



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all managed to have something of a break over half term and some well-deserved family time and sunshine.

Please forgive the length of the letter; there is a lot of important information contained within it. As expected, guidance has changed a number of times since the last letter that I wrote to you, but we are now in a position to communicate our plans with more certainty and clarity.

The DfE has decided that it is safe to open the school to more students from Monday 15th June. Based on the scientific advice and the meeting of the 5 criteria, we believe that this is the right decision for our students.

Our reasons are as follows:

1. Firstly, to ensure that we work safely, effectively and timely in order to ensure our students are not disadvantaged educationally or emotionally and that their welfare and safety for years to come is not negatively impacted upon due to not being in school. For every day our students are out of school they are missing out on the fundamental building blocks of learning that will empower them to be successful in their years to come. We must re-engage our students back into school so we can educate them, nurture them, care for them and provide them with the inspiring and stable environment they so desperately require.

2. To allow our society to repair. Our economy provides a vital service to our communities and it is through the power of education and school provision that we will start to rebuild our society and our communities. This does mean, in part, providing the daily capacity for families to return to work, but mainly this means a return to a community system where our schools are its centre. Schools play a vital role in uniting and leading the communities they serve, we must all work together to rebuild our nation and our communities.

The timeline for wider opening will work as follows:

In the week commencing 8th June, we will provide training for teaching and support staff in order to ensure that the school is safe for students to return to, and that all members of the school community are able to operate safely and effectively.

We will also be communicating with students to gain their views and feelings about the wider opening of the school, and to share essential guidance.

In the week commencing 15th June, we will commence tutorials for Year 10 and 12 students.

A maximum of only 25% of the year group will be allowed on site on any one day. We will not have Year 10 and 12 students attending on the same day and, on the days when students do attend, they will remain in the same groups.

Arrangements for Year 10:

Students will not attend on a full-time basis, they will not be attending lessons every day and will not attend school over lunchtimes. Morning tutorials will cover the core subjects of English, Maths and Science (one hour for each) and, on separate days, their option subjects (sessions will be two hours for each subject). An individual timetable will be provided; across the term this will allow for all students to have two lessons each in their core subjects, and one in their option subjects.

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Arrival times and break times will be staggered to ensure that students do not congregate in large groups at the start or end of the day. Students will remain in the same classroom throughout the day (aside from break time); teaching staff will move to the students' teaching group.

There will also be a briefing led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team on the mornings they attend for their core subjects, in order to communicate practical arrangements and expectations.

An example timetable for week 1 might look like this:

Monday 15th June:

9.00am: Briefing

9.30 - 10.30am: English

10.30-11.45am (including staggered break): Science

11.45-12.45pm: Maths

Thursday 18th June:

10.30am-12.30pm: Geography

The timetable will not be the same each week.

Your child may also be invited to attend a pastoral meeting with a member of staff after their morning sessions. If so, this will be included on their personalised timetable. This will be an opportunity for your child to talk to a member of staff about their work and wellbeing.

Tutorials and timetables

Tutorials will be delivered by a subject specialist. In option classes, this will mostly be the student's normal teacher. For English, Maths and Science, this may be another teacher of Y10 in that subject. Year 12 lessons will be delivered by the usual teacher of that group. The aim of the tutorials is to gauge students' confidence and learning since they have not attended school. We know that students will have many strengths and achievements, as well as some gaps and misconceptions in their knowledge. The tutorials will help to identify them so that appropriate work can then be set for students to complete at home. Students will be provided with a booklet to support their learning, with the essential topics and resources that they need.

