

STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL

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19th October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

COMPUTER SCIENCE

As you will be aware we are currently experiencing difficulties in fully staffing Computer Science.

Teacher contracts are dictated by terms and conditions that seem alien to anyone outside education. There are effectively three resignation dates per year (normally around the ½ term breaks) and three start dates for new appointees, the start of term. This means that were existing staff to resign at, or near, the formal resignation date it is virtually impossible to recruit permanent replacements who are able to start their new jobs before the start of the following term. Therefore a teacher appointed after 31st May, who is moving schools, is unable to take up the new appointment until the following January.

We have made every endeavour to secure temporary, qualified staff from the various agencies that exist, but when dealing with shortage subjects, of which computer science is one, there is a very limited pool available.

Our arrangements that we had in place for the Autumn Term have not proved sustainable because of health and personal reasons that have led to our temporary colleagues not being able to continue in their interim roles.

I recognise that this is not an acceptable state of affairs and we continue to vigorously pursue both interim arrangements for the period up until Christmas. From January 2018 I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Mr Mark Hamilton a Computer Science teacher of over 15 years' experience.

Up until Christmas we will welcome back to Stratton Mrs Ackerman Du Preez to assist the teaching of computer science and ICT. She will work closely with Mr Stanford and I am confident that students will make rapid progress under Mrs Ackerman Du Preez's teaching.

In the meantime, I regret it will not be possible to provide progress check data in these subjects in the forthcoming reporting round.

I am grateful to Mrs Samudzimu and Mrs Burne who have made every effort to provide continuity at what has proved to be a very problematic time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, I will write to keep you informed of significant developments.

Yours faithfully

Rob Watson
Headteacher

Stratton Upper School is a 13 – 19 Academy governed by Stratton Education Trust

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