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## School Newsletter 13 November 2015

2 messages

**Glenfield College** <g.hayward@gc.ac.nz>  
Reply-To: Glenfield College <g.hayward@gc.ac.nz>  
To: g.wishart@gc.ac.nz

16 November 2015 at 09:10



## School Newsletter

16 November 2015

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*Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers*

# Tena koutou katoa. Greetings all.

## Junior Exams - Years 9 and 10

While the seniors have been sitting NCEA exams for a week so far, it is the turn of the Year 9 and 10 students this week. Junior exams commence on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and continue from Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> until Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. During exams, students must be at school by 8.45am in the morning and go straight to the exam room. Afternoon exams finish at 2.00pm, at which time students are able to go home. On the final two days when option subjects are being examined, not all students will have exams at all times. They must attend their exams, but do not have to attend at other times. Students must wear correct uniform at all times and are expected to be at home revising when not at exams.

There are no exams on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, as some students will be attending the Onepoto Cultural Festival. There are normal classes on that day at normal school times.

The exam timetable follows so that you know exactly what exam your child has and when. Please encourage some study over the next week. These exams are vital practice for the whole process of sitting exams and provide a good measure of each student's achievement to date.

## JUNIOR EXAM TIMETABLE NOVEMBER 2015

Date	Time	YEAR 9	Year 10
Thursday 19 November	Morning	Social Studies	English
	Afternoon	Mathematics	Science
Friday 20 November	All day	Regular classes DAY 6	Regular classes DAY 6
Monday 23 November	Morning	Science	Mathematics
	Afternoon	English	Social Studies
Tuesday 24 November	Morning	Maori, French	Health and Physical Education
	Afternoon	Catch up	ESOL, Food, French, iTec, Japanese, Maori, TecM
Wednesday 25 November	Morning	Catch up	Art, Dance, Drama, TecFabric, DVC, Maori, Music
	Afternoon	Catch up	Catch up

## Junior Activities

On December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, students have the opportunity to be involved in an activities programme which can

provide new experiences and challenges, as well as building positive relationships amongst students and between students and staff in an out-of-class environment. We value these activities because of the positive impact that they can bring to in-class performance in the years ahead. On Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Year 9s have a wide range of in and out-of-school activities to choose from which you should already know about, and on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> they will be in-school with an “Amazing Race” type of challenge in the morning and tabloid sports in the afternoon.

Year 10 students will undertake a short hike out west near Bethells Beach on the Monday and have beach activities and BBQ at Long Bay on the Tuesday. You will receive a separate letter about this in a day or two.

## Junior Prize-giving - Year End

Junior Prize-giving takes place at 10am on Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> after which students are off on holiday from about 11am.

## Senior Prize-giving

This was held on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Special congratulations go to Monica Sayani, our 2015 Dux and to the runner-up or Proxime Accessit, Yoo Jin Hwang. These two, along with a chasing group of outstanding students, will go on to do themselves and our school proud.

I have included parts of my speech that night here for you as it serves as a form of report to parents.

This year commenced with our best ever NCEA results from 2014. With a pass rate of over 80% at Level 1 last year and close to 80% for levels 2 and 3, we were off to a good start. At the highest levels, students achieving “Excellence Endorsements” were over 13%, 15% and 11% for each of the three levels with some students achieving almost all their credits at Excellence level. These results were just reward for the hard work of our students and staff, proof that we do exceptionally well at getting students over the line while not diminishing one bit the academic excellence required at the top. Our job is to meet the needs of all our students as best we can and the results affirm that we are doing just that. As I have said before, we achieve this without compromising on providing students with a meaningful mix of subjects or pathway, nor by compromising our professionalism in terms of assessment practices. We want our students to have worthy, meaningful qualifications which genuinely lead somewhere and we expect them to work for them.

We hope to match the 2014 results again this year with strong Excellence Endorsement results, especially at Levels 1 and 3.

In 2015 we rolled out our Academic Mentoring programme more fully across Years 10 to 13. We will continue with that programme in 2016 and hopefully improve it further. I want to thank all parents and students who responded to my survey on this initiative. The process is that each Academic Mentor regularly checks the progress and achievement of each student on his/her list across all subjects and meets with the students just as regularly, if necessary, to help address concerns. Where things are going according to plan/goals, some contact is necessary to let the student know that the Mentor has seen the results and to check that all is well with the student. Our aim is that no student's achievement can slip without the student and you being aware and a plan being put in place to turn things around. We want the disengaged to be reconnected with their learning quickly. This is an important strategy for raising student achievement. The Mentor should become a key contact person between the school and you and vice versa.

We were delighted with the fact that over 70% of parents/caregivers attended the goal setting interviews with the Mentors in early March and well over 60% attended the review interviews in August. Educational research is very clear about the significant positive effect of parental engagement and involvement in the day to day education of their child. Where parents are actively taking an interest and supporting their child in their learning, that child will do much better than they would without such interest. This is as true of secondary aged students as it is for little ones. It was very affirming for us as teachers to know that such a high proportion of parents were prepared to make time out of their working days to attend these interviews with their children. It confirmed that we are very much not working alone and that the vital home-school partnership is alive and well.

Another means of being informed as parents of your child's progress and achievement is through the Parent Portal. For those of you not as yet accessing this, I strongly recommend that you do and regularly. You are able to log in to our student data base with a personal login provided by us and view your child's results as they are processed. You can see their daily attendance record live, their pastoral record which shows breaches of school expectations amongst other things and their involvement in the wider life of the school. You are therefore able to be kept up to date with your child's academic achievement, attitude and effort and school wide involvement. I would further encourage you to stay in touch with your child's individual subject teachers and similarly I encourage the teachers to do so with you to provide quality feedback or advice on what your child needs to do to improve outcomes going forward. By keeping in touch regularly with subject teachers and by following your child's progress on the parent portal, you will be as well informed as you could possibly be. As the proportion of parents accessing these systems grows further, we will begin to phase out written reports.

