



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Education
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

26th June, 2009

Dear Teachers:

I was very pleased to announce, in May, that the Bermuda Public School System will be adopting the Cambridge International Curriculum as the basis for teaching English, Mathematics and Science in our primary, middle, and senior schools.

The adoption of the Cambridge International Curriculum represents the most significant step taken in the last ten years to improve public education in Bermuda. The Cambridge Curriculum has four phases, each of which dove-tails into the next, beginning with Primary (age 5-11), Lower Secondary (age 11-14 - the equivalent of our middle schools), Middle Secondary (age 14-16 - the equivalent of S1 and S2), and Upper Secondary (age 16-19).

While the delivery of the new curriculum will not begin until September 2010, there is much to be accomplished between now and then. This is an ambitious plan, but it is one which can and will work. We have to accept that any serious educational reform requires swift, sharp and sometimes upsetting action to improve student outcomes. As we move through this time of change, I ask each of you to provide whatever assistance you can to your colleagues who are responsible for the implementation of the curriculum.

The decision to adopt the Cambridge Curriculum represents a pivotal moment in the history of public education in Bermuda. We must keep our focus on the outcomes we want for our children – improved learning and preparing our young people for tertiary education and the world of work.

As you enjoy your summer break, please take whatever time you can to familiarize yourself with the Cambridge International Curriculum. Information on the curriculum can be found at www.cie.org.uk.

Thank you for your efforts this school year, and we all look forward to beginning the new school year in September refreshed, revitalized, and ready to rededicate ourselves to our children and our future.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Elvin G. James, JP, MP
Minister of Education