

Greetings
Hon. Fayval Williams
Minister of Science, Energy & Technology
Commissioning of Lloyd Walker Cyber Centre
Wednesday May 28, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS

- Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament for St. Andrew North Western Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke
- Chief Executive Officer of the Universal Service Fund, Mr Daniel Dawes and members of the USF team.
- Principal of Pembroke Hall Primary School, Ricardo Valentine
- Parents
- Students
- Other stakeholders
- Members of the Media

Good morning!

What is the motto of this school? (await response)

“Only the Best is Good Enough.” Only the best is good enough is a commitment to yourself, that in whatever you do, give it your all. Regardless of the circumstances or the challenges, always, always always, give of your best.

Today's commissioning of the Lloyd Walker Cyber Centre is a commitment of the Government to give you, Pembroke hall Primary, to our part in giving you access to the tools you will need to give your best.

As we chart a roadmap to developing a knowledge-based and digital society, the internet and tools that provide access to the internet, is the only way our young can unearth, discover, learn, and sharpen the skills they need in a society characterised and driven by information and communications technology.

I am very excited to be here as the Minister of Technology to commission this facility which will undoubtedly transform the lives, of you, our students, teachers and the wider of Pembroke Hall community.

The establishment of this Community Access Point is part of the Ministry's drive through the USF to bridge the information divide and ensure that everyone has access to the internet.

We are committed to this goal and we pursue it with passion because we know what a critical tool the internet can be in helping individuals to achieve success.

A School of Excellence

I know that this school is no stranger to excellence. You have made your mark in field of academics, football, netball and swimming.

It's our hope that this Community Access Point will help in the continuation of this trend of excellence.

This computer lab, which has been outfitted with 23 computers, desks and chairs, printers, state of the art air conditioning units and other infrastructure, was established at a cost of \$8.8 million. We have made this investment in you and your future. And we are hoping to see exponential returns, through your use of technology to unearth your potential.

Improving the Use of CAP Sites

This community access point brings to 311 the number of facilities opened by the USF in underserved areas across the country.

A recent audit conducted by the USF, revealed that while many of these computer labs are being actively used by the members of the community for meaningful activities such as distance learning, communication and business ventures, there are about 30%, or a little under 100 of these labs that are being underutilized.

The USF, with support from the Ministry has been meeting with these administrators to determine the issues affecting these community access points in a bid to devise plans to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. The meetings have also served as a way for Community Access Point Managers to learn from their fellow Administrators who have created and are executing exemplary and sustainable operational plans for their facilities. As we continue to increase internet connectivity, we must ensure the infrastructure are making the impact they are intended to make.

We have no doubt that this Community Access Point, with our support, will be one of these outstanding facilities from which other Community Access Point Administrators can learn valuable lessons.

Closing

In closing, I want to thank you again for welcoming me into your community and to let you know that we are looking forward to great things from this Community Access Point.

Thank You.