



WELLINGTON SCHOOL, AYR

Staffing Announcements, 21 June 2011

As this session draws to a close, I wish to confirm the staffing changes for the coming session.

Junior School

Mrs Pat McLaren

The restructure of the management of School's Nursery, Infants and Junior Departments to form one Junior School, has resulted in a number of changes. One of the most significant is that Mrs Pat McLaren, Head of Infants School will be leaving the School and shall not be returning after the Summer. The School and Mrs McLaren have worked closely over the past six months considering alternatives to her departure but Mrs McLaren has decided to look to pastures new.

Mrs McLaren has made a huge contribution to the success and growth of Wellington School over the past eighteen years. She was appointed to the post of Infants teacher in November 1993 and was promoted to Assistant Head of the Nursery and Infants Department in October 1999. In those eighteen years, she has seen the arrival of boys at the School, the merger with Drumley, the end of boarding and the Infant department move from Sleaford to Drumley. Under her leadership, dedication, professionalism, commitment and genuine love for her pupils, the Wellington Infants Department has coped with every challenge presented to it. Her classes and her Infants Department have provided a wonderful environment in which your children, and the hundreds of others that have passed through Wellington's doors, have had the chance to learn and grow in those most important early years.

She leaves us with many splendid memories and with the immense gratitude and appreciation of the Board, senior management and staff. Parents and pupils will, I am sure, join with us in that thanks and wish Mrs McLaren well in her future.

Mr Charles Robinson

As you may already know, Mr Charles Robinson's position within Wellington will also change as he steps down from his post as Head of Junior Department to teacher of French, after very many years' outstanding contribution to the School.

Mr Robinson was appointed Depute Head at Drumley House School in August 1985 becoming Acting Head from October 1987 - February 1988. In October 1989 he was appointed Headteacher of Drumley after the previous Head retired and, upon the merger of Drumley House School with Wellington School in August 1996, he was Appointed Assistant Head at Wellington, in charge of the Junior Department.

The very evident mutual love and respect between him and all his pupils over many years, and the real sense of community and identity he has engendered in the Junior Department is very much appreciated by all. We are very pleased that he is staying with us as a teacher of French.

Mrs Nancy Allan

Mrs Nancy Allan will take over as Head of the newly unified and restructured Junior School in August 2011. Many of you will already have worked with her closely as your children passed through the Nursery. Her work has been recognised as excellent by South Ayrshire and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, and some of her work on multiagency partnerships will feature as HMIE best practice. Her vision for education and her track record of innovation and managing change to move towards excellence will give all stakeholders a great deal of confidence as we move forward to face new challenges. Her new office will be at the end of the corridor on the first floor in Drumley main building (in the former Learning Support Base).

Mrs Sally Lomas

Mrs Sally Lomas will become Depute Head of Junior School from August 2011. She is a former pupil of Wellington School and a current parent, with children in Nursery and Primary years. Mrs Lomas has very extensive experience at all levels of Primary and Nursery in local schools including management experience at Patna Primary School.

Mrs Lomas will work under the direction of the Head of Junior School, Mrs Nancy Allan, deputising for her in her absence, and will take a lead in facilitating the sharing of good practice throughout the Junior School. She will also have particular responsibility for the running of the Nursery, and will take a lead role in Literacy and other curricular areas. Mrs Lomas' office will be between the Primary 2 classrooms on the first floor in the south wing of Drumley.

Miss Emma Lawson

Miss Emma Lawson has been appointed as a Class Teacher for Primary 3. She was educated at Craigholme School, the University of Edinburgh (MA Geography and Sociology) and University of the West of Scotland (PGDE). Miss Lawson joins us from Troon Primary School; she is a highly qualified, enthusiastic and caring teacher who will make a valuable contribution to Wellington Junior School.

Mrs Nan Duncan

Mrs Nan Duncan retires after 18 years as part time teacher of Learning Support in Infants. I know that you will all want to wish Nan the very best for the future and thank her for her contribution.

Senior School

Mrs Diana McLaren

Further to her appointment as Acting Assistant Head Teacher (SQA, Curriculum, and Year Head of S3/S4), Mrs McLaren's position will now be made substantive from August 2011.

Mrs McLaren joined Wellington in 1983 as a Teacher of Geography, Biology and Science, and Senior Residential Housemistress of the Girls' Boarding House. She then moved to become Principal Teacher of Geography and Senior Residential Housemistress at the School of St Mary and St Anne, Abbots Bromley, in 1989, returning to Scotland in 1996 as a Lecturer at Motherwell College.

She returned to Wellington full time in 2004 and, having worked increasingly in Learning Support, was promoted to Principal Teacher of Learning Support at Wellington School in 2006. Since that time she has built considerably on the work, influence and reputation of Learning Support within Wellington, and her work was praised in the recent HMIE inspection where they stated a key strength of the school was "The quality of support for learners with additional needs and the very good progress made by them."

All parents, staff and pupils who have worked with her know that she has an enormous empathy, sensitivity and interest in children and that she works tirelessly to help all in her care.

Mrs Mary Murray

Mrs Mary Murray takes over as Learning Support Coordinator, following the promotion of Diana McLaren. Having joined Wellington in 2001, she worked increasingly in Learning Support and completed a formal qualification through the Dyslexia Institute. Four years ago, she also took on the roles of S2 Careers and librarian where she has made a very significant impact.

Mr Stuart Cathro

Mr Stuart Cathro has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Mathematics after 9 years at Wellington School. Mr Cathro will also take over as Chair of the Numeracy Working Group, coordinating and driving forward the development of Numeracy across all areas of the school.

Mrs Elizabeth Gardiner

Mrs Elizabeth Gardiner steps down from PT Maths after 20 years' excellent service at Wellington, most recently leading her department through an extremely successful HMIE inspection. I am delighted to report that she will continue to teach mathematics with us on a part time basis.

Miss Brenda McAngus

Miss Brenda McAngus will join us as teacher of Maths. Originally from Tain, she now lives in Troon. She is an exceptionally able mathematician giving us considerable additional capacity up to Advanced Higher.

Mrs Catherine Ness

Mrs Catherine Ness joins us as a probationer teacher of Biology and Science. Having worked as a Veterinary Surgeon for 16 years in Uganda, Haiti, Nepal, and finally Scotland, and with a Masters degree from the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, she brings a wealth of additional experience to the post. Her pastimes include skiing, cycling, running, swimming and scuba diving.

Mrs Linda Kelly

This session we say farewell to Mrs Linda Kelly after 11 years part time in the Art Department. Her caring, professional approach has inspired many young artists over the years and she will be sorely missed.

Mrs Anne MacKechnie

Mrs Anne MacKechnie retires after 25 years with us as a Music Instructor. I know that you will want to join us in wishing her the very best for the future.

Other Posts

We are currently interviewing for a teacher of Art, a Learning Support specialist, and Early Years Practitioners for the Nursery and Outdoor Nursery. We will confirm these appointments shortly.

RM Parlour, Headmaster