



*'Educating the whole person, in a spirit of enquiry, to  
judge wisely, act fairly and live well.'*

Bathgate Academy  
Edinburgh Road, Bathgate  
West Lothian EH48 1LF  
Phone: 01506 653725  
Fax: 01506 652262  
@BathAcadNews  
[www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk](http://www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk)  
Head Teacher: Grant Abbot

Dear parent/carer

Craft, Design and Technology department; Staffing update

Our CDT department currently operates on 4 members of teaching staff. Just before the October holidays Mrs Burns accepted a teaching post closer to her home. Mr O'Hara and Miss Murphy have also now accepted teaching posts closer to their homes. Miss Fulton will start her maternity leave in January and will be away from school for the best part of a year. As such we now have 2 members of staff working a notice period during this academic term and therefore we will have no current CDT teachers with us after Christmas.

This change of staffing resulted in us, as quickly as we possibly could, advertising CDT teaching posts nationally for applicants. Speaking to other HT colleagues I am aware there is a national shortage of teachers within this curricular area and unfortunately having now advertised these posts twice we have attracted no candidates. A national advert continues to be submitted over the coming weeks and months in the hope we will attract candidates soon.

In addition to these national adverts, we are also advertising for a temporary Principal Teacher of CDT who I hope will be in post before or just after Christmas. I have been in contact with other WL secondary schools and with West Lothian College to see if we can access CDT staff for some parts of the week. This has been partially successful. I have also been in contact with Universities to check if there are any newly qualified Design and Technology graduates coming into the profession in January.

We are also beginning to concentrate time in certain CDT subjects over the next few weeks before Mr O'Hara and Miss Murphy finish their notice period. This will ensure pupils overtake certain aspects of their courses before specialist staff are potentially not there. This concentrated time may well increase for other Senior phase CDT subjects although we need to be mindful not to negatively impact on other subject areas.

I share your frustration and dissatisfaction with the current position we find ourselves in and there is not an easy solution for this going forward. Senior pupils sitting SQA national courses will need to be our priority as we look at a sustainable way forward through this academic session. This may mean S1/S2 pupils will need to be timetabled to other subjects to allow this to occur.

I will be in contact with you again in the lead up to Christmas with more information and hopefully some better news as we attempt to navigate our way through this highly unusual staffing situation we find ourselves in.

I am very happy to talk to any parent/carer about this situation and this will obviously be discussed in depth at an upcoming Parent Council meeting.

Regards

Grant Abbot

