - hospitality training and the opportunity to make and taste food
- Hands on workshops with local companies where students will have a go at pipefitting.
- National Highways are bringing in their traffic kit so students can have a go at traffic systems
- Simon Johnson football academy – Going to do a football coaching session and talk about his pathway into football and running a sporting business
- Career sessions where students have the opportunity to complete their own CV with expert advise
- Talent Foundry coming in where students can think about how they would utilise the latest cutting-edge technologies in a collaborative problem-solving challenge based on real life KPMG client briefs
- Virtual work experience of the student's choice
- 4Schools from Channel 4 are coming in where their aim to inspire the students to discover an achievable career in TV and Broadcasting.
- Matt Windle - "Futures" Poetry Slam

We are really excited to offer these opportunities for the students as it will benefit them in the following ways:

- Valuable insight and guidance about various career paths, helping students make informed decision about their future.
- It will help them see real world perspective through the career talks and can interact with these professionals from different fields.
- Inspirational and Motivating: Listening to these successful professionals sharing their career journeys will be incredibly inspiring for students. It will help them visualise their own potential and motivate them to work hard to achieve their goals. Career talks can ignite a spark of ambition and drive in our children, encouraging them to pursue their dreams with determination.
- Networking Opportunities: The career talks will provide networking opportunities for students. They can connect with professionals who can offer mentorship, internships, or even job opportunities in the future. Building such connections early on can be advantageous for their career development.
- Practical Advice and Guidance: the professionals who are participating in these career talks will share practical advice and guidance on important topics such as college choices, academic requirements, and skill development. This information will help students make well-informed decisions throughout their educational journey.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Law

Mrs C Law
Assistant Principal



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.gospeloakschool.co.uk

7th June 2024

Our Ref: SBr.KH.2994

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Staffing

Over recent weeks I've talked about the need to reduce the use of agency and supply staff at Gospel Oak School, to ensure we're giving our students the best possible learning experience.

As our Year 11 and 13 students are now on study leave for their GCSE and A Level examinations, we have taken the opportunity to reorganise the teaching timetable. Over the next two weeks there will be a significant reduction in the number of agency and supply staff in school as we are able to further utilise our existing permanent teachers across all year groups.

I am looking forward to the school being fully staffed in September 2024, further reducing the use of agency and supply staff but, most importantly, providing our students with the consistency and visibility of teachers that they deserve.

May I also take this opportunity to inform you that Mr Garnett (Assistant Director of Learning and Standards-Business and Enterprise) has taken the decision to retire immediately. I would like to thank him for his many great contributions at Gospel Oak School and wish him all the best for the future.

Please do contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: All Parents / Carers

7th June 2024

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Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

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

Our Ref: SBr.KH.2989

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Communication

As a school we believe that good relationships with parents/carers enable students to thrive. Following feedback at the recent 'Parent/Carer Forum' it is clear that the speed and quality of our responses to emails and phone calls from parents/carers needs to significantly improve. I apologise for any issues that parents/carers may have had and we are determined to improve.

From Monday 10th June we will be asking all parents/carers and staff to use the following protocols:

1. All parents/carers to use the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#). If a parent/carers contacts the school by letter or phone, our reception or admin staff will complete the 'Contact Form' for them. We would be grateful if parents/carers did not email staff directly as we are unable to monitor the speed and quality of responses to such emails.
2. The options in the 'Reason for your enquiry' box are currently:



However, from Monday 10th June, they will change to:



3. The software that we use for the 'Contact Form' will automatically email the enquiry to the relevant middle leader (eg Year Team Lead, SENCO, Director of sixth form etc) and their line manager on the senior leadership team. Replying to the email within two working days is the responsibility of the relevant middle leader. Monitoring that the emails are responded to within two working days is the responsibility of the line manager on the senior leadership team. Please note that the replies to all enquiries through the 'Contact Form' will come from one of the following email addresses:

- Year7enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year8enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year9enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year10enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Year11enquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- Sixthformenquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk
- SENDenquiry@gspeloakschool.co.uk

3. If you have not had a reply to a letter, phone call or email within two working days or you feel the matter had not been dealt with appropriately, please contact my PA (Kerry Hampton) or email me at Info@gspeloakschool.co.uk.

