



FOREST HILL SCHOOL

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SPECIALIST SCHOOL IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

15th June 2017
Ref: MSU/pab

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Staffing reorganisation update

I am aware that there has been information circulating via social media speculating about the number of teachers who may be leaving the school at the end of this academic year. Figures which have come to my attention range from 45 to 60 teaching posts. I am pleased to be able to tell you that neither of these estimates is accurate and I am very sorry that you have been worried by these exaggerated figures.

Because I am aware how unsettling such rumours can be, I am writing to reassure you about staffing for the new academic year. We have reorganised our teaching staff structure for September. The new structure has 15 fewer posts and in addition to this reduction we have some staff leaving for their own professional reasons. The turnover includes the 15 lost posts and so is higher than our norm, which has been 7-10 teachers in the recent past. Altogether the number of staff resigning this term is well below 30 and the turnover figure is nowhere near the rumoured 45 or 60.

Our turnover figure includes:

- Voluntary redundancies
- Compulsory redundancy
- Retirements
- Staff relocating to teach abroad (an increasing trend in London schools)
- Staff gaining promotion and moving to other schools
- Staff moving to seek new challenges

We are recruiting to our new structure and I am delighted with the calibre of the colleagues we have employed to date. I am personally interviewing every candidate who applies for a post at Forest Hill School so that I can be satisfied that we are building a high quality team. We have a handful of vacancies to fill, which is normal for this time of year. I am confident we will be fully staffed for September, when our reorganised structure will take effect, heralding a new dawn for our school.

cont/...



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I remain, of course, very happy to speak with you if you require further information about the contents of this letter, or indeed anything else relating to the changes being implemented in the 2017-18 academic year.

I am disappointed to inform you that there may be the possibility of further strike action by members of the NUT on the following dates:

Tuesday 20 June
Tuesday 27 June
Wednesday 28 June
Thursday 29 June

The union membership is meeting tomorrow to consider school proposals to reduce teacher workload next academic year before finally deciding whether or not to strike. I sincerely hope that the strikes will not go ahead, but if they do it is my intention to keep the school open for as many students as possible over the four days. I will contact you tomorrow to inform you of arrangements as soon as I know the outcome of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Sullivan', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Mike Sullivan
Headteacher