



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you are safe and well and coping with the extended lockdown as well as you can.

I am sure you will have listened intently to the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday and wondered exactly what implications it might have for your children. I have restrained myself from writing immediately because, as with most of these broad announcements, further details have been released in the next day or so that sometimes change the impact. That is very much what has happened and continues to happen. The information we are receiving is changing almost by the hour, but I did not want to leave it any longer before writing to you.

Firstly, there is a huge amount of speculation in the media and on social media, please don't read too much of it. Much of it conflicts and causes confusion. In the end, each school will need to apply the guidance in a different way as each school has a different setting, different logistical issues and different needs for its families. Our priority will be to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students and we won't be rushed into making any decisions about how or what we do until we are absolutely sure we can do it safely.

Below is the link to the government advice for parents about the possible re-opening of schools.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

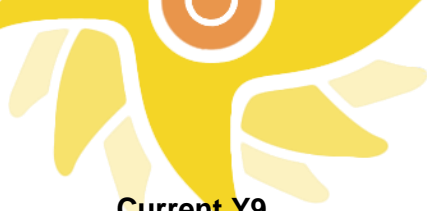
It is important to recognise a few things before I go any further;

- Currently, schools have been asked to plan for the possible return of some students in some capacity after the 1st June. The government has set a review date of the 28th May when it will decide if this will go ahead.
- Secondary schools have been asked to provide **some** face to face contact for some students to support their remote learning
- The government dictates which year groups we are open to and we have no discretion in this
- We will remain open to the most vulnerable students across all year groups and the children of key workers

Clearly, this has very different implications for different year groups so I will try to outline our thinking and plans for each year group as I go along. I fully recognise that all children, no matter when they return, will have missed a significant amount of school and our priority will be to make sure they feel comfortable and confident to return. We will spend much of their initial time in school ensuring they understand what we need from them and more importantly, what they need from us. We know each child will have had a very different experience of lockdown and we will want to understand exactly where they are in terms of their learning before we can begin to catch them up on the learning they need.

Current Y7 and Y8

There are currently no plans for these year groups to return to school before September. It means that we won't have seen these students for almost 6 months by the time they return. We are making some changes to the way we are working to make sure the work we set is as clear, engaging and as beneficial as possible. Using more frequent and effective assessment, we will aim to deliver lessons that ensure all students have acquired essential knowledge in each subject, addressing identified gaps and misconceptions. We therefore ask for your continued efforts in supporting your child to complete the work set, and to communicate with staff where there may be questions about the work. We are initiating a wider and more frequent range of pastoral contacts by email, text and phone, especially where it has been a while since we have been in touch in person. We will also put in place a more effective process for the collection of completed hard copies of work so students' achievements can be assessed.



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Current Y9

As with Y7 & Y8 there are currently no plans for this year group to return to school before September. We have made some changes to the way they are working. From the first of June they will be set work for their options subjects to support their transition into Y10 and help familiarise them with their new courses. Alongside their new option lessons they will continue with the core but, as with Y7 & Y8, we are making some changes to the way we are working to make sure the work we set is as positive, engaging and as beneficial as we can.

When these students do return, we will be especially mindful that we need to fully understand what they need and how we can work best with them.

Current Y10 & Y12

We have been tasked by the government to prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. We are working through exactly what that really means, how we can do so safely and what is the most effective way we can use the time we will have for your children. The constrictions needed to keep students and staff safe on site and the associated government guidelines means it is very unlikely to take the form of full-time education and conventional lessons. This means we can explore some innovative approaches to what we do with the time we have to make sure your children feel as confident as possible for their exams in summer 2021.

It would be really helpful to understand how you think about the decision to re-open for Y10 and Y12. I am asking each of our Y10 and Y12 families to complete the survey via the link below to indicate if you intend for your child to return if they are safe and well when the school re-opens to these year groups. We will use this information solely to help with our planning, it will be kept securely and deleted once the current crisis is over. Please read the government advice in the link above before you respond as it contains important information about national changes to expectations about attendance and other areas.

Essentially, although I know you will have many concerns about travel, the school site, student conduct and lots of other areas but working on the assumption that these issues can be resolved safely, we need to understand how many of our families would intend for their child to return. Please do respond, it will really help with our planning.

Follow this link <https://forms.gle/1vgWEq6LXM3Vjii58> this also can be found on our website.

The survey will close on Tuesday 19th May at 9.00am

Current Y11

You have not been forgotten and many of you will be returning to study in Sixth Form. We know that some of you will have planned to join other post 16 provision but if you have changed your mind and would like to stay at Glossopdale, indeed as some of you have already done over the past few weeks, please contact Mrs Flaherty, fflaherty@glossopdale.school, or Mrs Geary, lgeary@glossopdale.school) for a discussion. Similarly if you are intending to return to our Sixth Form and have yet to finalise your subject choices or have any questions, no matter how small, please do get in touch for any advice or support you may require. Wherever you intend to study, please continue to use the excellent transition materials available on our website and on Google Classroom.

Current Y13



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We will be keeping in touch with you throughout the summer as the results process unfolds and to support you in reaching your preferred destination. We will still be able to offer our outstanding advice and guidance for students leaving Sixth Form, even if it is delivered through different channels. Please get in touch with one of the Sixth Form team if you need any advice around student finance, apprenticeship applications or if you have any queries about your university choices.

I have received many emails from parents in praise of staff for their support throughout this period of lockdown. Staff have been working extensively to support in-school learning, home-learning, management of the site and the planning for the re-introduction of the school system. I am so very grateful for their support and dedication and wanted to take a moment to formally thank them within this letter.

There is so much more to talk with you about and I will keep you fully informed of any developments as and when they unfold, we have all learned how quickly things can change so thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. I understand you will want more detailed explanations of the school's plans about how it will re-open if you are to feel confident sending your child back into our care and you can be assured that I will share this with you.

Please take care and keep safe.

Debbie McGloin
Executive Headteacher