

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers  
*Tena Koutou Katoa*



Mr E A Benton  
Principal

#### ***Commitment***

We want our young people to grow up with a strong work ethic and sense of commitment towards all that they do. This makes for excellent citizens. I will elaborate on two key examples.

**Attendance at School:** One of the biggest barriers to student learning is absence from school and classes. While most of our students are good attenders, some are not and seem to have time off school for the most spurious of reasons. My comments here are aimed at parents who are not too worried if their child is off school for reasons which most of us would not see as justifiable and are not intended to upset others. It is important to remember that we often have to do things that we don't enjoy in life and we need to learn to tough it out.

Students should only be absent from school if they are too sick to get out of bed or are injured or incapacitated in some way which prevents them getting here or they must attend some occasion where their attendance is vital and where it cannot occur at another time (eg funeral). All absences should be explained by a written note which is brought in to the Tutor Teacher. A phone call may suffice where a staff member knows you well enough to identify your voice or an e-mail from a work address. Students have been falsely explaining their own unjustified absences for generations so we do take care to verify the author of the message.

Many parents choose to take family holidays outside school holiday times because it is cheaper but there can be a cost to the students off school who miss vital classes and even assessments. Our standard letter states that we do not condone this but we cannot prevent it. Some parents keep students at home as baby-sitters for younger siblings. In my view, this is totally unacceptable. The future of the elder child is being put at risk. Too many parents provide some explanation for an unacceptable absence as we demand notes and the line of least resistance is taken. Young people who get away with taking unjustified time off school will expect to be able to do the same in the workforce later. They will have a poor work ethic and attendance record in employment and will struggle to keep a job. Much of what we do in schools is sound preparation for life. If you are complicit in a teenager's poor attendance, you are likely to be complicit in their failure in life.

**Loyalty to a Team:** With the busiest time of the sporting year about to get underway, it is important that all students who have signed up to play a sport and been placed in a team, attend every practice and every game throughout the season. A team cannot function if several players do not turn up. If a player is too ill or injured to play, they must let the coach or manager know well in advance. If an injured player can physically attend practices and games, then they should and help on the side-line in whatever way possible. Being part of a sports team teaches much more than the skills of the game. It also teaches the meaning of the word commitment, relating to others, participating and contributing and good communication.

#### ***Fees / Costs / Tough Times Etc***

I know that having a busy teenager at secondary school is an expensive business. Uniforms, stationery, subject fees, sports fees and so on. I reiterate to you that having a busy engaged teenager is to have a successful happy one but we are also prepared to be as flexible as possible with you on meeting the costs. While I would love all our youngsters to be playing a sport, you can take the rest of the year to pay for it. We simply ask that you speak to our accounts staff to make an arrangement that suits your needs. The college cannot afford to carry the cost itself (except perhaps in the most extreme cases of hardship) but we can give you longer to pay. As long as we know that the money is coming in, we can cover costs in the short term.

## Key Dates

Sat Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trolley Derby at Kaipatiki Road
Tue Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Forum - Learn about and discuss our school with the Principal and key staff Time: 7:00pm Venue: Staff Room
Wed & Thu Apr 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Drama 'Alice's Revenge' Time: 7:30pm Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre
Tue Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Report Evening Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre
Thu Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	Shave for Cancer (fundraiser - more information on Facebook 'Glenfield College Hair Shave 2011')
Fri Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 1
Mon Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC Day
Mon May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	First Day of Term 2

## Notices



**BIG WALK Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April:** NZ has some of the most serious youth statistics in the developed world. FYD works towards turning these around by running several amazing youth development programmes - Kiwi Can, Stars, Project K and MYND. The Foundation for Youth Development owns these programmes and I chair a trust that raises money to deliver Project K in schools on the North Shore, Auckland Central and South Auckland. I have been involved with Project K for 12 years and Glenfield College students are involved. It makes a real difference for our kids and this walk is a sponsored fundraiser. I will be encouraging students to take part but you are welcome to join our team too. You can email my personal assistant, Daisy on [d.shim@gc.ac.nz](mailto:d.shim@gc.ac.nz) if you want to do this with the school team. Visit [www.fyd.org.nz](http://www.fyd.org.nz) for more information.

**Parent Forum:** Parents are encouraged to come and meet key staff to discuss our school. I will report on events and progress in the school to date. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm in the staffroom.

**Maori/Pasifika Homework Centre:** Massey University is once again providing study support to our Maori and Pasifika students. The school operates the Maori/Pasifika Homework Centre every Monday after-school (3:10pm to 5:00pm) at The Centre. Homework help is available so please encourage your child to come.

**Trolley Derby - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** The school is asking for students to volunteer on the day. Please sign your name at the Student Centre if you are able to help on this day. This is a funfilled activity so come along and enjoy!

## Special Notice from Civil Defence and Auckland Council

If your family, or a child in your care, has relocated from Christchurch to Auckland, even if temporarily, it is really important to register with NZ Red Cross by calling 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 276). Please then continue to keep NZ Red Cross updated on the movements of your family or the child in your care. NZ Red Cross are keen to offer support and to do this they need to know people's contact details.



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