



INFORMATION FOR YEAR 12 PARENTS

September 2018

Dates to remember

Tree of Knowledge (study skills event)	October 24
Mock examinations	January 7 – 18
Mock Results Issue and Options Event	February 6
Parents' Consultation Afternoon (Reports to be issued prior to this)	March 6
Choice of AS level subjects	March 11
Start of GCSE written exams	May 9
Issue of GCSE results	August 22

Please arrange to be at home for the receipt of GCSE results, as decisions may have to be made about subject choices.

Controlled Assessment, will be ongoing in the Autumn term for most subjects. A detailed information grid about GCSE written exam and controlled assessment weightings was in the Year 11 information booklet that you received last year and is on the school's web site. We try to make these as accurate as possible, but changes in timings are sometimes unavoidable. As it can be worth a significant proportion of the marks available in any subject, up to 60%, it is vital to keep on top of controlled assessment and to meet all deadlines.

Study habits

Recommended hours of study per week	10 – 12 hours per week, rising to 15 hours before the Mock exams
-------------------------------------	--

If there is no set homework on a particular evening, your daughter should **plan ahead for controlled assessments, organise files and go over work done in class that day**. This last point is especially important, and is essential when dealing with new topics. GCSEs, being a two year course, will also require regular revision of Year 11 topics, in subjects that don't have Year 11 completion units, to give the best possible chance of success. Your daughter has target grades and should always be working to achieve these, or even improve upon them.

The Mock exams are important. Doing well at this stage gives confidence and makes it easier to achieve good results in the real thing. Teachers use Mock results to help them predict GCSE grades. If a pupil is unable to sit an exam through illness, it may be that their Mock results will have to be taken into account if they are to be awarded a grade. Revision for the Mocks needs to be undertaken in good time, noting that they begin immediately after the Christmas holidays. Leaving it until the beginning of the Spring Term does not allow for thorough learning. Study leave will be allowed for the Mock exams, but if results give cause for concern and show that this time was not well used, it will be withdrawn for the actual GCSE exams. Pupils who fall below many of their target grades and could have made a greater effort will attend supervised study in school, in place of study leave. They may be asked to attend subject specific revision sessions. The Mock results will be issued to pupils, in a similar format to the way actual results are issued, on Wednesday 6 February. There is also a future options event on in the hall that afternoon which involves A Level advice from all Departments and careers information.

Senior School Entry Criteria

Attendance of 90% is expected as a minimum for automatic entry into Senior School unless your daughter suffers from a serious medical condition which affects attendance. If absent for more than three days, please phone the School by the third day to let us know about the medical situation and when return is expected.

It is great to see so many of our pupils return to Senior School in Glenlola Collegiate. Along with the attendance requirement above, pupils must gain 12 or more GCSE points including at least a grade C in English Language and Mathematics. The scoring system is that a grade A* = 4 points, A = 3, B = 2, C* = 1.5 and C = 1 point. If your child is doing any English Board specifications their grading systems has changed to a number scale of 9 to 1, with 9 being the best. The points equivalent for these is 9 = 4 points, 8 = 3.5, 7 = 3, 6 = 2, 5 = 1.5, and 4 = 1 point. A good general School record is also a requirement. The full criteria for entry into Senior School can be found on the School's website.

Some ways you can help your daughter

- Provide somewhere quiet and comfortable to study, with easy access to books, files etc.
- Provide study aids as appropriate.
- Encourage healthy eating. Breakfast is most important.
- Ease up on the household chores at times of pressure.
- Help to get the school work/ social life/ employment balance right.
- Show an interest in what work is being done. Ask for it to be explained to you, even if you know nothing about the subject.
- Talk positively about the future and about your daughter's strengths. Discuss potential careers and encourage research of these and to be realistic in her aspirations.
- Contact us if you have any concerns – academic or pastoral.
- Special consideration or extra time in the examinations may be available in certain cases. Let us know if you feel that this may apply to your daughter's circumstances.

The School's website contains further useful information - www.glenlolacollegiate.net

CCEA's website is also useful for examination information - www.rewardinglearning.org.uk

Mr R Spence
Head of Middle School