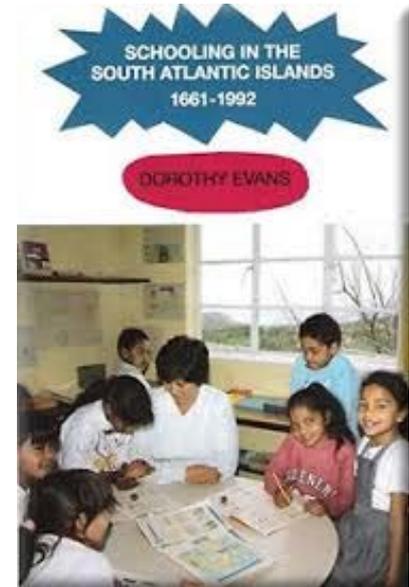


Isolation, Connection and the Future Education on St Helena

Remoteness and isolation

Evans, Dorothy. *Schooling in the South Atlantic Islands 1661 - 1992*. Anthony Nelson, 1994.

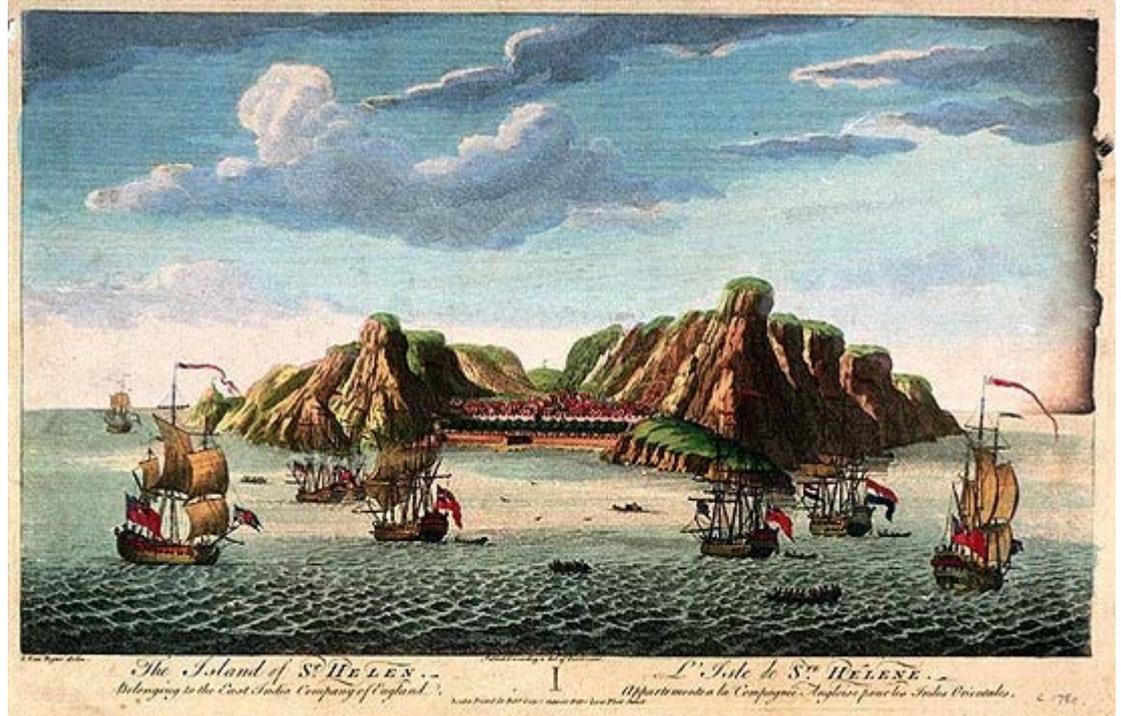
‘The remoteness and isolation of the island have had a profound effect in determining its history and, within this, the development of the education system.’



