



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

10th June, 2020

Dear Parents/carers

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

I am writing to update you on a number of school issues. Please be aware that some of these are not related to school closure, which I know is unexpected!

Wider opening of the school to Year 10 and 12 students

You may have seen an announcement on the evening of Friday 5th June from Tameside's Director of Public Health, Dr Jaenelle de Gruchy. Within this, Dr de Gruchy advised schools and childcare settings in Tameside to delay wider opening until the rate of infection begins to reduce and the R rate is firmly below 1. This is because the R rate for the north-west is estimated to be at 1.01. In this case, the north-west region extends from south Cheshire through to Cumbria. Whilst this is the decision of Tameside, not all areas in the north-west have taken the same approach. In comparison, in Derbyshire, the R rate is estimated to be around 0.9 and this is the rate for the Midlands area.

I therefore contacted Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to seek advice on this and how this could affect the wider opening of Glossopdale School. As you will be aware, Glossopdale falls right on the border of Tameside and we share the same health care provision.

Leaders at DCC met with Tameside Council on the evening of Monday 8th June and, based on that meeting, have advised that we should continue with our plans for wider opening for students in Years 10 and 12 since these students should have a better understanding of the importance of social distancing and hygiene guidelines. We will have no more than 25% of Year 10 and 12 students in school as planned. However, we have been advised against welcoming back any more vulnerable children and children of keyworkers other than those that we currently have in school or have made a definite offer a place. Therefore, if you have not already booked a place for your child, I am afraid that we cannot offer provision for them.

We will keep this under review on a weekly basis as we monitor the R rate in our area.

We are really looking forward to seeing our Y10 and Y12 students from Monday 15th June and timetables have been sent to Year 10 students yesterday evening and all Year 12 students will have received their individual timetables by Thursday this week. The arrangements will remain the same as those detailed in our letter of 3rd June.

As I stated at the start of the letter, I also need to communicate with you about two other school issues.

Extension approval

Firstly, I can now confirm that the Cabinet have determined that the expansion of Glossopdale School should go ahead on completion of the additional accommodation. This is great news for the Glossopdale community and we are pleased that we will be able to welcome more students into the school moving forward.

Consultation on change to the school day

Secondly, I am writing to you as part of a consultation process to make slight changes to the school day. As you know, last year we changed the school day to introduce a staggered lunch as a response to the design of the new school, having a relatively small eating area for the high volume of students we have to serve. The staggered lunch has been very successful and, because of this success and our growing numbers, we would like to stagger it further.

Glossopdale School, Newshaw Ln,
Hadfield, Glossop SK13 2DA

Executive Headteacher: D McGloin

Email: Info@glossopdale.school

Tel: 01457862336

Web: www.Glossopdale.school

Glossopdale
School 



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We would like Year 7 to have lunch by themselves in their first year as we believe this will help them transition more effectively to secondary school and manage this change more confidently.

In order to accommodate this, we will need to have 3 different lunch breaks, each lasting 30 minutes. School start time will be 8.45am rather than the current start time of 8.40am but the end of the school day will remain at 3pm.

Students do not lose any learning time; they will still receive 5 x 1 hour lessons and a 25-minute tutor time/assembly at the start of each day.

The proposed new school day would be as follows:

	Years 9 & 11		Year 7		Years 8, 10, 12 & 13
Breakfast served 8.00am-8.40am					
Tutorial	8.45-9.10	Tutorial	8.45-9.10	Tutorial	8.45-9.10
Period 1	9.10-10.10	Period 1	9.10-10.10	Period 1	9.10-10.10
Period 2	10.10-11.10	Period 2	10.10-11.10	Period 2	10.10-11.10
Break	11.10-11.30	Break	11.10-11.30	Break	11.10-11.30
Period 3	11.30-12.30	Period 3	11.30-12.30	Period 3	11.30-12.30
Lunch	12.30-1.00	Period 4a	12.30-1.00	Period 4	12.30-1.30
Period 4	1.00-2.00	Lunch	1.00-1.30	Lunch	1.30-2.00
		Period 4b	1.30-2.00		
Period 5	2.00-3.00	Period 5	2.00-3.00	Period 5	2.00-3.00
Extra-curricular activities 3.00pm-4.00pm					

We strongly believe that the proposed change to the school day will benefit both students and staff and ensure the smooth operation of the school day. I have already consulted with all staff and they are overwhelmingly in favour of changing the school day to the above model.

If you would like to provide any feedback on the proposal, you can do so via email to headteacher@glossopdale.school. The consultation period will end at **12pm on Friday 19th June 2020**. We will then consider the comments and will inform all stakeholders of the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Debbie McGloin
Executive Headteacher