



7th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding during the Coronavirus pandemic. As a school, and as a community, we have had to adapt to an unprecedented set of circumstances. None of us know how long this situation will continue, or when we will be able to reopen the school. Along with the rest of the country we are monitoring developments day-by-day, as more information becomes available.

I am sure you agree that, despite the very trying circumstances, we must carry on encouraging the children to continue with their learning. We need to ensure that we maintain education for our pupils, and in this respect, I am extremely grateful for the commitment, ingenuity and adaptability of our staff. They have worked tirelessly in the last few weeks to prepare materials and set up remote learning. Evidence to date shows that this has been well received. Most pupils are actively using the materials and staff have seen many examples showing that they are working hard. Unfortunately, there are some pupils who have not been engaging as regularly as we would want them to. I would urge parents to help their children to establish regular working routines.

I also want to make a very special mention of the staff who have been in school, supervising the children of keyworkers, to enable their parents to work and actively contribute to overcoming the pandemic.

Work for your child at home

Parents and pupils can find work set for students via the Gladesmore Website www.gladesmore.com and also on 'Show My Homework'. There are a number of online learning packages that they will have access to such as 'MathsWatch'.

Year 10 pupils have also had the opportunity to participate in several 'live conference' lessons. Please watch out for these. We aim to build on these after the Easter break.

GCSE and BTEC examinations

Examinations will not be going ahead this academic year. The Class of 2010 will be awarded grades based on the work that they have completed so far and the improvement that they would typically have made by the time of the examinations. The teachers assessment of Year 11 will be used by the DFE to award grades. Details from Ofqual are published on the Gladesmore Website. We are not expecting students to be disadvantaged by the government's decision.



Vouchers for free school meals

We have issued vouchers via email to the parents of children who are eligible for free school meals. These vouchers can be scanned from a phone and used at supermarkets.

To claim vouchers parents will need to complete and return a simple form that has been sent to email addresses. If you have not received a voucher, please check your 'Junk' or 'Spam' boxes of your email. The form or the vouchers may have been diverted to these boxes.

We have been notified that the organisation who are sending out vouchers have been struggling with the sheer number they are issuing nationally and as a result there could be some initial delays in sending them out.

If you haven't received a voucher and believe that you should, please email fsm_voucher@gladesmore.com so we can follow up on your application.

If your circumstances have changed

Parents and carers who have had a change in circumstances might find that their child(ren) are now eligible to receive free school meal vouchers. Please check the Gladesmore Website and notify the school admin@gladesmore.com sending any relevant documentation you may have so that these may be assessed and processed.

Stay safe

Please continue to follow the Public Health England advice and if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Sincerely

Tony Hartney CBE