

## Parent and Carer Newsletter 1.7.22

Please see below a summary of helpful information for this week.

### General Information and Reminders

#### **Parent Support**

We'd like to signpost some excellent professional support in an online forum which may be of interest to some parents:  
Weds 4th July - 5pm - Live talk and Q and A

How to Cope When Your Child Can't: How parents can help themselves and each other - run by the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

[https://www.acamh.org/event/how-to-cope-when-your-child-cant/?utm\\_source=Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=4bed9fe660-AUTOMATION\\_Welcome\\_Message\\_1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f59ca1eb20-4bed9fe660-119713633&fbclid=IwAR1UdRRDBoQpo7sIBel1xfB17jfI0X4Cjmq4vSPiqYxZLYEPn1SmgSDnAg](https://www.acamh.org/event/how-to-cope-when-your-child-cant/?utm_source=Subscriber&utm_campaign=4bed9fe660-AUTOMATION_Welcome_Message_1&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f59ca1eb20-4bed9fe660-119713633&fbclid=IwAR1UdRRDBoQpo7sIBel1xfB17jfI0X4Cjmq4vSPiqYxZLYEPn1SmgSDnAg)

#### **Online safety**

The internet is an amazing resource; it enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your child's use of technology can be a challenge. In our recent online safety survey with students from Years 7-11, almost half of our students reported that they had changed their date of birth to appear older and create social media accounts, and 25% of our students reported that they freely share photos and their location online. These statistics are extremely worrying. The link below offers some excellent advice and guidance around delicate topics such as 'age appropriate online content' and the dangers of 'sexting'.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/what-are-the-issues>

#### **Animals for wellbeing**

We are pleased and excited to introduce Lilo, our new member of the staff team at Glossopdale. Lilo is a 4 year old cocker spaniel. Alongside Lilo we have the opportunity to bring a variety of different small animals to enhance the learning experience of students at Glossopdale School these include a hedgehog, lizard and rabbit.

We are always looking for research-informed ways to develop the support we offer our students. It is proven that having animals within school delivers significant benefits to students and also to the working environment and social dynamic of the school. Having given it serious consideration and researched thoroughly the benefits we are going to trial this throughout the Autumn term.

Further details will be made available prior to the start of the new term.

## **Household Support/Grocery Vouchers**

As part of a national scheme, Derbyshire County Council is providing a free one-off grocery voucher worth £50 per eligible child to families in need to help them pay for food and essential living costs.

Full details about the Household Support Fund, including other ways those facing financial hardship can access support from the fund, are available on the DCC website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund)

Distribution of the vouchers by email or text will start in early July and continue throughout the month of July.

If parents and carers who are eligible do not receive a voucher by the 20 July 2022, they should visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund) where an online form will be available to report missing vouchers.

## **Transport Safety**

There has been a recent rise in incidents such as trespass, vandalism and dangerous incidents on the railway network throughout the northwest. British Transport Police (BTP) and Network Rail (NWR) are looking for the support of parents/carers in helping to educate children and young people about the dangers of displaying such behaviours around the railway lines.

Please refer to the attached letter for further details and guidance.

## **Mobile phones**

As you know, we do not allow mobile phones in school. Research shows that they are a distraction from learning and can lead to bullying, theft and anti-social behaviour. We encourage students to develop friendship groups and socialise with each other during recreational times. Please click on the link for a reminder of our mobile phone policy:

[https://www.glossopdale.school/-About\\_Us/School-Policies/Mobile\\_Phone\\_Policy\\_Updated\\_June\\_21.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.school/-About_Us/School-Policies/Mobile_Phone_Policy_Updated_June_21.pdf)

Specifically, we'd like to remind parents and students that mobile phones are not permitted anywhere in the school building, at any time. This includes the use of mobile phones before tutor time and morning welcome. Thank you for your support in reinforcing this.

## **PTFA Meeting - Wednesday 20th July - 5.30pm**

Our PTFA - Parents, Teachers and Friends Association - will be meeting on Wednesday 20th July at 5.30pm in the Theatre at school to plan events for the coming year. We are a friendly group who enjoy contributing to the school and enrichment for students through charity events and activities. Please come along - new members are most welcome, including parents/carers of upcoming year 7s!

## **Key Stage 3**

### **Year 8 Tutor Times**

On Monday 27th June, Year 8 students launched our new style of delivery for Personal Development and Literacy. This takes the form of a lecture-style lesson delivered by a senior member of staff to half year groups in our communal areas. The way the students adapted to this 'new way of learning' was outstanding - their attentiveness and participation in the sessions was a pleasure to see. This week they learned about Digital Literacy (the importance of being safe online) and, in Literacy, the root word 'auto' and vocabulary: autobiography, autocracy and automatic.

## **Online Assessments**

Over the next two weeks Year 7, 8 and 9 students continue online assessments in English, Maths and Science. These are national tests which benchmark students' attainment in comparison to students across the country, and also evaluate students' progress from their first set of tests which was in the Autumn Term. We then use the tests to identify and address gaps in their understanding.

## **Key Stage 4**

Year 10 students are currently involved in a futures interview with the Sixth Form team. Information about their Post-16 pathways will be used to focus future careers activities around their specific needs. Students are also covering this topic as part of their Personal Development curriculum in tutor time.

## **Sixth Form**

Over the course of the next few weeks our Year 12 students will complete key documents during tutorial sessions, as well as take part in a variety of workshops during our Future Pathways Day, to support the next steps once they complete their studies in the Sixth Form.

During tutorial sessions and up to the end of term, Year 12 students will complete the process of writing their personal statement. All students must submit a first draft by Friday 22nd July. All Post 16 students will write a personal statement as this is not only a key part of the UCAS process when applying to University, but can also be used when applying for an apprenticeship or job application.

All of Year 12 students will be off timetable on Thursday 7th July for Issues Day, the students have been given a form this week to complete where they have selected which workshop they would like to attend in preparation for the day. Examples of some of the workshops include Student Finance, speakers from the University of Manchester and Sheffield, information about Gap Years and Camp America, as well as a team building activity led by the National Citizen Service.

## **Dates for your diary**

Monday 4th July: Y7 Sports Day

Tuesday 5th July: Y8 Sports Day

Wednesday 6th July: Y9 Sports Day

Thursday 7th July: Year 12 Issues Day "Future Pathways"

w/c 11th July: Y12 work experience

Friday 8th (pm) and Saturday 9th July - DofE Bronze training expedition

Thursday 14th July: Super Learning Day

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July: DofE bronze expedition

Wednesday 20th July: Rewards events

Thursday 21st July: Sixth Form Alton Towers Trip

Friday 22nd July: Students' last day of school

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Best wishes from all at Glossopdale School and Sixth Form