

School Newsletter Week 1, Term 1, 2026

Glenfield College <admin@gc.ac.nz>
Reply-To: Glenfield College <admin@gc.ac.nz>
To: d.keenleyside@gc.ac.nz

30 January 2026 at 16:02

[View this email in your browser](#)



30th January 2026

Kaipatiki Road, Glenfield, Auckland, 0629

+64-9-444-9066

Message from the Principal

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Glenfield College,

A warm welcome to the 2026 school year. It is a pleasure to greet our returning students, whānau, and staff, and to extend a special welcome to those who are joining the Glenfield College community for the first time. We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and success together.

The first week of the year has already been busy and productive. Our junior students are settling into new routines and learning what it means to be part of the Glenfield College whānau, while our senior students are finalising their courses, reconnecting with teachers, and setting clear and ambitious goals for the year ahead. The positive energy and focus across the school have set an excellent tone for 2026.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2025, our NCEA results again demonstrate strong outcomes across the senior school. We are incredibly proud of the students who met and exceeded their academic goals - *ka mau te wehi*. These results are a celebration of hard work and perseverance, and a reminder that each new year brings fresh opportunities to grow, to challenge ourselves, and to strive for even greater success.

Supporting Your Child's Success in 2026

As we begin the new academic year, we encourage parents and caregivers to play an active role in supporting their child's learning journey. There are several keyways you can help:

- **Establish Routines** - Support your child with a consistent daily routine that includes adequate sleep, regular meals, and dedicated time for homework and revision. Strong routines underpin effective learning.
- **Encourage Good Attendance and Punctuality** - Being at school, on time and every day, is critical to success. Your support in reinforcing the importance of attendance and punctuality makes a significant difference.
- **Stay Engaged in Their Learning** - Take an interest in what your child is learning. Ask about their subjects, assessments, and goals, and celebrate their progress along the way.
- **Provide a Positive Study Environment** - A quiet, well-lit space free from unnecessary distractions supports focus and productivity, particularly during homework and assessment periods.
- **Connect with Teachers and School Staff** - Open communication is key. Please engage in opportunities such as parent-teacher conferences, progress reporting, and school events.
- **Support Wellbeing and Balance** - Academic success is important, but so is wellbeing. Encourage involvement in sport, cultural activities, and interests that support balance and personal growth.

Our school roll continues to grow, and once again we are proud of our Year 9 intake. This growth is also reflected across other year levels and is a testament to the sustained effort and commitment of staff, students, and whānau over time. We are proud to continue being the school of choice for our community. As our roll grows, so too do the opportunities we can offer our young people, including the appointment of new staff who bring additional expertise, passion, and dedication to our school.

The quality of teaching and support at Glenfield College remains a core strength, and we are committed to providing the very best education and care for our students. Your trust and partnership as parents and caregivers are invaluable, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Exciting Developments at Glenfield College

Over the summer, painting and landscaping work was completed as we continue to improve the learning environment for our students. Planning also continues for the highly anticipated gymnasium rebuild, which will further enhance opportunities for learning, sport, and wellbeing. These developments reflect

our focus on continuous improvement and future-focused education.

I would also like to acknowledge the collective effort that has ensured our students have begun the year well prepared. Pride in uniform, strong expectations around attendance and punctuality, and a readiness to learn all contribute to the positive and inclusive culture we value at Glenfield College.

The year ahead is full of promise. Together, we look forward to making 2026 a year of achievement, resilience, and success. Let us move forward with confidence and enthusiasm - this is our time to shine.



Rakesh Govind

Principal

New Staff Welcomed



Growing up with a passion for astronomy and physics led me to study Astrophysics at university while working as a jazz musician in my spare time. I have taught physics and science in several different schools across the world and have chosen to make Glenfield College my new home. I am really excited to be joining the GC team and am looking forward to journeying alongside the students as they increase their passion for the scientific world. - Rob Boasman, HOD Science.



Kia ora, I enjoy reading, travelling and spending quality time with my family. I'm passionate about teaching English and working with young people on ideas that they consider relevant to their lives and world. Apart from being a teacher, I am a trained educational researcher and consider myself fortunate to be a part of the Glenfield College family. - Dr Parul Malik, English teacher.



Kia ora, I am really excited to be joining the Glenfield College community as a member of the Social Sciences department! I come here with a background in teacher aiding and a passion for history, education, and wellbeing. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of getting to know all of the students, and supporting them in reaching their full potential. Gabrielle Drown, Social Science teacher.

