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Dear Families

Science Staffing

A number of parents have contacted the school recently regarding science staffing and so I am writing to all parents and provide clarity as to the current situation.

During the summer term we interviewed over 40 potential candidates. As with any of our interviews the process was thorough and rigorous, resulting in many being unsuccessful in their applications. However we were delighted to appoint several excellent staff that met the needs and principles of Teddington School. Unfortunately on our return in September one candidate was unable to join us and so we re-advertised the post.

In addition we have one colleague who will be unable to attend school for the next fortnight whilst ill. We are looking forward to their recovery and send our best wishes, whilst at the same time we are making arrangements to staff the classes appropriately.

All other 11 members of our department are in school and working with our young people. I am delighted to have secured the services of an excellent new Head of Department, Ms Rachel Foley, who is inducting the new members of the science team to ensure the students get all they need from the school and enjoy their experience in science.

Science staffing is a national issue and with 12 subject specialist science teachers in post we are in a relatively enviable position currently. However, we recognise the short term impact on our students and only want what is best for them, hence we working hard to find temporary and permanent replacements as soon as possible. In addition we have:

- Prioritised subject-specialist teachers to those exam groups affected by absent staff thus far – this is an interim arrangement until fully-staffed
- Some KS3 lessons, whilst planned by the science department, will be delivered by other Teddington staff including the senior team
- Use the experienced staff in the department to deliver science workshops to larger KS3 groups for initial subject specific input
- Advertised for a responsibility position in science to attract a wider range of potential applicants.



All parents can be reassured that this is being managed by everyone at school with my own personal attention directed to it and that this is the normal course of events for any school with over 95 teachers across over 30 subjects.

Yours sincerely

John Wilkinson
Headteacher