

## ***Message from the Principal***

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

*Tena Koutou Katoa*

**Greetings everyone!**

### **Champion 1<sup>st</sup> XVs, Charter Schools and Traffic Jams**

All three of the above topics have had media time recently. There has been a series of articles in the NZ Herald outlining the highly competitive funding and recruitment practices used by the stronger rugby schools in the Auckland 1A competition to recruit, train and manage players into champion teams with one school spending \$200,000 annually and others \$50,000 plus. Then there is the Government's decision to introduce Charter or Partnership schools into the state school landscape from 2014, schools of special character with few controls which will magically solve the tail of underachievement in our country. Finally, there is the daily problem of navigating the Auckland roads at peak times each work day, the productive hours wasted and the talk of more roads or better public transport, a problem which largely disappears in school holidays when parents no longer have to ferry their children long distances across town to get them in to the perceived "right" schools.

There is a simple solution to all of the problems above and that is to make the choice in education between State and Private schools, with everyone who chooses a State school having their child zoned for their nearest school. Every State school must be a quality school (and most are like ours). With a fair cross section of local talent attending it is likely that more struggling students will be pulled upwards in their achievement through competition with others. The tail of underachievement will fall and the traffic problems disappear as they do in school holidays. At the same time rugby competitions will be more evenly contested and therefore player numbers will be more inclined to rise rather than fall as they are at present, as players walk away disillusioned by the enormous defeats inflicted upon them by the few big rugby schools. It's simple, go to the local school.

Glenfield College is a quality local, community school. Our job is to meet the needs of every single student to the best of our ability and resourcing. We work very hard to do this but we are also very aware that in the eyes of some, we would never be good enough. The urban myth about where Glenfield sits as a suburb on the North Shore also affects the school. We are not unique in battling others perceptions but you can help by proudly defending your decision to send your child here every time the opportunity arises. The positives are the well qualified young adults who leave us with an inclusive view of the society that they will help shape. We will continue the good fight against the odds.

### **Report Evening**

There is an evening next **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August from 5:30pm till 8:00pm** in the school Theatre to discuss your child's report and progress. Online bookings will be opened on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Bookings should be made via the School Interviews website [[www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz)]. Type in the **Event Code ET54F** and simply follow the instructions.

### **Senior Entrance Exams**

All students in Years 11 to 13 have examinations in all subjects where external exams exist, commencing on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August and running over three days. These examinations are not only practice for the national examinations in November and December, but also serve as an indication of probable final grades for this year and therefore help determine subject choice for 2014. Please urge your child to take these exams seriously. Should he/she be unable to sit the national exams later, these results serve as the major indicator of likely results.

### **NZQA Fees**

A reminder that these fees are now due. Fees are \$76.70 up until 6<sup>th</sup> September when we will no longer collect fees and NZQA will charge an extra \$50 late fee for troubling them. Invoices have been posted out to you. These fees fund the marking and processing of results and the publishing of these. If you do not pay, results will not be uploaded to a student's record of learning.

### **Sports**

The winter season is drawing to a close over the next few weeks. I want to thank all of you who have been loyal supporters of your child and our teams and especially thank the coaches and managers who make it all possible. I want to mention some teams who have done particularly well so far and these are Netball's Team 1 and Year 9 Team 1 which are the best that I have seen in seven years, along with our Basketball's Boys Open Team, which in spite of a real lack of height have made the top 4 playoffs in North Harbour. Congratulations to Katelin Noyer (Year 11) who has been chosen in the New Zealand Womens U17 Basketball Team. She joins Head Boy, Alani Nicklin as a New Zealand representative this year.

## Academic Interviews

Once again, we are planning to interview every returning student in Years 10 to 12 along with their parents and caregivers over course selection for the 2014 school year. These interviews take place on the following days and specific interview times for each student on these days will be sent home in advance.

- Year 12 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 11 – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 10 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September

These interview times are important. They provide an opportunity to discuss possible career pathways, subjects that students need to take in order to gain entry to certain courses and careers, a student's achievement to date, and what the 2014 course needs to be after all factors are considered. We are doing some work with the students over the next few weeks on their goals and pathways but it would be really helpful for conversations to be had at home as well. It might be engaging and motivational for some students to find out exactly what results they need this year in order to take the next step in 2014. There is a Careers Expo information evening in the Theatre on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August at which many tertiary course providers and employers will have stands with information and personnel to answer questions.

## Attendance

This continues to be a major barrier to success in learning for some students. Students cannot learn if they are not at school and should be at school ready to learn every school day unless they are too sick to get out of bed. Parent condoned absences for other reasons simply damage the student's chances of achieving their best results.

## Enrolments for 2014

These commence this week from Tuesday to Thursday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. These times are primarily for enrolments into Year 9 in 2014 but we will take enrolments into all levels at any time by appointment.

## Early finish - Last day of Term 3

We will finish Term 3 on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm

Absences	Important Dates
Please phone the Attendance Office on 441-9773 or 444-9066 ext 618 or email the attendance administrator on <a href="mailto:absences@gc.ac.nz">absences@gc.ac.nz</a> to report your child's absence. This email address is now available on the school website for your convenience.	<div>Tuesday 13 August Report Evening [5:30pm to 8:00pm]</div> <div>Monday 19 August Senior Entrance Exams begin [3 days]</div> <div>Thursday 22 August KBB Music Festival</div> <div>Thursday 29 August Careers Expo [6:30pm to 8:30pm]</div> <div>Monday 2 September Tournament Week begins</div> <div>Tuesday 10 September Year 12 Play [2 evenings]</div> <div>Thursday 12 September Year 12 Academic Interviews</div> <div>Monday 16 September Year 11 Academic Interviews</div> <div>Wednesday 18 September Year 10 Academic Interviews</div> <div>Wednesday 18 September Marlborough Primary School Production [2 evenings]</div> <div>Friday 27 September School finishes @ 12:30pm</div>
<b>E-Mail Addresses</b> If you do not receive this newsletter by email or on an address that you want to receive school messages on, please email <a href="mailto:reply@gc.ac.nz">reply@gc.ac.nz</a> from your preferred email address stating your name and your child's name so that we can add you to our address book.	

**ASB Sponsorship Referral Scheme** This simple scheme offers a \$250 donation to our school for every draw down on a new Home Loan. The conditions are that the voucher must be presented to the ASB staff member when making the loan application. The loan amount must be \$150,000 or more and payment is only made after the loan is fully drawn down. This is limited to one voucher per client. Visit the school website 'Noticeboard' to download the voucher.



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