



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. I hope this letter finds you well. I was hoping that the next time I wrote to you following my letter on New Year's Eve, I would be the bearer of much better news but sadly I'm not. You will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday and am sure you are now aware that schools will be closed to all year groups until at least February half term, with the exception of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Unless you have had a place for your child confirmed, please do not send your child into school.

I am also sure that you will have many questions. Therefore, below are some of the details that will help you to understand how the changes affect you, and the arrangements we have made.

External exam arrangements

At the moment, vocational (BTEC) exams for Y11, 12 and 13 will continue as planned and students should attend school to sit them. They will not, however, be attending lessons in school outside of these exams.

Provision for vulnerable and critical workers' children

You will have been contacted by a member of staff if your child is eligible to attend school and will have already had a place confirmed. Children attending school will complete work set by their teachers on Google Classroom. It is essential that we maintain safe numbers of children in school, therefore if you believe your child is eligible and would like them to attend school, you must let Mrs. Gilbert know by emailing sgilbert@glossopdale.school by 3pm on the Thursday of the week before the place is needed. The school day is from 9.15-3pm. Students must attend for full days in full uniform but not for every day of the week. Please specify which days are needed. We regret that, unless a place has been booked by the Thursday of the previous week, we cannot permit a child to attend. If you have booked a place and do not intend for your child to attend, please let us know before the session. Thank you for your support.

Remote learning provision and expectations

While we would much rather have students in school with their teachers and peers, students will now be at home conducting their lessons remotely. Please ensure that your child logs on to Google Classroom every day and please support them in accessing their lessons and full curriculum. As I'm sure you are aware, any children who do not fully engage with remote learning are more likely to lack the essential knowledge and skills that they need to progress. A guidance document was sent yesterday with links to advice on home learning on our website.

Lessons for all students will be uploaded onto Google Classroom; each lesson will be presented on video/audio from the class teacher, including lesson activities which may be completed online or on paper during the lesson. Students are expected to complete their lesson tasks for all subjects and submit their work online. Class Charts will be used to record whether students have completed their work to a good standard, or if it is missing or



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incomplete. There are a small number of students who complete work on hard copies. These will be collated and delivered to students' homes by Tuesday of each week. Completed work should be given back to the member of staff at this point.

Each child not in school will receive a welfare call from either their tutor, Year Manager, teaching assistant or Progress Leader. If you or your child has any difficulty accessing the work, or any other issues, please let the member of staff know at this point.

In order to ensure complete curriculum coverage and support students in Y7-11 in organising their time, we recommend the following timetable. However, if your child wishes to follow their usual school timetable or create their own, this is fine.

Monday: Core (En, Ma, Sci)

Tuesday: Options/non-core Subjects

Wednesday: Core (En, Ma, Sci)

Thursday: Options/non-core Subjects

Friday: Core (En, Ma, Sci)

Curriculum

We will send all parents a list of topics to be covered this term that will be covered in each subject in each year group - this will be emailed by the end of this week and also available on our website. This will support parents in discussing subject content with their children, as well as quizzing and testing.

Free school meals

Children who are not in school but eligible for free school meals can receive a food parcel. If you have not done so already, please complete the form to request a parcel:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AJ39EP6b4lLft9cieM7fD29RtEO-MBWUwSYX-Q8AJoM/edit>

Mock exams, reports and parents' evenings

- Y11 mocks planned for 11th Jan onwards will not go ahead. The government have not yet announced how Summer exams will be affected. We will write separately to parents of Y11 and Y13 students when we have clear details of the arrangements for the summer. We anticipate re-arranging the mock exams for when the Y11 students return.
- If the government decide to either fully or partly use Centre Assessed Grades as they did last year, these will need to be based on a range of evidence and therefore it is imperative that Y11 and Y13 students continue to work hard; any assessments they undertake could be used as part of this evidence and ranking
- We will continue to follow our assessment calendar and therefore reports will be sent out as planned (Year 7 in w/c 18th January and Year 9 in w/c 25th January).
- Year 10 Parents' Evening will also continue as planned as appointments are virtual.



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Covid-19 Testing

Clearly the planned rollout of mass testing for Secondary School students this term will now not go ahead. However, we do anticipate that it will happen when students do return to school. We will continue with our plans to test staff on a weekly basis and will also plan a system of testing for those students in school.

Q&A

We know that many parents and students will have questions about their remote learning and the specific consequences for them as a result of the new lockdown measures and announcements. We will be holding an online Q&A session on Thursday 7th January at 2-3pm in order for parents or students to speak to Mrs. McGloin, Mr. Clark and Ms. Smith. Please bear in mind that we may not have comprehensive responses to issues that have not yet been decided in the longer term eg. GCSE and 'A' Level exams. However, we will do our absolute best to provide you with the latest information that we have, and will also hold further Q&A sessions throughout the lockdown period. If you would like to ask a question, please log in to the meeting below between 2pm and 3pm on Thursday:

meet.google.com/sct-wasx-bmh

If you have a general question in the meantime, please email info@glossopdale.school.

Best wishes,

Debbie McGloin