

Construction to start on new secondary campuses

Construction contracts have been awarded for new secondary education campuses in the Cayman Islands. In the government's annual budget statement, delivered in the Legislative Assembly on 30th April, the Leader of Government Business gave the following update:

The Cayman Islands Government Central Tenders Committee has approved the award of contracts for the construction of two new secondary education campuses, John Gray Campus in George Town and Clifton Hunter Campus in Frank Sound, signalling the imminent start of these much-anticipated capital works projects. Whilst plans to start construction on the Beulah Smith Campus in West Bay are also progressing, further dialogue is re-

quired at this sensitive stage of contract negotiations, in order to secure the best value for public expenditure. It is hoped that these negotiations will be resolved in the near future at which time details will be submitted to the Central Tenders Committee for review and evaluation.

Challenges facing the government's capital funding programme have necessitated the extension of the originally anticipated lead-times of the construction projects. This means that the new secondary campuses, including the Beulah Smith Campus, will be complete by September 2010, when the facilities will be fully operational for the start of the 2010/11 academic term.

Check out the 'Putting you in the education picture' feature at www.brighterfutures.gov.ky for more information.

Artist's renderings of new secondary campuses



Work continues on George Town Primary School

Whilst Cayman's new secondary campuses move to the next stage of development, work on the new facilities for George Town Primary School continues in earnest. Ground-breaking will take place during the next academic year, and like Cayman's secondary campuses, the new George Town Primary School will open its doors to students in September 2010.



Artist's renderings of George Town Primary campus



George Town Primary joins a growing number of schools who are developing a voice on the internet. Schools are blogging to communicate with students, staff and the wider community, celebrate students' work, to assist with learning and document progress.

See: <http://georgetownprimaryschool.blogspot.com/>

Head of Teaching and Learning appointed

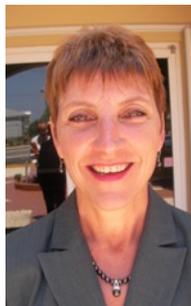


The Department of Education Services welcomes the appointment of Mrs. Caroline Dawes as the new Head of Teaching and Learning Services. Caroline is well known throughout Cayman's education system for her work as a senior officer in the Educational Standards and Assessment Unit, previously known as the Schools' Inspectorate. She has

enjoyed productive relationships with staff and Principals throughout the country and has consistently demonstrated uncompromising commitment to achieving ever higher standards. This crucial post was created as part of the new governance model for education, which came into effect at the start of this academic year.

New Head of Human Resources

Ms. Debra Aiken has recently joined the Department of Education Services as the new Head of Human Resource Services. Debra comes with a wealth of experience in senior educational-administrator and human resources positions. A rare breed, she brings the ideal mix of education and human resources skills and experience, as well as proven leadership capabilities to this most critical role within the department.



"I am thrilled about the opportunity to play a part in the education transformation process in the Cayman Islands during these exciting times of change for the entire system".

*Debra Aiken,
Head of Human Resource Services.*

Cayman first for IB

All teachers in Primary schools are now involved in collaborative planning within their learning communities as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) initiative. The first six schools (North Side, Prospect, Savannah, John A. Cumber, George Town and Creek and Spot Bay) have applied for candidate status, making them the first state schools in the Caribbean to have done so.

In secondary schools, a range of new and exciting exam options are now on offer to students, as well some innovative ways of introducing extended learning opportunities at the George Hicks campus. As part of the overall national curriculum process, parents are currently being trained on the new form of assessment, which is based on levels.

