



SPOTLIGHT



ON
EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

+290 22607

| sainthelena.gov.sh

| info@sainthelena.edu.sh



Student Spotlight

St Helena Secondary School celebrated some excellent exam results. Congratulations to all of our students and staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Half-Term Holiday**
20-24 October 2025
A well-earned break. Enjoy, refresh, and recharge!
- SPPS Building Works**
18-31 October 2025
Weather and materials permitting, the Programme Management Office will carry out roof and fencing work while students are away for half-term and Relationship Building Week.
- Relationship Building Week**
27-31 October 2025
An exciting opportunity for students to connect with new classmates and teachers. More information to follow.



Teacher Appreciation Day, 6th October

You Changed My World

Teachers come and teachers go,
with new students every year.

But few teachers are so well loved,
remembered because they are
so dear.

Teachers teach us lessons,
we could never learn alone.

They guide us, and they lead us,
out of our comfort zone.

You have gone over and
beyond,
and taught me quite a lot.

And you even had faith in me,
when you knew that I did not.

You changed my world,
and you've changed my view,
and for that I'd like to say,
thank you.

-Anonymous

Message from the Director

I take great pleasure in sharing the first of many updates on the portfolio with you. This issue focuses on the primary school reorganisation and includes a brief introduction to my background. First, however, I would like to begin with a message from our new Minister, Andrew Turner.



Let's learn and grow together

Message from Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner.

I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the Education, Skills and Employment team.

Education is vital for moving St Helena forward, and I am looking forward to working with colleagues across the portfolio to help ensure that

the improvements under way are as successful as possible.

I am fully committed to supporting the continued progress of education and skills development on the Island.



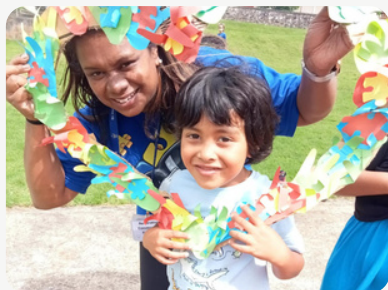
I am eager to engage with students, parents and the wider community as we build opportunities for learning and growth together.

—Minister Turner

Together We Thrive



Last month, we announced that Phase I of the primary school reorganisation will begin in January 2026 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and staff during building works. KS1 will be temporarily based at St Paul's Primary and KS2 students at Pilling Primary.



Up next, we will complete staff consultations and finalise plans for relationship-building activities to help students connect with their new classmates and teachers. We will also be sharing more information with parents and staff about transportation arrangements.



Student Corner

Positive Attitude Month October

This October we will be celebrating all the big feelings that help us grow. Stay tuned on Facebook for activities and updates.

Key Announcements

Transportation Arrangements

13-17 October 2025

Parents and staff will be asked to confirm the information needed to finalise bus routes and times. Please submit your responses by 17th Oct.

School shirts - January to August 2026

January to August 2025

Students may continue wearing their current school shirts from January to August 2026. New colours will be introduced for the full school launch, following the selection of names and colours by the school communities.

Packing for the Move

27-31 October 2025

While students are away enjoying relationship-building activities, staff will be busy decluttering and packing for the move. If you have time - or boxes or palettes to spare - please let a teacher or Primary Head know. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Focus Point

Message from the Director



My name is Ceri Morgan, and I joined as Portfolio Director for Education, Skills and Employment in July. My background spans schools, universities, and work with the UK government.

I have been a Headteacher, taught mathematics at the University of Warwick, served as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors with Ofsted, and have worked in education internationally for the past 15 years.

This is my first time on St Helena, and it is clear to me why this beautiful island inspires such loyalty and affection among both residents and visitors.



In 2024–25, my predecessor, Marie Horton, led a major review of education and skills.

One key recommendation was to reorganise the primary schools, reducing three sites to two: one Key Stage 1 school (ages 3–7) and one Key Stage 2 school (ages 8–11).

The UK Government strongly supports these changes and has provided generous funding to make them possible. At this stage, the secondary school remains largely unaffected.

Our aim is to keep disruption for children to a minimum — celebrating their current schools, helping them stay connected with friends, and ensuring they feel safe throughout the transition.

To support this, we have introduced our mascots, Captain Thrive and Jono, who have already received a warm and positive response — thank you for that.

Beyond the primary reorganisation, we are also looking closely at how we can better support students after age 16, ensuring they leave education well-prepared for work and life.

We have assembled a strong team of local and international expertise, along with independent evaluators — including the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) — to provide regular feedback and guidance.

While the buildings are being renovated, we will also be working to raise educational standards, with COBIS benchmarks as our guide.

This journey will not always be easy, and there will be challenges along the way. But it is also a rare, one-off opportunity to establish a strong education system that will serve St Helena well into the future.

Together, we can make this happen.

Staff Corner

Welcome

It is a season of new beginnings in the ESE Portfolio as we welcome

- Minister Andrew Turner
- Senior SENDCO Nicola Odonnell
- Senior Primary Head Helen Gentle
- Primary Reorganisation Programme Manager Nichole Spence

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the new members of our team.



Thank you

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to:

The **Programme Management Office**, for loaning our portfolio the containers that will be used at Harford Primary School.

