

14th March 2019
(JD/KL)



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Dear Parent/Carer

I write to inform you that Mrs Coutts, Principal Teacher of Maths and Computing will leaving Breadalbane Academy to take up a post in Education Scotland, the Government body which supports school education. This is a great opportunity for Mrs Coutts and her appointment reflects very well on the great work she has done in Maths and Computing and the wider area of STEM education.

However, Mrs Coutts' departure may present problems for the school in terms of delivering our curriculum in 2019/20 as she is the sole teacher of Computing and this subject area is probably the most difficult in Scotland to recruit to. Unfortunately, the Government continues to experience great difficulty in recruiting candidates to train as Computing teachers with the impact that there is an ongoing severe national shortage. In such cases of national shortages, our rural location can serve to accentuate the recruitment challenges we experience.

The post of Principal Teacher of Maths (with Computing) has been advertised today and we will do everything we can to promote this vacancy. I hope that we may be successful in recruiting a Maths and Computing teacher but I must plan for the very real possibility that we may not be able to recruit someone qualified to teach Computing. For this reason, we have met with all pupils who have selected Computing as an option for next session and advised them to choose an alternative course that they could take in the event that we were unable to timetable Computing courses next year. If your child was absent from school today, please ask them to see their Guidance Teacher on Monday morning to discuss their options further. I would appreciate it if you could discuss this choice with your son/daughter before the return date of Friday 22nd March.

Should we be unable to recruit at this stage, we will explore a number of other options with a view to maintaining continuity in Computing and I remain hopeful we may be able to arrive at some solution. However, I do consider re-coursing a prudent thing to do at this stage as a precautionary measure.

Please do get in touch if you have an queries about any matters raised in this letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JD', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Devine
Headteacher