I am thrilled to join the Glenfield College Science Department as a trainee Physics teacher. With a background in Data Science and software engineering, I've spent years applying my technical skills in the AI industry and am eager to share my passion for the physical world with my students. When I'm not



in the classroom, you'll likely find me on the trails training for an ultramarathon. -
Hamish Huggard, Science teacher.



Kia ora, I'm excited to join the team at Glenfield College this year. You'll find me in the classroom teaching Junior Social Studies and Senior Commerce/Business Studies. My goal is to help students of Glenfield College grow, find their strengths, and achieve their absolute best throughout their time at High School. I can't wait to be a part of such a welcoming community. I look forward to building strong relationships with students and whānau to ensure successful years ahead. Mandy McClenaghan, Social Science teacher.



I am excited to join the Art team here at GC, and look forward to bringing the joy of making to students. I grew up locally, and am proud to be able to support the future of our community. Art is an important mode of expression, especially for young ones who are figuring out who they are and who they want to be. It is my privilege to guide students on this path. Brooklyn Boyed, Visual Art teacher.



"Nāu tō rourou, nāku rourou ka ora ai te iwi."

With your food basket and mine, the people will thrive.

Ko Maungataniwha te maunga, ko Tokerau te moana, ko Ngāti Kahu te iwi.

Kia ora koutou, ko Christian McDonald tōku ingoa. I am privileged to serve as the Head of Te Ao Māori at Glenfield College. I tupu ake ahau i te Far North, my deep connection to my roots and Ngāti Kahu drives my passion for education. I am committed to fostering an environment where our students stand tall in their identity and succeed together. Tama tu, Tama ora.

Outside of the classroom, my heart belongs to the outdoors. I have nui te aroha ki te moana (ocean) and the ngahere (forest), and you will often find me diving, fishing, or exploring the bush - connecting with the natural world is where I recharge. My most important role, however, is being a husband and a father to my five children, who keep me grounded and motivated every day.

"Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai."

Nurture the seed, and it will blossom.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te korero kotahi tatou, me te kaitahi hoki.

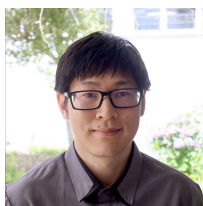
Nāku nā,

Christian McDonald (Pikaahu)

Kia ora, with over 16 years' service in the New Zealand Army, I am proud to be the new Service Academy Director at Glenfield College. I am passionate about supporting young people to build confidence, discipline, and resilience. This year, my goal is to create a positive, structured environment



that focuses on leadership, teamwork, fitness, and career readiness, helping students prepare for life beyond school. I look forward to working with our students, families, and the wider community to help our young people grow and succeed. - Phillip Tearoa, Services Academy Director.



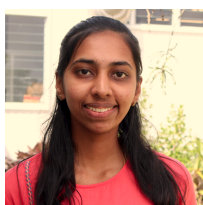
Kia ora koutou! I am thrilled to join the Glenfield College whānau this year. Having grown up in Central Auckland and moved to the North Shore during my university years, I have lived in the local area for quite some time. I have always had a high opinion of Glenfield College students when I see them in our community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to now give back to that same community. With a background in Mechatronics Engineering, I began my journey in education through tutoring and working as a teacher's aide at the University of Auckland. I aspire to make Mathematics and Digital Technology accessible to everyone by demonstrating how they connect to real-life scenarios and helping students develop a genuine intuition for the subjects. Beyond the classroom, I am a firm believer in holistic education. I am very much looking forward to contributing to the school's Info-Tech, Music, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme scenes. Kieren Fong, Technology/Math teacher.



My name is Gabriela Miranda, and I am originally from Brazil. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Spanish, as well as a Master's degree in Teaching and Learning. Teaching and learning languages is something I truly care about, as I believe languages help us connect with others, understand different perspectives, and feel a sense of belonging.

I am currently teaching English language and aim to provide strong, meaningful support to our second language learners across the school. Having learned different languages myself, I understand the challenges and joys that come with learning a new language, and I strive to create a supportive and encouraging learning environment for all students.

I have been living in New Zealand for the past year and have loved experiencing life in a bicultural and bilingual country. Outside of school, you will often find me at the beach or spending quality time with friends. I am very grateful to be part of the Glenfield College community and look forward to supporting our learners and contributing to school life.



