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Date: 27 May 2008

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**Renfrewshire
Council**

Education and Leisure Services

Mr G Murnane
Chair
Gryffe High Parent Council
Gryffe High School
Old Bridge of Weir Road
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PA6 7EB

Dear Mr Murnane

I write in response to your letter of 15 May addressed to John Rooney, director of education and leisure services.

The position with newly qualified teachers (NQTs) is substantially as you have indicated. Each school will be allocated some NQTs on a fully funded basis. This effectively means that they will be allocated NQTs who can provide teaching time without any budgetary implication for the school. Although our staffing exercise is not yet complete I anticipate that all schools will have 3 or 4 fully funded NQTs. This will help to either run classes that may otherwise have been removed, or help to keep class sizes down, or help other staff to deliver learning support / team teaching etc. There is no major issue regarding the mentoring of NQTs as the staff involved are released from other duties to do this.

I would like to clarify the position regarding Advanced Higher. John Rooney did not say that **any** Advanced Highers requested by pupils will run within Renfrewshire. Each year decisions are made about what will run based on the number of pupils wanting to do a subject. These decisions will continue to be made. We will not, and never would have, offered all Advanced Highers in all schools because a pupil requests a particular subject. What was said was that we expect that across the authority the normal range of Advanced Higher courses will be available either in the pupil's own school or through consortium arrangements. Schools have a consortium transport budget which is intact. Schools will make the necessary arrangements to cater for the needs of their pupils within the resources available, as they have always done in this respect.

Director of Education and Leisure: John Rooney
Council Headquarters, South Building, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1LE