We still prefer face to face communication and feel it is the most effective and productive method. We do understand though that meetings during the school day are not always possible and so communication via email provides parents/carers with an easy and quick way to communicate with us as a school.

However, if an issue cannot be resolved satisfactorily within a two email exchange (four in total), then a face to face meeting in school should be convened.

To further support communication and improve behaviour and attendance, we have appointed five new additional Assistant Year Team Leaders to build further capacity and support students and parents/carers as well as the current Year Team Leads. From 1st September 2024, there will be three members of staff per year group to deal with pastoral issues: a Year Team Lead, an Assistant Year Team Lead and a Head of Year. We will write home next week with the names of the Year Team Lead, Assistant Year Team Lead and Head of Year for each year group.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Middlehurst at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: Post 16 Parents / Carers

7th June 2024

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Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

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

Our Ref: RQ.KH.2990

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Up Learn

We have recently purchased an Up Learn license for every sixth form student studying Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology. Up Learn is a revolutionary online independent learning and revision platform for A-Level students.

From 10th June, your son/daughter will have access to hundreds of online video lessons covering their A Level course, available any time on the computer. Up Learn is best used to complement what students are learning in the classroom to ensure your son/daughter gets the best grade possible.

The platform can support them with:

- Video lessons to help them understand new topics, break down complex material and ensure students are coming to class ready to stretch their knowledge beyond the basics.
- Quizzes and Summary content to make sure they are memorising course content and have mastered more tricky topics
- Exam how-tos, mark scheme breakdowns and practice papers (created exclusively for Up Learn by official examiners) ensure that students are comfortable with the jump in exam technique from GCSE to A Level

Up Learn builds their courses using cutting-edge technology and robust research from the field of cognitive science to make sure students are learning as effectively as possible. The platform uses artificial intelligence to track students' progress and personalise their learning schedule for maximum results.

Students will be using Up Learn in their independent study periods but it would also be hugely beneficial for them to use it during weekends and holidays to maximise their potential. It is recommended that a student spends 3 hours per week, per Up Learn course to fully utilise the platform's benefits. Your support in ensuring they make the most of the platform will be greatly beneficial in helping to encourage productive study habits.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Quirk
Vice Principal



Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

23rd May 2024

Our Ref: SW/DP

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: UCAS Higher Education Convention : Birmingham NEC – Tuesday 25th June 2024

As part of our Post 18 careers programme, we have arranged a visit to the UCAS Birmingham Higher Education Convention to be held at Birmingham NEC on Tuesday 25th June. There will be over a hundred Universities and Colleges with representatives in attendance providing information and material on their institutions and courses, as well as degree apprenticeship providers. In order to support students travelling to the event, the college will be providing coach travel for all Year 12 students to and from the event. There will be a small fee of £14 to cover coach travel to and from the event.

Students will depart from School at 9.00am. Students may bring a packed lunch, or alternatively choose to eat at one of the many vendors at the venue. If your child is entitled to free school meals please indicate on the form and a grab bag will be provided. Students will register at our designated meeting point at 12.30pm and should return to School by 1.30pm.

All Year 12 students must participate in this visit, in order to give themselves as much information as possible when making decisions regarding their route post Sixth Form. This visit will provide an ideal opportunity for students to speak with various university admissions tutors, collect relevant prospectuses and attend seminars on a wide range of topics about university courses, finance issues and taking a Gap Year etc. If they are unsure if university is for them this is perfect opportunity to ask questions to help them make informed decisions.

Due to changes in the organization of the event it is now a requirement that all students attending individually register for the event and print their own ticket. Students attending without a printed ticket will be refused admission.

I have emailed a link to each student, however, if the link fails it is vital that if your son / daughter is attending they follow the instructions below:

- Go to www.ucas.com/exhibitions and find the event you are visiting.
- Click on the 'Book now' button, followed by 'Join group booking', then 'I am a student'.
- Enter the group booking reference (UCASBKN975335 and click 'Find'). Your group booking details will be displayed.

- Continue completing the form until you see confirmation that your booking has been processed. You will receive an email with a link to your personal ticket, which you will need to either print or bring on your phone, to the event.

Please complete the attached consent form and return to school by Monday 17th June 2024.

