

School Newsletter

31 May 2012



Mr E.A. Benton
Principal

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers
Tena Koutou Katoa

Budget and Class Sizes

It is frustrating to say the least to listen to the rhetoric that has been bandied about concerning the decision to raise the student/teacher ratio in Years 2 to 10 and hence class sizes. John Hattie's research which has been much quoted as saying that class size makes no difference while the quality of the teacher makes all the difference to student achievements, needs to be put into context. None of us in the profession will argue with the findings that it's the quality of the teacher that is most important but we will all argue that class size does matter. You see, Hattie's research rated "teacher feedback" as having the most impact on student achievement and "remediation/feedback" was fifth. Feedback can be written or spoken and involves telling students where they went wrong and how to get it right in future (feed-forward). The most effective feedback is one to one so there is absolutely no way that this can be as effective with more students in classes, with 35 assignments to mark and comment on instead of 28, or 35 students to talk to individually instead of 28. Great teachers will still do this better than others but less effectively than before due to increased class size. The politicians can manipulate statistics to serve their ends but the real losers sadly, will be the students.

Hattie's top six effects on student achievement are shown here:

<i>Influence</i>	<i>Effect Size</i>	<i>Source of Influence</i>
Feedback	1.13	Teacher
Students prior cognitive ability	1.04	Student
Instructional quality	1.00	Teacher
Direct instruction	.82	Teacher
Remediation/feedback	.65	Teacher
Students disposition to learn	.61	Student

You can also click on this link to view more http://www.learningandteaching.info/teaching/what_works.htm

Assessment Calendar

On talking to a number of senior students recently about upcoming internal assessments for NCEA, I was shocked at the vagueness that some showed about their programmes. There was uncertainty about what assessments they had coming up and when. I have asked all teachers of Years 11 to 13 to make sure that all students are very clear about their assessment programmes and they are now available for all to see on our website. Students have been told to put all assessment dates in their diaries and electronic calendars with a warning three days to a week prior. Good organisation and planning leads to good outcomes.

Paid Union Meeting – 11th June (Early Finish)

Classes will finish early at 12:30pm on this day to allow union staff to attend their meeting. Should you wish us to provide supervision for your child/ren until 3:10pm on this day, please phone the Student Centre on 444-9066 ext 814.

NZQA Fees of \$76.70 payable now for all students in Years 11 to 13 in order to have their NCEA record recognised.

Congratulations to the Bollywood Dance Group for once again winning the judges award at the recent competition from 22 schools. This is our third year topping this major event.

Parent Portal keeps you up-to-date with your child's achievement, attendance and pastoral record. To receive your log-in information, please email to reply@gc.ac.nz and type in the subject 'PARENT PORTAL – CHILD'S NAME'.



Meet the Board Chair, Michael Dunning

I'm the current Board of Trustees Chair at Glenfield College and have been on the Board for the last six years. I work for Vero Insurance as the NZ Manager for Business Insurance.

Diane and I have lived in Glenfield since we moved from Wellington 20 years ago. We have three sons and sending them to our local schools was always something that we considered an important part of living in our local community. Glenfield College is very much part of that and having our children at "GC" is something that we have never regretted.

Our eldest is now in his last year at university completing a conjoint science/business degree. Our middle son has just started his engineering degree this year and our youngest is currently in Year 12.

We believe that the smaller size of Glenfield College (at least compared to some of the large scale colleges on the North Shore) provides an experience that allows both students, and in particular parents, to have a much greater sense of familiarity with the school, its teachers, the leadership team and the Principal - that the large institutions simply can't match, while at the same time providing a breadth of modern facilities (both teaching and sporting) that are comparable with much larger schools.

Month of June

Please note the following dates on which the school is closed for classes:

Friday June 1 st	Mid-Term Break
Monday June 4 th	Queen's Birthday
Monday June 11 th	Paid Union Meeting - school finishes at 12:30pm
Wednesday June 13 th	Teacher Only Day

*NB: The last two days of closure were not originally planned by the school.
The PUM is an entitlement for union members and the TOD is MOE approved.*

2013 - Year 9 Enrolment

Contact Daisy Shim for enrolment detail
d.shim@gc.ac.nz

ABSENCES

Please phone the Attendance Office on 441-9773 or 444-9066 ext 813 or email the attendance administrator on absences@gc.ac.nz to report your child's absence. This email address is now available on the school website for your convenience.

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Important Dates

Jun 1 st	Mid-term break
Jun 4 th	Queen's birthday
Jun 11 th	PUM
Jun 13 th	Teacher Only Day
Jun 29 th	Last day of Term 2
July 16 th	First day of Term 3

NCEA Campus - Quality Holiday Tutoring for NCEA

<http://www.nceacampus.org/ncea/home>

Support your school - contact Daisy to place an advert d.shim@gc.ac.nz



Northcote Rotary Annual Charity Book Fair

Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th July 2012

Venue: Northcote College off Onewa Road,
Northcote / Birkenhead

An opportunity to explore through thousands of quality second hand books at low prices – admission free - come and enjoy the fun!

All funds raised are returned to the community through projects or grants including assistance to local schools

Please telephone contacts below if you wish to donate books or deposit them in bins provided outside or adjacent to the following premises:

Glenfield: Hammer Hardware

Northcote: Paper Power

Birkenhead: Life Pharmacy

Milford: New World

Contacts: Tel 480 8768 (Mike) or 419 2297 (Garry)

Organisation: - Rotary Club of Northcote Community Charitable Trust