My name is Shrihastha Mudambadithaya, a recent graduate of a Research Master's in Mathematics from the University of Auckland, where my academic journey helped me develop strong analytical, organisational and research skills along with a deep appreciation for learning and education. I'm excited to join Glenfield College because of its supportive learning environment and commitment to student wellbeing and achievement. I enjoy closely working with students and teachers in classrooms and helping students build confidence and independence in their studies. Shrihastha Mudambadithaya, Teacher Aide.

Year 9 Students Welcomed



On Wednesday morning, we welcomed our new staff and students, along with their whānau, with a Mihi Whakatau. New students then spent the day becoming familiar with the school through an orientation programme led by our Peer Support Leaders.

That evening, parents and whānau were invited to a welcome BBQ, providing an opportunity to meet key staff members. We would like to thank our music students for providing entertainment and our Peer Support Leaders for preparing the food.

Glenfield College Students Involved in Community Theatre



Glenfield College is delighted to have one of our own Drama students involved in the 2026 season of the Shakespeare in The Park at the Pumphouse Theatre. Year 12 student Lily Hendry-Ashton is currently performing in *Romeo & Juliet* with the Shoreside Theatre Company. Engaging in a community production of this scale requires significant discipline, and Lily's commitment to a demanding rehearsal schedule alongside her schoolwork is a testament to her dedication to the performing arts. Behind the scenes, another Glenfield College student, Year 11 Kasey Rule-Jones, is also playing a vital role as the Assistant Stage Manager for the production. It is fantastic to see our students collaborating on such a professional venture; we

wish them both a successful season which ends on 14th February.

International Students Welcomed



This year we welcomed 35 new International students from Japan. For the last two days, they have been undertaking an orientation programme learning about the "Kiwi" way of life and about Glenfield College. They are a fantastic group of students who are excited about their New Zealand experience. A big thank you to our Cultural Prefects, Hayley Pienaar, Xiannah Villareal and Matthys Outram, plus returning student Akari Narahara (4th year student from Japan). They helped teach the students how to access all the Google tools they will need during their stay, showed them around the school and shared their experience of Glenfield College.

We hope that they all enjoy life here at school, make new friends and enjoy learning about our culture as much as we enjoy learning about theirs.

Gateway Success



Over two weekends in December, I took part in a scuba diving training course where I learned essential underwater skills, including hand signalling, emergency air procedures, navigation, and how to use dynamic buoyancy effectively. We began with pool dives to become comfortable breathing underwater and using the equipment, before progressing to shore dives along the Leigh coast and at Lake Pupuke. I am now qualified to plan and participate in my own dives to depths of up to 18 metres - about five storeys, or three giraffes deep! My favourite moments were seeing an octopus and other marine life

despite the low visibility, and exploring the underwater diving playground more than 10 metres below the surface of Lake Pupuke. Overall, it was an amazing experience, and a huge thank you to Mrs Foolchand for giving me this opportunity. Written by Rose Oborn, Year 13 student.

Important Dates to Note

3 February - Class and ID Photos
4 February - Year 9 Camp Assembly
5 February - Clubs sign up
6 February - Waitangi Day - School Closed
10 February - GCFC & NCEA Info Evening
10-13 February - Year 9 Camp
13-15 February - Robotics Nationals
16-20 February - Services Academy - Induction Camp
17 February - Year 9 Hearing Tests
19 February - Honours/Leadership Ceremony
19 February - ID photo catch-up
20 February - Athletics Day

Book Review Corner



Recently, I read *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn. It was a recommendation from a friend, and I didn't look up any details about the story beforehand, so I had no idea what to expect. I was immediately captivated by the structure of the narrative, and the characters were certainly believable. The plot elements and how they unfolded were engaging. I felt I had good ideas about where this story was going. However, after a big turning point in the story, it went from an interesting story to an addictive experience that I genuinely could not put down all day. I read the whole story from start to finish on a Saturday because I just had to know what happened next! An easy recommendation to anyone, and this is coming from someone who usually dabbles in fantasy and science fiction. Incredible prose, characterisation, and storytelling. You will not regret picking this one up. Written by Mr Saunders, English and ESOL teacher.

School Communications

Please ensure we have up-to-date contact details. You can do this by updating them on the [Parent Portal](#), or by sending us an email admin@gc.ac.nz.

