



"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

4 February 2016

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

The year is now well underway with the majority of students settled into their different classes and starting to grapple with the complexities of Senior School study. On Wednesday of week 2 (Feb. 10th) we plan to hold an information night and much of the information contained in this letter will be detailed on that night. As a courtesy to all parents I write to you now to ensure all are aware of our expectations of senior school students at Gladstone High School with specific reference to Years 11 & 12.

The Senior School in 2016 is made up of a total of 65 students - 39 year 11 students across 2 homegroups and 26 year 12 students across 2 homegroups. The year 11 homegroup teachers are - 1207 : Derek Friedrichs and 1208: Jordan Smith. The year 12 homegroup teachers are – 2203: Renee Thamm and 2205: Dean Humphries. The Year 11 & 12 students are well into their respective SACE initial tasks and are gradually coming to grips with the varying demands of senior school study.

The 4 homegroup teachers and I have the task of monitoring student progress throughout the year as well as daily during the morning home group time. One key difference between Junior and Senior School is in regard to home work. You may find that senior students are often not always set defined homework tasks each night as may have been the practice in junior school. The trend in senior school is toward longer term assignments and, in the case of Stage 2, there is always revision to do. As a guide the following times have been suggested for senior students:

- Stage 1 - *minimum of 1 – 2 hours / night X 5 nights per week by the end of term 2, building up to a regular min. of 2 hours / night for the remainder of the year depending on the relative demands of each individual student's chosen pathway.*
- Stage 2 – *minimum of 2 – 3 hours / night X 5 nights per week by the end of term 2 building up to a regular min. of 3 hours / night for the remainder of the year.*

Please use the homegroup teacher as your first point of contact but if the need arises do not hesitate to contact me as senior school coordinator.

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

- Check your son / daughter's diary for any notes
- Encourage regular attendance, past records show that students who perform particularly well in the SACE have been regular attendees, yet if your son / daughter is away for any reason please send a note, phone or complete an absentee slip.
- Support the school's dress & behaviour codes.
- Check for and help your son / daughter with their home study
- Maintain contact with the school

I would like to take this opportunity to inform Parents of Stage 2 students that these students will attend a seminar at Jamestown Community School next Wednesday morning. The seminar is funded & run every year by the MNSEC schools group and has been an excellent resources for the senior school students in each of the MNSEC schools, all of whom attend. The seminar concentrates on effective study skills and how students can organise their time to maximise their performance and potential.

Should you have queries regarding any of the information contained above or about any Senior School/ SACE matter please contact me at school and we all look forward to meeting with you next Wednesday evening at the information session in the seminar room.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Hughes
SACE / Senior School Coordinator

Denise Higgins
Principal



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development