Ongoing online reporting is replacing the twice yearly written report. Ultimately we will only provide a written report to leavers or on request for those who require one to accompany an application.

## Other Highlights

It has been very pleasing this year to see the numbers of students accessing our expanded Outdoor Education programme. We have had a deliberate strategy to offer a wide range of such sports thanks to the enthusiasm, experience and skills set of our Sports Coordinator, Ms Leijten. While it has become more difficult for us to field teams requiring large numbers of students, individual sports are no problem. In 2015 we have seen our participation in school sports rise above 50% which is a very good thing and had students mountain biking, sea kayaking, surfing, wind surfing, canoeing, rafting, tramping and camping. In addition, students have been able to achieve some NCEA credits from some activities involving both theory and practice. Horizons are broadened and we have more students more active more often which is our goal in complementing achievement in the classroom.

It is not every year that we can claim the status of World Champions and we managed this well before the All Blacks repeat last Sunday, when we won the top award at the Vex Robotics Championships in Louisville, Kentucky, USA in April this year. The team of Jason Collingwood, Taryn Kemp and Levi Chapman most ably mentored and guided by Mr Dave Aston, beat over 400 teams at the event and 13,000 world-wide to this honour, the “Excellence” award. This was a stunning achievement by any measure. We won the right to go there through our New Zealand achievements, winning the same honour here.

Congratulations are due to Jason Collingwood as well for winning the Senior Engineering Award at the New Zealand Bright Sparks Electronics Awards run by Skills NZ. This recognised his robot design and build abilities ahead of about forty other contestants.

We are also amongst the best at Slam Poetry, a dramatized form of poetry reading. Our team of Ruhi Ramkisoon, Nicolette MacKenzie, Chryst Jones and Aleisha Parkinson came third out of about 40 schools from throughout the region over Labour Weekend. They firstly had to fight their way into the final twelve.

We are innovative, creative and arty at the highest level. When we add this to those recognised at our recent sports awards for North Harbour and New Zealand representation, and those enjoying the outdoors, we may be small but we punch above our weight.

***Ted Benton, Principal***



Monica Sayani (right) - Dux 2015

Yoo Jin Hwang (left) - Proxime Accessit 2015

## **Important Information for Parents.....**

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**Junior Exams**      November 19 - 25 - 8.45am -2.00pm

**Junior Activities**      December 7-8

**Junior Prize-giving**      December 10 at 10am

**Term 4 Ends** December 10 at 11am



## **Dates and Events**

### *Term 4*

Junior Exams

November 19-25



Junior Production	December 3
Junior Activities	December 7 and 8
Junior Prize-giving	December 10 at 10am
School Finishes	December 10 at 11am

## Absences

Should your child not be able to attend school for a particular reason, please ensure you let the school office know first thing in the morning by either phoning the attendance line direct - 441 9773 - or the main school office - 444 9066 ext 909. You are also welcome to email [absences@gc.ac.nz](mailto:absences@gc.ac.nz). Please do not contact teachers direct, or send emails to our admin address as the Attendance Officer may not be notified immediately. Thank you :-)



Students thinking about further study after they leave school have a lot of choices to make. Sussed Online is a great way to get thinking about what it will cost to live and study. Will it be broadband and baked beans, or dial up and dining out? Part-time job or parents helping? Hear from students about their experiences and the choices that need to be made. You'll also find out more about StudyLink and what they do along the way. We encourage students and parents to check it out at [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz).

**Click on this link to view  
photos of the happenings  
around the school**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/129130977@N02/sets/with/72157652914849084>



### What you need to know about the Student Centre

Services provided for parents and students:

- \* Late sign-in to school
- \* Early sign-out from school
- \* Lost property
- \* Messages/lunches to reach your child

Entry is through the door on the **left side** of the main office block. You will see a blue sign on the building wall.



[www.kidslink.co.nz](http://www.kidslink.co.nz)

KidsLink is an online resource for schools and their parent communities. You will find a range of service providers that specialise in working with children, young people and their families with issues that affect their learning, development and well-being.

## Absences

Please phone the **Attendance Office** on 441-9773 or 444-9066 ext 909 or email the attendance administrator on [absences@gc.ac.nz](mailto:absences@gc.ac.nz) to report your child's absence. This email address is now available on the school website for your convenience.

## Parent Portal

This provides parents up-to-date information about students' achievement, attendance and pastoral record. To receive your log-in information, please send an email to [reply@gc.ac.nz](mailto:reply@gc.ac.nz) and type in the subject area 'PARENT PORTAL - CHILD'S NAME'.

## Sick Bay

If students are sick for any reason and need to be sent home, the school nurse will contact parents directly.

## Payment Centre

The Centre is open from **10:00am to 2:30pm, Monday to Friday**. Students can make payments during interval and lunch times. For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kilroy, the School Bursar on 444-9066 ext 612 or email [j.kilroy@gc.ac.nz](mailto:j.kilroy@gc.ac.nz)

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17 November 2015 at 09:10

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**From:** Glenfield College [<mailto:g.hayward@gc.ac.nz@mail218.atl101.mcdlv.net>] **On Behalf Of** Glenfield College  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 November 2015 9:11 a.m.  
**To:** [g.hayward@gc.ac.nz](mailto:g.hayward@gc.ac.nz)  
**Subject:** School Newsletter 13 November 2015

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