

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa.

Senior Exams and School Holidays: Exams for senior students commence on Friday, August 8th and finish on Wednesday, August 13th. These exams are practice external exams (practice for the national exams which are sat in November each year) and the content for papers being sat will have been taught by the time the exams commence, if not already. These exams are important however, for two other reasons. They form a basis for decision making about whether a student would cope with a course in the next level up in 2015, along with a range of internal assessment and other data. They would also be used by us to estimate grades for students who may take ill when the national exams are on in November. We call them the "Entrance Exams" to highlight their value in helping us all make decisions about courses for next year.

Too often students take these exams lightly and live to regret that, as they struggle to get entry to a course that they really wanted. With your help and encouragement, students should set aside time in the upcoming holiday break to prepare for these exams. If they do well, they will be all the better prepared for the real thing at the end of the year and will get to take the course that they wanted. If they struggle, they will know what areas to focus on in preparing for the end of the year and what standard they need to reach. To do no preparation wastes their time and ours. These exams commence in the third week of term so there is little time for preparation after the holidays.

Courses in 2015: Following closely after the senior exams comes the process of choosing subjects for next year. Integral to this process is you, the parent, whanau or caregiver and the conversations that you have with your young person. Some have little idea of career pathways that might suit them and might need a lot of support to settle on a couple of broad pathways. Conversations around what they are good at (or not), what they like (or don't), and whether they want to help people and work with people or are happy to work quietly in the background, all help. The closer we can get to choosing a couple of broad pathways, the better the course selection should be.

Reports: Reports for seniors will be mailed home by the end of this week. You should receive them over the weekend or early next week. Junior reports (Y9 and Y10) will be posted home by Week 2 next term. Remember that you can log on to the Parent Portal at any time and see up to date achievement data on your child as well as attendance and pastoral data. There will come a time when school reports as we know them will disappear.

Know how to contact your child's Dean. They are your first point of contact with matters relating to your child. You can phone the school on 444-9066 or send an email:

Year 9 Dean: Mr Sinclair on ext 744, j.sinclair@gc.ac.nz

Year 10 Dean: Ms Gray on ext 724, s.gray@gc.ac.nz

Year 11 Dean: Mr Filby on ext 718, g.filby@gc.ac.nz

Year 12 Dean: Mrs Card on ext 735, t.card@gc.ac.nz

Year 13 Dean: Mr Tod on ext 750, a.tod@gc.ac.nz

Important Dates

FRI 4 Jul	Term 2 Ends	MON 1 Sep	Tournament Week
SUN 20 Jul	Handover of Matua Rangiheuea at Wesley College. Meet at GC at 2.30pm – payment to Bursar	to FRI 5 Sep	(Girls Hockey & Boys Basketball)
		TUE 9 Sep	Year 12 Course Selection Interviews
MON 21 Jul	Term 3 Begins	THUR 11 Sep	Year 11 Course Selection Interviews
TUE 29 Jul to THUR 31 Jul	Year 9 Enrolment 2015	THUR 18 Sep	Whanau Prizegiving
FRI 8 Aug to WED 13 Aug	Senior Entrance Exams	MON 22 Sep	Year 10 Course Selection Interviews
MON 18 Aug	Mid Term Break Holiday	FRI 26 Sep	Term 3 Ends
		MON 13 Oct	Term 4 Begins

Absences

Please phone the Attendance Office on 441-9773 or 444-9066 ext 618 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.

Parent Portal

Register by email to reply@gc.ac.nz from your preferred email address stating your child's name.

NZQA Fees

NZQA Fees must be paid by Friday 25 July. Financial assistance information and application forms are available from Mrs King in the Student Centre. They must be returned, completed, by the end of Term 2 to gain the reduced amount.

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