

Dear all,

You are by now likely to be aware of the government announcement about schools closing from Friday 20th March. Although we understand and support the reasons for the decisions that have been taken, it has happened very quickly and I know you will have many questions.

Essentially, the government has decided that from Friday 20th March, all schools will close to most students. We have been preparing for this eventuality for some time and as you know, some year groups have already been working from home. We have been providing work for students working from home and will continue to do so as much as we possibly can.

The government has also indicated that from Monday 23rd March, schools will provide support and access for the most vulnerable students and children of 'key workers'. There is also going to be additional help for those families who access free school meals. There is currently very limited detail from the government about how the different aspects will operate. For example, we are waiting for clarity over what roles are essential occupations and what mechanisms will be used to support those of free school meals.

I will provide more clarity on the above once the government updates me with further guidance throughout the day.

I will be talking to Year 11 and Year 13 students who have been working so hard to be ready for their exams in the summer. The government has made it clear that the GCSE and A-level exams will not take place in May and June. They have not yet shared the next steps and I am unlikely to be able to provide a definitive answer soon on this matter. However, once the government provide more details I will communicate that with you.

I understand how upsetting this will be for our students and I can reassure you and them that I will be fighting to secure a fair outcome that reflects their efforts.

I cannot currently say exactly what will happen but I can guarantee that I will not allow this situation to affect the Sixth Form place for any Year 11 student who has applied to attend Glossopdale Sixth Form and was on track to reach their entry requirements. I hope the universities will soon clarify the position for those who are due to move on in the summer.

I cannot thank you enough for your patience on these matters and I will update you with more detailed information as soon as possible. I will keep you informed of any developments as and when they happen. Please keep looking at the website also for further updates.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for the amazing work they are doing in very challenging circumstances.

Whatever we are asked to do, we will try our very best and be as ready as we can for Monday.

Debbie McGloin
Headteacher