Our Relationship Building Team: Emma Mackay (SPPS), April Stevens (HPS), Sandra George (PPS), Christy Yon (SPPS) and Antonella Phillips (Inclusion) — for generously volunteering their time to coordinate and plan a memorable week for students and staff.

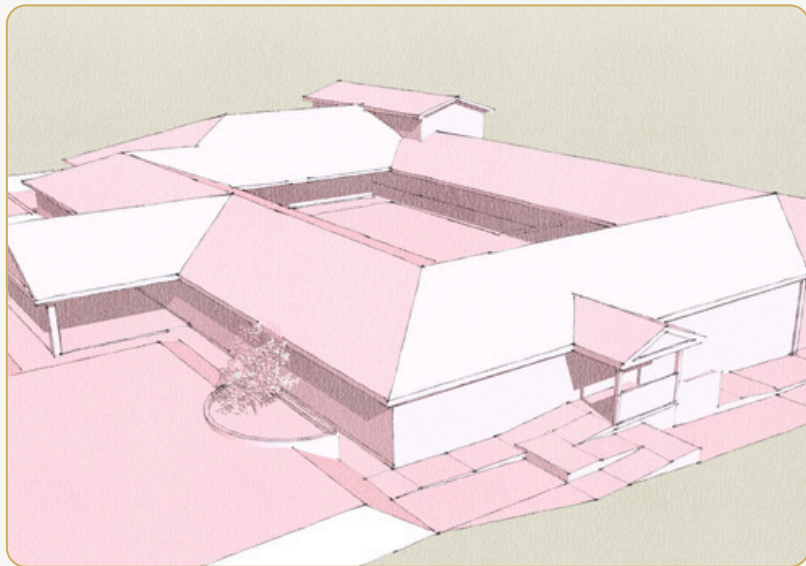
All teachers and staff, whose dedication and commitment have made our progress possible.

Together we thrive.

One journey. One island. One future.

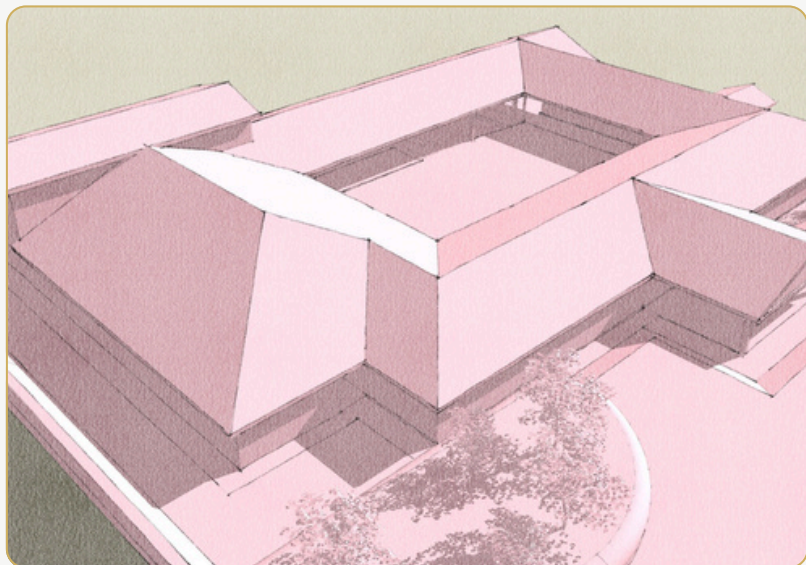
Programme Management Office (PMO)

Key Stage 1 (KS1) School Designs



A few key features of the new KS1 school include:

- Open-plan layout
- Larger, flexible learning spaces
- Resolved dampness issues in the classrooms
- ICT and interactive teaching equipment
- Dedicated SEND and sensory rooms with direct access to enclosed outdoor sensory spaces
- Age-appropriate toilets and accessible wheelchair facilities to support inclusivity
- Covered external play areas connected to classrooms
- Library located safely within school grounds
- Safe and clearly marked drop-off/pick-up zones
- Enhanced safeguarding and visitor management systems



Project Background

Primary School Reorganisation Project

This project is part of the **Economic Development Investment Programme** (EDIP), funded by the UK Government to support a sustainable future for St Helena. The purpose of this strategic initiative is to modernise and enhance the education infrastructure on the island. It will begin with the adaptation and upgrading of Harford Primary, followed by St Paul's Primary, to support the consolidation of our island's three primary schools.

Harford Primary will become a dedicated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 facility, while St Paul's Primary will be upgraded to serve Key Stage 2 pupils. Both schools will be redeveloped to provide safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environments that meet UK and the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) standards.

COBIS represents over 450 schools in more than 80 countries. Member schools deliver a British-style curriculum and align with rigorous educational, operational, and safeguarding benchmarks, ensuring quality and accountability across all aspects of school life.

Project Update

It is all systems go at the Programme Management Office (PMO)!

We are busy progressing detailed plans for both primary schools, working closely with key stakeholders and starting to procure long-lead materials to keep things moving.

You may have spotted containers arriving at Harford Primary and St Paul's Primary. These are in preparation for upcoming works at both sites. At St Paul's Primary School, small works will begin shortly, marking an exciting step forward in the project.

Watch this space for more updates as things continue to take shape!