Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Education

EDUCATION
IN FOCUS



OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

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- Bringing Curriculum and Training into the 21st Century
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- Conversations on TVET Education and Training
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- Students Explore AI Support for CSEC Mathematics
- Using Animation to Inspire Positive Social Change
- Empowering our Educators
- L'éducation culturelle est tellement belle!
- Building Skills and Character Through Cricket
- Young Voices Take Centre Stage in National Debate Competition

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow in confidence and realise their fullest potential. The achievements highlighted in this issue demonstrate the transformative power of education and the importance of experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

At the Ministry of Education, we remain committed to creating an inclusive and innovative learning environment through digital resources, practical experiences and initiatives that empower both educators and students.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our teachers, parents and all those who contribute to the development of our nation's children. Through our collective efforts, we are shaping a generation of confident, capable young people equipped to contribute meaningfully to the future of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Michael R. Dowlath

Dr. the Hon. Michael R. Dowlath
Minister of Education

Our Executive Team

Minister of Education
Dr. the Honourable Michael Dowlath



Permanent Secretary
Simone Williams



Permanent Secretary (Ag)
Keshore Lutchman



Chief Education Officer
Dr. Peter Smith



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag)
Desmond Noel



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag)
Marlene Inniss-Joseph



A Send-Off for the King



Procession for the Honourable Slinger Francisco ORTT, CM, HBM, OCC, OBE

Students from schools across Trinidad and Tobago joined a vibrant cultural procession through Port of Spain on Friday, 16 October 2026, in tribute to the Mighty Sparrow, the King of Calypso.

Accompanied by Jab Jabs, Moko Jumbies, steelpan and calypso, the procession travelled from Independence Square along Frederick Street, concluding at the National Academy for the Performing Arts.

Renowned for his wit, storytelling and social commentary, the Mighty Sparrow left an enduring mark on the nation's cultural heritage. His composition, Education Is Essential, continues to reinforce the importance of learning.

The tribute provided students with an opportunity to celebrate Trinidad and Tobago's rich cultural traditions and appreciate the legacy of one of its most influential artistes.









Budget Highlights

Budget Allocation - $ 4.877 billion



The PEARL Initiative

This national programme which is designed to identify and support students with **special education needs** will benefit approximately **16,000 children.**

Expanded Digital Education Resources

The Ministry of Education is expanding digital educational resources and electronic learning to **200,000 students, 12,000 teachers and 1,500 administrators**, helping to prepare students for an increasingly technological world.

After-School Study Centres

The establishment of **After-School Study Centres** for students from **Standard 1 to Form 3** in **100 schools**, comprising 65 primary schools and 35 secondary schools across seven education districts. The centres are intended to strengthen students' learning foundations.

National Parental Training and Support Programme

Through the National Parental Training and Support Programme, the Ministry will train **300 facilitators**, establish **Parent Support Teams** and introduce a **National Parent Portal**. These measures will support parents in being active partners in their children's educational success.

AI in Education Programme

Under the AI in Education Programme, the Ministry of Education will roll out **NEXTCLASS TT** and **ELEVATE TT**, two innovative professional development platforms designed to upskill and support administrators and educators.

Integrated Expansion of Technical and Vocational Education in Secondary Schools

This programme will expand students' opportunities for practical learning in areas including **agriculture, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and electronic technology, air conditioning and refrigeration, welding, automotive systems, technical drawing, computer-aided design and steelpan manufacturing**. The programme will also support curriculum development, teacher and assessor preparation and career guidance.

STUDENT CORNER

Tunapuna Hindu School Spelling Bee

Students at Tunapuna Hindu School demonstrated their spelling abilities, confidence and determination during the school's Spelling Bee Competition on Friday, 30 October 2026.

Competing across four categories, participants tackled challenging words through several closely contested rounds, showcasing their preparation and enthusiasm.

The competition provided an opportunity for students to strengthen their language skills, build confidence and experience healthy competition.



Debe Secondary School Form 3 Students Basket Weaving

History came alive at Debe Secondary School on Friday, 30 October 2026, as Form 3 students explored indigenous traditions through a hands-on basket-weaving activity.

Led by Ms. Lall, the lesson allowed students to examine historical practices while developing practical skills and an appreciation for traditional craftsmanship.

The activity demonstrated how creative teaching approaches can make classroom learning more engaging, meaningful and memorable.







