



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I certainly don't want to overload you with information at this time, however I thought it would be useful to give you an update of the actions and plans that we have taken and will be taking in response to parental and student feedback. I hope you find this letter helpful in giving you an overview of how we are working to support your children, both in school and with remote learning. We will continue to send text messages, e-mails and update our website, however you may find that these regular updates are valuable in keeping you fully informed.

Thank you to all parents and students who completed our surveys this week, the response and feedback has been overwhelmingly helpful and positive.

Summary of parent feedback on remote learning

It is reassuring that the vast majority of parents are impressed with our remote learning provision. **85% of parents agree or strongly agree** that provision has improved since previous lockdown periods, and **72% agree or strongly agree** that their child's engagement with remote learning has increased. **90% of parents also agree or strongly agree** that video lessons effectively support their child's learning.

These are really positive statistics.

However, we also had comments from both parents and students asking about live remote provision to improve interaction and motivation, and to support your children's wellbeing while they are at home. Please see our plans below.

Live sessions

We know from research that live teaching does not have any greater impact on learning than pre-recorded sessions, and we also know the positive impact that our video lessons are having on students who watch, pause, rewind and revisit them to support their learning. Nevertheless, they do not replace the interaction that students are lacking at the moment - with both their teachers and their peers.

We have begun this process by asking students to register online with their tutor 3 times a week. The attendance and feedback on these sessions has been hugely positive. Some subjects have also already been delivering live sessions to students and more subjects will be introducing them over the next two weeks.

We would now like to roll this out to all subjects and classes. Therefore, from 22nd February, we will be offering a calendar of live sessions for all students. For core subjects, these will take place once a week and for non-core subjects once a fortnight. These will be delivered by either the subject teacher or a subject-specialist in the faculty who will deliver to all students in the year group. These sessions will be structured in different ways and for different purposes, according to the needs of the class. For example:



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

- Teaching new content at the beginning of a topic/unit/concept
- Feedback on the week's/fortnight's work
- Drop-in question and answer sessions
- Masterclasses for exam preparation or a whole year group
- Modelling and addressing misconceptions

We will publish a schedule to parents and students before the end of this half term so that students can structure their daily and weekly timetables to fit these in.

Guidance on live sessions

It is essential that students and parents are clear on the guidelines for the safe and acceptable behaviour and conduct during live sessions. Attached are the Glossopdale School guidance documents for both Parents and Students. Please take the time to read through these and discuss with your child before their live sessions commence.

Marking and feedback

We thought it would be useful to let you know the types of feedback that your child receives, and how frequently:

- Google Forms and online quizzes give immediate feedback on strengths and areas for development
- Whole Class Feedback - both verbal and presented as a written document - is a highly effective way of communicating areas of strength and development, as well as addressing misconceptions and literacy needs
- Individual pieces of work are marked on Google Classroom with comments and then returned to the students
- Verbal individual feedback is provided on extended pieces of writing using technology such as MOTE (where the teacher records their feedback)
- The curriculum content information for this half term details the formal assessment content and structure for each subject and year group:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Curriculum-Content-Remote-Learning-Jan-Feb-2021/>

Please also refer to our marking and feedback policy:

https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/GlossopdaleSchoolMarkingandFeedback_Policy_2019.pdf

In summary, subjects with 3+ lessons per week are expected to mark every 2 weeks and subjects with 1-2 lessons per week will mark every 3 weeks. You will, however, have noticed that the majority of students' work is being marked much more frequently than this.

Help with IT devices and internet connection

If your child is still finding it difficult to access their online lessons due to any of the following:

- a lack of devices/shared devices at home
- no access to the internet



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

- students are using a mobile phone to do their work
 - students are tethering their IT devices to their mobile phone data and this is limited
- please let us know by emailing info@glossopdale.school as we may be able to help in these situations.

Free School Meal vouchers

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will have been contacted to confirm whether you wish to take part in the government voucher scheme whilst your child is unable to attend school. Students who are currently attending school full time will be provided with their meals in the school canteen. Students who are attending part time will receive a partial voucher payment for the days they are being home schooled. All vouchers will currently cover the dates from 25th January - 12th February. You will be aware of the government's announcement that they will extend this scheme over half term until schools reopen. We will update you further on how this will be administered when more information is made available to schools.

Government announcement re: return to school

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has announced that schools in England will continue to be closed to the majority of students until at least 8th March. I am sure you are as disappointed as we are that students will not be returning to school as we had hoped after the February half-term. However, we will endeavour to provide the best possible provision and support for your children as we continue with our remote offer. We will update you further with any plans for the full opening of school once we know more.

Serial Covid-19 testing

I wrote to you at the start of term about the introduction of rapid results tests being introduced in school. The aim of this testing is to help identify both staff and students who are carrying the virus without displaying symptoms (mass testing) as well as testing anyone that has come into close contact with someone who has tested positive (serial testing).

We are now successfully carrying out regular weekly tests for both staff and students currently in school. However, the government has since changed its position on serial testing and schools are no longer required to conduct these tests. This means that if a student or member of staff comes into close contact with someone that has tested positive, they will still be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

Next live Q&A

Our live online sessions for parents and students have been invaluable in helping us to help you during this period of remote education. We will hold another session on Tuesday 23rd February at 5pm. If you have a question that you would like answering in the session, please submit it here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SXla1PWHXoC6SVqYQvmAyYK7DKo3MfyIKfjLC8hVy3M/edit>

We will also be holding a dedicated Q&A session for parents of students with EHC plans on Thursday 4th February - individual invitations will be issued to the relevant families.



To **aspire**, **endeavour** and **thrive** together

Once again, thank you all for your continued support at this time. If you have any questions or feedback, please email info@glossopdale.school.

Best wishes,

Debbie McGloin