



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Coronavirus update

I hope that you are all well and safe.

I am writing to update you regarding the government's planning for schools.

Gladesmore **will not** be reopening for pupils in Year's 7, 8 and 9 this term.

The government have indicated that, if certain conditions are met, it is hoped that schools will be able to offer some face-to-face support for Year 10 examination classes before the summer holidays. As I write these conditions have not yet been met.

For **pupils in Year 7,8,9 and 10**, the programme of remote learning will continue. This will be the core provision for the remainder of this term. We will not be opening school for lessons.

## Work for your child at home

Parents and pupils can find work set for pupils via the Gladesmore Website [www.gladesmore.com](http://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'. We are also delivering an increasing number of online lessons for students in Years 9 and 10, with the hope that we may be able to expand this to include Years 7 and 8. All year groups have had online assemblies with their Head of Year to support them during the lockdown.

I hope you are finding the Home Learning materials useful. We will keep refining and updating what is being set. We have received positive feedback about these and the online lessons and assemblies. We are working hard to extend our provision and trying to get the balance right in terms of setting meaningful work for our pupils without putting undue pressure on parents.

We have seen some excellent examples of work your children have produced, some of which has been posted on the website and a number of pupils who have completed exemplary work have also been acknowledged.

We are, however, well aware that no remote learning provision can replace the classroom experience. Whilst it would be wonderful to be able to welcome back all our children and staff, we need to be aware that this is simply not possible right now. In the meantime, I understand it is challenging staying at home looking after children home schooling and appreciate your support in this. We are all missing school but sadly must accept that a return to school as normal may well be a long time off.



## **Year 10**

We are planning for potentially offering very small group tutorial sessions for Year 10 pupils before the summer holiday. Attendance would be at parental discretion. Arrangements for these tutorials, if they go ahead, are expected to be available from mid-June. In the meanwhile, we are undertaking substantial preparation work to make any re-opening as safe as we can for both pupils and staff. Informed by risk assessments, we are implementing further health and safety measures including, for example, the installation of additional hand washing facilities.

## **Key Workers**

The school remains open every day for those pupils whose parents are key workers. If your child falls into this category and you wish them to attend, then we welcome them, please email [admin@gladesmore.com](mailto:admin@gladesmore.com) for further detail.

## **Vouchers for free school meals**

We understand that the company issuing vouchers, Edenred, have now sent these by 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. If you haven't received a voucher and believe that you should, please email [fsm\\_voucher@gladesmore.com](mailto: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](mailto:admin@gladesmore.com) sending any relevant documentation you may have so that these may be assessed and processed.

Thank you again for your continued support and for your patience.

Sincerely

Tony Hartney CBE