CSS Design Document for GIC Student Tracker Website

This document outlines the CSS styling strategy implemented for the Glasgow International College (GIC) Student Tracker website. The document details the approach to achieving a consistent and accessible design across all pages, focusing on navigation, content, and form elements.

# Consistent Styling Across the Website

Consistency is achieved through the use of class selectors for common elements such as the navigation bar (.main-nav), the footer (.main-footer), and section content (.content-section). These class selectors ensure that elements across different pages share the same styling properties, such as color, font, and margin.

# Individual HTML Element Styling

Individual HTML elements are styled to distinguish their roles and importance on the pages. For example, <h1> tags for main headings use a larger font size and a different color to stand out, while <p> tags maintain a standard font size for readability. Links (<a>) have a distinct color and hover effect to indicate interactivity.

# Styling Choices for Form Elements

Input fields, labels, and buttons within the data collection form are styled for clarity and usability. Input fields and textareas have a consistent border, padding, and focus outline to indicate the active field. Labels are styled to align closely with their corresponding input fields for easy association. Buttons are designed with a contrasting color to stand out and indicate action.

# Potential Challenges and Solutions

One potential challenge is ensuring the website's design remains consistent and functional across different browsers and devices. This challenge is addressed by using responsive design principles, such as flexible grid layouts and media queries, to adapt the layout and styling to various screen sizes. Testing on multiple devices and browsers ensures compatibility and a uniform user experience.

# Color Palette

The website's color palette is directly inspired by the original Glasgow International College branding to maintain consistency and brand recognition. The primary color, a deep blue (#211069), is used for the navigation bar, headings, and buttons, providing a strong visual identity. Secondary colors include shades of blue for hover states and active links, ensuring a cohesive and visually appealing interface. This strategic use of color reinforces the GIC brand while enhancing the user experience.

# Navigation Bar Hover Effects

The navigation bar's interactive design is achieved through hover effects, which highlight each navigation item as the user's cursor passes over them. Specifically, when hovering over a navigation link, the background color transitions to a lighter shade of blue, and the text color may adjust slightly to ensure high contrast and readability. These hover effects are implemented using CSS:hover selectors, offering immediate visual feedback and indicating clickable areas, thereby improving navigation usability.

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