

Parent and Carer Newsletter 13.01.23

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

School Term Dates 2023/24

All term dates and INSET days for the 2023/24 school year are now available on our website. The 2022/23 school year information has also been reformatted, for ease of use, into this section of the website. Please click [here](#) to be taken to the page. Please be aware that we will have an additional 3 planning days where the school will be closed to students. We will communicate these within the next few weeks.

Household Support Fund and Grocery Vouchers

Derbyshire County Council have arranged additional winter funding for families in need. They will be issuing grocery vouchers to:

- children who receive benefit related free school meals
- children in an early years settings (nurseries and pre-schools) who receive free childcare for 2 year-olds or the early years pupil premium for 3 and 4-year-olds
- care leavers aged up to 21 years of age living independently

DCC have started to distribute vouchers for a value of £40 for each eligible child. It may take up to 2 weeks to distribute all the vouchers. Vouchers will be sent in alphabetical order by the name of the child, so parents / carers with more than one child should expect to receive vouchers separately, possibly with a number of days in-between. Once all the vouchers have been distributed, their website will be updated of details of what parents/ carers should do if they haven't received a voucher and believe they are eligible. We will update parents when we receive further information from DCC.

Attendance

We are aware that there are a significant number of colds, coughs or more serious illnesses such as flu, scarlet fever or Covid-19, over the winter. It is important to ensure that if your child does not have scarlet fever or Covid 19 and they are well enough to be out of bed, that they attend school. As previously communicated, high attendance is imperative in ensuring that your child reaches and exceeds their academic potential. We are, of course, aware that some absences cannot be avoided, but we strongly encourage all students to have 100% attendance, even if they are suffering from minor ailments.

Health and Safety: Glossop Mouselow Quarry

We have been contacted by the Manager of Glossop Mouselow Quarry with some concerns; we would appreciate it if you could speak to your children about this. There have been instances where children have been using the main quarry entrance road. This is adjacent to an unmade public footpath and the railway which is not safe. There is very heavy traffic in and out of site and they are in danger walking along the road. There is a crossing across the road which links the footpath from the top fields to the footpath adjacent to quarry road and railway, which the public is entitled to use. This crossing is well marked for vehicle use but care should be taken when crossing.

Key Stage 3

Year 9 Parents' Evening 2.2.23

Letters will be sent to parents next week with details of how to make appointments.

Year 9 DofE

The expedition dates for the Year 9 Bronze DofE Award are as follows:

Practice / Training Expedition on the Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd July. Students will be in School as normal on the Friday and the expedition will start at Cold Springs Farm Campsite at 6pm. The qualifying expedition is on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th. Details about the start and finish times and exact locations will be shared with parents / carers of students who are enrolled on the Award later this term. Students will be assessed against the [20 conditions](#). In order to complete the [bronze training framework](#) we will meet the students every Tuesday at 3pm to 4pm.

Key Stage 4 and 5

Year 11, 12 and 13 Trial Exams

Year 11 trial exam week commences on 23rd January. Students will be on study leave for the first week of the exam period and should only attend for their exams. This is intended to support them in managing their revision time and in becoming more independent. Students will need to arrive each day at 10am ready for their morning exams. These are scheduled so that students have time for a rest and their lunch (in school) and then all afternoon exams begin at 1pm. Students will meet and line up in the theatre. In the week commencing 30th January, students will need to attend all of their timetabled lessons and attend any remaining exams on their timetable. A link the Year 11 exam timetable can be found [here](#)

Sixth Form students will have exams in all subjects where they will have a written exam in the summer. Some of these will be public exams for vocational courses. The first exams have taken place this week and the last exam is Friday 3rd February. Most of these exams will run alongside normal timetabled 'A' Level lessons, however we have decided to allow students a short period of study leave from Monday 30th January until Wednesday 1st February inclusive. Although Year 13 Sociology students have an exam on the 2nd February, normal lessons will resume for everyone else on this day. Students will need to arrive each day at 9am ready for their morning exams and 12.45pm for their afternoon exams. All students will need to have their ID cards with them and these should be placed on their desks at the start of each exam. If students wish to have lunch at school they will be able to get this from The Heart from 12.30pm. A link to the Year 13 timetable can be found [here](#)

It is essential all students attend and complete their trial exams as the grades from the mocks could be used in the event of illness during the final exams or cancellation of exams. Thank you in anticipation of your support in reinforcing the message that these exams are important.

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom is booked for Friday 7th July 2023 at Buxton Pavillion Hotel. To be offered a place students must meet our 'Passport to the Prom' criteria. This information was shared with all year 11 at the start of the academic year and they have frequent reminders in assembly and via student bulletin. To be eligible, students must 'consistently demonstrate excellent attendance, punctuality and conduct around the school'. These criteria can be evidenced via a student's THRIVE points, their adherence to our culture and learning routines, being a role model for younger peers and abiding by our behaviour, uniform and attendance policies.

Year 10 and 11 Silver DofE

Expeditions dates for Silver DofE Award are as follows:

Practice and training expedition 18th and 19th March in Hope Valley and assessed expeditions on 29th, 30th and 31st March. Both of these expeditions are a compulsory part of the Award and more details will be shared with parents /carers of the students enrolled on the Award later this term. Students will be assessed against the [20 conditions](#). In order to complete the [Silver Training Framework](#), meetings for students this term will take place every Friday at 3 to 4pm.

Dates for your diary

w/c 16th January

GCSE practical mock exams (Art and Textiles)

w/c 23rd January

Y11, 12 and 13 mock exams

Thursday 2nd February

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th February

Young Musician of the Year competition

Friday 17th February

School closes for Half Term

London Trip

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Best wishes from all at Glossopdale School and Sixth Form