

# Young people talk refugees and economy



Adam Sparkes addressing the Youth States, which was instigated by the election team, supported by the Education Department and run by the Youth Commission.

(Picture by Steve Sarre, 13723111)

STUDENTS sat in the seats of deputies as they took to the States Chamber yesterday for their own debate.

The Youth States was instigated by the election team, supported by the Education Department and run by the Youth Commission, and saw 50 young people taking part.

All secondary schools and Youth Commission-led youth centres, along with The Hub, were represented, with young people aged between 14 and 21.

Students from Alderney were also present.

Topics were strategies to tackle global warming, diversification of the island's economy, mental health and wellbeing for young people and duty of care to refugees.

The debate before the lunch break was educational equality of opportunity.

Each student spoke and brought a wide range of views to the education debate, ranging from stigma of schools, the island working together, 'passing or failing' the 11-plus, selection and education in Alderney.

St Anne's School Year 11 pupil Harry Craig, 15, said he found the event really in-

teresting and stood up and spoke.

by **Helen Devonshire**  
hdevonshire@guernseypress.com

teresting and stood up and spoke.

'We definitely got Alderney's voice across, which can be quite hard at times,' he said.

Harry said one of his main concerns was about how vital it was to have a fair selection process for Alderney.

'To enable young people in Alderney to have a better chance at education in Guernsey and equality with education, which it is not getting in Alderney'.

La Mare de Carteret High School Year 11 pupil Lauren Guille, also 15, did the opening speech in the morning.

She said nearly everyone had spoken.

'It is good to listen to what others had to say,' she said.

Both said they would like to see the event happen again.

Education minister Deputy Robert Sillars sat with the students for the debate and said they were 'very eloquent'.

The Bailiff, Sir Richard Collas, was also present.