



To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

You will be aware that the Prime Minister announced the intention to lift almost all controls around COVID from the 19th July. I wanted to write and explain how we intend to operate between now and the start of the autumn term.

July 19th onwards

We will continue with our safety protocols until the end of term which will mean facemasks will need to be worn and students will remain in their bubbles. There are two main reasons for this: firstly, infection rates in the area have been increasing and I believe that our systems and controls are helping to prevent infection between students in school. I would like to continue our efforts to prevent as many students as possible from contracting COVID. Secondly, there will still be a requirement for identified close contacts with a positive case to self-isolate at this point in time. By continuing with our COVID safety protocols and the bubble structure, I am hopeful that we can prevent as many close contacts as possible from occurring; this in turn will lead to a reduction in the number of students and staff needing to self-isolate during the early weeks of the summer holiday.

From the 19th July you will no longer be contacted by school about potential close contacts with positive cases. From this date you will be contacted directly by the NHS service if your child has been identified as a possible close contact by an individual who has tested positive for COVID. Until then, we are still required to identify and instruct close contacts with positive cases to self-isolate and we will continue to do this until the 19th July.

September onwards

From August 16th, students under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate after a close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID. As a result, this means that from September, we do not anticipate the need to send home significant numbers of students for precautionary reasons as we have had to do in recent weeks.

If your child is in Year 13 from September 2021, they will turn 18 years of age during the 2021-2022 school year. Currently, the guidance we have been asked to work to will allow an additional four months for those who turn 18 to become fully vaccinated before the requirement to self-isolate following a close contact with the positive case would take effect. Where a Year 13 student makes the decision not to become fully vaccinated, should they have a close contact with a positive case they would be required to self-isolate in line with national requirements.

It is important that you understand that some instructions from the government are unchanged and that if your child shows symptoms of COVID or tests positive for the virus they must still remain at home in line with the government regulations. Schools have also been instructed that if a student shows COVID symptoms they must be sent home. This will continue to be the case in September.

From the 16th August the government will also lift the requirement for adults who have been fully vaccinated to self-isolate after a close contact. I'm sure you will be pleased to hear that this should also lead to a significant reduction in the number of staff unable to work on site from September.

This does not mean that we have forgotten or are unconcerned about the impact of COVID on our students and members of the school community for the new school year. We are fully committed to maintaining our enhanced

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The information in this letter should be shared with other person(s) with parental responsibility for your child.



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cleaning and hygiene routines and to maintaining the high profile personal care and hygiene messages with our students. There are also several elements of the way that we've been operating recently that we would like to retain in September.

Return to school testing in September

We will be offering students two tests on site in school before they return to the classroom in September. We are currently working through the logistics of how this can be best implemented and how we can most quickly but safely return to normal operations in September 2021. Further information on testing will come out as soon as we've made final decisions on how this will be done, along with reminders closer to the start of the new term. In preparation for testing you will receive a request from us to renew your consent for on-site testing and, if your child is in our new Year 7 from September 2021, to provide initial consent.

I'm sure by now you fully understand the challenges that the pandemic has presented for your children and for their schooling. We spent much of the last six months thinking about how education should look at Glossopdale from September and how we can best tackle the ongoing impact of COVID and the disruption it caused for your children. I am confident that our plans and the work we will put in place will help to make sure that every child can fulfil their full potential before they leave us. For some, this will mean getting back to normal; for others, it might mean a range of interventions and different opportunities. As always, the most important thing for us will be to understand how each individual child needs to be supported.

Last Day of Summer Term

Finally, students will be pleased to know that the last day of term, Thursday 22nd July, will be a non-uniform day. Students can make a voluntary contribution of £1, half of which will be donated to our newly-twinning school in Kenya and the other half for rewards. Please ensure that your child dresses appropriately. Despite the anticipated heatwave next week, we would still like to remind students to dress sensibly: no bare midriffs, excessively figure-hugging or revealing tops or shorts, and no items that could cause any offence.

As always, I want to thank you for your patience and support through the most challenging of school years. The partnership between parents and school has never been more important.

Best wishes

Debbie McGloin
Headteacher

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