



To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

13th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Following the recent government announcement on the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, please review below the changes that we will be implementing in school, as well as the processes and arrangements that will remain in place for the duration of the academic year.

Face masks

Face coverings are no longer a requirement for staff and students in classrooms and communal areas. Staff will still be asked to wear face masks where they cannot maintain 2m social distance from other members of staff. If your child wishes to continue to wear a face covering, either in transitions between lessons or in the classroom, this is absolutely fine. As a reminder, this must be plain black or blue.

Year group bubbles

In response to the gradual relaxation of restrictions, we hope to be able to revert to a 'normal' timetable from 7th June onwards, where students will be taught in specialist classrooms, moving from classroom to classroom with teachers remaining in the same room. Year groups will continue to be defined as a 'bubble' and will not come into sustained contact with students from other year groups. Their breaks and lunches will continue to be staggered. This will enable us to maintain a calm learning environment while ensuring that, in the event of a positive case, a minimal number of close contacts will have to self-isolate. We will communicate specific timetable details to students before half term.

Extra-curricular activities

You may well have noticed that some of our extra-curricular activities have recommenced. It gives us great pleasure to be able to open up this aspect of our provision and hope that many of our students benefit from these opportunities. These will typically be organised into year groups where activities are indoors. However, year groups may mix outdoors for after school activities, and indoors where they are in a consistent group of fewer than 15 students.

Start and end of the school day

The morning line up of students has worked exceptionally well so far; we are impressed with the behaviour and maturity of all year groups. The process ensures an orderly entrance into school, supporting students' preparation for learning. From 7th June, we will be able to allow all year groups to start and end school at the same time. All students should arrive by 8.40am and will start their tutor time at 8.45am. All students will be dismissed at 3pm. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will continue to line up in their usual areas, Year 10 students will move to the area outside the Technology classrooms (previously the Year 11 line up area).

Glossopdale School & Sixth Form, Newshaw Lane, **Email:** info@glossopdale.school

Hadfield, Glossop, SK13 2DA.

Tel: 01457 862336

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. D. McGloin

Web: www.glossopdale.school

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The information in this letter should be shared with other person(s) with parental responsibility for your child.



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Safety measures

While restrictions are easing, it remains essential to keep students and staff as safe as possible in school. Our system of controls is in place to:

- Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school
- Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances
- Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual. Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents
- Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Continue to distribute testing kits to all students, promoting the importance of twice weekly home testing as a means of minimising asymptomatic transmission

Home testing

Thank you to all students and parents who have been testing and reporting. Covid testing at home for all secondary age students will continue until the end of the academic year. We will continue to provide testing kits in tutor times until 21st July. Please ensure that your child takes a test every Monday and Thursday before school and sends the result both to the school and to NHS Test and Trace.

School Covid test result form: <https://www.glossopdale.school/studentlft/>

In the event of a positive test result, please email covidpositivetest@glossopdale.school.

Changes to calendar dates (including internal exams)

As a result of Covid arrangements and curriculum changes, we have moved the planned internal examinations for some year groups. Year 7 exams will now take place in the w/c 7th June; students will sit exams in the sports hall for English, Maths and Science. Year 8 exams will take place in the w/c 14th June (also for English, Maths and Science). Year 10 students will sit exams in all of their subjects in the two weeks beginning 21st and 28th June. Specific details will be provided for parents and students, including exam timetables.

Arrangements for Year 11 and 13 students

We have been keeping Y11 and 13 students and parents informed of the Centre-Assessed Grading processes on a regular basis. All students have had an assembly this week, which is also on the year group Google Classrooms. The latest letter home is here:

https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Y11_and_13_Letter_30_4_21.pdf

We will continue to update parents and students where appropriate. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email cag@glossopdale.school.

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Attendance and term-time holidays

As restrictions begin to lift, some families may be looking to book holidays. As usual, holidays should be planned around school breaks and students **should not** be taken out of school on holiday during term time. Students have already missed out on so much in-school education as a result of the pandemic; we do not want them missing out on any more.

Whilst we are really excited about the school moving closer to 'normality' (pre-pandemic) we are also mindful of the need for caution, ensuring that any changes we make are measured and controlled, so that both staff and student safety is not compromised.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@glossopdale.school.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie McGloin
Headteacher