Yours faithfully,



Ms S Wilkins
Director of Careers



Mr S Bala
Head of Sixth Form



To: All Parents/Carers

7th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: School Uniform

At Gospel Oak School we are proud of our standards of school uniform that are the result of a high degree of co-operation between parents/carers, students, and the school.

We are firm believers in a school uniform that is properly and consistently worn. We believe that this helps young people to develop a real pride in themselves and their school and to look smart helps them to think smart too. Uniform helps students to feel part of our community and makes the point that there is no discrimination. It sets a standard which supports our expectations of work and behaviour. We find it helps maintain the right environment for learning.

All students wear their uniform both in school and when representing the school at events or on visits. When the students are travelling to and from school in the community, we expect that the same high uniform expectations are met with the students wearing the uniform with pride and role modelling our beliefs. Outdoor coats may be worn over, but not instead of, blazers which are compulsory in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. In this respect we expect no less from our students than an employer would expect of their employees.

The school keeps a stock of uniform and shoes. If students attend school dressed inappropriately, they will be expected to borrow items and change. If this is not possible, we reserve the right to place students in isolation until the issue has been rectified and our expectations have been met.

Due to the current financial crisis, we are happy to announce that we will be providing all students in next year's Years 7 to 11 with a fully stocked pencil case in September. Alongside this, we have made the decision to remove the need for the following branded Gospel Oak School PE kit: midlayer, leggings, tracksuit bottoms, shorts and socks.

We are keen to support parents/carers by providing very clear guidance on what is acceptable and particularly in terms of shoes, trousers and skirts. Please find attached the details of the school uniform and a guide detailing appropriate skirts, trousers and footwear. Please note the skirts, trousers and footwear in the various photos are not the only ones that can be bought. They simply illustrate what is appropriate uniform.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about our uniform, please contact us through the contact form on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Bott
Vice Principal

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DY4 0BZ

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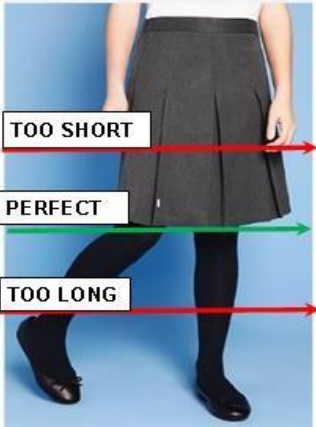
Our Ref: SBO/MFA/310

Your Ref:

Boys' Uniform

Blazer	Black with school badge. Blazers should be worn at all times.
Jumpers (optional)	Black, long-sleeved jumper They may be worn as well as, but not instead of, blazers. Students are not permitted to wear hoodies.
Trousers	Formal black trousers. They must be black, plain smart trousers and of a boot cut style. They must not be low rise, skinny fit, tight fitting, denim/jean, or chino trousers.
Shirt	Plain white and formal style. Short or long sleeves with collar (no motifs). Coloured or patterned T-shirts are not to be worn under shirts. Shirts should be always tucked in.
Shoes	Formal plain black shoes. Students are not permitted to wear black trainers, canvas shoes or boots. Shoes with buckles, studs and logos are not permitted. Please see the examples of appropriate and inappropriate footwear.

Girls' Uniform

Blazer	Black with school badge. Blazers should be always worn.
Jumpers (optional)	Black long-sleeved jumper. They may be worn as well as, but not instead of, blazers. Students are not permitted to wear hoodies.
Trousers	Formal black trousers. They must be black, plain smart trousers and of a boot cut style. They must not be low rise, skinny fit lycra, tight fitting, denim/jean or chino trousers. The trousers must not have external buckles, rivets, zips or logos. No other variation will be acceptable.
Skirt	<p>Formal black school skirt. Please see the examples of acceptable skirts. The skirt needs to be of an appropriate length (see below). It must be knee length and must not be of stretchy lycra material that is tight fitting. The skirt must not have external buckles rivets, zips or logos. No other variation will be acceptable.</p>  <p>The diagram shows a model wearing a black pleated skirt. Three horizontal arrows indicate different lengths: a red arrow labeled 'TOO SHORT' is above the knee, a green arrow labeled 'PERFECT' is at the knee, and a red arrow labeled 'TOO LONG' is below the knee.</p>
Shirt/blouse	Plain white and formal style. Short or long sleeves with collar (no motifs). Coloured or patterned T-shirts are not to be worn under shirts/blouses. Shirts/blouses should be always tucked in.
Shoes	Formal plain black shoes. Students are not permitted to wear black trainers or canvas shoes. Shoes with buckles, studs and logos are not permitted. Girls are not permitted to wear boots. Maximum heel height of an inch is acceptable. Stiletto type heels of any height are not acceptable. Please see the examples of appropriate and inappropriate footwear.
Tights	Plain navy blue or black opaque tights may be worn. During the summer term, girls may wear flesh-coloured tights. Fake tan is unacceptable as a substitute to flesh coloured tights.

