

24 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you as the President of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture to share important information about the future of secondary education.

As many of you will be aware, the States have agreed to substantial reforms of secondary and post-16 education. The following bullet points summarise the future structure:

- The four existing secondary schools (three 11 to 16 schools and one 11 to 18 school) will close and they will be replaced by two 11 to 18 colleges, both of which will have sixth forms, and the two colleges will be part of one organisation (one school);
- Full-time and part-time technical, professional and vocational studies, including apprenticeships, will be delivered in a single organisation with the objective of integrating the College of Further Education, the Institute of Health and Social Care Studies and the GTA University Centre as soon as practicable, ultimately with the aim of partnering with a UK university to create University College Guernsey;
- St Anne's School will continue to provide secondary education in Alderney and Le Murier School and Les Voies School will continue to provide for students with special educational needs.

At present our secondary schools vary greatly in size. In contrast, the two 11 to 18 colleges will be of a very similar size with a very similar number of students in each college. Resources will be used more effectively to provide the greatest possible benefits to students.

The number of students in each college will be in line with the average size of the highest-attaining comprehensive schools nationally, almost all of which also have sixth forms. All students will have the widest possible range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Teachers in Guernsey will be able to work across all key stages in secondary education, which will maximise the chances of developing, recruiting and retaining great teachers.

The post-16 phase will provide a single sixth form operating across the two colleges, allowing for a broad range of subject choices. Technical, professional and vocational studies will be part of a single, integrated organisation.

Earlier this year we made a commitment that before the October half term we would announce the sites which we propose to use for secondary education in the future and the transitional arrangements to close the four existing schools and move to one school operating across two 11 to 18 colleges. We have completed the work necessary to meet that commitment.

Where will the two 11 to 18 colleges be located?

The two 11 to 18 colleges will be based at Baubigny in St Sampson's and Les Beaucamps.

Both of these sites have several advantages. They are conveniently located for their partner primary schools. The existing facilities are built to modern design standards and have a long-term lifespan. There are good opportunities for the necessary extensions to be built. They can continue to operate as schools during the construction period. The school at Baubigny was opened in 2008 and was built at a cost of £43.5m. The school at Les Beaucamps was opened in 2012 and was built at a cost of £37m.

The Committee considers that these two sites are clearly the best locations for the two 11 to 18 colleges. All of the site options have been researched and the Committee has taken an objective view based on the practicalities of each site.

The two sites which we wish to use present a cost-effective option. Other site options would be more expensive and/or create too much disruption for students. Using the sites which currently have the highest standard of facilities – mostly because they have been built more recently – removes the need to build a completely new school at La Mare de Carteret and to carry out extensive refurbishment of the Les Varendes site, which is nearly 35 years old and which would have required students there to move to another site during refurbishment before being moved back.

While buildings are not unimportant, clearly education is about much more than buildings. Throughout this period of change the Committee will continue to work with educationalists and other colleagues in schools to ensure that the main focus remains on providing the best possible opportunities for the students of today and tomorrow. We are determined to capture the very best of our existing schools in their two successor colleges.

The Committee will take a report to the States by the middle of 2019 to seek funding for the necessary building works. This report will contain all of the details necessary to obtain that funding, including in relation to costs. Our report will also include proposals for the capital developments necessary to create the new integrated College of Further Education, Institute of Health and Social Care Studies and GTA University Centre at Les Ozouets and the redevelopment of La Mare de Carteret Primary School.

In the coming months and years we will work closely with our teaching profession and their union representatives as we transition from four sites to two. The Committee confirms that there will be a teaching position for all current secondary teachers who want one

following the reforms. This will, however, be a period of change for staff and a collaborative approach with open dialogue is essential.

How will we move from the current schools to the two 11 to 18 colleges?

The two 11 to 18 colleges, operating as one school, will largely be in place by September 2022 and will be fully operational by September 2023 with facilities that meet the highest educational standards. The tables below set out where students who are currently in primary or secondary schools will be educated throughout their years in secondary school.