Please keep up to date with College events via our online calendar below. This will be updated as information comes to hand.

If you have any questions about our College communication, please feel free to contact me at admin@gc.ac.nz.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view
the school calendar

Sports Report

Sport gets underway quickly in Term 1, and we are super excited for sport in 2026 at Glenfield College. To be involved, students must sign up for a sport for the year by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.gc.ac.nz/sports/>. This form covers registration for all sports across the year, and a full Sports Prospectus is available on our website for more information. If you have any questions, please see Miss Adamson in the Sports Office.



To follow @glenfieldcollegesport click below



To see the latest sports fixtures click below



Safety @ GC

Reminder of a few road safety rules at Glenfield College

Please note:

When picking up or dropping off at the end or beginning of the day:

- The carpark is a 10 km/h zone
- The school gates will be **closed** at the following times
 - 2.30pm – 3.30pm
 - Please arrange for pick up and drop off to be made further along Kaipātiki Road or in one of the surrounding streets.
- When the gates are open, it is a **left turn only** onto Kaipātiki Road. If you want to go towards Glenfield Mall, then please use the roundabout as it is a safer option.



The safety of our students, your children, is our main focus. We thank you for helping ensure that they are all safe arriving and leaving the school grounds.

Please drive carefully.





BYOD @ GC

Minimum Recommended Specifications for GC

The essential requirements are that it should:

- Be able to connect to wireless networks and use the Google Chrome browser.
- Have a processing capacity that enables the creation and manipulation of text and data.
- Have a minimum screen size of 10 inches (13-14 inches is preferable).
- Have a battery life of at least 5 hours (please note that some laptops fall well short of this. We do not provide charging facilities at school).
- Lightweight, portable and durable.
- Have anti-virus software – this is essential to protect the device's data and prevent the spread of malware.
- Have a protective case.



For more information, see the school website - [GC BYOD](#)

Chromebooks and Laptops can be found at various stores, some will have special offers from time to time:

PBTech - [Link to PBTech](#) Use code **BYODGC** for a discount

Noel Leeming - [Link to Noel Leeming](#)
- [Which Device Guide](#)
- [Advice videos](#)



Please click here for more information: <https://www.gc.ac.nz/parents/bring-your-own-device-byod/>

School payments simplified.

Our school is using Kindo to make life easier by letting you pay for everything your children need online in one place, at a time that suits you - including ordering ezlunch!

One account works for multiple members - even at different schools, clubs or organisations.

We're open 24/7 at mykindo.co.nz



Create an account

1. Visit mykindo.co.nz or scan the QR code below.
2. Create an account
3. Get it all done online!



Please note - If your existing mykindo account has been idle it may have gone into hibernation! Any difficulty logging in please contact our customer support team who can easily reactivate your account for you.

Have questions?

Visit support.mykindo.co.nz

Our helpdesk is open 8am - 4pm weekdays
hello@mykindo.co.nz or 0508 454 636



LEARNING HUB 课后补习



WHAT 内容

- 完成作业
- 找老师提问
- 向同学请教

WHEN 时间

- 周二和周四
- 放学后直到 4:30 结束

WHERE 地点

- 图书馆

do you need help with...



understanding
on your own



homework
with others



assessments
with teachers

Learning Hub

School Library | Tues & Thur | 3.15pm - 4.30pm



Glenfield College Uniform Available from 'New Zealand Uniforms'

Store: 19A Douglas Alexander Pde, Albany

Phone: 09 477 6300

Email: albany@nzuniforms.com

Store Hours: Weekdays 9am – 5pm, Saturday 9am – 1pm

Web: www.nzuniforms.com

Payment Options:

NZ Uniforms accepts Cash, Eftpos, all major Credit Cards and WINZ payments. We also offer finance through Gilrose Finance, PartPay and have a 'Uniform Club' which is a great way to save for your School Uniform purchases.

'Uniform Club' :

It's easy, set up an account and make automatic payments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) in advance and watch your balance grow. When you are ready to make your Schoolwear purchases with NZU, your money is already available and waiting to be spent! Call or visit the store today to get started.



Copyright © 2026 Glenfield College, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in to join our mailing list.

Our mailing address is:

Glenfield College
Kaipatiki Road
Glenfield
Auckland, Auk 0629
New Zealand