



## Parent & Carer Weekly Newsletter Date: Friday 9th February 2024

### General Information and Reminders

#### Children's Mental Health Week: 5th-10th February 2024

This week, we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week with all students having an assembly on this year's theme of 'My Voice Matters'. Our Mental Health Champions - who are trained in supporting their peers in Mental Health and Wellbeing - explained several new initiatives we are launching for student mental health and wellbeing. These include our 'Thriving Minds' postbox - where students can post suggestions or request help - and our new Wellbeing section in the library which includes a huge range of leaflets, literature and books to borrow on keeping mentally healthy or seeking support. For more information on 'My Voice Matters' please click on the following [link](#).



#### Entry to Learning Support

A reminder that parents are not able to enter through the Learning Support side entrance doors for safeguarding reasons. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please contact reception.

#### Young Musician of the Year 2024

We would like to remind all parents/carers that we are hosting the Grand Final of the Young Musician of the Year 2024 on Thursday 15th February at 7pm in the Theatre. Tickets are £3.00 (£1.00 for students) and we can take cash payments on the door. We hope to see you all there.

### Young Musician of the Year 2024

A massive well done to everyone who took part in the auditions.

In no particular order, the students who have been selected to perform in the Final Concert on Thursday 15th February are:

Junior category	Senior Category
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #f1c40f;">🎵</p> <p>Joseph P (Piano)</p> <p>Kit C (Flute)</p> <p>Katie Z (Piano)</p> <p>Rebecca S (Voice)</p> <p>Hannah J (Trumpet)</p> <p>Edward M (Piano)</p> <p>Kier W (Piano)</p>	<p>Zack W (Drum Kit)</p> <p>Tom H (Trombone)</p> <p>Charlotte S (Voice)</p> <p>Lydia G (Voice)</p> <p>Ollie J (Drum Kit)</p> <p>Ava W (Flute)</p> <p>Kier G (Guitar)</p> <p>Mitchell B (Voice and Guitar)</p> <p>Oliver C (Bass Guitar)</p> <p>Matthew B (Drum Kit)</p>

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### **Y7 THRIVE Day**

On Wednesday 7th Feb, our Year 7 students took part in a Thrive Day with the theme of Racism. They took part in activities to look at Racism through drama and created storyboards to act out. They also looked at the 'Power of the Media' to influence and the consequences of hate. The final session looked at the tragic case of Anthony Walker. The sessions were delivered sensitively by our staff and our students were very empathetic and keen to learn.

### **School Uniform:**

Please ensure that your child(ren) arrives at school in the correct uniform every day. In particular, please remember that:

- If socks are worn over tights, they must be plain and black. Branded and white socks are not permitted.
- One pair of stud earrings and a wrist watch are the only jewellery permitted. Necklaces, bracelets etc. are not permitted and will be confiscated.
- Skirts should be medium length or on the knee. They must be black with at least one pleat.
- Make up, in moderation, is only permitted to cover blemishes. Students wearing too much make-up and/or false eyelashes will be required to remove it/them. False nails are also not permitted at any time.

### **Prohibited Items & Searches:**

Due to the rise in incidents of pupils either vaping or in possession of vapes (both in school and nationally), we have now purchased a metal detecting wand similar to those used at airport security. In cases where a pupil is suspected of possession of a prohibited item, such as a vape, we may conduct searches of pupils in line with the school behaviour policy (section 7.6).

### **Reminder: Equipment requirements**

Please help your child(ren) to remember their equipment each day. Students are aware of the equipment they are required to bring in every day, and are frequently reminded of this during form time and in lessons. When students are fully equipped for lessons, they access the learning faster and can progress more. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child(ren) are equipped every day.

### **Attendance**

Please be reminded of the importance of children attending school every day; students with less than 97% attendance are statistically proven to achieve less than their peers. On days where your child has a minor ailment or illness, you as parent/carer can permit school to administer over the counter medication to support their attendance to school.

Once a student has had 5 days absence due to illness in an academic year, medical evidence is needed to be provided from the 6th day. Absences for illness without evidence from this point will not be authorised.

Well done to our Year 7 students, our best attending year group last week! Keep up the good work!

Another huge well done to our Year 8 students for the most improved attendance last week!

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### Key Stage 3

#### **Year 9 Vaccinations - Thursday 15th February**

Thank you to everyone that has already returned the form for the Y9 Vaccinations (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis ACWY) to be held in the school on Thursday 15th February. We kindly ask that all parents/carers please complete the consent form that was sent home with your child on Tuesday 6th February and return to school as soon as possible. For more information please click on the following link which will direct you to the NHS leaflets [here](#).

#### **Year 9 Options**

All of our Y9 students took part in the THRIVE day on the 26th January. The day was a great success and gave our students the opportunity to explore the GCSE courses. All parents / carers should have received the letter via Class Charts from Mrs Jesson outlining the options process. This letter, along with the GCSE course directory, can now be found on our [website](#). We're looking forward to meeting you and your child at our Key Stage 4 Options evening on the 13th March 2024.

### Key Stage 4

#### **Year 11 Trial Exams**

Year 11 trial exams are due to take place during the week of the 4th March 2024. The timetable can be found [here](#). All Year 11 students should arrive at school on time for the morning line at 8.40am and they will be taken through to the exam hall for the 9am exam. All students are expected to have the correct equipment for each paper; this includes at least two black ballpoint pens, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator. If an afternoon exam finishes after 2.30pm but before 3pm, it is likely that the students will be able to leave the site before 3pm. We will notify you via a Classcharts announcement if this is the case. These trial exams are a good opportunity for your child to refine their revision skills and exam techniques. Details about how to revise and prepare for trial exams are being shared with the students in assemblies and personal development, all materials can also be found online [here](#).

#### **Y11 interventions**

Our extra revision and exam preparation lessons and [interventions](#) continue to take place each week. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these additional learning opportunities especially if they are less inclined to study at home! Please note that if your child has a detention which clashes with a 3pm session, they must speak with Mrs Johnston or Miss Gregory before the end of that day to rearrange the detention.

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#### **Dates for your diary**

Monday 12th February	Y11 THRIVE Day
Wednesday 14th February	Y10 Macbeth Performance (In the day, in the school Theatre)
Thursday 15th February	Young Musician of the Year Competition 7pm Theatre
Friday 16th February	Performing Arts (PA) Trip to London (Y9/10 & 11 PA students) Last Day of Term
Friday 1st March	Y8 THRIVE Day
Wednesday 6th March	SEND Parent Forum 4.30-5.30
Wednesday 13th March	Y9 Options Evening

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Best wishes from all at Glossopdale School and Sixth Form