Students currently in primary school

Current year (2018/19)	Primary school	Secondary school site in Year 7	Secondary transition
Years 4 and below	Amherst - Haute Capelles - Notre Dame - St Mary & St Michael - Vale	▶ St Sampson's	▶ No move
	Castel - Forest - La Houquette - La Mare de Carteret - St Martin's - Vauvert	▶ Les Beaucamps	▶ No move
Years 5 and 6	Hautes Capelles - St Mary & St Michael - Vale	▶ St Sampson's	▶ No move
	Amherst - Notre Dame	▶ Les Varendes	▶ St Sampson's (September 2022)
	Castel - Forest - St Martin's	▶ Les Beaucamps	▶ No move
	La Houquette - La Mare de Carteret - Vauvert	▶ La Mare de Carteret	▶ Les Beaucamps (September 2022)

Students currently in secondary school

Current year (2018/19)	Secondary school site	Secondary transition
Year 7	St Sampson's	▶ No move
	Les Varendes	▶ No move
	Les Beaucamps	▶ No move
	La Mare de Carteret	▶ Les Beaucamps (September 2022)
Years 8 and above	St Sampson's	▶ No move
	Les Varendes	▶ No move
	Les Beaucamps	▶ No move
	La Mare de Carteret	▶ No move

Post-16 progression routes

Current year (2018/19)	Post-16 progression route
Years 8 and below	<p>New post-16 progression routes</p> <p>▶ Following completion of Year 11 and depending on option choices, students will have the opportunity to complete sixth form studies (e.g A Level/IB programmes) at one of the new colleges, further education and training (e.g BTEC/ Apprenticeship Programmes) at the College of Further Education or enter employment.</p>
Years 9 and above	<p>Current post-16 progression routes</p> <p>▶ Students follow current progression routes at the Sixth Form Centre (Les Varendes), College of Further Education, apprenticeships or employment.</p>

From September 2021 all students entering Year 7 (current Year 4 and below) will do so at the St Sampson's or Les Beaucamps sites and will not need to move during their remaining years in compulsory education.

The transition plan was developed following consultation with educationalists. It means that even during the transition period very nearly 90% of students will complete their compulsory education on the same site which they joined for Year 7. There will be no more than one additional move for any student. No student will move between Years 7 and 8, having of course moved to start secondary school between Years 6 and 7. In addition, a much larger percentage of students will be able to remain on their site for post-16 studies compared to around 20% at present and 0% under the "three school model" considered by the States previously. The transitional period to establish the new "two college model" will last no longer than the transitional periods would have lasted in other models previously proposed and rejected by the present States.

When the Committee was elected earlier this year it inherited a commitment made to parents of students in the selective year groups at the Grammar School that throughout Years 7 to 11 they would continue to receive a Grammar School education. Our transition model maintains this commitment: it provides for those students to remain in 'selective' year groups at their current site. This means that for the academic year 2022/23 the school at Les Varendes will accommodate students in Years 11 and 13.

However, the Committee is conscious that some of those parents may prefer their child/ren to complete their education in one of the two new 11 to 18 colleges, which the transition model allows for if it is their wish, and therefore in the years ahead the Committee will maintain dialogue with those parents to establish their wishes well in advance.

Engagement

This afternoon (Wednesday 24th October) secondary head teachers shared the information in this letter with the staff at their schools. All staff and parents were sent this letter by email this afternoon and it will also be sent to parents in Thursday's post. The media have been informed and will be free to report the announcement from Thursday.

We will hold two sessions after half term where, if you wish, you will be able to speak to me and other Committee members, the Director of Education, the Executive Headteacher of secondary schools and other educationalists. These will be held at Les Beaucamps on Wednesday 14th November between 6pm-8pm and Saturday 17th November between 10am-midday.

Admissions, uniforms and school and college names

In a limited range of circumstances parents may be able to apply for their child to attend a different secondary school. Information and guidelines on how these requests can be made, and under what circumstances they may be granted, has been published at www.gov.gg/partnerschools. Please bear in mind that capacity is limited at all secondary schools and therefore it may not be possible for requests to be approved.

At some point during the transitional period it will be necessary for some changes to be made to school uniforms to reflect that we are moving to one school in two 11 to 18 colleges. This is one of a number of issues where our work includes taking into account the views of the Youth Shadow Committee (made up of students in our secondary schools), which we established earlier this year. Further information about uniforms will be made available as soon as possible.

It is important to emphasise that the three current 11 to 16 schools and the one 11 to 18 school will close and two new 11 to 18 colleges (operating as one school) will open in their place. The names of the new 11 to 18 colleges will not be known by their locations, i.e. St Sampson's and Les Beaucamps. We will consult with the community before determining the names of the new school and colleges. Further information about this consultation process will be announced in the near future.

Should you have any questions about the sites or transition plans, or how they apply to your child/ren, please feel free to contact the Education Office by email at educationfuture@gov.gg or by phone on 733084.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Matt Fallaize
President
The Committee *for*
Education, Sport & Culture