



Gryffe Parent Council
Gryffe High School
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15 May 2008

Mr John Rooney
Director of Education and Leisure Services
HQ South Building
Cotton Street
Paisley
Renfrewshire
PA1 1LE

By post - advance copy by email

Dear Mr Rooney

Gryffe High School - Budget Cuts

I refer to my letter of 12 March and Robert Naylor's reply of 19 March. We have since considered the matter at meetings of the Parent Council, and we were pleased that I was invited to attend a meeting with Cllr Mackay and yourself on 6 May.

I have today received a note on the meeting from Robert Naylor. This is very helpful and is a useful record of the questions asked. There were two commitments made by you and Cllr Mackay during the meeting which are not recorded in the notes, and I would like to confirm these commitments, which are very welcome.

1. Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT's)

You promised that 80 NQT's would be allocated to Renfrewshire secondary schools next year. Although this may add some burden to senior teachers who may have responsibilities for mentoring, in an already increased workload due to the budget cuts, we note that this may enable some class sizes to revert to the class sizes of this academic year.

2. Choice of Advanced Highers

You made a commitment that any Advanced Highers requested by pupils will run within Renfrewshire, and that appropriate practical arrangements, including transport arrangements, will be made. We hope that this announcement will be made to pupils in good time for them to choose courses based on their own needs, not on what their school can provide within a restricted budget.

We will continue to monitor the effect of the budget cuts at Gryffe. The commitments will go some way to ease the short-term situation, but we will be looking for a return to an adequately funded secondary school system in Renfrewshire in next year's budget.

I am copying this letter to our councillors. We will be making a copy of this letter and your response available to all parents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Murnane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Graham Murnane

Chair, Gryffe High School Parent Council

cc: Councillor Allan Noon (by email)
Councillor Carol Puthucheary (by email)