

20th December 2018
(JD/KL)



John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH
Headteacher

Breadalbane Academy
ABERFELDY PH15 2DU
Tel 01887 822300 • Fax 01887 820464
Email breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk
Website www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes in English Staffing

As there has been a significant amount of change in our English department staffing this session, I felt that it would be useful to write to you once again by way of update. I apologise for not writing a little sooner but I was awaiting the outcome of interviews which were not taking place until this week. I am now pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr Allistair Mathieson to the post of permanent teacher of English. Mr Mathieson is a very experienced teacher who I am sure will be a real asset to the English department and the wider school. He joins us on 18th February 2019.

You may already have heard that Ms Barbara Strathearn will be transitioning across to Pitlochry High School in the longer term but I am pleased to say that she will continue to teach in Breadalbane Academy on Tuesdays to Fridays for a good deal of next term to ensure continuity in teaching for her classes – particularly those at certificate level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Strathearn for her sterling support as Acting-Principal Teacher during the latter part of this term while we await the arrival of Mr Chris Milne, the new Principal Teacher. Mr Milne's current school kindly agreed to allow him to spend a day with us earlier in the month so I am very confident he will be well-placed to hit the ground running in January.

You will recall that when I wrote to you in November I also informed you of changes that had been made to the English timetable to take account of a reduction in staffing. These will be reviewed in early January by Mr Milne with the priority being to maintain continuity of teaching wherever possible. However, I do want to advise you now that teaching of Higher Media next term will be delivered jointly by Mr Milne and me to ensure that this relatively new course is taught by staff with both qualifications and experience in this area.



It will not surprise you to hear that the extent of changes in staffing in the English Department has presented a degree of challenge for the school. Staff are obviously free to move on in their careers and lives at a time that works for them, and sometimes such decisions collide in a way that is less than ideal for a school. However, Mrs Burke, Ms McIntosh and Ms Strathearn have all been incredibly proactive in their support for the school at the point of their transition and their positivity and commitment to young people's learning has helped make all of these changes ultimately manageable for the school. I am confident that staffing will now settle down and that these changes will not impact negatively on learning.

Should you have any queries, now or in the future, about these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Woodcock, Depute Headteacher, or me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Devine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Devine
Headteacher