



16 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to share with you an update following the first full week back for all students and the arrangements that are in place to help keep your children safe.

Firstly, thank you to the students who have returned full of enthusiasm and every one of them I speak to is pleased to be back. The one way systems, year group bubbles, staggered starts, breaks and lunches are working well and the students are respectful and helpful with what we are asking them to do.

For some students, we are carefully unpicking the implications of such an extended period of time away from school but you will not be surprised to hear that most students simply want to get back on with the process of learning and this has been reflected in the attitudes and behaviours we are seeing. After a full week at school for all students 9954 THRIVE points have been earned by our students. Attendance has been excellent with 96% of students returning to school.

### **Update on the use of face masks in school.**

As you are aware the government advised schools to consider and to make a local decision in regard to the possible wearing of face masks, "...the World Health Organisation now advise that children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area." As a result, the government has revised the guidance on face coverings for staff and children in Year 7 or above in England.

From 1st September new advice was applied to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in school years 7 or above and learners in further education in England; in areas of local intervention, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Although Glossopdale School is not situated in a 'local lock down', it is on the border of an area which has recently been subject to additional restrictions. In addition to this, we have now had all students on site for a week and had the opportunity to observe the movement of students when they transition from one lesson to another and in communal areas. It has become apparent that it is very difficult to guarantee at least 1-metre distance from both their peers and staff as they move between lessons and during social times within their bubble.

We have therefore decided that, in order to further support our extensive measures to keep our students and staff safe, to keep students in school and to avoid having to send students home in the event of an outbreak, the following rules will apply from **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

- Face masks will be **compulsory** for students and staff in all internal communal spaces, e.g. corridors, and when students & staff are transferring between one room and the room next door.
- Face masks will be compulsory when queuing at food service points .
- It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use.
- Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.



- Face coverings must be plain black in design if reusable or plain blue disposable masks.
- Face masks should be worn on public transport.
- Face masks should be worn in the case of a fire alarm.

Further guidance:

- Face masks will be optional in external social spaces.
- If students do not bring their own mask into school or bring in a face covering that is deemed inappropriate and not in line with our policy, we will supply them with an alternative covering.
- Please refer to the behaviour policy above on the types of face masks that are permitted for students to use in school.

In addition, there are some things that I need to ask from you to help us keep the systems robust and your children safe.

- Firstly, the staggered start to the day for different year groups is really important in keeping the bubbles apart and preventing large groups gathering. Your child should not come to school early, they will be sent away until it is the right time for them to arrive. They should not wait on nearby streets as this can cause unnecessary congestion for the local community. Please work with them to work out how they can arrive at the right time. **Year 7, 9 and 11 students should be on site no earlier than 8.30am and Year 8 and 10 students should arrive no earlier than 9am.**
- It is also really important that they behave responsibly in the community. We have had a small number of complaints about groups of students congregating in the parks, boarding public transport and going into local shops without face masks. If they are meeting friends, they must follow the social distancing rules. I know they will have missed seeing each other and want to catch up but they must stay aware of their surroundings and the people in the area.

I am so pleased to see the school full of students again. They are doing a great job as are all the staff who are supporting them. I cannot thank staff enough for the immense efforts they are making to ensure things work so well.

Thank you for your support, we will continue to work hard to keep both staff and students safe whilst still having an enjoyable and effective experience in school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs D McGloin  
Executive Headteacher