Footwear for girls and boys

✓	✗
	
	
	
	

✓	✗
	
	
	
	

Ties

Gospel Oak red and black tie.

Make-up

Make-up (including nail varnish and false nails) should not be worn at all by students.

Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn at all by students. Boys and Girls with pierced ears may wear small plain gold or silver stud earrings, which must not be 'jewel style' earrings. There should only be one earring in each lobe. No other piercing is allowed.

Bags

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 should have a suitable bag that is appropriate for day-to-day use.

PE kit

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students should have the following PE kit:

Girls' PE kit	Boys' PE kit
Gospel Oak polo shirt	Gospel Oak polo shirt
Gospel Oak midlayer (optional)	Gospel Oak midlayer (optional)
Plain black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms (fashion shorts and tracksuit bottoms are not permitted. The tracksuit bottoms should be predominately black with no large logos or writing)	Plain black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms (fashion shorts and tracksuit bottoms are not permitted. The tracksuit bottoms should be predominately black with no large logos or writing)
Black football socks (as directed by staff)	Black football socks (as directed by staff)
White Non-slip Socks (optional)	White Non-slip Socks (optional)
Training shoes (not fashion pumps). Astroturf trainers or rubber moulded boots are the most appropriate for the field and 3G astroturf facility.	Training shoes (not fashion pumps). Astroturf trainers or rubber moulded boots are the most appropriate for the field and 3G astroturf facility.

There are branded PE kit items as an optional purchase.



To: Yr 10 Parents / Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

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

7th June 2024

Our Ref: HT.KH.2999

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Year 10 into 11 Pathway Option

Following on from previous communications we are now in the position to be able to provide the details with regards the additional option 'block' that will be created within the Year 11 timetable from September 2024.

As previously mentioned there will be 3 pathways to support in your son or daughter's learning experiences. Each student will be asked to choose 2 options in total, and they will be provided with one of these. They will have 3 lessons on their timetable that will be timetabled with 1 of the options from 1 of the pathways.

The learning experiences students must choose from are as follows:

- **Pathway 1** – An additional GCSE subject. The subjects on offer are:
 - Media
 - Photography
 - Psychology
 - RE
 - Statistics

What to expect

This option will be delivered through timetabled lessons in Year 11, along with some 'drop-down' time to enable further study. Your son or daughter will also need to be prepared to commit to additional home learning over the summer holiday and during the next academic year, outside of the timetabled school day, which will be fully resourced by the school, before taking GCSE examinations in the subject at the end of Year 11.

As you will see from the list, we are offering some new and exciting subjects that we believe will not only supplement courses currently being studied but provide students with an additional qualification that will provide further opportunities to build skills that can be used later in their learning journeys.

- **Pathway 2** - An enrichment activity to support wider learning beyond academic qualifications to promote well-being. The activities on offer will be:
 - Sports' Leadership
 - Well-being Support
 - Volunteering

What to expect

- Sports Leadership - Students will have the opportunity to follow a sports leaders' programme, which enables them to develop their coaching skills. This is an excellent opportunity for those students who are thinking of pursuing further studies in sport and/or working with young people.
 - Wellbeing support – this option is an opportunity for those students who struggle with school and will support them in ensuring that they are prepared for coping with their next steps after Year 11.
 - Volunteering – an opportunity to take part in something that aims to benefit the environment or someone who they're not closely related to. It can make a real difference in their life and the lives of those around them. We will provide support in helping them to find a volunteering opportunity within the local community.
- **Pathway 3** - A study support activity which will aid them in their current courses through:
- Study skills programme & coping with exams
 - Independent study
 - Additional time to support already chosen subjects
 - Reading to promote well-being

What to expect

Students will be provided with a variety of experiences to aid them in maximising their potential in their GCSEs and Level 2 qualifications through sessions on how to study effectively, time to independently study and put the skills they have learnt into practice, coping with anxieties around exams and promoting well-being.

