



## To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the government announcement communicating the full opening of schools, we have set out below our arrangements for making this as safe and organised as possible. We are delighted that we can have all of our students back in classrooms, with their peers and teachers, and that we will be able to provide face to face education and interaction once again.

### Arrangements for students' return

Students in all year groups will return to school in the week commencing 8th March. As you will no doubt be aware, students in secondary schools will be tested for Covid-19 upon their return to school with the aim of reducing the transmission of the virus. Our testing programme is detailed below.

In lessons, students will remain in year group bubbles, as they were in the Autumn Term, following the same timetable that they most recently followed when in school.

### Phased return

In order to allow time for all students to be tested before returning to classrooms, we will stagger the return of students. Please see the timetable below for the first two weeks. You will receive an email by Monday 1st March which will give you the date and time of the first test for your child. For Test 1, students will attend school only to take the test; on the day of the test, they will work remotely before and after the test. For this test only, they do not need to wear school uniform when they arrive to school. For tests 2 and 3, students will be in school; they will leave a designated lesson to take the test and then return to the lesson.

You will see from the table below that Years 8 and 13 have been separated over two days of testing; you will be informed in the email which day your child should attend their test. They will therefore return to face to face lessons the following day.

Year Group	Test 1 Date: students attend school <b>ONLY</b> for their test	Return to normal timetable
7	Tuesday 9.3.21	Wednesday 10.3.21
8	8a: Tuesday 9.3.21 8b: Wednesday 10.3.21	8a: Wednesday 10.3.21 8b: Thursday 11.3.21
9	Wednesday 10.3.21	Friday 12.3.21
10	Monday 8.3.21	Tuesday 9.3.21
11	Monday 8.3.21	Tuesday 9.3.21
12	Tuesday 9.3.21	Wednesday 10.3.21
13	13a: Monday 8.3.21 13b: Tuesday 9.3.21	13a: Tuesday 9.3.21 13b: Wednesday 10.3.21



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The attached, more detailed, timetable details when students will take Tests 2 and 3, and when they will be engaged in remote learning.

Vulnerable children and the children of critical workers may continue to attend until their year group returns to a normal face to face timetable. When in school, they will be tested with the rest of their year group.

### **Arrangements and consent for Asymptomatic Testing in school**

We have been testing the students and staff in school very efficiently since the beginning of January. We will now be offering all students a Covid test at an on-site ATS (Asymptomatic Testing Site) from 8th March. Students will have 3 tests, each one 3 to 5 days apart.

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Testing is voluntary and children who are under the age of 16 require parental consent. Please see the link for details of what the test involves and how it is carried out:

[https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Lateral-Flow-Testing\\_Overview.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Lateral-Flow-Testing_Overview.pdf)

Please review the information on the link above, along with the attached Terms of Consent and Privacy Notice. Once you have done so, please complete the form below in full by Wednesday 3rd March: we ask that you complete this even if you do not give consent. You will need to complete a separate form for each child that you have at the school:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/covidconsent/>

The 3 tests will take place in the first 2 weeks following the students' return, depending on their year group according to the timetable above. Parents will be informed via email of their child's result. Following the 3 school-based tests, students will then be asked to carry out a twice weekly home test; please see details below.

### **Home testing**

Both pupils and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to self swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and pupils should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with their school to help with contact tracing. This process will begin in the week commencing 22nd March. We will issue further details in due course.

### **Changes to the time of the school day/arrangements for the start of day**

We were due to implement a change to the school day in January, however, partial school closure has meant that we have not yet introduced this. The reason for these changes is that the tutor period for Years 8 and 10 at the end of the day was not successful; the tutor programme was not delivered as effectively as it needed to be. Therefore, we have adapted



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our start and finish times as per the timetable below which will still ensure we have a staggered start and finish in line with our Covid management plan.

	<b>Line up</b>	<b>Assembly point</b>	<b>Enter</b>	<b>Leave</b>	<b>Exit</b>
<b>Y7</b>	8:40	Inside the Heart	8:45	14:55	Conservatory
<b>Y8</b>	8:45	Outside the conservatory	8:50	15:00	Conservatory
<b>Y9</b>	8:40	Outside the Global Studies classrooms	8:45	14:55	End of Global Studies corridor
<b>Y10</b>	8:45	On the tennis courts	8:50	14:55	Green or Purple doors depending on the day.
<b>Y11</b>	8:40	Outside the Technology area	8:45	15:00	

Students will line up at different entrances to ensure 'bubbles' remain separated as they enter the building. They will be met by their tutors and taken into their tutor room to be registered and begin their tutor time. Year 7, 9 and 10 will leave 5 minutes earlier than other year groups in order for us to stagger student exit.

