



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all managed to have something of a break over half term and some well-deserved family time and sunshine.

As expected, guidance has changed a number of times since the last letter that I wrote to you, but we are now in a position to communicate our plans with more certainty and clarity. While you may not have a child in Year 10 or 12 who is returning to school this term, it is important that you are aware of the actions we are putting in place to keep our community safe and well.

The DfE has decided that it is safe to open the school to students from Monday 15th June. Based on the scientific advice and the meeting of the 5 criteria, we believe that this is the right decision for our students.

Our reasons are as follows:

1. Firstly, to ensure that we work safely, effectively and timely in order to ensure our students are not disadvantaged educationally or emotionally and that their welfare and safety for years to come is not negatively impacted upon due to not being in school. For every day our students are out of school they are missing out on the fundamental building blocks of learning that will empower them to be successful in their years to come. We must re-engage our students back into school so we can educate them, nurture them, care for them and provide them with the inspiring and stable environment they so desperately require.

2. To allow our society to repair. Our economy provides a vital service to our communities and it is through the power of education and school provision that we will start to rebuild our society and our communities. This does mean, in part, providing the daily capacity for families to return to work, but mainly this means a return to a community system where our schools are its centre. Schools play a vital role in uniting and leading the communities they serve, we must all work together to rebuild our nation and our communities.

Timeline

In the week commencing 8th 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.

We will also be communicating with students to gain their views and feelings about the wider opening of the school, and to share essential guidance.

In the week commencing 15th June, we will commence tutorials for Year 10 and 12 students.

A maximum of only 25% of the year group will be allowed on site on any one day. We will not have Year 10 and 12 students attending on the same day and, on the days when students do attend, they will remain in the same groups.

We will continue to accommodate children of key workers and vulnerable students on a daily basis. Provision starts at 8.30am and finishes at 3pm. If you would like a place for your child, please email info@glossopdale.school by 11am on the Friday prior to the week when the place is needed. Now that we will have more students in school, we can no longer accept any requests for places during the week.



Health and safety – preparation

Premises and cleaning staff have been preparing the following for the safe return of students:

- Risk assessments have been carried out and verified by DCC and the teaching unions
- Teachers' desks are demarcated with a 2 metre tape
- Lines have been marked out at entrances to ensure that students line up 2m apart
- The canteen has been taped to ensure that students queue 2m apart
- Hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms and at all entrance points
- Wipes are available in all classrooms in order to clean electronic equipment
- Tissues are available in every classroom
- Lidded bins are available in every classroom and are double bagged on disposal
- Open bins around the site have been replaced by lidded bins
- Additional signage is being displayed to support students in ensuring effective hygiene and social distancing
- Corridors are being marked out to ensure that students remain 2m apart when walking to and from their classroom
- Staff training on social distancing, enhanced hygiene, changes to the behaviour policy, preventative measures to combat the spread of the virus will take place in w/c 8th June
- Student presentations on effective hygiene and social distancing have been created and will be uploaded to Google Classroom for all Year 10 and 12 students prior to their attendance at school
- Additional and amended cleaning rotas have been in place and will be in place when students return; where possible the same classrooms will not be used on sequential days
- 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

Health and safety – when students in school

The following measures will be in place when students are on the school site:

- Hand sanitiser is checked and replenished on a daily basis
- Water fountains will not be available for use
- All students will be taught and expected to adhere to social distancing rules
- Failure to do so will result in a sanction; parents could be asked to keep their child at home
- Students will need to regularly wash their hands; please ensure that the same rules are applied at home
- Students will remain in the same classroom for all of their lessons; teachers will move to them
- Students will attend tutorial sessions with the same group of students when they are in school
- No more than 25% of a year group (10 or 12) will attend on any given day
- Students attending tutorials will have a different entrance to the entrance used by the children of keyworkers and vulnerable students
- On arrival, students will wash their hands and be supervised in doing so at break times
- Students and staff/other students will not share resources, including exercise books, text books, stationery
- Students will not be using their regular exercise books. Staff have been advised that they cannot mark students' physical work
- Break times will be staggered so that only the students within each class will have their morning break together, socially distancing and supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- There will be no whole year group assemblies or large gatherings of students or staff





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- We will, unfortunately, not be able to offer practical lessons as we do not feel that we can safely enforce social distancing and hygiene guidelines in these lessons
- Under government guidelines, staff and students are not required to wear face masks but we are happy if any staff member or student wishes to do so

Students' learning

Work will continue to be set on Google Classroom for all students. Subject staff have identified the essential topics that students in each year group should have mastered by the end of the year, and will focus their lessons and activities on exploring, embedding and developing these skills.

A list of these topics, with resources, will be available on our website by 15th June.

We have also set up a parent survey on Google Forms for you to submit your views on the work we have been setting so far, and how we can improve this in the summer term. Please click on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TiSppG1o2IW4Ojnl2bJpJ3mo6cDJMJBx7Rgfwv3C_4/edit

We'd be grateful if you could take the time to complete this by Friday 12th June.

If you require a hard copy of work for your child, please email info@glossopdale.school. Packs are posted weekly with work for specific subjects assigned to alternating weeks:

w/c 15th June: Science, MFL, Languages, Humanities, IT/Health/Business

w/c 22nd June: English, Maths, PE, Technology, Arts

Regretfully, we cannot allow parents to collect or drop off work; we will continue to refrain from having visitors to the school site and the latest guidelines indicate that it is not safe for teachers to mark and return students' physical work. We will, however, deliver a stamped addressed envelope along with work packs from now on so that students can return their work to be reviewed by staff in school.

We recognise that, as time goes on, it can be hard to support students with home learning. There are some excellent resources available.

The following is a practical guide for parents:

<https://researchschool.org.uk/public/docs/A-Practical-Guide-for-Parents.pdf>

We also fully endorse the use of the Oak Academy lessons online, created and taught by subject specialists for use during school closure:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Please do encourage your child to contact their subject teachers on Google Classroom; they would be really happy to hear from them and answer any questions.

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/>



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We will also use text messages to communicate any more urgent messages, for example if we were required to temporarily close the 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.

Free School Meals

Students who are entitled to free school meals have been receiving weekly vouchers via the government scheme since we have been in lockdown.

If you feel that your child may be entitled to free school meals due to any changes in personal circumstances, please apply for the funding via the following link on Derbyshire County Council's website:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

At risk groups

The DfE has advised that children and adults who are in the clinically extremely vulnerable category should not attend school. These are adults or children who:

1. have had a solid organ transplant – kidney, liver, pancreas, heart, or lung
2. are having treatments for some cancers
3. have severe long-term lung disease including cystic fibrosis and severe asthma
4. have rare diseases that increase their risk of infection
5. are on medication that compromises their immune system and so are much more likely to get infections and become seriously unwell from them
6. are pregnant with significant heart disease

If you believe your child to be clinically vulnerable (not extremely clinically vulnerable as above), DfE guidance indicates that you should seek medical advice as to whether it is safe for your child to attend school.

If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting.

If a child, young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable (as above), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. In school, we will apply very strict guidelines around social



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distancing and effective hygiene. If you feel that your child will not be able to adhere to these rules, we will support them in remote learning from home.

If a child or member of staff develops symptoms

If a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Our aim is to ensure that all students and staff are kept safe in school, and that the plans we have implemented above allow social distancing measures to be enforced at all times. We have asked all parents to ensure that their children are aware of, and capable of adhering to, our social distancing expectations. Those who cannot do so will continue with their remote education from home.

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

Best wishes,

Debbie McGloin
Executive Headteacher