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**Headteacher: Mr M A Winward**

Friday 18 February, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re Letter from the President**

#### **Please find below a letter being sent on behalf of the President:**

On behalf of the Committee I'm sending this message to update you on the timeline for changes to secondary and post-16 education, which were agreed by the States last year.

You may have been aware that the originally intended completion date for the development of the new post-16 campus at Lez Ozouets (the former St Peter Port School site), which will be home to both The Guernsey Institute and the Sixth Form Centre, was September 2024.

After fully examining all available options to overcome some significant challenges, largely around the potential risks of construction delays and the impact of any such delay, our Committee has had to take the decision to delay the final handover date by up to a year.

After detailed discussions with construction firms as part of a closed tender process, it became clear that the construction programme would have needed to be completely seamless with nothing going awry – and we all know that is nigh on impossible, even for much smaller construction projects – if the September 2024 target was going to be met. We felt this was a substantial risk and we'd almost be planning to fail if we tried to maintain the original target date. So whilst there are no changes to the commencement of the project, we have decided to extend the build timeline now and we wanted to let you know of our decision as early as possible.

We know this is frustrating and I wanted to reassure you that we have taken some steps to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum. This is particularly important for students and staff in how we will transition to the new model under the new timeline.

As a result of the adjusted timeline, La Mare de Carteret High School will remain operational for an extra year until July 2025, but the school's last intake of Year 7 students will be this September, for the 2022/23 academic year, which is as expected for the school and those students.

We announced last year that we would have an updated feeder school system from September 2023 and that will remain the case. There will be no changes to the updated feeder school system in order to offer certainty to affected parents and students.

When the new model becomes fully operational in September 2025, students from La Mare de Carteret High will all move together to the Les Varendes site. This is as planned, albeit a year late.

I've asked your child's school to share this message with you, along with the Committee's media release, which is attached and provides more detail, so that you hear directly from the Committee. Whilst any delay is disappointing, as it is an additional year before the benefits of the new system will begin to be felt, it is important that we get this right rather than rushing to meet an arbitrary deadline and introducing unnecessary risks. By taking an early decision to adjust the timeline for moving to the new buildings, but maintaining the current transitional arrangements for students leaving primary school, the Committee has sought to provide certainty and at the same time minimise disruption, as far as possible, for students and staff.

Deputy Andrea Dudley-Owen

President of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MA Winward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr M A Winward  
**Headteacher**