The Beginning of Education on St Helena

...That they would lay aside all unnecessary and frivolous excuses and be so much Friends to their Children as to send them to the said Schoole, and to keep them there as constantly as possibly they may.

Company Advertisement, 1678



'...so long vacant'

- In theory, the Company was responsible for the education of all children on the island
- In practice, there was often great difficulty in securing and retaining suitable teachers
- The population was diverse and over time became increasingly segregated
- In practice, access to education was denied to many young people
- Parents were generally required to pay for schooling, but provision was made for eight poor children to be educated without charge

The Head School, Jamestown, 1810



From an etching by
William Burchell,
schoolmaster.

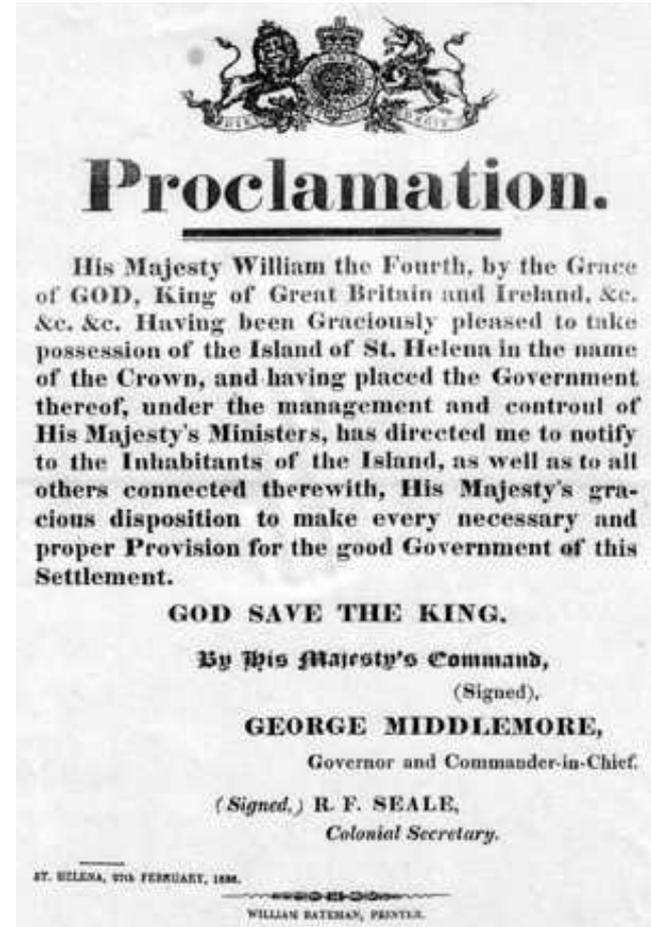
Royal Botanic Society,
London.

‘Promiscuous schools’

By 1842, the Jamestown Public (Head) School, the Evening School and the Sandy Bay School were all described as *‘promiscuous’*, meaning that they were open to all people in the community.

From the early 1840’s to 1862, the school population rose from 592 to 1,000.

In 1865, Rebecca Hussey bequeathed £11,000 for the education of liberated slaves on St Helena, and this was used to establish a school as well as a model farm at Friar’s Lodge.



Consistent themes over the centuries

- Lack of **continuity, adequate staffing** and **sufficient resources**, due in large part to the island's isolation

But equally,

- The degree to which ideas and events in the outside world shaped and influenced education in St Helena and the island's connectedness with the global community

Education in St Helena in 2018

3 Primary Schools

Reception - Year 6
(ages 3 - 11)

Pilling Primary
Harford Primary
St Paul's Primary



Secondary School

Year 7 - Year 13
(ages 11 - 18)

Prince Andrew School

Secondary school to GCSE
Sixth Form (A Levels)



