

Nine Inmates Earn High School Certification

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Nine young men incarcerated at His Majesty's Prison were among the Class of 2025 graduating cohort that earned their high school certification.

The inmates earned their certificates through the Alternative Secondary Education Programme (ASEP) and serves as a reminder of the role education plays in rehabilitation and reflects the Virgin Islands' commitment to second chances, personal growth, and inclusive opportunity for all.

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley, described the achievement as a testament to resilience noting that no matter where someone finds themselves in life, growth and progress are possible when paired with determination.

Honourable Wheatley said, "These young men chose to believe in their futures and committed to a path of transformation. Their success represents the very heart of what rehabilitation should be."

Honourable Wheatley also addressed the inmates directly stating, "You completed this stage of your journey, not because it was easy, but because you believed your future was worth fighting for. That kind of determination, believing better days are ahead, is what makes today so extraordinary."

Meanwhile, ASEP Coordinator Ms. Careen Cuffy recognised the dedication of the nine young men who successfully completed the programme and earned their certification. She also reminded the graduates and the wider community of the deeper purpose of the programme: Second Chances.

Ms. Cuffy said, "Under the leadership of our current Minister of Education, Honourable Sharie de Castro, the programme continues to expand. One of the most exciting developments is our partnership with His Majesty's Prison." She added, "Starting September 2025, young men in custody will not only have the opportunity to earn a High School Certificate but also gain vocational certification in Woodwork through ASEP."

The nine graduates were part of a larger class of 32 students who completed either the ASEP or Virgin Islands High School Certificate Programme this year.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development extends its appreciation to the staff of His Majesty's Prison, the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Ministry of Education, Hope Academy, and all partners who made the achievement possible.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to enhancing the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

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