



April 2020

## To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would normally be looking forward to welcoming back students and staff after the Easter break and getting the Y11 and Y13's ready for the final run in to their exams.

I hope you have been able to have some sort of break this Easter and have taken the opportunity to regather your thoughts and energy. Our teachers are ready to continue to provide lessons on Google Classroom. I have also written separately to the families of Y11 and Y13 students with information on the government proposals for awarding grades this summer.

We know that students are working hard at home and adapting to new ways of working and communicating with teaching staff. Please refer to the information on our website for support with online and remote learning, as well as marking and feedback guidelines. <https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Covid-19-Information-and-Guidance/>

You may have heard about two government initiatives. The Oak National Academy was launched yesterday and provides a set of government approved online lessons and resources that you are very welcome to access <https://www.thenational.academy/>. We do not yet know how well they tie in with the curricula and lessons taught at Glossopdale but they should be of good quality and safe to use. BBC Bitesize is another on-line learning resource you may wish to use and can be accessed here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

You may also have heard about the new scheme for laptops for students. Schools have only just been informed about this and there is very little detail on how the system will operate and how long it will take before we are able to provide equipment. At the moment, it seems to be targeted at a small proportion of Y10 students. We will contact you with further information as more becomes clear. Please be patient as it is likely to take several days for the details to emerge.

You will also be aware of the national voucher scheme for students entitled to free school meals. This scheme is currently working very effectively at Glossopdale and all families entitled to this support have been contacted and given the opportunity to receive the vouchers. I am mindful that some families may be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances at this time and are in need of extra support. If your circumstances have changed you may wish to now apply to be part of this scheme. Derbyshire County Council are keen to get all families who are eligible to apply and you can find out more about the eligibility criteria and complete the confidential application by following this link; <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding in helping us sustain our school and use our resources wisely. Our staff have been outstanding in doing everything we have asked of them and you have helped enormously in making sure we can continue to do so. We remained open throughout the Easter break, supporting our key worker families during that time. We have also donated items of PPE to the NHS such as protective gloves and safety goggles from our Science department. I am sure you feel as I do, that we need to do whatever it takes at the moment to support the NHS.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well and I will write to you in the near future with any updated information.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie McGloin  
Executive Headteacher