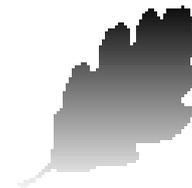




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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black

28 August 2018

Dear Parent/carer

### Staffing Update

I am sure many of you are aware that we have started the school session with a number of vacant teaching posts. This situation is not dissimilar to that of many schools across Scotland as recruiting and retaining staff continues to be challenging, particularly across Science subjects, Maths, Technologies, Home Economics and English.

I felt it was important to update you on the current situation and the steps we are taking to best support all of our young people with their learning.

We begin the recruitment process this week for the post of Principal Teacher of Science and we hope to appoint a suitable candidate early next week. We are also interviewing candidates for the Acting Principal Teacher of Support for Learning on Friday.

Applications have now closed for the posts of Teacher of Physics and Teacher of PE with Dance and we will be interviewing candidates on Monday and Tuesday next week. We also have two other posts currently advertised for a Teacher of Maths and a Teacher of Home Economics. Both of these close at the beginning of September.

In the mean time we have sourced supply cover where available, and timetables have been adapted to ensure that all classes have access to a subject specialist for a proportion of their time in the subject affected.

This situation is far from ideal, but I'd like to reassure you that the staff in school are working hard to ensure this does not negatively impact on the young people and I hope that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible. However, in the event that we are unable to recruit we may have to make some difficult decisions regarding subjects where the numbers of pupils are low. For certain senior phase subjects particularly in S5 and S6 we can also seek to explore the subject being studied in another Midlothian School.

I hope this alleviates any concerns you may have currently about our staffing but if you wish further clarification, please contact me directly at school.

Yours faithfully

Lynn Black  
Headteacher