

Excellence and Opportunity



Lisia School

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Update No. 5. This week's [video](#) looks at issues of space, which was touched on in one of our updates a few weeks ago.

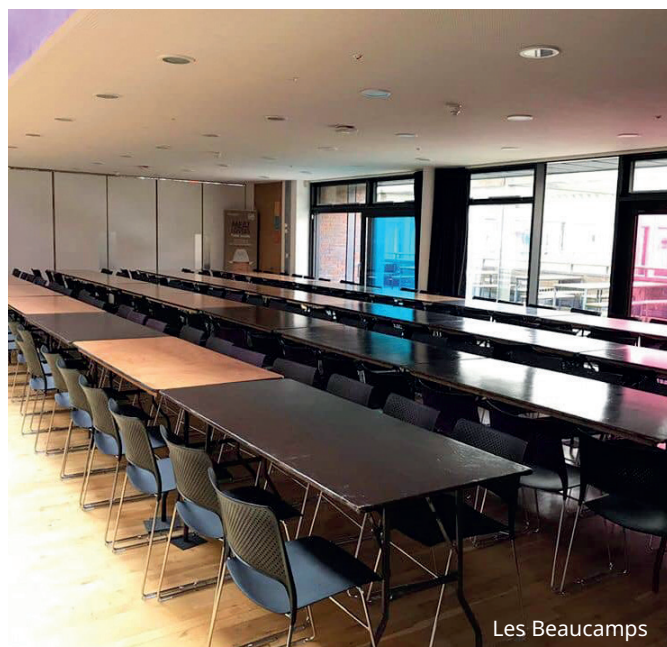
The main thing to understand is bigger schools do not mean bigger classes. We also address some other space-related issues.

High quality and well run facilities for all students

Some of our current facilities simply aren't working for large numbers of students. This is particularly the case at La Mare de Carteret, where the facilities are far beneath the standards enjoyed by the other schools. This simply isn't fair, especially on an island as small and as prosperous as Guernsey.

This is made worse by the fact that, presently, both Les Beaucamps and Les Varendes are operating under capacity, with room for hundreds more students. Les Beaucamps hosts 489 students (out of a possible 660) and Les Varendes hosts 785 (compared to the 1,067 that were there in 2010). For completeness, St Sampson's has 711 students currently (capacity 720) and La Mare has 477 (having previously had 548 on roll).

This is not a good use of public funding. Therefore, we need schools of broadly equivalent size, with the same high quality facilities for all students, and to spend taxpayer money efficiently and effectively.



Building design - improving the flow of students

We've heard a lot of concern about the number of students at each college and how that many young people will flow through the corridors. One example often cited is the current difficulties at St Sampson's High, where there are undoubtedly issues with the flow of students around the building. It's a good example as things at that site will improve, even with increased student numbers, because of the extensions being built and the important reconfiguration work that will be completed. Currently St Sampson's has a very long corridor that causes a bottleneck, but under the plans different routes will be opened up that will make it easier for students and staff to navigate the corridors. Corridors will be a minimum of 2.0m, which is above the national guidelines.

Bigger schools do not mean bigger classes

One of the concerns we keep seeing and hearing is that the new model will mean bigger class sizes. Guernsey doesn't want bigger class sizes and, unlike the UK, we can avoid them. There are no plans whatsoever to increase the current class size policy, which remains at 24. In fact, the only change will be in the size of tutor groups – and these will become smaller for all students at about 14 per vertical tutor group.

It's half term next week so we hope you all get the opportunity to enjoy some family time with your children. As ever, please visit our Twitter and Facebook pages for further information about the reforms.

Best wishes,

The Executive Leadership Team