



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the point of having all students in school tomorrow, I'd like to start by thanking you all for your support over the last week. It was absolutely vital that we took the time to carefully and supportively introduce all year groups back into school and our phased return was an essential part of this. The students have been fantastic in coming to understand the new ways of working and, more than anything, it has been wonderful to have them back in school.

Not surprisingly, there have been some changes that we have had to make as a result of now having experienced each year group's daily routine and also in response to updated government guidance. We know that there have been issues that we did not foresee however, taking the phased return approach has allowed us time to put them right and we can communicate some of the detail here in this letter.

Staggered start and finish times

We have implemented a staggered start to the day in order to separate year group bubbles. Please can you ensure that your child does not arrive earlier than their due start time so that they avoid mingling with the year group starting earlier. As a reminder:

Year 7, 9, 11 and post-16: Arrive 8.35am for an 8.45am start (3pm finish).

Year 8 and 10: Arrive 9am for a 9.10am start (3.25pm finish).

Remote learning

We are sorry that we were not able to upload all work for all year groups and subjects on Thursday morning last week as planned. As you know, technical issues with Google Classroom meant that some work was not uploaded until later that day. The work set remains a fundamental part of each student's curriculum so we will extend the time that they have to complete the work; tasks for all subjects and year groups are now due by **Monday 14th September**, whether completed on paper or online.

In the w/c 21st September, class teachers will input a judgment on Class Charts for each student and subject to indicate your child's completion of and engagement with their remote learning activities. Login details for Class Charts have been provided to the students of all parents who have not yet registered. If you do not know your log in details, please email info@glossopdale.school.

Attendance

As of 1st September, pupil attendance at school is mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil



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- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Thank you in advance for supporting your child's excellent attendance at school, which is particularly important after such a long absence from in-school lessons. If your child cannot attend school because they have developed coronavirus symptoms, please review the details below.

First Aid/Track and Trace

The enhanced arrangements that we have made in school are designed to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19. While these new processes are extensive, they cannot prevent transmission of Covid-19 outside of school. We strongly urge you to follow all up to date government guidance on hygiene and social distancing at home and in the community.

The following table is on our website and provides details of what action you should take if your child or a member of your household develops Covid-19 symptoms:

[https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Attendance -
what to do for parents carers Sept 2020.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Attendance_-_what_to_do_for_parents_carers_Sept_2020.pdf)

While we will be following the Track and Trace process meticulously, it is essential that we channel our resources into prevention and containment. The school and local health services do not have the capacity to address students' potential transmission unless their symptoms are genuinely and emphatically those of Covid-19: a high temperature, a persistent cough or a sudden loss of taste or smell (anosmia). If a student feels unwell and experiences other issues such as a sore throat, headache or stomach pain, these will be dealt with in exactly the same way as previously and there is no need to self-isolate or take a test. Thank you for your support in ensuring that we can allocate resources effectively.

Please see attached the most up to date letter from the DfE regarding testing.

Uniform

It was delightful to see our students looking so smart on their return to school. The vast majority of students' uniform adheres to our policy and we had very few issues. Please refer to the guidance on our website. A reminder that trainers and boots are not acceptable footwear. Students may only wear one stud earring in each ear and no facial piercings are permitted at all, false eyelashes and acrylic or painted nails are also not allowed. Please do not allow your child to come to school with any of these as they may be asked to go home. Uniform expectations are in place from the beginning of the day, as students enter the building, and as students leave school.

Face masks

As we are not under enhanced restrictions, staff and students are not expected to wear face masks. Students can choose to wear them in communal areas; they must be plain black or blue disposable masks (please refer to our behaviour policy annex for details).



Travelling to and from school

Can you please remind your child that wearing face masks on public transport is compulsory and they must do so for the safety of both themselves and others.

Equipment

Please ensure that your child brings the following equipment into school every day: **two black pens, two pencils, a ruler, a rubber, a red pen, a pencil sharpener, a selection of coloured pencils and a scientific calculator**. These should be stored in a **pencil case**. All stationery items, with the exception of pencil sharpeners and calculators, can be purchased in Student Services at breaktime. We also recommend that students bring their own pocket-sized bottle of hand sanitiser and a re-usable water bottle with them to school. A reminder that water bottle cannot be re-filled in school.

Planners

Your child will have brought home their new planner. Please review the Home School Agreement on page 9. Please also review your child's planner every week and sign it.

Parents' Information Evenings

We have a series of events in the calendar this term aimed at providing parents with helpful information for students in specific year groups. These events, including Open Evening, will all be held virtually. We will send details of how these will work nearer the time.

External links:

Current DfE guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Derbyshire local authority:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>

Finally, a polite reminder that we cannot invite parents onto the school site without prior appointment. Please contact either reception or the member of staff you would like to speak to in advance in order to arrange a meeting. Contact details are on our website.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. As always, if you have any further questions, please email info@glossopdale.school.

Kind regards,

Mrs. McGloin