



To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

The end of this term marks the half-way stage of the academic year and what a fast changing and unexpected year it has been for us all! We started the school year in September with 'bubbles', social distancing and face masks to keep students and staff as safe as possible. This last term saw schools having to resort to providing remote education again and parents and carers being asked to support the home-schooling of their children. None of this has been easy but I have been incredibly impressed by how staff, students and parents have adapted to the fast changing situation and worked together to ensure our students receive the best quality care and education possible under such challenging circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and commitment this half-term. They have provided teaching for our critical worker and vulnerable students, remote education for students at home, set up virtual tutor meets, assemblies and parents evenings' as well as having to provide home-schooling for their own children. Support staff have been in school ensuring the school remains clean and safe, providing lateral flow tests daily for both students and staff, making welfare calls home, supporting our SEND students in school, delivering food hampers, laptops and hard copies to homes and much, much more. They all deserve a huge round of applause.

We do not know what next term is going to bring us yet, but as soon as the Prime Minister updates the nation on February 22nd about plans for the full opening of schools, we will write to you and outline our plans for implementing them as soon as possible.

February Half Term

The government has confirmed that schools will close to all students for the February half term holiday. We break up for February half term today, 12th February and return on 22nd February. We will not be setting remote learning over the half term break. Although the options for different activities are currently very limited, I hope you and your families find the time and opportunity to rest and recover from the challenges that the last few months have presented.

If you are in receipt of free school meals, the government has confirmed that financial support will be provided through the Winter Grant Scheme that Derbyshire local authority have been facilitating. The school will continue to provide free school meal vouchers to those families who are eligible during term time. Please see details on our website:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Free-School-Meals/>

The government has also asked that the school continues to carry out tracing of confirmed cases of COVID-19 over the half term break. Therefore if your child tests positive over the half term break can you please use the dedicated email address to report this. The email address is **covidpositivetest@glossopdale.school**



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Parent Bulletin

Please click on the link to our latest Parent Bulletin. We do hope that you manage to find time to read this every fortnight, especially during lockdown, despite the many other communications at the moment. We're so proud to celebrate the hard work and excellence of so many students, to share their outstanding work and to keep you up to date with the latest news and notices.

https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Parent_Bulletin_120221.pdf

Live subject sessions

These have been taking place across all year groups in the last 3 weeks and the provision will be extended after half term. In core subjects, students will be asked to attend one live session per week, and for non-core subjects, this will be one per fortnight. Usually, these will take place in one of the timetabled lessons for that subject. On some occasions, however, a whole year group may be invited to attend a lesson and this may not occur when your child would normally have that subject. Sessions will take different forms in different subjects and will last between 30 minutes to an hour. Students will receive at least a week's notice of live lessons (via the To Do list on Google Classroom) and therefore will be able to plan their weekly and daily timetables around this so that they can fit in all of their subjects. We previously emailed guidance for parents and students on safe conduct during live sessions; please review the documents on our website:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Remote-Learning-details/>

One of the requests made from both parents and students in the recent questionnaires was that students receive more helpful feedback and answers to their queries if they are stuck. Therefore, we urge all students to attend the live sessions as this will be our primary method of communicating with students and answering their questions.

Curriculum

As a school, we are endeavouring to provide all the support that we can to ensure that every child is accessing a full and rich curriculum. The DfE expectation is that students at secondary school complete 5 hours of education per day, which aligns with the time they would spend in lessons at school. We continue to evaluate our provision in a variety of ways – parent and student voice, review of students' work, live Q&A sessions for parents and students - and provide ongoing training for staff to ensure we strike the right balance of work and expectations in these difficult times.

It is important that students in every year group have equal access to a broad offer of all National Curriculum subjects; this provides them with the range of skills, knowledge, choices and interests that we hope will motivate, inspire and equip them for the next stages of their learning. We also, of course, hope to foster a love of learning purely for its own sake and for the children's enjoyment. If your child is finding this challenging, we would urge you or them to contact the subject teacher or Faculty Team Leader concerned. We would much rather address issues and provide the necessary support to enable learning, than risk a reduction in the curriculum and create barriers to engagement or progress when children are back in school.

The curriculum content for Term 4 for every subject in each year group is available for parents and students to review on our website here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Curriculum-Content-Term-4-2021/>



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Digital Detox Day

We are really excited to announce our first screen-free day on **Friday 26th February**. We will be offering students in all year groups the opportunity to select at least three off-grid activities to take part in during the day, all aimed at developing emotional and physical wellbeing, creativity and enjoyment. Students will be able to explore and nurture new and existing passions across a range of areas, from Art to Food, from Sport to Drama, from Science to Dance, community projects and so much more. We really hope that your children will benefit from a day away from their screens and a chance to be inspired and relaxed. Please see details attached.

Parents' appointments for Y7, 9, 10 and 11 students

In order to accommodate the demand for parents' evening appointments we have opened up Friday 26th February during the day for parents to make appointments with teachers who they have not managed to speak with yet. Appointments will be available from 9.15am to 3:00pm for parents of Year 7, 9,10 and 11. Initially we will limit appointments to six per student, to ensure that all parents have an opportunity to speak to a teacher. If the demand allows we will increase the limit to enable all meetings to take place. Please follow the instructions on our web page

<https://www.glossopdale.school/Parents-Evenings/>

You will be able to make appointments from Monday 22nd February until Thursday 25th February at 3pm.

Next live Q&A

Our live online sessions for parents and students have been invaluable in helping us to help you during this period of remote education. We will hold another session on Tuesday 23rd February at 5pm. If you have a question that you would like answering in the session, please submit it here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SXla1PWHXoC6SVqYQvmAyYK7DKo3MfylKfjLC8hVy3M/edit>

Consultation on a change of the school name

As we joined the True Learning Partnership and became part of the academy trust, we have the opportunity to change the school name. I appreciate the school has already had a change of name from Glossopdale Community College to Glossopdale School when the school moved onto the new site. However, the senior leadership team and governors think this would be a good opportunity to raise the profile of our sixth form. The sixth form is a really important part of the school's provision and is a great resource for the community, therefore we are proposing to change the school name to **Glossopdale School and Sixth Form**. If you have any thoughts or comments about this, whether they are positive or negative, can you let me know at **headteacher@glossopdale.school**



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Calendar 2021-22

Please find attached the calendar for the next academic year.

The INSET dates will be as follows:

Inset Day 1	Thursday 2nd September
Inset Day 2	Friday 3rd September
Inset Day 3	Friday 22nd October
Inset Day 4	Friday 3rd December
Inset Day 5	Monday 25th April

Once again, thank you all for your continued support at this time. If you have any questions or feedback, please email info@glossopdale.school.

Best wishes and a very happy half term,

Debbie McGloin