

Excellence and Opportunity



Lisia School

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Update No. 3. This week's [video](#) addresses the issue of delay, which is all the more relevant now a Requête has been laid before the States.

Halting the restructuring of secondary education - which is two years into a five-year transition process - would not be without consequences, especially as no alternative structure is proposed. Some consequences would be practical, others would be more profound. Furthermore, it must be likely that any such delay would end up being for more than one year.

What cannot be halted, however, is the movement of students through the education system. Nor must we forget that any "pause and review" of the one school, two colleges model will also impact La Mare de Carteret Primary School and the creation of the new Guernsey Institute at Les Ozouets.

Practical implications for students

The first comprehensive cohort, currently in Year 7, is set to move to the new de Saumarez and Victor Hugo Colleges in September 2022 - in time to start GCSEs in Year 10. From this time, all students will be able to access the same 'curriculum offer' at GCSE; programmes of study for years 7 to 9 are already being aligned.

Pausing implementation for at least one year would mean buildings would not be ready, students would not be able to re-locate at the necessary time, and their options at GCSE would depend on which of the four sites they are at currently.

The student transition [programme](#) - published over a year ago to give certainty and clarity to students & their parents and carers - was carefully and deliberately designed to minimise negative impacts to students. This would have to be completely re-written if implementation plans were delayed. Moreover, this could only be done once a final model for secondary education was approved; until then, students would be in limbo.

Prolonged uncertainty for staff

A concern - that we know is shared by other education leaders - is that delaying the current restructuring programme will simply lead to years of further uncertainty without meaningful change and without direction. We know that this is what some of you think should happen, but we cannot in good conscience support a decision that we believe would not be in the best interests of the students in our care.

Nor is this prolonged uncertainty good for staff. It can be divisive, a distraction from 'the day job', and a real drain on morale. Although not yet an issue, this may eventually lead to retention problems. In addition, due to the size of Guernsey, we will always need to recruit off-island to add to our fantastic, hard-working and dedicated staff. However, the headlines generated here, sometimes in inflammatory terms, will naturally have a knock-on effect in terms of the calibre of candidates we are able to attract.

'Change management'

Change on this scale was never going to be easy in Guernsey, but, in reality, the 11-18, larger school model is commonplace elsewhere. In no way is this some sort of experiment!

The Executive Leadership Team know that many of you, like many of our staff, have concerns about how Lisia School and its two colleges will operate. The vast majority of these concerns would arise regardless of the model of secondary education actually being implemented. This is why concerns must be raised, considered, and addressed where possible or an explanation provided when they cannot.

There has been so much uncertainty about education in Guernsey, and so much inaction, for far too long. This has been so keenly felt at La Mare, for example, where our students and staff have to study and work with buildings and facilities that are far beneath both what they deserve and what their contemporaries in other schools enjoy.

This cannot continue. Now is the time to deliver an improved education system based on equality and excellence. We don't believe delay, to allow for more talking and more analysis is the answer. What all of us in education need, is action.

However, we fully respect the strength of feeling on this issue. Therefore, it is up to us and our fellow education leaders to do all we can to reassure our colleagues, parents and carers, and members of the wider community that continuing to implement the re-structuring of secondary education, without further delay, is the best option.

Please visit our Twitter and Facebook pages for further information about the reforms.

Best wishes,

The Executive Leadership Team

Message from the Executive Headteacher

Demonstrating passion for what we believe in is something to be applauded and something we all - as teachers, parents and carers - should encourage in our children and young people. With passion brings debate and it is unsurprising, and indeed heartening, to see that there is this level of commitment within our community on the subject of the model for secondary and post 16 education. We welcome lively and informed debate as this will bring us to the right solution for the island. It is also important, however, particularly on social media, that we lead the way for our young people and demonstrate how we can have different opinions and views, but express them in a respectful way.