

**REPLY BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF
THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY DAVID DE LISLE**

Given the reports that the special measures introduced following the poor results in 2011 have been dropped at the Mare de Carteret High School, I submit the following Rule 6 Questions to the Minister of Education for written reply:

Question 1

Will the Minister of Education consider re-introducing a school improvement partner assisted by consultants in English and Maths to assist the head teacher to ensure improvements in future GCSE examination results?

Answer 1

La Mare de Carteret High School was inspected by the independent Validated School Self-Evaluation team in March 2012 with a follow-up visit six months later in October 2012. The independent inspectors judged that the school's priorities were right to afford change in attainment in future years.

The school has been supported by Mathematics and English consultants during the last year who have had an overview of work in the two departments. This will continue in English for at least the Autumn term.

The Education Department has recruited an Education Officer to fill a vacancy in its Standards and Learning Effectiveness team and whose specialism is English. This member of staff will be in post from September and will support all the secondary schools and help the profession in setting priorities and improving the quality of teaching and learning for students.

Question 2

Can the Minister of Education provide the results in Maths and English obtained by the students at the Mare de Carteret High School this summer--the core subjects that required attention in 2011-- with comparative percentages in number of passes in 2010, 2011 and 2012?

Answer 2

A*-C%	2010	2011	2012	2013
English Language	54.5%	58%	51%	30.8%
Mathematics	35.8%	24.2%	59%	50.5%

The fall in English appears, based on the data currently available, to be with underperformance on the terminal exam rather than coursework, but it is too early to draw conclusions until further analysis takes place at the beginning of term.

Question 3

In that a newly created plan directly targeted at raising student achievement was implemented in 2011/12 utilising rearranged setting arrangements with all year 11 students taking online adult literacy and adult numeracy examinations, can the Minister of Education clarify whether with dropping the special measures these are still on-going and with what effect?

Answer 3

Setting and intervention are reviewed continuously and appropriate measures taken. The online test for literacy and numeracy was used this year but will no longer be available from September 2013 owing to national examination changes.

As a former teacher, Deputy de Lisle will be aware that the online literacy and numeracy test has never played a part in overall statistics for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths.

It should be noted that 'special measures' is a term used by OFSTED which does not apply in Guernsey.

Question 4

As parents are now complaining in the media that students are not sufficiently challenged and achievement and attainment is very low at the Mare de Carteret High School, what remedial efforts are being taken by the Department?

Answer 4

The School Improvement Plan over the last year has primarily concentrated on improving the quality of teaching and learning. A wide range of work has taken place to ensure the quality of lessons is improving and this is the case. Where a member of staff's lesson is not deemed to be of good quality, a range of measures are in place to support the colleague and where required formal procedures have been instigated to address any further concerns.

The Education Department has supported the school in its quality assurance and monitoring throughout the academic year. Areas for development have been identified for individual departments; specific timelines are in place to ensure that these areas are acted upon and delivered.

There are three major priorities for the school in this next academic year:

- use of data;
- consistency of teaching and learning; and
- differentiation in teaching

all of which have clear success criteria to be addressed. The School Improvement Plan is not solely driven by Key Stage 4 but for all groups of students.

As explained above, the new Education Officer (Secondary) will play an integral role in supporting the school's Senior Management Team in the coming months and years.

If any parent has specific concerns about the school they are asked to contact the Headteacher, Mrs. Godley, who will be happy to meet and discuss them on an individual or group basis.

Question 5

What has been done to deal with the over capacity problem at La Mare de Carteret High School to relieve pressure on the school's resources?

Answer 5

The Education Department is not aware of an over-capacity problem at La Mare de Carteret High School.

Deputy Andrew Le Lievre
Deputy Minister, Education

Date of Receipt of the Question: 27th August, 2013

Date of Reply: 5th September ,2013