

Monday 6th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your ongoing support. It was wonderful to see so many of you on the last day of term and to share with you all the exciting things that the learners have been taking part in since September as well as the accomplishments Quest achieved in the Autumn term.

I thought that it would be useful to let you know about some staffing changes and to update you about the “Thursday Night Club” and “Family Drop In” sessions and our monthly presentations.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new staff, who have either joined us in the last few weeks of the Autumn Term or who joined us this term:

- John Harrison who is an experienced secondary and primary teacher who has worked in both mainstream and special schools. He is also a specialist English and Performing Arts teacher.
- Ryan English who has worked in both mainstream and special schools across different age groups. He is a specialist Science and Maths teacher and will be George Eliot’s new form tutor. He also has additional leadership responsibilities for PSHCE, SMSC, British Values and Personalised Learning.
- Holly Shenton is a PE and Performing Arts specialist who has worked at Quest since May 2019 and will now be the class teacher for Florence Nightingale.
- Elaine Yates who is our new Administrative Assistant who is an experienced school administrator.
- Simon Wallis who has worked with adults and children with complex needs will be an additional Teaching Assistant for some of our alternative curriculum learners. He is also a professional graffiti artist and has already worked with the majority of our learners when learners created their class name banners.
- Lizzie Lagan who has worked for the NHS and CAMHS team and will be a new Teaching Assistant for Lewis Hamilton.
- Katie Hubbard who is a Psychology graduate and will work with some of our alternative curriculum learners.
- Emily Stephenson who is an English graduate and will be the new Teaching Assistant for Albert Einstein class.
- Georgia Weston who has lots of special school experience and will work with some of our alternative curriculum learners.
- Leon Wright who will be an additional Teaching Assistant for Gandhi class and who brings with him a range of experiences to support him in his new role.
- Edwards Wells was successful in his application to become the Behaviour and Well-being Lead. He has a wealth of experience on which to draw upon including working in a residential specialist school for Autism and Complex Needs. He is also a Team Teach Tutor.
- Victoria Scranage joined us just before Christmas and will be our new Business Manager. She is an experienced Senior Leader and has previously been a Business Manager for a Local Authority and an Academy School.

We still have vacancies for a Facilities Assistant/Caretaker and Teaching Assistants. If you would be interested in either of these positions please contact Laura-Jane Boshell our Office Manager.

Well done to Jo Godding who has also been promoted to the MacIntyre Trust Business Manager. Jo has been our school Business Manager since May 2017, and was instrumental in setting up the school, I wish her all the very best in her new role.

Putting children and families *first*



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Nigel Ellis, our English Lead Teacher, will be leaving at Easter. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and to wish him all the very best. Marco Higgins, Teaching Assistant for Helen Keller will also be leaving and congratulations to Amie Charley, Teaching Assistant for Albert Einstein, who will be going on Maternity Leave in the near future.

Due to the notice period Nigel has given the school we have been able to organise a transition timetable which is detailed below;

Transition Timetable

Phase 1 (January – February Half Term)

Katie Dyson will teach Y8 and Y9 English lessons.

John Harrison will teach Rosa Parks for some of their English and Maths lessons.

Katie Dyson will continue to be Rosa Parks form tutor and John Harrison will assist.

Phase 2 (February Half Term until Easter)

Katie Dyson and Nigel Ellis will jointly teach Y10 and Y11 English lessons with a gradual transition to Katie taking the lead. They both will be Dalai Lama's Form Tutors until Easter.

John Harrison will become Rosa Parks Form Tutor.

Phase 3 (Easter onwards)

Katie Dyson will teach English across the Upper school and be Dalai Lama's new Form Tutor.


John Harrison will continue to be Rosa Parks Form Tutor.

Following a trial period we will be reviewing the "Thursday Night Club", "Family Drop In" sessions and monthly presentation provision, by asking families to complete the attached Questionnaire. In the meantime Thursday Club will not run until we establish the most convenient time for this to happen.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for ensuring that your child wears the correct school uniform to school. The overwhelming majority of learners have come back to school in the correct uniform and all look very smart and are proud to be a part of Quest. A reminder for parents/carers of new children who joined the school this term that every Friday is a "wear your own clothes day".

Please do not hesitate to contact me or members of the Leadership team (Tyla Owen, Chris Edwards-Dewey, Jamie Rynberk and Victoria Scranage) if you have any queries.

Kind regards,



Nicola Wells

Principal Quest Academy