PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 16
Answered on 12th December, 2024
Second Meeting 2024-2025 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

MS. BARBARA CONOLLY, JP, NP, MP - ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN SOUTH

TO

THE HONOURABLE PREMIER AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & LANDS, FINANCIAL SERVICES & COMMERCE, AND HEALTH

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Premier update the Parliament on how the impact of the Summer School 2024 Catch-Up Programme on each of its 280 participants is being tracked to ensure that levels of attainment are improved as a result of participation in the Summer School?

ANSWER:

The Summer School 2024 Catch-Up Programme has made significant strides in addressing educational gaps, and its impact on the 280 participants is being tracked through both intermediate measures, per Code of Practice, through Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention programmes in school, and long-term frameworks to ensure sustained improvement in attainment levels, such as summative assessments in English and Mathematics. School intervention programmes are monitored and tracked by staff (Special Education Needs Coordinator and Senior Leadership Team). In English, students' Read, Write Inc. and Fresh Start attainment are recorded and measured every 6 weeks. Mathematics intervention through Maths Whizz is measured by improvement in mathematics age and this can be monitored continuously by teachers and Senior Leadership on the platform.

1. **Framework for Continual Progress Checks**
    - **Key Termly Checkpoints:**
        - **December 2024:** Initial assessments conducted in December will offer insights into students' application of summer learning gains in the regular academic setting.
        - **April 2025:** Mid-year PIRA (Progress in Reading Assessment)/PUMA (Progress in Mathematics Assessment) assessments will monitor ongoing progress and identify areas requiring additional support.
        - **June 2025:** End-of-year evaluations will compare attainment levels against baseline data from before and immediately after summer school.

- **Tracking Tools and Interventions:**
  - Access to ongoing resources like Maths Whizz, Fluency Tracker, tailored literacy interventions, as well as Read Write Inc., Fresh Start and On Track English, ensures continuous support.
  - Regular updates to parents and individualized progress plans help sustain motivation and monitor development. Learning Support Plans (LSPs) are updated in schools according to the Code of Practice to ensure that these documents support students in meeting their targets. This is done through classroom teachers and the Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO).

2. **Progress made during Summer School 2024:**

Mathematics: The use of tools like Maths Whizz demonstrated remarkable progress. On average, the whole cohort improved by 5.56 weeks in their math age over the three weeks, surpassing the expected progress of three weeks. Notably:

- 68.5% of participants made progress of at least three weeks or more.
- Five hubs achieved or exceeded the target of 4.5 weeks' improvement, with Red Bay Primary School leading at 8.1 weeks of progress.

English: Students engaged with targeted interventions, such as Read Write Inc. Fresh Start and On Track English, achieved meaningful advancements, with 84% of students progressing to higher modules despite the short duration of the programme.

Overall Impact:

- In Literacy 84% of students and 68.5% of the students in Mathematics with complete pre-and post-assessment data showed measurable improvements in their scores.
- Confidence-building was reported, with 89.5% of the students expressing increased confidence in mathematics and English.
- A total of 98.3% of parents felt that summer school had a positive impact.