EDUCATION
WEBINAR

Topics covered in October:

- Reopening of the National School Climate Survey
- Understanding S.E.A. and the S.E.A. School Choice Process
- Understanding TTNLA
- Building Mathematical Understanding and Confidence at Home
- Understanding SEA Mathematics Expectations and Problem-Solving



COMING UP NEXT

Tune in from 5pm - 7pm

4 November 2026

Using Ministry Online Tools to Support SEA Mathematics

11 November 2026

Supporting SEA English Language Arts: Reading and Language Skills

18 November 2026

Supporting SEA English Language Arts Writing

25 November 2026

Supporting SEA through Literacy: Helping Students with Reading and Writing Difficulties

**All Webinars can be accessed on:*

LIVE STREAM

ministryofeducation-tt

MoEdutt

Microsoft Teams

Promoting Responsible AI and Sustainable Development at Divali Nagar



UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION | DIVALI NAGAR 2026

CHAIRMAN WELCOMES VISITING AMBASSADORS

Chairman Brendon Butts welcomes visiting ambassadors to the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO booth at Divali Nagar 2026.

The Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO engaged students, educators and visitors at Divali Nagar 2026 through interactive activities focused on sustainable development and responsible artificial intelligence (AI).

Reflecting the event's theme, VIVEKA: Discernment in the Age of AI, the Commission encouraged discussions on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including quality education, climate action and reduced inequalities.

Commissioner Debra Hutchinson helped guide student discussions, while Commission Chairman Mr. Brendon Butts led an interactive experience exploring the ethical use of AI. Commissioner Andrea Charles and Secretariat Administrator Ms. Nesha Maraj also engaged visitors.

The activities encouraged critical thinking and greater awareness of the responsibilities associated with emerging technologies.



UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION | DIVALI NAGAR 2026

NCIC VISIT TO THE UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION BOOTH

From left: Dr Misir (NCIC); Commissioner Maldeo Maharaj (Sustainable National Development); Commissioner Andrea Charles (Communication and Information); and Chairman Brendon Butts.



UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION | DIVALI NAGAR 2026

SECRETARIAT ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS

Nesha Maraj, Secretariat Administrator, engages visiting students with the Sustainable Development Goals at Divali Nagar 2026.



UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION | DIVALI NAGAR 2026

YOUNG PEOPLE CHAMPION THE GLOBAL GOALS

Students highlight the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through placards and a colourful SDG wheel at Divali Nagar 2026.

C.A.C.

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT COMPONENT

Bringing Curriculum and Training into the 21st Century

Preparations for the implementation of the Continuous Assessment Component (CAC) continued through interactive training sessions on 26, 27 and 29 October 2026. This month's sessions saw 482 primary school principals and 820 standard 4 teachers equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support the successful rollout of the CAC.

Addressing participants on 29 October, Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, highlighted the CAC's potential to build students' confidence and provide greater opportunities to demonstrate their learning.

Additional training and focused follow-up sessions will support educators throughout the implementation process.

Bringing Agricultural Science to Life Through Hydroponics

Students at Marabella Government Primary School are gaining practical experience in modern agriculture following the launch of Presto's Hydroponics Initiative on Thursday, 29 October 2026.

The initiative introduces students and teachers to hydroponic farming, providing opportunities to explore innovative approaches to plant cultivation and care.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, acknowledged Presto and its partners for supporting practical learning.

Aligned with the National Primary School Curriculum in Agricultural Science, the programme will allow Standards 3 and 4 students to develop agricultural knowledge, problem-solving abilities and practical skills while supporting the Continuous Assessment Component (CAC).






Conversations on TVET Education and Training

Senior officials of the Ministry of Education held discussions with Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad, Chairman of the National Training Agency of Trinidad and Tobago (NTA), and Mr. Balchan Ramberran, Chief Executive Officer (Ag.), at Education Towers on Tuesday, 27th October, 2026.

The engagement focused on strengthening collaboration between the Ministry and the NTA, exploring opportunities to align the Agency's initiatives with the Ministry's strategic direction and advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The Ministry of Education continues to strengthen TVET by expanding access to modern equipment and practical learning resources. This month, 22 secondary schools received new equipment to support instruction in subjects including Food and Nutrition, Technical Drawing, Building and Furniture Technology and Steelpan Manufacturing.

Through continued investment in TVET, the Ministry remains committed to fostering students' academic, holistic and professional development equipping them with the knowledge and practical skills needed to enter the workforce and pursue future career opportunities.

Malick Secondary School Marks its Golden Anniversary

Malick Secondary School celebrated five decades of education, achievement and community spirit at its 50th Anniversary celebration, held at the Centre of Excellence on Saturday, 3 October 2026.

Addressing attendees, Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, congratulated the generations of students, teachers, administrators and families who contributed to the school's development.

