



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd first like to thank the many parents who attended our online Q&A session on Monday evening. It was very well attended and provided us with invaluable feedback on the strengths of our remote learning, but more importantly on the areas that we need to develop. In order for all parents to benefit from the issues raised on the evening, here is the link to the ppt with parents' questions and our responses.

[https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Q\\_A\\_18\\_1\\_21.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Q_A_18_1_21.pdf)

### **Live sessions**

We know that children learn best in classrooms, taught by expert teaching staff, along with all the important relationships, connections and support that comes along with it. Remote learning makes the relationships and connections really difficult to achieve. We also know that it's harder to engage and motivate students remotely than when they are in the classroom. As parents you have been left in the unenviable position of having to take on this role of ensuring your child is engaging with their learning and I know this cannot be easy alongside having to work and balance the other commitments you may have to other family members.

It was evident at the meeting, and from other communication I have had with parents and carers, that a 'one size' approach to remote learning does not suit all parents and students. Some students/parents would prefer all work to be set at the start of the week; some would prefer it set in line with their timetable; some would like live lessons; some prefer pre-recorded; some think too much work is set; some think it is not enough etc.

As I said in my letter last week, live lessons are not necessarily the 'gold standard', these are Ofsted's words. The quality of delivery is far more important than the mode of delivery. Pre-recorded lessons have more advantages than live lessons; recorded lessons can develop students' independence, encouraging them to pause, to rewind, to manage their time, and to reduce the anxiety attached to inviting your class into your home.

However, although we believe pre-recorded lessons are the better form of delivery overall for all our students, what is clear is that some kind of live interaction between teacher and student is needed. Students need access to their teachers, particularly to ask questions when they are stuck. We have been trialling live Google Meets between tutors and their tutor groups over the last two weeks as well as holding whole year group Google Meets. Therefore, below are our plans to improve the 'live' connection between teacher/tutor and students.

### **Online registration**

We have been trialling these over the past two weeks and we will be starting online tutor group registration for Years 7-11 from 25th January. Each tutor group will register their tutor at 8.45am 3 days a week, every week, using Google Meet. Students can therefore see and interact with their peers, ask questions and receive clear information from their tutor.



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Tutors will add instructions to their tutor group Google Classrooms by Friday 22nd January, letting them know how to log on and the online protocols they must follow. Protocols are;

- Microphones off and cameras on (important that we are able to see students to check welfare and to ensure that they are not filming, for example, on their phones)
- Mobile phones must be away
- Do not make recordings of this meeting
- Only invited students should be taking part
- Students can ask sensible questions in the 'chat'
- Make sure there is a plain background if you are on the video
- Tutors can remove students if there are problems

Different year groups will register on different days. Please see the timetable below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7		Y	Y		Y
Year 8	Y		Y		Y
Year 9	Y		Y	Y	
Year 10	Y	Y		Y	
Year 11	Y		Y		Y

Sessions are not optional; this is an important way of checking attendance to remote education, just as a tutor session is in school. Tutors will be registering students during the live sessions and their attendance will be recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted via in-touch text messages if their child has failed to join the live session.

The live tutor sessions will replace a fortnightly call from the tutor, as their welfare can be monitored and questions raised during each session. Pastoral and SEND staff will continue to make contact as normal with our most vulnerable students. We will follow up with any students if they do not attend.

## Subject-specific Google Meets

We have also been trialling live Google Meets for subjects, where students can log in to speak to their teacher at a specific time in the week, in order to receive instructions, feedback on their work and ask questions. Dates and times are available on students' Google Classrooms. More sessions will be timetabled as we review engagement and effectiveness.

## Class Charts

I know that the vast majority of you review Class Charts on a regular basis; this is particularly important while students are working remotely as you can find out how your children are getting on in each subject. We have emailed reminder logins to those who have not logged on since January, or at all. Please check your inboxes today.



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### **Parent Survey**

As part of our drive to continuously review and improve our provision, we would be grateful if you could complete the parent survey, by clicking the link below. This will help us to review the effectiveness of the school's remote learning provision this term.

Students also have a survey to complete online which has been posted by their Progress Leader on the year group's Google Classroom. Feedback is an essential part of our development process, so we appreciate you taking the time to respond to the survey. It will close on Thursday 28th January at 8pm.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1s44YUsQAMOO7Bvi42mXgGqRH5KII8D-665S\\_PbABqG8/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1s44YUsQAMOO7Bvi42mXgGqRH5KII8D-665S_PbABqG8/edit)

### **Provision of laptops/internet**

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
- 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](mailto:info@glossopdale.school) as we may be able to help in these situations.

As ever, I and all the staff at Glossopdale hope this communication reaches you safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie McGloin  
Headteacher