

Dear Parent or Carer,

The whole team working to provide education in Guernsey and Alderney welcome you and your child back after the summer break – I hope you enjoyed the sunshine. This is the start of the first full academic year for me as Director of Education, so I want to share with you some of our plans.

In recent months you might have seen or heard about the Education Strategy. Even in a small community like ours, the education system is broad and diverse, covering early years, primary, secondary, post-16, special educational needs and adult learning across numerous sites, supported by the whole education team. I like to think of the Education Strategy as the glue that binds the education system together. It is how we know that everyone working in or supporting your child's school or setting shares the same vision, values and aims to ensure that all learners are as successful as they can be. The Education Strategy has been developed during the last 18 months in partnership with staff across the education system, and it will continue to evolve over the coming years.

The Education Strategy has four priorities:

- Achieving equity, safety and inclusivity
- Delivering high quality learning and excellent outcomes
- Meeting the needs of our community
- Providing outstanding leadership and governance

Everything we do is now linked to these four priorities and the commitments that go alongside them, which you can see on the image attached to this letter. These commitments are the promises we are making to you and your child about how our education system is continually improving and how the whole education team is aspiring to excellence. But the Education Strategy is not just words, underneath the priorities and commitments are actions that will make a positive difference in every classroom, for all learners.

This is because **the** best part of the Education Strategy is that our learners are always at the centre of it. Everything we do **must** focus on getting it right first time for your child, and for all children and young people in our islands. Each January, we will tell you and the wider community how we are doing, and what we will be doing next to keep moving closer to achieving our four priorities.

I have every confidence in our Headteachers and Principals and the teams they lead. If you would like to find out more about the Education Strategy, including about the current workstreams and their progress, please speak to your child's Headteacher/Principal or visit [www.gov.gg/educationstrategy](http://www.gov.gg/educationstrategy). This page will be updated as the Education Strategy gathers momentum, so please visit it from time to time to follow our progress.

Another very important tool to help drive continual improvement in the education system is the independent inspection of our schools and the College of Further Education. We are using Ofsted as our

inspectors and you might have seen that we have already had their reports following two school inspections.

One of these reports was very positive and we are already learning from the things Ofsted told us this school is doing really well. The other report highlighted a number of areas where performance is not at a level we would expect. At that school there is detailed improvement plan in place and we have already started to make changes to ensure that the quality of education improves quickly.

Everyone working in education wants our children and young people to get the best experience possible and you also play a really important role in your child's education. The value of the support and guidance children and young people get at home cannot be understated. We know from research that when parents and carers are closely involved in the education of their child, their child is more likely to have higher grades, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behaviour, and adapt well to school and life beyond school.

We know we are not there yet and have a lot of work to do, but I hope you can see we have big plans for the future of education in Guernsey and Alderney. These plans include the changes already underway to build a new post-16 campus at Les Ozouets, alongside moving to three secondary schools in Guernsey by September 2025. Later this year we will see the demolition of the old St Peter Port School building at Les Ozouets so that construction of the new post-16 campus can begin. Updates on the progress of this significant project will be shared throughout the year.

Thank you for the taking the time to read this update as we begin a new academic year together. Please do keep in close contact with your child's school or college and get involved in the many events they put on for you and your child.

I hope all our children and young people have a fantastic year.

Kind regards

*Nick Hynes*

Nick Hynes  
Director of Education