The milestone provided an opportunity to reflect on the institution's legacy while recognising the dedication of those who continue to shape its future.





Down Syndrome Family Network Hosts Buddy Walk



Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, joined participants at the Down Syndrome Family Network's Buddy Walk on Sunday, 11 October 2026, in support of greater awareness, acceptance and inclusion.

For 15 years, the event has brought together persons with Down syndrome, persons with disabilities, families, schools and supporters to promote understanding and community participation.

The event featured the competitive 5K Buddy Run alongside the shorter, inclusive Buddy Walk, allowing participants of varying abilities to take part.

The initiative highlighted the importance of creating supportive environments where individuals of all abilities are valued and encouraged to participate fully in society.







National Schools' Carnival The Experience 2026 Prizegiving Ceremony



The achievements of young cultural performers took centre stage at Education Towers on Thursday, 8 October 2026, as the Ministry of Education recognised top-performing students and schools from the 2026 National Schools' Panorama and Junior Soca Competition.

The occasion celebrated their talent, dedication and contribution to preserving Trinidad and Tobago's cultural heritage.

Through participation in cultural activities, students gain opportunities to develop confidence, discipline, creativity and an appreciation for the nation's traditions.







NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA 2026
PRIMARY SCHOOL/STEELBAND

RESULTS

1	St Margaret's Boys Anglican School	279
2	Febeau Government Primary School	266
3	San Fernando Boys RC School	265
4	St Paul's Anglican Primary School	262
5	Guaico Presbyterian School	257
6	Escallier/St Jerome Anglican School	254
7	Success RC Primary School	242
7	Nelson Street Boys RC Primary School	242
7	Barataria Anglican Primary School	242
10	St Patrick's Newtown Boys & Girls	236
11	Bethlehem Boys & Girls RC Primary School	235
12	Morvant Anglican Steel Orchestra	232



NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA 2026
SECONDARY SCHOOL/STEELBAND

RESULTS

1	Holy Faith Convent Penal	274
2	NAPS Combined	270
3	Presentation College	257
4	Pleasantville Secondary School	252
5	La Romaine Secondary School	234
6	St George's College	229
7	Waterloo Secondary School	217
8	Diego Martin North Secondary	215
9	Brazil Secondary School	214
10	Speyside/Roxborough Secondary School	188



JUNIOR SOCA COMPETITION 2026
PRIMARY FINALS
RESULTS

	NAME	SCHOOL	TOTAL
1	Kymani Hector-Kalloo	St. Peter's RC Primary School	423
2	Amayah Wallace-Aniebonam	CTS College Online Primary	408
3	Xhaiden Darius	Savonetta Private School	407
4	Omari McDonald	San Fernando Boys' RC	403
5	Aijah-Marie Williams	Cedar Grove Private Primary	400
6	Azavier Charles	St. Patrick Newtown Girls' RC	392
7	Alexia Adams Alexis	St. Barbs Government Primary	360
8	Josiah Wallace	Diego Martin Government Primary	349
9	Liam Wellington	Longdenville Government Primary	325
10	Adianka Andrews	St. Joseph Girls' RC	319
	Celebrit-T Charles	Lower Morvant Government Primary	ABSENT



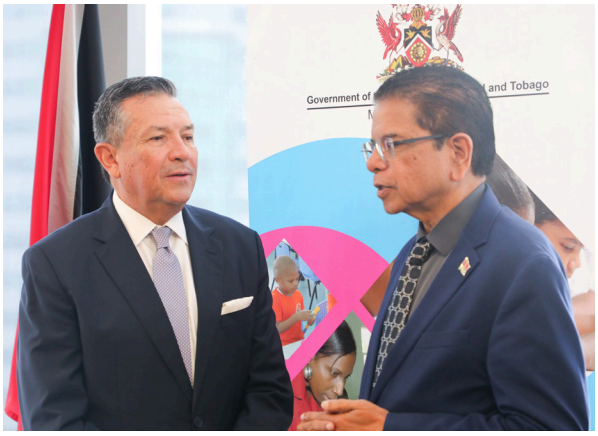
JUNIOR SOCA COMPETITION 2026
SECONDARY FINALS
RESULTS

	NAME	SCHOOL	TOTAL
1	Marcus McDonald	Presentation College, San Fernando	445
2	Zachary Ransome	Presentation College, San Fernando	424
3	D'Ashe Saul	Bishops High School, Tobago	422
4	Jalessa Lazarus	President College	405
5	Darion McDonald	Presentation College, San Fernando	403
6	Iennesha Bailey	Bishop Anstey High School, Port of Spain	386
7	Takiyana Frederick	East Mucurapo Secondary	377
8	Joshua Duprey	St. Mary's College	349
9	Raylan Green	CUC	347
10	Synara Lee	East Mucurapo Secondary	346
11	Nathaniel Camejo	Presentation College, Chaguanas	329

Expanding Opportunities through Collaboration

Discussions continued with Mr. Bernardo Requena, Director Representative of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) on Thursday, 15 October 2026, to explore opportunities for collaboration in the education sector. Building on previous engagements, the discussions focused on strengthening partnerships to support educational development, safer schools and environments that promote student wellbeing and success.