Health and safety – preparation

Premises and cleaning staff have been preparing the following for the safe return of students:

- Risk assessments have been carried out and verified by DCC and the teaching unions
- Teachers' desks are demarcated with a 2 metre tape
- Lines have been marked out at entrances to ensure that students line up 2m apart
- The canteen has been taped to ensure that students queue 2m apart
- Hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms and at all entrance points
- Wipes are available in all classrooms in order to clean electronic equipment
- Tissues are available in every classroom
- Lidded bins are available in every classroom and are double bagged on disposal
- Open bins around the site have been replaced by lidded bins
- Additional signage is being displayed to support students in ensuring effective hygiene and social distancing
- Corridors are being marked out to ensure that students remain 2m apart when walking to and from their classroom





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- Staff training on social distancing, enhanced hygiene, changes to the behaviour policy, preventative measures to combat the spread of the virus will take place in w/c 8th June
- Student presentations on effective hygiene and social distancing have been created and will be uploaded to Google Classroom for all Year 10 and 12 students prior to their attendance at school
- Additional and amended cleaning rotas have been in place and will be in place when students return; where possible the same classrooms will not be used on sequential days
- Desks have been removed from allocated classrooms and no more than 12 students will be taught in one classroom
- New first aid procedures are in place and trained staff will have access to PPE where this is medically necessary

Health and safety – when students are in school

The following measures will be in place when students are on the school site:

- Hand sanitiser is checked and replenished on a daily basis
- Water fountains will not be available for use
- All students will be taught and expected to adhere to social distancing rules
- Failure to do so will result in a sanction; parents could be asked to keep their child at home
- Students will need to regularly wash their hands; please ensure that the same rules are applied at home
- Students will remain in the same classroom for all of their lessons; teachers will move to them
- Students will attend tutorial sessions with the same group of students when they are in school
- No more than 25% of a year group (10 or 12) will attend on any given day
- Students attending tutorials will have a different entrance to the entrance used by the children of keyworkers and vulnerable students
- On arrival, students will wash their hands and be supervised in doing so at break times
- Students and staff/other students will not share resources, including exercise books, text books, stationery
- Students will not be using their regular exercise books. Staff have been advised that they cannot mark students' physical work
- Break times will be staggered so that only the students within each class will have their morning break together, socially distancing and supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- There will be no whole year group assemblies or large gatherings of students or staff
- We will, unfortunately, not be able to offer practical lessons as we do not feel that we can safely enforce social distancing and hygiene guidelines in these lessons
- Under government guidelines, staff and students are not required to wear face masks but we are happy if any staff member or student wishes to do so

Home learning

During their in-school sessions, students will be given a booklet for each subject to use in the tutorials, these should then be taken home. There will be a series of supplementary activities for students to complete at home before their next subject session. These will be available for students who do not attend this term - either as a hard copy or electronically.

In addition, subject teachers will continue to set work on Google Classroom.

If you require hard copies of work, please email info@glossopdale.school. Packs are posted weekly with work for specific subjects assigned to alternating weeks.

w/c 15th June: Science, MFL, Languages, Humanities, IT/Health/Business

w/c 22nd June: English, Maths, PE, Technology, Arts



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Regretfully, we cannot allow parents to collect or drop off work; we will continue to refrain from having visitors to the school site and the latest guidelines indicate that it is not safe for teachers to mark and return students' physical work. We will, however, deliver a stamped addressed envelope along with work packs from now on so that students can return their work to be reviewed by staff in school.

Arrival at school

Students will not be able to congregate outside or inside communal areas in school. They should arrive to school 10 minutes before their tutorial starts and line up outside the sports hall changing rooms. Demarcated lines are in place to ensure that students line up at least 2m away from others and wait to be admitted. They will then be directed to go straight to their allocated classroom (this will be indicated on their personalised timetable but staff will be able to direct them when they arrive).

The canteen will not be open for breakfast. Please ensure that your child has eaten a suitable meal before they arrive at school; they will not be able to eat in school until their break time.

Work from home

Students' in-school tutorials are a valuable way for them to re-connect with subject teachers and receive guidance in areas they may be less confident in working on independently. Teachers can then adapt their online lessons to address any gaps in knowledge. Teachers will continue to set work on Google Classroom for all subjects taught in Year 10 and 12, and will provide hard copies of work for students to take home with them when they attend school.

Please ask your child about their work and support them in completing it. We will continue to set a weekly form of assessment such as a Google Form or quiz.

Uniform, equipment and resources

Students are not required to wear their school uniform when they attend school. This is to allow all students the opportunity to wear clean clothes on each occasion they are in school. Our uniform expectations around jewellery, nails, piercings, hair colour and outdoor clothing will remain. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for school.

