Advantages and Disadvantages of Federated Systems and some examples of collaborative systems in operation 12-02-16.

We have been asked to provide some advantages and disadvantages of federated systems and some examples of collaborative systems in operation.
There are many forms of federation/collaborative systems and as such we can highlight high level advantages and challenges, some which are included in the policy letter.

Advantages
- Equality of opportunity for all students.
- Increased breadth of curriculum with more opportunities for personalised approaches for students.
- Pooling and targeting of resources (financial and personnel) enables more effective and efficient deployment with improved impact and outcomes.
- Enhances staff collaboration on teaching and learning which according to extensive research has the biggest impact on student outcomes by recognising and "scaling up" excellent practice.
- Collaboration across schools has proved to be more effective for sustained school improvement than competition between schools.
- All staff are united in working for all students and challenges.
- Requires system leadership rather than single school (site) focus.
- Timetabling to minimise movement and ensure continuity and progression.
- Support for student working across two sites.
- Support for staff and clear accountability when working across two or more sites.
- Ensuring effective parental involvement.
- Clear guidance for students/parents/carers when choosing options (however this is important in all schools).

Looking at research and actual visits to, or discussions with schools working in collaborative models have assisted in developing the current proposals. This is not through replication but through modification and adaptation to the Guernsey context.

These have included:-

- Visits to King John School Academy trust in Benfleet Essex, meeting with the Executive Headteacher www.thekjs.essex.sch.uk (Access to OFSTED report through website).
- Visits to St. Margaret's Academy in Livingston West Lothian looking at the collaborative and cluster partnerships www.stmargaretsacademy.org.uk (inspection report through www.educationscotland.gov.uk)
- Discussions and visits with The White Horse Federation (multi-academy trust) based in Swindon.
- Visits to East Belfast Area Learning Community.

In looking at successful collaborative models they have been built on trust and good communication.

- They are respectful of the identity and character of individual schools and of a school's strength, as well as understanding where it needs to make improvement.
- They are resourceful in that they do whatever it takes and mobilise the support needed to bring about improvement.
- They are responsive to the context of each school and its particular needs and adapt their strategies as circumstances change.
- They are relentless in their pursuit of improvement and adopt a 'no excuses' approach – believing that every child can achieve.

- They are resilient in persevering with improvement despite challenges and setbacks.

*In our model for "school" read "site."

Of course we also have a successful model of an Executive Headteacher role at Le Rondin Primary School and Forest Primary School.