We are really excited with this additional offer for our students as they move into their final year of Key Stage 4 and hope that students will make full use of these opportunities in order to put themselves in the best possible position to achieve at Key Stage 4 and either pursue further study at Post 16, apprenticeships or a paid job.

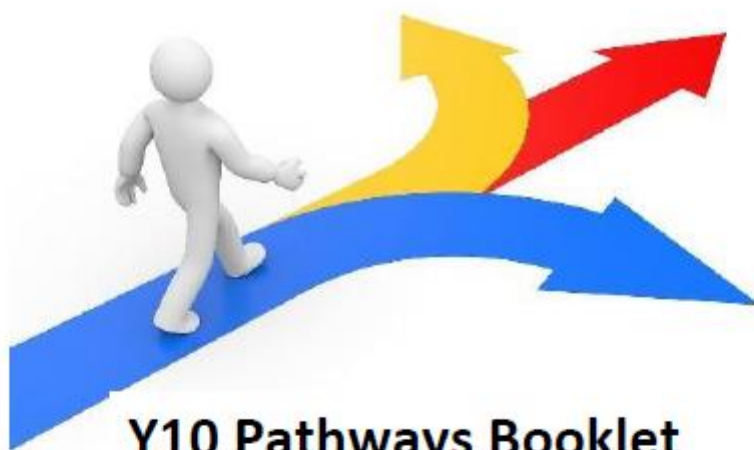
Next steps:

- Miss Middlehurst and I are talking to all Year 10 students on Friday 7th June.
- Students and parents/carers to read through the booklet that accompanies this letter with the additional subjects offered in pathway 1.
- Students to choose 1 subject from pathway 1.
- Students to also choose a second choice/back up option. This can be a further subject from pathway 1, pathway 2 or pathway 3.
- Complete the MS Form [here](#) by 12noon on Thursday 13th June.
- Miss Middlehurst and I will then speak to each student by Tuesday 18th June to confirm their choices.
- Students will be provided with 1 of the 2 choices and follow this pathway for 3 lessons a fortnight from September 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Tanner
Senior Vice Principal



Y10 Pathways Booklet

Pathway 1

An additional GCSE subject. The subjects on offer are:

- Media
- Photography
- Psychology
- RE
- Statistics

What to expect

This option will be delivered through timetabled lessons in Year 11, along with some 'drop-down' time to enable further study. You will need to be prepared to commit to additional home learning over the summer holiday and during the next academic year, outside of the timetabled school day.

As you will see from the list, we are offering some new and exciting subjects that we believe will not only supplement courses currently being studied but provide you with an additional qualification that will provide further opportunities to build skills that can be used later in your learning journey.

Course title and examination board:

WJEC Eduqas Media Studies 9-1

What is GCSE Media Studies?

WJEC Eduqas (9–1) in Media Studies is an exciting opportunity to engage with different forms of media. In this course you will study:



- a variety of media from television past and present
- how media is used to promote film and video games
- how music is promoted through magazines, music videos and radio
- how newspapers and online news is used to illustrate changing social, cultural, historical and political contexts

You will also get the chance to create your own media products using concepts learnt through the course.

How will I be assessed?

Exam 1: Exploring the media (80 marks) - 1hr 30 minutes

Exam 2: Understanding media forms and products (60marks) - 1hr 15 minutes - written paper

Non-exam assessment (NEA) Creating media products (60 marks) – internally assessed coursework

What can I do after this course?

As well as A-level Media Studies, the GCSE Media Studies course provides a base for further study including Drama, Music, Dance, Sociology and Psychology.

Careers pathway

Media studies can support in the follow job areas: digital marketer, location manager, media researcher, public relations officer, broadcasting/film/video, social media manager, television/ film/ video producer, web content manager.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mr Lee.

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE in Art and Design (Photography) 9-1

What is Art and Design (Photography)?

This is an art-based subject but will be suited for those who would like to express themselves through digital art.



You could develop work in at least one of the following

- Documentary photography
- Photojournalism
- Studio photography
- Location photography
- Experimental imagery
- Installation

How will I be assessed?

