



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

Maths Staffing – Session 23/24

I am writing again to update you on the challenges we have been facing in our Maths department this session.

- **Staffing**

Our Principal Teacher of Maths Mr Kevin Hodgson remains absent and our recent recruitment process to replace Mr Keith Ritchie was ultimately unsuccessful due to the late withdrawal of a candidate to whom we had offered a position.

I am pleased to inform you, however, that Pitlochry High School have agreed to provide us with a further half day of input from Acting-Principal Teacher Mrs Fiona Fennell, as well as to allowing Mr John Wrightson, Principal Teacher of Maths at Pitlochry, to come to Breadalbane for two days a week to support us with the teaching of our National 5 Applications of Maths class. This latter staffing addition means that all Maths classes will now be taught by an appropriately qualified teacher. This will continue to be the case when Mrs Lumsden leaves us temporarily for maternity leave at the end of this week. We are of course hugely grateful to Pitlochry High School for supporting us in this way.

We will attempt again over the coming weeks to recruit to vacant posts. However, should these processes fail to be fruitful, we are confident that our existing contingency arrangements can run at least until the change of timetable in May, and so provide continuity up to and beyond the SQA examination leave.

- **Attainment**

On the subject of SQA examinations, I did inform you in my last letter that we would be looking closely at prelim results to measure the progress of classes this year against those of previous cohorts. Having now conducted such an analysis, I am pleased to say that all class performances are generally positive for this year's cohort, based on predicted attainment post-prelim. The following tables provide a detailed comparison between performances in *Higher Maths* and *National 5* last session and this session.



YEAR	LEVEL	NO.ENTRIES	NO. A-C	%A-C
2023	HIGHER	31	13	42
2024	HIGHER	29	20	69

YEAR	LEVEL	NO.ENTRIES	NO. A-C	%A-C
2023	NAT5	42	21	50
2024	NAT5	30	20	67

The picture is also positive for the smaller *Advanced Higher* and *National 5, Applications of Maths* classes; I can confirm that in both these cases, performances are significantly stronger when compared to last session. We cannot share this information in grid format as small numbers could make individuals identifiable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff involved in supporting the Maths department so far this session in keeping our young people on track.

- **Engagements with parents and pupils**

As we are conscious that there will nevertheless be ongoing concern among parents under the current circumstances, we will also be holding **an online briefing for parents on Thursday 29th February, between 4pm and 4.30pm**, during which there will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

This meeting can be accessed at the following link, and parents are invited, if they wish to provide questions in advance by emailing them to the school generic email account: Breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk with the subject heading 'Maths queries'.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 341 913 473 642

Passcode: 3dW3WV

Questions will of course also be welcome at the meeting – orally or through the chat function.

We will also be speaking with all Maths pupils this week to update them on arrangements and provide a similar opportunity for questions and answers.

In conclusion, the school will continue to plan and seek supports as appropriate to minimise the impact of staffing challenges on our young people's experiences. Should any parent have a specific concern about their child's progress in Maths this session, I would urge them to contact Mr Scott Douglas, Acting-Depute Headteacher, who has taken on responsibility for Maths. The information in this letter is general by its nature, but we are happy to try and respond to any individual concerns as they arise.

Yours sincerely



John Devine
Headteacher