

## Parent and Carer Newsletter 16.9.22

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

### Monday 19th September: Bank holiday

A reminder that school will be closed on Monday. Students will follow Monday's timetable on Tuesday 20th September. Please ensure that they bring the correct books and equipment (including PE kit) to school with them on Tuesday.

### Equipment

A reminder that all students must have the following every day. This supports their independent organisation skills and the development of effective learning habits:

- black pen (at least two)
- red pen
- pencil
- ruler
- Calculator
- ID badge
- Personal Development plastic wallet folder
- Subject-specific equipment for the day (subject exercise books, PE kit, Food ingredients)

Daily checks of equipment take place and failure to bring these essential items will result in a same day 20 minute detention.

### School Photographs

These will take place on Thursday 22nd September when all students will have their photographs taken in school by Braiswick Photographers. You will have the opportunity to buy this approximately three weeks later, when proof packs will be handed out to students. Should you wish to order, please use the form enclosed with the pack.

### Holidays in term time

Please be aware that it is a statutory requirement for all students to be in school. Specifically, the Department for Education states that holidays in term time must not be taken unless there are exceptional circumstances. We are aware that some travel companies and airlines have rescheduled flights, but it is imperative that these are not booked in term time, due to the significant impact of the missed learning in this period. We are only able to authorise absence for highly exceptional circumstances and without these, under Department for Education guidance, holidays are unauthorised and parents/carers fined by the local authority.

### Y6 Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening will take place on Thursday 29th September from 6 - 8pm. At this event, we welcome prospective students and their parents/carers from Years 5 and 6 from our local community. There will be presentations for parents at 6.15 and 7.15pm.

Please note that the **school day on this date finishes at 12.30pm for all students in years 7 - 11** in order for staff to prepare. Free school meals will be available as a take-away packed lunch or the allowance can be used at breaktime.

### **Supporting your child with anxiety**

Please find attached a link to a guide on how to support your child with anxiety, kindly provided by Tameside and Glossop Mind. This contains information on how parents can understand more about anxiety in children and advice on how children can be supported at home.

### **Free breakfast**

A reminder that we serve bagels in the conservatory every morning from 8am-8.30am - they are free for all students.

### **Lockers**

Students in Year 7 are given priority for lockers in order to aid their transition from primary school. Once they have been allocated, students in other year groups are invited to apply to use the remaining lockers. At this point in the year, no students from Y8 upwards should have a locker and should have removed their belongings from the ones they used last year.

### **CATs tests**

Year 7 students will be taking a series of CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests) through the weeks beginning 19th, 26th September and 3rd October which will be conducted online. These will provide their subject teachers and leaders with important information to help us identify strengths, areas for development and arrange any necessary intervention. Students do not need to revise for the tests; they are skills-based. All of them will be carried out in a Computer room during lesson time. This will mean that some subject lessons will be used for testing, and some lessons in Computer rooms will be moved to standard classrooms. Students will be told by their subject teachers when their tests take place.

CATs tests (Cognitive Ability Tests) measure verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning. They provide an indication of skills in these areas as well as potential capabilities in these areas, regardless of prior attainment. There are 3 separate tests. Some of these tests require audio, so we recommend that if students have their own wired headphones, they bring them into school (these must be kept in students' bags throughout the day).

### **Dates for your diary**

<b>Monday 19th Sept 2022:</b>	<b>School Closed in memory of Queen Elizabeth II</b>
w/c Monday 19th Sept 2022:	Yr 7 CATs and baseline tests
Thursday 22nd September 2022:	Whole school photographs
Thursday 22nd September 2022:	Post-16 Parents' Information Evening
Wednesday 28th September 2022:	UCAS Fair with Year 12 students
Thursday 29th September 2022:	School closes for students at 12.30pm. Open Evening for Y5/6 6-8pm
Thursday 6th October 2022:	KS4 Parents' Information Evening
Tuesday 11th October 2022:	Post-16 Open Evening
Tuesday 11th October 2022:	Parent Forum
Wednesday 12th October 2022:	THRIVE Day
Thurs 13th-Sun 16th October 2022:	Paris Trip
Wednesday 19th October 2022:	KS3 Parents' Information Evening
Thursday 20th October 2022:	Last day of Autumn Term 1 for students

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Best wishes from all at Glossopdale School and Sixth Form