

Glenlola Collegiate School

2 Valentine Road, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT20 4TH
Tel: 028 9147 5340 Fax: 028 9147 5345
www.glenlola.collegiate.net info@glenlola.collegiate.bangor.ni.sch.uk
Headmaster: W E Thompson BSc MSc MEd PGCE PQH(NI)



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Dear Parent / Guardian

Year 10 is an important year in which pupils consider career ideas and prepare to make their subject choices at GCSE. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the range of information and guidance that will be available to support your daughter in this process.

In November, all Year 10 pupils will be surveyed during Form Time to gauge general interest in a range of possible GCSE subjects. The results of this survey will be used to help us plan the most suitable curriculum for pupils currently in Year 10 and **should not** be considered as your daughter's GCSE choices. These choices will be finalised following her receipt of the Subject Nomination booklet in January.

You will also be aware that winter examinations are fast approaching and these are particularly important for pupils in Year 10. As general guidance, pupils should achieve a minimum of a grade C, and preferably a grade B or better, in subjects she wishes to continue to GCSE level. An academic profile that contains multiple C or D grades may limit a pupil's choice of subjects and/or the number of GCSE subjects available to them. In addition, some subjects may have specific criteria for entry into GCSE, for example GCSE Further Mathematics.

GCSE Further Mathematics is an additional Mathematics GCSE that is available for the top performers in Year 10. It is a selective subject and pupils put themselves forward for this through their GCSE subject nomination form. The Mathematics Department will use a combination of winter and summer examination scores to determine whether your daughter would be suitable to study this GCSE. Therefore, it is very important that all interested pupils try to perform to the best of their ability in the upcoming examinations, so as to give them the best possible chance of studying GCSE Further Mathematics, if they wish to do so.

In early February, the School will be holding an options event at which you and your daughter can hear more about the subjects available at GCSE, the content of their specification and the careers paths related to them, as well as speak with Careers and Guidance staff. This will be followed by an opportunity for you and your daughter to attend an individual interview, with careers and section staff to discuss her career ideas and GCSE subject interests.

A Parent Consultation afternoon will take place on 28th February 2018, when you can meet with your daughter's subject teachers to discuss her progress and receive academic guidance regarding her GCSE subject choices. Advisors from the Northern Ireland Careers Service will also be available to discuss possible career pathways, should you wish to avail of this option.

I hope that you find this information useful and will take advantage of the support and guidance Glenlola Collegiate provides at this key decisions point.

Yours sincerely

Dr C Larmour
Vice Principal