St Helena Community College

Established 2016

The Saint Helena Community College--a case study

Established September 2016

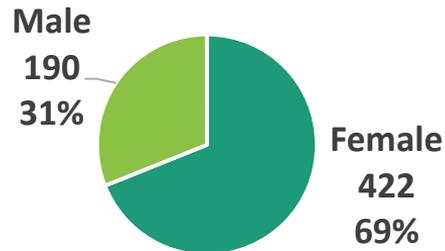
Amalgamated and extended existing adult education programmes

Anticipated enrolment in first year: 275 courses

Actual enrolment in first year: **612 students**

Total Registrations in first year: **821 courses**

Registered Students

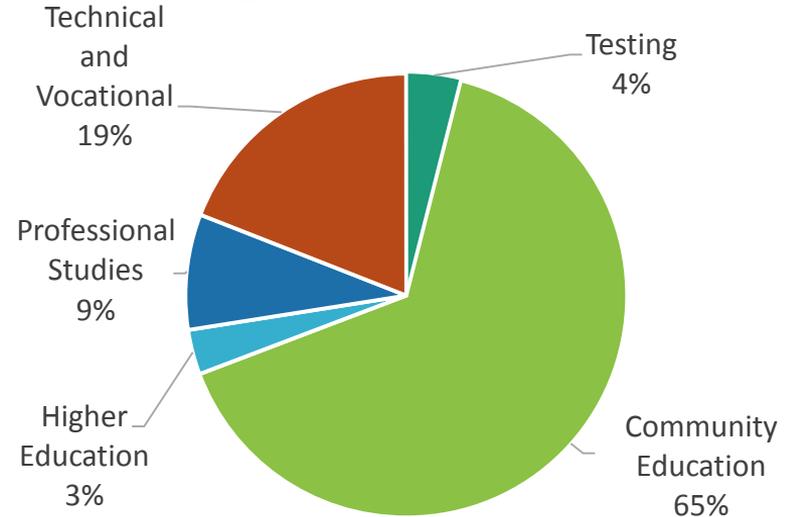


Age of Students

Youngest 16

Oldest 78

Registrations 2016/17



St Helena Community College

| | |
|--|---|
| Community Education | Literacy, numeracy, IT, GCSEs, business skills, foreign language, personal development |
| Technical/ Vocational Education | NVQ Centre; helps support Apprenticeship Scheme |
| Professional Studies | Leads to professional qualifications such as ACCA, Comp-TIA, CIPD, etc. |
| Higher Education | Partnerships with Open University and other providers; offers degrees on-island |
| Apprenticeship/ Employability | Apprenticeship programme to assure that all young people have a transition to the workplace |

Isolation and Connectivity

The Community College is needed because of St Helena's **isolation**, but its existence depends on **connectivity**.

In 2018, connectivity is not just the future of education in St Helena, it is a present necessity.

Connectivity and Education

- ❑ Distance learning
- ❑ Online testing
- ❑ Expert consultation
- ❑ Teacher training
- ❑ Professional certification
- ❑ Student information systems

But equally,

- ❑ Teachers
- ❑ Students
- ❑ Ideas
- ❑ Resources
- ❑ Standards

Isolation and Connectivity

Increasingly, St Helenians will be able to/be forced to compete on the global stage.

In this new stage of St Helena's history, both isolation and connectivity offer risks and benefits.

Education for St Helena's Future

All the components of **St Helena's 10 Year Plan** depend on an educated populace.

Human capital and **human capital development** are fundamental to sustainable economic development.

The challenge is to ensure development that truly benefits St Helena and St Helenians.

10 Year Plan

- **Altogether Safer**
- **Altogether Healthier**
- **Altogether Better for Children and Young People**
- **Altogether Greener**
- **Altogether Wealthier**

This conference and next steps

Remoteness and isolation - the same characteristics which have shaped education on St Helena also make the island a fascinating environment for research and study.

Connectivity with the wider world promises opportunities to encourage and attract research activities which will benefit St Helena as well as research partners.

For the future - the Education Directorate will look in 2018 to begin work on developing a formal structure to support and foster research on St Helena.