Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your child begins their GCSE years in Mathematics, we thought it might be useful to provide you with some key information about external examinations in this subject. At Glenlola all classes study the CCEA GCSE Mathematics course. This course is designed to provide every pupil with the opportunity to fulfil their full potential. The various modules available allow us to tailor the choice of papers to the abilities and aspirations of each pupil.

Mathematics

If your child is following the Mathematics course they will sit one of the following modules in the summer term of Year 11: M2 (foundation), M3 (higher) or M4 (higher). These papers are worth 45% of the overall grade. They will then sit one of the following completion papers in the summer term of Year 12: M6 (foundation), M7 (higher) or M8 (higher). These papers are worth 55% of the overall grade. Your child's class teacher will have discussed with their class which module they are beginning to prepare for this year.

The choosing of modules is a fluid process based on progress throughout the year and Year 11 examination results. For instance, if your child does exceptionally well in their Year 11 M2 or M3 module then there will be the opportunity to sit one of the more advanced modules in November of Year 12 to increase their chances of obtaining a higher grade overall. For those who find the subject more challenging, they can choose to keep their Year 11 result and focus solely on their Year 12 completion paper. Pupils and parents will be consulted if a module change is applicable to them.

The following table shows examples of combinations that target particular grades.

Max Grade	UMS Required	Module Pathway
A*	A* UMS boundary is set independently in each examination series	M4/M8
A	320	M4/M7 or M3/M8
B	292	M3/M7 or M2/M7
C*	268	M2/M6
C	240	M2/M6

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Further Mathematics

If your child is following the Further Mathematics course, they will complete their GCSE Mathematics in the summer term of Year 11 by sitting 2 modules: M4 (45%) and M8 (55%). They will then complete GCSE Further Mathematics in the summer term of Year 12 by sitting 3 modules: Pure (50%), Mechanics (25%) and Statistics (25%).

Please note, if your child is considering A Level Mathematics the entrance criteria is as follows:

- A in GCSE Mathematics and at least a C in GCSE Further Mathematics
  or
- A in GCSE with a minimum UMS 345 (this must be obtained through the M4/M8 combination)

If you have any queries your child can speak to her class teacher or please do not hesitate to contact me.

V McGarvey

Head of Mathematics

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