

Parent and Carer Newsletter 27.1.23

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

Strike Action

A letter was sent to all parents on Wednesday. Please click on the link [here](#) to review details of provision for Wednesday 1st February and future calendar changes we have made.

If your child will not be attending school on Wednesday but is entitled to free school meals, please can you complete this form by 3pm on Monday 30th January to request that they receive a lunch for you to collect on the day:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lcN6hPMvKc8X360A7HFVX2qPQbHQG82qg00FU-1ysw4/edit>

Parent Details and access to funding

As you may know, students from families who meet certain criteria (see below) may be eligible for Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium funding. Applications for free school meals have previously been made via DCC and have not taken into account changes in circumstances or tax codes. We will now be using a system that will enable you to identify more accurately if your child is entitled to free school meals. Schools who have already started using this system have typically found that there are far more families who can benefit from funding than had previously been identified.

We want to ensure that we provide the best possible education here at Glossopdale School and this funding can help us to do that. A healthy meal at lunchtime is an essential part of this. We want to support our families to apply to receive this for free wherever possible. If you receive one of the following benefits you may be eligible for Free School Meals:

- * Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- * Income Support
- * Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- * Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- * Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- * The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- * Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- * Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

We are using a system of checking eligibility for free school meals using National Insurance numbers. This means that your eligibility will be checked against your tax code and is therefore a more accurate identification of whether your child is entitled to free school meals. Circumstances do change and the details of the application will be stored and resubmitted for checking weekly, enabling any change of eligibility to be notified to you and the school. We therefore encourage the completion of the application by **all** parents. All information provided is kept confidential and is only used to establish eligibility for free school meals.

Please can ALL parents complete this form by Monday 6th February:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

It is very straightforward to use. Please make sure that you have your National Insurance number to hand. Entering this information will mean that your entitlement is updated on a weekly basis and your eligibility is kept up to date.

Careers Fair- can you help ?

We are holding a Careers Fair in School on March 9th 2023 as part of a THRIVE day. We are offering stalls to businesses from 9.15am to 3pm to explain their industry / sector to our students and, additionally, to market their business. We will have over 1200 people visiting the fair during the day so it's a good opportunity and we'd be really grateful to share the wealth of local industry we have in the Glossopdale area. If you work in an industry where schools outreach is promoted and you are able to provide a stand, please contact cdunkerley@glossopdale.school to book a stand. The stands are free of charge and a light lunch will be provided. Thank you in advance.

Uniform: jewellery

We have recently seen a rise in the number of students bringing in and wearing jewellery in school. As a reminder, the only jewellery that students are permitted to wear is one plain stud in each ear. It is not appropriate for students to wear jewellery in school for a number of reasons; it presents a risk in practical lessons, it encourages competition and develops an unhealthy interest in appearance which we do not encourage in school. In some cases, this is expensive jewellery and we would not want students having their belongings damaged or lost. We have had the same uniform policy in place for a long time now, however, to ensure that the problem is addressed, from Monday 30th January, if a student is wearing any jewellery (with the exception of one plain stud in each ear), they will be asked to remove it and it will be kept (locked) in the relevant key stage office until the end of the day. At this stage, we do not wish to give detentions for wearing jewellery, however, further sanctions will be issued for repeat offences. We ask that you discuss this with your children and ensure that they do not bring in any jewellery to school.

Key Stage 3

Year 9 Parents' Evening: 2.2.23

The online Year 9 Parents' Evening is being held on Thursday 2nd February 2022 from 4:00pm to 7.00pm; letters were sent to parents of Y9 students last week. Appointments can be made on school cloud immediately and will close on Wednesday 1st February. Please visit <https://Glossopdale.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments and if you have any questions please contact the school office by emailing ks3support@glossopdale.school and using the title Y9 Parents' Evening.

Key Stage 4

Year 11 Trial Exams

Year 11 trial exam week started on Monday and has been very successful so far. In the week commencing 30th January, students will need to attend all of their timetabled lessons and attend any remaining exams on their timetable. Please note that the exam on Wednesday 1st February (the day of NEU strike action) will take place but the time of the afternoon session will change. A link to the Year 11 exam timetable can be found [here](#).

Please see details below for the Y11 exams on Wednesday 1st February:

AM exam: History, start time 10am.

PM exam: Various subjects, start time 12.30pm (please note that this has been moved slightly earlier. Students should arrive to school at 12 noon if they are not attending the History exam in the morning).

Students who were in the History exam in the morning and need to remain in school for the afternoon exam will be able to get warm food during the break between these exams. Year 11 students will be attending timetabled lessons as usual on the other days in the w/c 30th January. They must attend in full school uniform for all exams.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 and 13 Trial Exams

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 exam timetable can be found [here](#)

Dates for your diary

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
Monday 27th February	INSET day - school closed to students
Thursday 9th March	THRIVE Day
Tuesday 14th March	Y9 Options Evening (changed from Thursday 16th March)

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Best wishes from all at Glossopdale School and Sixth Form