The course has two assessed elements, one is a portfolio of work, worth 60% of the grade, the other is an exam spread over ten hours to produce a final piece of work, worth 40% of the grade.

What can I do after this course?

Success at GCSE photography can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in the fields of art, design and photography as well as in broader careers that require both creativity and visual skills awareness.

How can I find out more?

Speak to Mrs Geal

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE Psychology 9-1

What is GCSE Psychology?



Are you interested in understanding other humans, and the way in which they behave, then this is the subject for you!

You will learn the fundamentals of psychology, develop critical analysis, independent thinking, and research skills. We will explore experiments and observations to try to understand why people act the way they do.

By studying psychology, you will develop skills and knowledge about:

- Memory – how we remember and why we forget?
- Perception – can we always believe what we see?
- Development – how children develop thinking and learning skills?
- Research methods – how psychologists investigate human behaviour and mental processes?
- Social influence – how are we influenced by group behaviour?
- Language, thought and communication – what comes first: language or thought? And how well can we communicate non-verbally?
- Brain and neuropsychology – how the brain works?
- Psychological problems – what is mental health and how can mental health issues be treated?

How will I be assessed?

Exam 1: Cognition and Behaviour (1hr 45minutes)

Exam 2: Social Context and Behaviour (1hr 45minutes)

What can I do after this course?

The GCSE Psychology specification will give you a strong foundation for the further study of psychology at A-level; it also works very well with A-level Biology, Health and Social Care, English along with all Humanities', Science and Maths' disciplines.

Careers pathway

People with a psychology background can be found in all careers; essentially, if you are thinking of working with people, psychology will be beneficial.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Miss Middlehurst or Miss Tanner.

Course title and examination board:

WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Religious Studies 9-1

What is GCSE Religious Education?

This GCSE course will help you to deal with complex and challenging issues that are being discussed daily in the news. It is excellent preparation as a 21st Century learner in our ever-changing diverse world.

It helps to:

- Develop enquiring and critical thinking skills by raising your own questions and investigating in depth
- Focuses on learning and understanding the reasons people have for their beliefs and practices through a study, whether religious or non-religious
- Develops your ability to debate/argue and challenge your critical thinking skills related to the different attitudes people have about contemporary issues as well as develop your own informed opinion about conflict, medicine, expression and authority and laws
- Become aware of the relevance of religious beliefs, practices, values, and traditions, including opportunity to discuss central questions and issues e.g. Is life sacred? Should euthanasia be legalised?
- Develop an interest and enthusiasm about contemporary issues locally, nationally and in the wider global world

How will I be assessed?

There will be three written examinations that all contribute to your final grade.

What can I do after this course?

Success in Religious Education will prepare you for various kinds of careers and courses which demand complex thinking and in-depth knowledge, an understanding of contemporary and controversial issues, an ability to develop problem solving skills by using research, investigation, reflection and evaluation, and an ability to communicate and work effectively with different people. You can progress to study a range of A-Level and level 3 qualifications.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mr Jones



Pathway 2

An enrichment activity to support wider learning beyond academic qualifications to promote well-being. The activities on offer will be:

- Sports' Leadership
- Well-being Support
- Volunteering

What to expect

Sports Leadership - the opportunity to follow a sports leaders' programme, which enables you to develop your coaching skills. This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who are thinking of pursuing further studies in sport and/or working with young people.

Wellbeing support – this option is an opportunity for those of you who struggle with school and it will support you in ensuring that you are prepared for coping with your next steps after Year 11.

Volunteering – an opportunity to take part in an act of volunteering that aims to benefit the environment or someone who you are not closely related to. It can make a real difference in your life and the lives of those around you. We will provide support in helping you find a volunteering opportunity within the local community.

Pathway 3

A study support activity which will aid you in your current courses through:

- Study skills programme & coping with exams
- Independent study
- Additional time to support already chosen subjects
- Reading to promote well-being

What to expect

You will be provided with activities that will support you through the subjects you currently study. You will follow a programme that will involve one, some or all of the following:

- Study skills programme & coping with exams
- Independent study
- Additional time to support already chosen subjects
- Reading to promote well-being

Y10 mini option



Scan the QR code to access the online form to make your choices

Deadline for completion: Thursday 13th June

See Miss Tanner or Miss Middlehurst if you have any questions