Buckie Community High School

Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Update

I appreciate this is quite last minute but this has only been finalised as of yesterday. There are a lot of updates but I felt it was best to send you these at one time once we had a clearer picture of who was going to be in our team after the summer.

Mrs Rachael Smith (Acting DHT- Lennox Head of House) and Mr Colin Smith (PTG Rathburn House) have been off for some of this term and will both be off for the first term next session due to personal reasons. Therefore, to ensure you and your child are supported fully we have had to make some changes to ensure there is adequate coverage for support in their absence.

Senior Leadership Team

- Mrs June Reid has been seconded to the role of Acting DHT Secondary Outreach and Pinefield (0.8fte). This means Mrs Reid will technically only work at Buckie Community High School for one day a week, however her outreach team and her will be working predominately at BCHS for the first part of her secondment. We know her wealth of knowledge and experience will be great for this role, however this did mean we needed to backfill her position.
- We as we were given additional funding from Moray Council for an additional DHT. This will allow us to maintain having 4 DHTs as Mrs Smith's role was temporary using temporary funding.
- Mrs Smith was successful in interview for the additional DHT position.
- Mr Allan McRitchie, currently PTG at Milne's High School was successful in interview for Mrs Reid's position. He will start with us on Monday 24 August.
- Mr Donlin was backfilling for Mr Sean Duffy, however he will be returning to Milne's High School after the summer break. We thank Mr Donlin for his service and dedication to BCHS over the last 18 months and wish him well resuming his post of PT Social Subjects at Milne's High School.
- Mr Sean Duffy was successful on Friday in interview for the position of Head Teacher at Keith Grammar School. A huge congratulations to Mr Duffy- this means we will be advertising for a permanent DHT after the holidays.
- Mrs Jackie Stevenson, former Head Teacher of SEBN and former DHT at Buckie Community High School will be returning to us as Acting Depute Head Teacher for 2 days a week to help support the absences in our SLT.
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Guidance Team

- Mrs Rebecca Cowie has returned from maternity leave and will now be in 4 days a week. To ensure Cluny house is covered for 5 days we recently advertised this position. We were able to appoint Miss Catherine DeVenny to the position on Friday last week. She will take up post after the summer.
- Miss Anna Birch was appointed as Acting PT Guidance on Friday last week. She will be with us for a year and will be covering for Mr Smith in his absence.

House Supports

Support for each House will look this in the interim period;

Cluny House

- PTG Cluny- Miss Catherine DeVenny (Monday) & Mrs Rebecca Cowie ,*soon to be Mrs Rebecca Farquhar*, (Tuesday-Friday)
- Cluny Head of House- Mr Allan McRitchie, Acting Depute Head Teacher

Lennox House

- PTG Lennox- Miss Alisha Sim
- Lennox Head of House- Ms Jemma Playfair, Head Teacher

Whilst Mrs Smith remains absent I will continue as House Head for Lennox. Therefore if I am attendance at some parental meetings it will likely be to support as House Head, not as Head Teacher. This ensures all of our Guidance teachers have a member of SLT as their link to support them with House matters.

Seafield House

- PTG Seafield- Mrs Kay Copeland (Monday & Tuesday) & Mrs Sharon Grant (Wednesday- Friday)
- Seafield Head of House- Mr Allan McRitchie, Acting Depute Head Teacher

Rathburn House

- Acting PTG Rathburn- Miss Anna Birch
- Rathburn Head of House- Mrs Liz Bain

As Mrs Reid and Mrs Stevenson are not in full-time we have not given them Head of House responsibilities. This should ensure each house is fully supported when we return in August.

I will be in touch on the first week back with our school calendar and assessment timetable for Senior Pupils.

Have a great summer everyone and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in August”

Kind regards,



Jemma Playfair

Head Teacher