



To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of our first full week of the new academic year and it has been wonderful to have welcomed the students back. I would especially like to welcome our new Year 7 students and those joining us in the Sixth Form. It has been fantastic to see all students back in school, looking smart and equipped for learning. It was particularly nice to have all students together, in year groups, in an assembly in the Theatre which we haven't been able to do for over 18 months. This is a significant step on our journey back to normality.

Welcome to new staff

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Scarff to our Science faculty, Ms. Turvey as a Computer Science teacher, as well as Art Technician Hannah Mottram and Library Assistant Adele Spink. We have two new Year Managers, Mrs. Johnston in Year 9 and Mr. Coatsworth in Year 8. We're delighted to have them on board and look forward to working with them this year.

In this letter is some helpful information regarding some of our expectations and processes this year. We are providing this in the interests of clarity and ensuring that both parents and students have accurate information to support them. Some of the details below will be new to parents and students, so please take the time to acquaint yourself with all of the guidance.

Curriculum, homework and exercise books

All subject departments spent much of the Summer Term updating and finalising curriculum plans. These will undergo continual review and development as we assess students and adapt our teaching to address students' gaps. Subject curriculum plans will be published on our website later this term. At the same time, we will also publish our homework calendar and a summary of the type of tasks students can expect to receive as homework.

We know that students who are independent and can organise themselves and their learning are more successful in their academic achievements. We want to foster this sense of ownership of learning with all of our students. As such, we will be asking students to take responsibility for their exercise books and expecting them to take them home at the end of each lesson. While this may be new to some of them, please support them and us in checking with your children that they have organised their equipment and exercise books for each day.

CATs, Reading Tests and Baseline Tests

In order for us to gain an accurate assessment of strengths and areas for development in core subjects, we will be conducting a series of assessments starting the w/c 20th September. Y7 students will sit CATs (cognitive ability tests), along with baseline tests in English, Maths and Science. They will also sit a reading test to determine their reading age. Year 8 and 9 will take all of these tests except the CATs tests. Year 10 and 11 will sit a reading test. All tests are online; we will communicate a timetable to the students nearer the time.

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PE guidelines and expectations

In order to enable all students to thrive in PE, we encourage and strive to achieve high levels of participation in a wide range of sporting roles. This may be during curriculum time or through the extensive extra-curricular programme we offer. In order to achieve this we would like to bring to your attention some changes that have been made to the school's PE kit guidance which is also available on our [website](#). This section of our website details the kit that students can wear in PE and also the actions staff take if expectations are not met.

Please note that PE kit is regarded as part of the school uniform and, like all other lessons, we expect all students to fully engage and participate in PE lessons for their own enjoyment, health and learning.

- All students are required to bring in and wear full PE kit for every lesson
- Students may choose to wear black sports leggings made from appropriate sporting material (leggings intended for sport, not fashion leggings)
- A large part of our curriculum is delivered outside. In cold weather, we encourage base layers, extra t-shirts, hats, gloves and a coat.
- Students may wear a black Glossopdale hoodie; other hoodies cannot be worn (please note, this includes the wearing of them anywhere inside the school building)
- If your son/daughter is not physically able to participate in activity for an extended period of time, can you please provide a doctor's note or hospital referral

We recommend that you discuss these details with your child to support them in meeting our expectations.

Covid testing and tracing

We have now come to the end of our Covid testing programme. We strongly encourage all students to continue testing twice weekly at home in order to reduce the likelihood of transmission. A reminder that, if your child does test positive for Covid, they need to isolate following the latest Public Health advice and you need to let the school know. The school is no longer responsible for tracking and tracing, therefore we will not be informing parents if there is a positive case in school. NHS Test and Trace will let you know if your child has been a close contact and advise you of next steps.

Reception and appointments

We fully understand that parents are likely to have many more queries at this time of year; our receptionists will do their best to respond to your queries or pass you on to the relevant member of staff. Contact details for key staff can be found here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Contact-Us/>

If you have a query, please phone or email the school. It is not likely to be possible to see a member of staff if you arrive at reception so we ask that you only arrive to Visitor Reception if you have an appointment. I am afraid that we cannot accept parents dropping off items of equipment or uniform for their children. Please support your children in organising themselves in the morning/evening so that this becomes a standard routine.

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PTFA

We are pleased to be re-launching our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends of Glossopdale Association) this month and would welcome parents/carers of students from all year groups, and other members of the community to come along and get involved. We are a friendly, sociable group who aim to arrange engaging activities for the local community where we can raise funds for extended learning opportunities for Glossopdale School and Sixth Form students. Should you wish to join us, the first meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd September at 6pm in the Theatre.

Upcoming Diary Dates

It is still uncertain as to whether upcoming events will be in person or online, however they will definitely still take place in some form so please make a note of the following events:

23/9/21: Sixth Form Parents' Information Evening
30/9/21: Year 6 Prospective Parents' Evening
7/10/21: KS3 Parents' Information Evening
12/10/21: Parent Forum
13/10/21: Sixth Form Open Evening
21/10/21: KS4 Parents' Information Evening

More information on each event will be communicated nearer the time.

Drop off and pick up

We recognise that many parents are new to the school and the drop off/pick up arrangements. While we know that you may prefer to bring students, particularly Year 7s, to school by car and drop them off, we cannot allow parents into the car park to do this. We do not have the space and it therefore represents a health and safety risk to staff and students. We thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please email info@glossopdale.school.

I'd like to thank you for your support this week in helping us have a highly successful return to 'normality' and look forward to an enjoyable year ahead.

Best wishes,

Debbie McGloin