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Dear Parent/Carer

Secondary Staffing Update

I am writing to all secondary parents/carers to update you on some current challenges we are experiencing in secondary staffing.

As you may be aware, our Principal Teacher of Maths Mr Hodgson has been absent since the October break and we now anticipate that this absence will extend until the end of November or beyond. To date, we have been able to cover most of Mr Hodgson's classes using qualified staff within our Maths and Science departments. However, in what has been unfortunate timing, Mr Ritchie, another of our Maths teachers, intimated to us at the start of this term that he intended to resign his post, and this will take effect from next Friday, 17th November.

Over the last few weeks, we have had a number of planning meetings aimed at minimising the impact that these changes will have on pupils in Maths for the remainder of this term. We are now close to finalising plans which should ensure that in almost all cases, pupils will continue to be taught by teaching staff whose qualifications allow them to teach Maths at the relevant stage/level. As these plans will mean some significant changes to the current Maths timetable - involving some additional teachers from within and outwith the school - it is our intention to write to all parents next week with answers to the following questions:

- *Which teacher/teachers will be teaching my child's class?*
- *Which teacher will be the main point of contact for my child's class, including responsibility for reporting and parents' nights, as appropriate?*
- *Who will be my point of contact for general queries about delivery of Maths in the school?*

We are currently in the process of advertising for a replacement teacher for Mr Ritchie, who we would hope to have in place for the start of next term, if not sooner. I can also inform you that we are advertising for an additional temporary post of Principal Teacher Raising Attainment (Numeracy). The planning of this post pre-dates our current staffing challenges, but it will be very helpful in our current situation in that it will bring additional Maths staffing into the school for a day or more a week until Easter.

Finally, you may also be aware that Mr Mair, in our Science Department, has also been absent since early in the first term and this absence is now also likely to extend to the end of November or beyond. During the greater part of this absence to date, we have been fortunate to have secured the services of Ms Newton, a qualified supply teacher of Physics, whose presence in school has minimised the impact on pupils' learning.



However, Ms Newton is now no longer available to work in Breadalbane Academy. For this reason, we will also be writing next week to parents whose children are taught by Mr Mair to provide similar clarity about arrangements for the remainder of this term.

I can assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that learning is not significantly impacted by these temporary staffing challenges. Should you still wish to speak to someone at the school in advance of next week's communications, please get in touch with Mrs Libreri, our depute with responsibility for curriculum and timetabling.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JD' followed by a horizontal line.

John Devine
Headteacher