



# To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of yet another unusual term, it is no exaggeration to say that over the last 12 months we have faced some huge challenges. With your support and the students hard work, we have overcome these obstacles and I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride and admiration in how brilliantly everyone in our school community have worked together in the face of the immense changes to our lives that the battle against the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic has caused.

Students have settled back into the normal routine of school since their return 3 weeks ago and I am optimistic that as we move through the summer term we may see school life getting back to some kind of normality with all our students in school receiving face-to-face teaching and fewer and fewer students testing positive. I am hoping that the worst is behind us and we can begin looking forward to a brighter, post-pandemic world.

## **Year 6 Admissions and Extension**

We extend a warm welcome to our new Y7 cohort for 2021; we had 241 applications for 220 places and we look forward to meeting all of our new students and their families in the near future.

The building work for the new extension is due to begin after the Easter break which will give the school capacity for an extra 200 students. The extension should be finished by September 2022.

## **Covid Home Testing**

A major aspect of enabling us to keep our school open is the active participation in the home testing lateral flow tests. Your son/daughter will be bringing home Covid home testing kits this week for use over Easter. It is important that students continue to test themselves over the Easter holiday and you let us know the result of each test by completing this form every Monday and Thursday:

<https://www.glossopdale.school/studentlft/>

If anyone tests positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to school using the link above.

If your child does test positive for Covid-19 with an LFD test, you need to [order a confirmatory PCR test](#). Please also inform the school of the result of this test.

Please continue to use the dedicated email address to inform the school of positive cases: [covidpositivetest@glossopdale.school](mailto:covidpositivetest@glossopdale.school). If your child does test positive, we need to know in order to inform any close contacts.

The testing centre currently operating in our upper car park also issues home testing kits at the weekends for families to obtain. It is open from 9am-3pm. These are to use for adults or children who are not displaying symptoms. If you do have symptoms, you should follow government advice; self-isolate and book a PCR test.



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## **Face coverings**

Thank you for your support with face coverings. The compliance with the guidance around wearing face coverings in the classroom and other communal areas has been outstanding. The government initially put the guidance in to force until Easter. We have been told that the decision about wearing face coverings in the classroom will be reviewed by the government over the Easter break. The guidance may remove or extend the requirement, either way we will make sure you know as soon as we can.

## **Uniform Expectations**

We understand that, for some families, it has been difficult to fully comply with the uniform policy following school re-opening earlier this month. After the Easter break we will be expecting all students to be wearing full school uniform in line with our uniform policy.

We ask that all uniform is clean, smart, and correctly worn so that there are no distractions to the learning process.

Hoodies are not permitted to be worn either under or on top of blazers in the building and need to be removed before students enter the school. Hair that is dyed a vivid colour should be returned to a natural look and excessive and brightly coloured nail extensions removed. In addition, please remember that jewellery is limited to a watch and one small stud in each ear. In accordance with Health and Safety regulations, no other piercings are allowed, including lip, nose, septum and eyebrow. Please ensure these are removed prior to entering the school site. Shoes should be all black and leather or leather look.

Coming to school ready to learn is the most important activity that every child does each day. Being ready to learn means that the correct books and equipment should be in bags and homework completed in readiness for the lessons that day. As always, staff will be checking all equipment and uniform from the first day back after Easter and we thank you for your support with this.

## **Year 11 and 13**

I would like to extend a special thank you and well done to all of the Year 11 and 13 students who have been working so hard this term, completing assessments and classwork in order to provide the best possible evidence towards their final grades. Year 11 students have now received their exam timetables for the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and details can also be found on our website here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/-Students/Examination-Information/>



## To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

### **Goodbyes and Hellos**

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Kelly who will be starting a new role as head of Geography at another school. Mrs Kelly will be missed by many of her students and colleagues and we wish her all the best in her new role.

We also welcome two new members of teaching staff to Glossopdale after Easter: Ms. Berry joins us as a Geography teacher and Mr. James as Faculty Team Leader for Computing. We are very happy to have them as part of the Glossopdale community.

It is with great sadness that I need to share with you the tragic loss of one of our members of staff. Marie Halligan worked at Glossopdale School as a cleaner and midday supervisor for many years and has many colleagues and friends who miss her greatly. Our thoughts are with her family and friends during this difficult time.

### **Key Dates**

A reminder that today, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, is the last day of the Spring Term. We have an INSET day on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April so all children return to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Some important dates for your diary for the next term:

*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Year 9 Options Taster Day*

*Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Year 8 Parents' Evening*

*Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May: Parent Forum*

As always, thank you all for your support and please continue to take care. I hope that during the Easter break, you are able to safely enjoy the additional freedoms that the changes in restrictions will bring.

Best wishes

Debbie McGloin

Headteacher