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Report on the 10th June 2015 Island School Council meeting

Languages review

Julian Reed briefed the Council on the languages review which will be carried out over the next six months. This is complex. We must enable all students to be successful when studying and working in English. For students who are likely to work in Greater China being able to work in Chinese enhances job prospects. Students with other mother languages should have the opportunity to develop proficiency in these languages. Finally, our students should be able to take other foreign languages such as Spanish.

It was hoped the review will take six months. Student and parent focus groups will be used to clarify needs and opportunities.

Island School building redevelopment

Council is seeking clarification from ESF Centre on the likely timing of the Decant.

Year 11 programme

As noted in the April Council report, this year's Year 11 students are spending time after their IGCSE exams building on their Elements work in preparation for starting IB next year. This has worked extremely well for some students, such as those taking part in Future Fest, and less so for others. The school is working to enhance the programme for next year by moving the year 11 exhibition to after the IGCSEs and including work on researching Higher Education choices. This should give them a much better start for IB but this year has, predictably, had a mixed reaction from some students.

Island School Development Plan 2015/16

Each year the school creates a 'School Development Plan' to guide action to improve the care and education it provides. This is not a financial or facilities plan but rather a plan to look at curriculum and the organization of activities. The Council's role is to consider whether the plan is asking the right questions and setting appropriate priorities.

Plans in recent years have focused in curriculum change – ie what is taught. This year's plan is looking at how we teach. In particular; How to understand and communicate students' learning better? How to respond to specific needs? Is our balance of the courses optimal?

In addition the plan looks at how we determine and meet staff development needs.

J Robert Gibson; Island School Council Chair