

# Excellence and Opportunity



**Lisia School**

## Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Update No. 2, which accompanies this week's [video](#) looking at the benefits two larger colleges can offer students.

Before addressing some of the size-related concerns, I wanted to acknowledge the possibility of a Requete asking the States to halt the transition process. My fellow education leaders and I think that such a delay would be a bad idea, and we explain our views [here](#).

With an intake of around 1,350, the colleges will be bigger than Guernsey is used to - although the Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre was 1,100 strong only a few years ago.

Just because a school is big doesn't mean it's impersonal; in fact, larger schools often provide the flexibility needed to be able to offer more tailored student support.

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## Class sizes won't increase

Guernsey doesn't want bigger class sizes and, unlike the UK, we can avoid them. There are no plans whatsoever to increase class sizes and the average class size policy of 24 students will remain.

## Cohort size

At the point that the school population is at its peak, the two colleges will have year groups with up to 10 classes known as 'forms of entry' in the 11-16 age range with between 220-240 sixth form students in each college. Timetabling arrangements will mean that only half a year group will do PE at a time. The building and the financial plans allow for smaller groups averaging 20 or fewer in Key Stage 3 Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology, Graphics, Food and for Key Stage 4 options.

## Tutor Groups

Personal Tutors, who really know your child, are such an important part of secondary education. Due to the size of the colleges and the number of teachers, we can keep tutor groups small so that each Tutor will look after 15 students. Tutor groups in our current High schools are based on the average class size of 24.

## Vertical tutoring

Historically, tutor groups were structured by school years. But, vertical tutoring across years 7 to 13 creates more of a family feel, strengthens the college community, and even helps with behaviour management. This structure has been a great success at La Mare De Carteret since its introduction a few years ago and will be replicated in the colleges.

## Extra support

Considerably more space has been allocated to provide high quality support for students with disabilities or additional needs. This includes space for Communication and Autism Support Bases at both sites and the exciting work being developed with our colleagues across the States to develop co-located services such as school nurses, educational psychologists, and counsellors. This level of provision simply would not be possible across more sites without a significant budget increase.

Please keep in mind our Twitter and Facebook accounts.



Best wishes,

**Liz Coffey**  
Executive Head Teacher