

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all parents who took the time to communicate with us in order to allow us to plan the wider opening of the school in June, and thank you for bearing with us while we have been putting plans together to allow us to organise staff, students and resources ready for 1st June.

I promised that I would write to you before the end of term with further guidance.

As you know, the government has asked that, as a secondary school, we begin to offer some face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12, from the 1st June at the earliest. This has not been confirmed as a starting date but I am very much working on the basis that we will start to upscale our in-school delivery from half term onwards. At the time of writing, the government has not yet published the guidance for secondary schools. We therefore have no framework by which to operate or to aim towards for the further re-opening of our school.

There are various trade union checklists that I am using for the basis of planning and have incorporated them into my planning work, however we do not have the government's planning checklist and therefore I will need to incorporate that once I am in full receipt of the document.

With so much unknown and so much yet to be established it is proving very difficult to give you a definitive date upon which we will start face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12, however, we must start somewhere in our planning, and I am therefore working on the following basis, which is very much subject to change as things emerge daily.

We aim to provide tutorials for Year 10 and 12 students at some point in the Summer Term, allowing students to discuss their learning with a subject specialist, to receive subject specific advice and resources, and to have a pastoral conversation with a member of staff. When we have a clearer timetable of events, we will let you know when we intend to start these, and when your child will be invited to attend.

We will continue to provide care for the children of key workers and vulnerable children as we have been doing since lockdown; if you require a place for your child, please let us know via email at info@glossopdale.school, or telephone the school and let reception know.

Below is some information that you may find useful, in terms of our actions and plans for the coming weeks:

Students' learning

We will continue to set work on Google Classroom for students in all year groups, including if and when they return to school for some lessons. The content and activities will vary but the principle aim will be to consolidate existing learning. There is a wealth of educational research that supports this approach, and Faculty Team Leaders have identified the core knowledge that is expected for students to have confidently acquired by the end of the academic year.

We have not asked staff to film lessons using audio or visual software, and we have not asked them to deliver live lessons via platforms such as Zoom. While there are some benefits to this method of delivery, we know that the wide variety in access to technology and broadband connectivity can lead to an inequity in the delivery of our curriculum, and this is very much in opposition to our intentions and values.

Staff training

In the week commencing 1st June, we will provide training for teaching and support staff in order to ensure that the school is safe for students to return to, and that all members of the school community are able to operate safely and effectively.

Depending on government advice, we will then start a phased introduction of students back into school.

Health and safety

At the moment, we are preparing the school site for wider opening; use of the canteen, more classrooms, entrances and exits.

- Risk assessments are being carried out and verified by DCC and the teaching unions
- Teachers' desks are being demarcated with a 2 metre tape
- The canteen will be taped to ensure that students queue 2m apart
- Hand sanitiser and wipes will be available in all classrooms in order to clean hands, surfaces and IT equipment
- Additional signage is being displayed
- Corridors are being marked out to ensure that students remain 2m apart when walking to and from their classroom
- There will be staff and student training on social distancing, enhanced hygiene, changes to the behaviour policy and preventative measures to combat the spread of the virus
- Additional cleaning and amended cleaning rotas are already in place
- Desks have been removed from allocated classrooms and no more than 12 students will be taught in one classroom
- New first aid procedures are in place and trained staff will have access to PPE where this is medically necessary

Communication

We will continue to update our website with the most up to date information. The latest letters are saved here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/-Parents/Letters-Home/>

We will also use text messages to communicate any more urgent messages, for example if we were required to temporarily close the school. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date.



· School

Since 20th March, we have not allowed visitors onto the school site; this guidance remains. If you have a query and would like to speak to a member of staff, please telephone reception. We cannot allow parents or students to wait in reception and our car park continues to be available only for parents with a permit. If there are circumstances where you feel this may be necessary, please let us know in advance.

We understand the inconvenience and frustration that this causes families; we assure you that we will communicate our plans for your children in good time and with clarity as soon as we are confident that government guidelines will allow us to put them into place, and that you can be sure of your child's safety at school.

If there is any information that you require in the meantime, please let us know. Thank you for continued support and patience.

D McGloin

Executive Headteacher