We will continue with staggered breaks and lunches as per the current arrangements, with a slight change to the timing of lesson 1 and 2. The rest of the school day will remain the same.

The timetable for the day can be found here:

[https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/School\\_Day\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/School_Day_March_2021.pdf)

### **Face masks: update**

Following the DfE guidance, we will now expect face coverings to be worn in classrooms and when moving around the school or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not include PE lessons.

As a reminder, students need to bring their own face mask to school. This must be plain black or blue, preferably re-usable but students may also use the standard blue disposable masks.

Transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn.

Details on how to wear, remove and dispose of a face mask correctly can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

There will be a sanction for students who repeatedly refuse to wear a mask. If you feel that your child should be exempt from wearing a mask, please contact your child's Year Manager; we may require medical evidence.



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## **Safety measures**

We have reviewed and updated our Covid-19 risk assessment in order to keep the school site as safe as possible. As a reminder, the additional control measures that we have in place as a school are:

- Ensuring face coverings are used in recommended circumstances (see above for changes)
- Ensuring everyone is guided to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- Maintaining enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often
- Maintaining social distancing wherever possible: staff have been instructed to keep 2m from staff and students in classrooms and when on duty
- Keeping classrooms well ventilated
- Minimising contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school
- Minimising the number of contacts students have in school by maintaining year group bubbles
- Arranging asymptomatic testing for staff and students

Although we know that all students are familiar with common measures to minimise the transmission of the virus, we are also aware that most students have not been on the school site since before Christmas and also that, in arranging for students to return to school, the government expects that students will adhere to control measures to do their best to keep their community safe.

Please discuss these with your child before their return on 8th March:

- Regular hand sanitising should be routine; on entering the building, before and after eating, before and after using the bathroom; before and after sneezing or blowing their nose, after touching their face
- Students must maintain 2m distance from staff and, where possible, from each other
- Students must remain in their year group bubbles at all times in school
- Students must wear face coverings on public transport to and from school
- Students must now wear face coverings in lessons and when transitioning between lessons

We have hand sanitiser around the school and in every classroom, however, it would be helpful if your child can bring their own small bottle or wipes to school with them.

## **Swipe cards for the canteen**

We will be replacing the thumbprint system and will be ready to issue students with their cards on their return to school. We have introduced this as we believe it will reduce the risk of transmission as students will not be using their thumbs on the same machine as other students. It will also speed up the payment process as sometimes thumbprints don't always read quickly.



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There will be no cost attached to this change, however, if your child loses their card there will be a replacement cost of £3.50.

### **Year 11 and 13 Assessments and Exams**

The outcome of the Ofqual consultation on the cancellation of GCSE and 'A' Level examinations is being published today (25th February). Once we have the full picture of the guidance and the process for awarding grades, we will let students and parents know how we will respond as a school and what the next steps are.

### **Attendance**

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

A small number of pupils may be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please let your child's Year Manager know if you have any questions or concerns about your child attending school from March 8th.

### **Uniform**

Students will need to return to school in full school uniform; please can you ensure that if any new uniform is needed, you arrange this ready for 8th March so that they are dressed and equipped appropriately when they return. If there are any difficulties with this, please contact your child's Year Manager.

### **Remote learning**

Until students return to school on 8th March, they will continue to learn remotely. We expect students to attend their live sessions, both in subjects and at tutor times, and to complete the work set for them on Google Classroom. While we arrange a phased return for students to allow for testing (see above and attached), those students who are not in school should continue to work on Google Classroom at home, work will be set for them as usual. In the event that your child is self-isolating at any point, their work will be on Google Classroom (this will be uploaded on a weekly basis from 8th March onwards).

Provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children will continue until 8th March, and after that until your child's year group has been tested and returns in full. Therefore, if your child is not due to return to normal face to face teaching until later than 8th March (as a result of the phased return) but you require a place for them in school, please email [sgilbert@glossopdale.school](mailto:sgilbert@glossopdale.school) by Thursday 4th March at 3pm.



## To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

Thank you for taking the time to review all of this information, and for discussing its importance with your child. We are, of course, aware, how much new information there is and how detailed some of the arrangements are. If you have any questions or feedback, please email [info@glossopdale.school](mailto:info@glossopdale.school)

Yours faithfully

Debbie McGloin