

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 students,

We hope you and your families are all safe and well. We have taken the opportunity to write to you as we know you will have many questions about the current and future situations regarding Year 11 students at school.

Centre-assessed grades

You will have had Mrs. McGloin's letter on 3rd April detailing the process for awarding centre-assessed grades; you will also be aware that GCSE results day will stay on Thursday 20th August as planned. As teachers, we are now involved in following this process rigorously, which will last for a large proportion of the summer term. There is no new information for parents and students, and is unlikely to be an update to the information published on 3rd April as it comprehensively explains the process schools will now undertake. I do understand how the wait until August 20th is even longer than it would have been following the planned exams, however, centre-assessed grades remain confidential to the school and exam boards. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please address them either to me (ksmith@glossopdale.school) or Mr. Clark (pclark@glossopdale.school).

Setting work

It is understandable if students and parents are unsure of whether Year 11 students should be completing work. As you know, no work that was completed following the school closure can be used towards awarding a centre-assessed grade. We have, however, asked our teaching staff to continue to set work for Year 11 students. They remain part of the Glossopdale School learning community, and we want them to continue to be involved. I have asked that the work set helps to maintain good study habits and prepares students for post-16 study, wherever they choose to attend in September. Students will not be penalised for not undertaking the work, however, we intend for it to be helpful and enjoyable.

I am sure you will also be aware that the BBC launched a new schedule of programmes on weekday evenings every week to support Year 11 and post-16 students. There is an excellent variety of programmes to educate, stimulate and enjoy. The schedule can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour>

We will also continue to post our assemblies and tutor time sessions for Year 11s for the rest of the Summer Term.

Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will have been receiving vouchers from the school to use in local shops. These will continue for Year 11 students throughout the Summer Term. If your financial circumstances have changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, please apply here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Some new groups are now entitled to free school meals, click here to review the changes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/guidance-for-the-temporary-extension-of-free-school-meals-eligibility-to-nrpf-groups>

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Post-16 Applications

If your child has not yet decided on or applied to the school/college they intend to study with next year, we are able to offer help and advice from our Careers Advisor. His contact details and some additional information is on our website here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Guidance-on-Future-Pathways/>

Post-16 study

Happily, we have a large proportion of Year 11 students joining us at Glossopdale Sixth Form in September. To support your child's transition from GCSE to Sixth Form, our Sixth Form teachers have put together a 12 week programme of study for transition to A Level and BTEC subjects. Activities are varied and include: online courses, research, documentaries, articles, reading, theatre performance reviews and even painting and drawing. Each Monday we will set new assignments on the Year 11 Google classroom for all of our Year 11 students to access these set activities and we will also add them to our school website here:

https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Sixth_Form/Admissions/

Your child should select at least 3 activities, preferably the ones for the subjects that they intend to study and they should email evidence of their work to the relevant teacher by the end of each week. Even if your child has not applied to join our Sixth Form as their first choice, they are still advised and welcome to complete the work.

The activities are designed to be completed independently and should provide some level of challenge. If you or your child requires clarification or support with any of the activities please email Miss Geary directly at

lgeary@glossopdale.school

Year 11 Prom

We have been contacted by Chatsworth House about the feasibility of holding a large event this summer. Given the current government advice, it is with great regret that we have needed to cancel the current planned date for the prom. We are, however determined to celebrate our Year 11s' successes with the style and panache that they deserve, as soon as we are able to.

We want to do this on as small a budget as possible to make the event as accessible to all our students in what could be financially difficult times, whilst still making the event really special. We would love to have your help in making this happen and Mr Williams will be contacting you soon to see what skills people have that would be helpful; examples of this are if you know (or are!) a fantastic DJ or caterer who we could use. With your help we will be able to make this a night for year 11 to remember.

We are currently holding a small amount of money from students towards the cost of the current prom. We will of course be returning this to you.

Cheques: It is quite difficult to physically meet people at the moment so if you paid by cheque, please could you email Mr Williams (n.williams@glossopdale.school) if you are happy for us to rip the cheque up. If you would like the physical cheque returned, please let Mr. Williams know.

Cash: If you paid in cash it would be very helpful for us if we could return the money to you after the most stringent social distancing measures have passed. If this will be a problem for you, please could you contact Mr Williams and he will arrange an appointment time when we can return your cash deposit to you.

All deposits will be returned, but we cannot accept visitors to the school at the moment, as I'm sure you understand. We will do our best to make an arrangement that ensures you are not inconvenienced.

Hoodies

Along with Head Girl, Lucy, we are contacting suppliers to assess the feasibility of providing these before the end of the Summer Term. We cannot give you a definitive answer on this at the moment. We will certainly be ordering them and giving students the opportunity to choose a colour and name, but we cannot at present give you a timescale I'm afraid.

Leavers' events

You will be aware that we held a hastily arranged leavers' assembly on Thursday 19th March. Two of our students, Emily and Sam, created a brilliant photo montage of students over the years and this is now on Google Classroom for the students. A number of members of staff gave speeches and we bade a premature farewell to the students. In 'normal' times, we have a variety of Good Luck events so please watch this space for our remote replacements for these.

Finally, what I'd really like to say is that we have not forgotten the Year 11s. They disappeared far too quickly from the school and from our lives, but they remain as much a priority for us at a distance as they did when they were in school.

We are really looking forward to the opportunity of seeing them all again.

Kind regards,

Ms. Smith, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Heap