



"We each shape our own destiny."

GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL



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Serving the communities of Appila, Crystal Brook, Georgetown, Gladstone, Gulnare, Laura, Stone Hut, & Yacka

4th February 2016

Dear Parent/Caregiver

This is a letter to invite you to a **Parent Information & Meet the Teacher Evening** next week at **7:30pm on Wednesday the 10th February**, and to outline the start of the year for Year 9.

It has been a good beginning to the 2016 school year for our Year 9 students and they have settled into the many different routines of life at Gladstone High School very well. Currently the Year 9 students are divided into two home groups. Last year students made choices and are doing some of the following practical subjects: Visual Arts, HPE, Agricultural Studies, Digital Media and Technological Studies. This year they will also study some Agriculture in Science, but the main focus on Agriculture will be if they have chosen this as a standalone practical option.

Home group teachers Miss Emma Kerr (9B16) and Mr Michael Manson (9A16) have been working with students developing relationship and organisational skills while re-acquainting them with our school rules. Home group teachers are particularly important people for both students and their parents, as they undertake the majority of the administrative tasks, but most importantly they are the first teacher that your child works with each morning. They should also be your first point of contact at the school if you have any questions or information to share during the year and can be contacted at the school on 8662 2171 or via email Emma.Kerr833@schools.sa.edu.au or Michael.Manson196@schools.sa.edu.au

Students have 20 minutes each day for home group and Lesson 1 on Wednesday and Friday mornings are set aside for Pastoral Care. Part of the focus of Pastoral Care so far has been on the students being organised, using their diary and developing a positive learning culture within the classrooms.

Next year the Year 9s have their first experience with SACE through the development of a Personal Learning Plan or PLP. In order to develop these necessary skills students will be undertaking a number of lessons and assignments which emphasise independent learning skills such as organisation, researching and referencing. Some of the assignments will be about the ski trip and future careers.

As a parent you can support the home group teacher and the school in the following ways;

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Check your child/children's diary for any notes
- Complete an absent slip if your child is away for any particular reason (this can be done prior to the absence)
- Support the school dress code (which can be found in the front of the diary)
- Support the school behaviour code
- Check for and help your child/children with their homework
- Sign and check your child/children's diary at the end of each week
- Maintain good contact with the school

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Year 9 students should be expecting to get approximately 60 – 90 minutes homework per night (20- 30 minutes per 3 subjects) as highlighted on the homework timetable in your student's diary. Some teachers may set a weekly task whilst others may set homework on a daily basis. Sometimes there are assignments which have a due date in a number of weeks and this could be the homework for that night if none is specifically set. These planning and organisational skills can be very difficult to teach and it is only with your help to reinforce these skills that we can be successful. Help your child/children to plan for long term deadlines by setting short term goals with their work.

Homework should be entered into each student's diary by the student, therefore you should be able to monitor what your child/children have to complete. Maintaining their diary is the student's responsibility and this will be monitored by the school and you. If this is not occurring, challenge your child/children and if there are no improvements please contact me at the school. In addition, students will be given a topic outline which for each subject, which contains information about activities and assessment they will be studying. This should be placed in their written work book for each subject. If you need further copies of these please contact the relevant subject teacher.

Should you have any queries with any of the information contained above please contact me at the school or via email on Sonia.Pringle235@schools.sa.edu.au . We are looking forward to meeting you next Wednesday at the Information & Meet the Teacher evening.

Yours faithfully

Sonia Pringle
Year 9 Co-ordinator

Denise Higgins
Principal



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