

March 30, 2011

Dear Parents,

I trust you are enjoyed some time with your children during March Break—or that you were busy keeping tabs on them as they ventured out on tours or trips of their own! Now that the third term is fully underway, we are looking forward to the warm weather and excitement that springs to life through April and May. Along with all of the lovely end-of-year activities, we are also planning for the 2011-2012 school year. To that end, we are beginning in earnest to have conversations with students, both individually and in groups, about the course selection process for the coming academic year.

In an effort to include parents in this dialogue, I have attached a number of documents that are pertinent to the course selection process. In addition, I would also direct your attention to the Academics page of our website where you will find these same documents along with other academic information. The direct link to this information is <http://www.shawnigan.ca/parents/program/academics>. There are two course selection forms: one for junior students (grades 8-10) and one for senior students (grades 11-12). Each form includes course offerings by grade level and indicates what selections are mandatory and/or elective. It also includes a series of questions that will help you and your son or daughter when discussing course decisions. Please be sure to have a look at the form that pertains to the grade your son or daughter will be entering in the fall of 2011. The University Guidance Office also provides a document that outlines acceptance requirements at most of the major universities to which our students apply. If you are the parent of a child entering grade 11 or 12 in the fall, this should be of particular interest to you. Please note that Provincial Exams, except English 12, are no longer mandatory for acceptance into most Canadian universities, although having taken “provincially examinable courses” may be a requirement for acceptance. The current *Academic Courses Book* is also available for you to access on the Academics page. This document supplies you with a description of each of the courses offered at the School, and will help you understand the particular academic demands for each course. Most courses include regular and enriched levels.

I would strongly urge you to spend some time speaking with your son or daughter about the course selection process and about his or her overall academic goals. As we enter into the final term, any work directed at preparing for next year will certainly have long term benefits, ensuring a successful career at Shawnigan.

If you have any questions about course selections or your son's or daughter's academic program, please do not hesitate to contact their advisor, Stephen Cox (Director of Academic Planning; sec@shawnigan.ca), Beth Hall (Director of University Guidance; leh@shawnigan.ca) or me, either by phone or email. Department Heads and teachers are also available to discuss particular course offerings. I look forward to our continued work together.

Warm regards,

Jo-Anne Kingstone
Deputy Head