Students should bring a pencil case with at least one black/blue pen, a pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator and their planner in order to make notes if they need to. Students should also bring their own bottle of water.

Behaviour and attendance

As a result of changing circumstances and to ensure that students adhere to our hygiene and social distancing expectations, we have updated our behaviour policy with the annex available on our website here:

https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Letters/Behaviour_Policy_Annex_-_COVID_19.pdf

Expectations on the following remain the same:

- Mobile phones
- Eating in school
- Following instructions
- Uniform (Nails, hair, jewellery, eyelashes)
- Prohibited substances such as tobacco, aerosols.



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Updates:

- Parents of any student who cannot comply with the school behaviour policy regarding hygiene, social distancing, or any other expectation in the policy, will be contacted immediately and they will be asked to remain at home.

Our aim is to ensure that all students and staff are kept safe in school, and that the plans we have implemented above allow social distancing measures to be enforced at all times. We cannot, however, guarantee that students will socially distance themselves. Please can you assess the risk of sending your child into school, particularly if you have any concerns that they might not be able to adhere to these guidelines.

Attendance

Our leading principle at this time is to strongly encourage school attendance for Year 10 and Year 12 students at designated times, unless they are self-isolating or they are defined as clinically vulnerable.

A student with symptoms must not attend school for any reason. If someone in the student's household is extremely clinically vulnerable, the parents/carers should make a well informed decision as to whether it is appropriate for the student to attend at this time.

Families should notify school as normal (on the Glossopdale School student absence line) if their child is unable to attend (when we are expecting them to be in school) so that pastoral staff can explore the reason with them and address barriers together.

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

If you now intend to send your child into school (and haven't previously responded as such on the questionnaire) please email info@glossopdale.school by 12pm Friday 5th June so that a timetable can be built for them.

Communication

We will continue to update our website with the most up to date information. The latest letters are saved here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/-Parents/Letters-Home/>

We will also use text messages to communicate any more urgent messages, for example if we were required to temporarily close the school.

Since 20th March, we have not allowed visitors onto the school site; this guidance remains. If you have a query and would like to speak to a member of staff, please telephone reception. We cannot allow parents or students to wait in reception and our car park continues to be available only for parents with a permit. If there are circumstances where you feel this may be necessary, please let us know in advance.

We will provide an electronic personalised timetable for each student, set via email in the week commencing 8th June. If you require a paper copy, please let us know.

Travelling to and from school

Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school wherever possible, and to limit the use of public transport. Students are reminded that, if they require the use of public transport to and from school, they should observe social distancing rules and it is recommended that they wear a face mask.



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School is closed to all visitors. If you are dropping off your child could you, please drop them off outside the building. No cars will be allowed onto the school car park. The safety of our school community is our main priority.

Free School Meals

Students who are entitled to free school meals have been receiving weekly vouchers via the government scheme since we have been in lockdown. As additional support we will also fund students who are in school to a snack and a drink at break time. This will be taken from school funds and will not impact on the voucher scheme provision.

If you feel that your child may be entitled to free school meals due to any changes in personal circumstances, please apply for the funding via the following link on Derbyshire County Council's website:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

At Risk Groups

The DfE has advised that children and adults who are in the clinically extremely vulnerable category should not attend school. These are adults or children who:

1. have had a solid organ transplant – kidney, liver, pancreas, heart, or lung
2. are having treatments for some cancers
3. have severe long-term lung disease including cystic fibrosis and severe asthma
4. have rare diseases that increase their risk of infection
5. are on medication that compromises their immune system and so are much more likely to get infections and become seriously unwell from them
6. are pregnant with significant heart disease

If you believe your child to be clinically vulnerable (not extremely clinically vulnerable as above), DfE guidance indicates that you should seek medical advice as to whether it is safe for your child to attend school.

If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting. If a child, young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable (as above), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. In school, we will apply very strict guidelines around social distancing and effective hygiene. If you feel that your child will not be able to adhere to these rules, we will support them in remote learning from home.



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If a child or member of staff develops symptoms

If a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If there is any information that you require in the meantime, please let us know. Thank you for continued support and patience.

Best wishes,

Debbie McGloin
Executive Headteacher