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Education Transformation Update

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family enjoyed a pleasant Easter break and I wish you all the best for the school summer term ahead.

As we start this final term of the academic year, I want to provide you with an update on the education reforms which the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture is leading on behalf of the States.

Our reforms are focused on promoting opportunity and excellence for every student now and in the future – whether in terms of academic standards, pastoral support or sporting, social and cultural enrichment through school.

This summer the Committee will submit a policy letter for debate by the States. In this policy letter we will propose the capital investment necessary for the development of four education sites. Those four sites are as follows: the 11-18 Colleges at Baubigny and Les Beaucamps, which will operate as one Secondary School; The Guernsey Institute at Les Ozouets, which will integrate the States' providers of further and higher education; and La Mare de Carteret Primary School, which needs to be rebuilt.

We recently appointed our new Director of Education. Laurie Ann Baker will take up her post full time in August. The Director of Education is a statutory post which has existed for many years. It has most recently been filled on a temporary basis by Andrew Warren and I wish to thank him for his service since June last year.

Vicky Godley and Kieran James have been appointed as Designate Principals to the two 11-18 Colleges. They are both well-known and well regarded as education leaders locally. Currently Vicky is Head Teacher of La Mare de Carteret High School and Kieran is Acting Head Teacher of The Grammar School & Sixth Form Centre. Vicky and Kieran will work closely with our Executive Head Teacher, Liz Coffey, to develop the new School operating across two 11-18 Colleges. Among their priorities will be further developing the curriculum offer, the new staffing structure, and pastoral support for students and provision for students with special educational needs.

Feedback that we are receiving from staff in schools is vital in the development of our new system of education. We have previously provided assurances that there will be a teaching post in the new Secondary School for all of our teaching staff. The next stage is to share the future staffing structure with school staff and this will be done before the end of the current school term. In consultation with our union colleagues, appointments to the new School will begin early in the next academic year. This will help to ensure that transition for staff and students can be planned carefully as we move to the new model of education over the next few years. This year we have formed a new consultative group which includes our Executive Head Teacher, Liz Coffey, and brings together union leaders and other representatives of school staff to share ideas about the development of the new School.

Over the past three weeks, we have been engaging with students, parents and the wider community on names for the School and its two Colleges. Before the end of the current school term we will announce the names of the School and Colleges and the houses into which students will be divided once they are in the School as well as the School's motto. We are consulting students on the uniform for the new school. Decisions on future uniform arrangements will also be announced before the end of the current school term. Until then we respectfully request parents and carers not to make any assumptions about which students, year groups and schools may or may not be required to change their uniform. The new names of the School and Colleges and the new uniform will begin to come into effect from September 2020. The Committee recognises that a change of uniform could have financial implications and is developing ways to avoid additional costs to parents.

We are consulting with education professionals on the new inspection framework for Bailiwick schools which will come into effect when Ofsted takes over as our inspectorate in September this year.

Our curriculum working group have developed core content for History, Geography and Science to underpin the Big Picture curriculum and help to ensure a smooth transfer between Primary and Secondary Schools. They will be doing the same in other subject areas over the next few terms.

As part of the proposals agreed by the States in January 2018 the States directed that the current outdated Education Law should be repealed and replaced. The Committee has started work to develop a new Education Law. In the coming months the Committee will be consulting with particular interest groups, including in relation to the future of special educational needs, and will then consult more widely across the community in the autumn. The Committee will submit a policy letter on the new Law to the States for debate and, if the proposals in that policy letter are accepted, the Committee will then present the new Law itself in a Projet de Loi.

The Committee is progressing the development of The Guernsey Institute, which will integrate the College of Further Education, The Institute for Health and Social Care Studies and the GTA University Centre. The Guernsey Institute will be created on the 1st of July this year and the Committee will shortly invite expressions of interest from anyone wishing to serve as a member of its Governing Body, initially on a 'shadow' basis until governance is devolved through the new Education Law. Work is ongoing to develop the curriculum offer for the organisation and agree the space requirements for the proposed building work

required to unite all three existing organisations on a single site at Les Ozouets, which was formerly the home of St Peter Port Secondary School.

The Committee looks forward to providing you with further updates on progress in the near future. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contacted the Education Office to date. We greatly appreciate feedback from our community and we have shared responses to questions asked through a document of frequently asked questions which is available online at www.gov.gg/educationtransformation.

I would also like to invite you to a public drop-in session to discuss any aspect of our reforms which is of interest to you and your family. Members of the Committee, school leaders and staff working on our transformation programme will be available in the concourse at Beau Sejour between 3-8pm on both Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th May. We would be delighted to see you at either event. You can also contact the Education Office by email at educationfuture@gov.gg or by phone on 733084.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We will endeavour to keep you informed of further progress as our reforms continue in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Matt Fallaize

President
The Committee for

Education, Sport & Culture