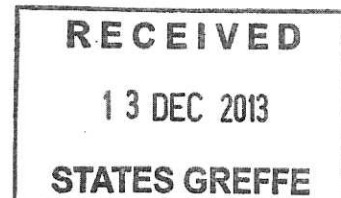


Connétable Steve Pallett  
 Chairman, Digital Skills Scrutiny Sub-Panel  
 Scrutiny Office  
 States Greffe  
 Morier House  
 St Helier  
 Jersey JE1 1DD



11 December 2013



Dear Connétable Pallett

Further to your letter of 28 November 2013 I am pleased to provide a written submission on behalf of Hautlieu School in relation to the Digital Skills Review being carried out by the Economic Affairs, Digital Skills Sub-Panel.

Hautlieu School aims to use technology to secure high quality learning through the safe use of technology – anywhere, anytime, any device. This requires students and staff being able to access their resources and learning tools using devices of their choice whenever it suits the learning moment. We see this aim as being fully congruent with the Department for Education, Sport and Culture's (DfESC) Vision for IT in Schools "Thinking Differently".

In our experience the DfESC's vision has been clearly communicated to Hautlieu School and as a result this has been disseminated to our staff. Moreover, staff with particular expertise in learning through the use of ICT and computing have been given the opportunity to feedback on the vision and influence its development. An example of this work is where Hautlieu staff have led on the Primary School Computing Project, working closely with our primary school colleagues. The initial impact of this work was on display at the official launch of the 'Thinking Differently' vision at the Hotel de France where some of our staff and students were demonstrating their expertise.

Hautlieu School staff have subsequently attended meetings both at school and at the DfESC where the creation of the school's vision and business plan was clearly explained. It is exciting that teaching and learning is driving the change in technology and staff have made submissions to the Senior Leadership Team of the school suggesting how developments in teaching and learning, through the use of emerging technology, can be achieved. Examples of suggested developments our teaching staff are looking at include the ability to use mobile devices to film student performances in PE and Performing Arts. This will enable the review and improvement of the students' work and performances immediately using projected images in the classroom. Staff would also be able to store and edit footage on central file servers rather than on the mobile device and edit and store as exemplars for other students and future classes (with all data protection requirements being adhered to). Another example is in Geography. Teaching staff would like to be able to record and analyse data immediately, whilst on field trips, rather than recording data and then analysing when back in the classroom. This would result in being able to provide students with immediate learning feedback. Students will be able to assess if the data is reliable and valid and re-record if necessary.

The school is currently preparing a business plan and bid for ICT and computing equipment and training to the DfESC. We have collated responses from staff and this will be submitted to the DfESC by the end of January 2014. The 'student voice' on how learning can be improved through the use of technology is also important to us and we will seek feedback and ideas from students before the business plan is submitted. The school has been offered support from the DfESC in the form of external advisors from the UK who are available to visit schools and assist in the creation of business plans. This will provide support for Hautlieu School to ensure our ideas are in line with some of the best practice seen in the UK. This support has been gratefully received and will take place in early January. Officers from the DfESC have also offered to review the draft of our bid for equipment and training before final submission.

We are aware that training will be a fundamental to the success of our work in promoting learning through ICT and computing and that this is also central to the 'Thinking Differently' vision. We will be requesting training as part of our business plan and will have to carefully assess how these training requirements can be best met in terms of time and resources. This is work in progress and will not be completely defined until our business plan and bid is finalised. One strategy we are currently examining is to pair staff up using different mobile devices where they share their experiences within a defined time period. This experience, detailing learning benefits will be reported back to the whole staff body as a sharing practice and expertise session.

As a school we believe that we are in a good position to take advantage of new developments. For several years now we have offered GCSE Computing, GCSE ICT, AS Level Computing and A Level ICT. We also offer professional ICT qualifications for students that have taken an accelerated course, for example the A+ qualification (focusing on security).

When our business plan and bid is submitted and reviewed by the DfESC we hope that our plans to implement the 'Thinking Differently' vision will begin in the summer term with staff starting to use the tools inside the classroom from September 2014.

Yours sincerely

Nick Falle  
**Acting Head Teacher**