Strengthening Workplace Safety

A safer workplace starts with informed colleagues and a shared commitment to one another's wellbeing. Ongoing training and upskilling help our staff develop the knowledge and confidence to carry out their duties safely.

On Friday 23rd October, 2026, the Ministry's Health, Safety, Security and Services Unit (HSSSU) welcomed Mr. Sherwyn Charles, Senior Inspector of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Agency to Education Towers to conduct an engaging and interactive safety session.

Heads of department, fire wardens and other colleagues came together to strengthen their understanding of the OSH Act and its application in the workplace, including the requirements and procedures relating to refusal to work.

Coordinated by Mr. Earl Horne, Manager of HSSSU and supported by Mr. Desmond Noel, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), this initiative is one part of the Ministry of Education's comprehensive approach to ensuring the continues security and wellbeing of all staff.







Students explore AI support for CSEC Mathematics

Secondary school students explored the Form 5 Mathematics AI Support Software during the Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Cyber Conference, hosted by AMCHAM T&T at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad, on Wednesday, 28 October 2026.

The free online platform features video explanations, practice exercises and an AI tutor to support students preparing for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Mathematics examination.

Available through the Ministry's website **moe.gov.tt**, the resource offers students additional opportunities to strengthen their mathematical understanding beyond the classroom.

The exhibition highlighted the potential of technology to make learning more accessible, interactive and responsive to students' needs.





Using Animation to Inspire Positive Social Change

Three educational animations promoting social responsibility and children's wellbeing were launched by the Call to Action for Social Change Foundation (CTA) at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, on Sunday, 25 October 2026.

Developed under the Foundation's Think Before You Act series, the animations aim to encourage positive behaviour and greater awareness of social and emotional development.

Addressing attendees, Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, emphasised the shared responsibility of protecting and supporting children.

The initiative complements the Ministry's focus on nurturing students' academic, social, emotional and ethical development.





Empowering our Educators

Teachers of Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Physical Education and Sport participated in professional development workshops hosted by the Curriculum Planning and Development Division from 12 to 15 October 2026.

Held at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre in Couva, the sessions focused on Sport Psychology and Biomechanics, two key areas of the CAPE syllabus.

The workshops provided opportunities for educators to strengthen their subject knowledge, instructional techniques and classroom delivery.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to equip teachers with the skills and resources needed to deliver effective, engaging learning experiences.





L'éducation culturelle est tellement belle!

Students from St. Stephen's College, Holy Faith Convent (Penal) and Cowen Hamilton Secondary explored French language and culture during visits by His Excellency Guillaume Pierre, Ambassador of France to Trinidad and Tobago, and representatives of the Alliance Française in September.

The visits featured cultural presentations, interactive discussions with the Ambassador and French-language activities facilitated by the Alliance Française.

The initiative encouraged students to broaden their cultural perspectives, develop an interest in foreign languages and appreciate the value of cross-cultural understanding.

These experiences demonstrate how learning beyond the classroom can enrich students' educational journeys.







Building Skills and Character Through Cricket

Approximately 640 pupils from 80 primary schools across Trinidad and Tobago participated in the 2026 Republic Bank Five for Fun Cricket Competition during September and October.



Held under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, the competition was supported through a partnership involving the National Primary School Cricket League, Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board, Cricket West Indies and Republic Bank Limited.

Through cricket-based activities, pupils developed fundamental sporting skills while strengthening teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship and confidence.

The initiative reinforced the value of physical education in promoting healthy lifestyles, positive relationships and the holistic development of young learners.

Young Voices Take Centre Stage in National Debate Competition

Ten schools participated in the launch and preliminary rounds of the 2026 PowerGen National Schools' Debate Competition on Tuesday, 6 October 2026, at the University of Trinidad and Tobago's Point Lisas Campus.

Organised through a partnership between the Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (PowerGen) and the Ministry of Education, the competition provides students with opportunities to strengthen their communication, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Through structured debate and the exchange of ideas, participants develop confidence, broaden their perspectives and practise respectful, evidence-based discussion.

The initiative encourages students to become articulate, informed and engaged citizens.












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