The European Parents' Association of the European Schools

ALICANTE, BERGEN, BRUXELLES I, II, III, IV, FRANKFURT, KARLSRUHE, LUXEMBURG I, II, MOL, MÜNCHEN, VARESE

Supporting the European School Parent Community through the Baccalaureate

Dear Parents of S7 students,

The 'Bac season' is now underway and we all wish the candidates great success.

Immense efforts are made each year regarding the quality assurance of the exam papers and to ensure that all goes smoothly. Considering the number of papers, problems with the exams are rare. Nevertheless, if you like to be prepared 'just in case', your school's Parent Association and InterParents, are ready to help:

Possible actions in the next 2-3 weeks before the announcement of the results

If your child comes home following an examination with a concern about it, do take time to gain an understanding of the nature of the problem. Having talked it through, if you conclude that your child encountered a problem which was possibly due to a fault in the paper or in how the examination was run, then it could be worth investigating further at the level of the Examining Board and Baccalaureate Unit responsible for management of the examination overall.

If there has been a 'procedural irregularity' (any infringement of the rules governing the Baccalaureate and its implementation) which may have been 'prejudicial' to a candidate's performance (affected it negatively) then remedial action at the level of the Baccalaureate Unit/Examining Board may be taken automatically without anybody having to make an official complaint, meaning before the proclamation of the Bac results. A range of compensatory measures are at the disposal of the subject inspector and Chair of the Examining Board.

However, it is generally worth parents/their representatives alerting these authorities to any potential procedural irregularity in case it has not been picked up already. Such procedural irregularities range from an individual examination question being faulty in some way to an incident occurring in the exam room resulting in the examination being delayed/halted, for instance. They do not cover situations in which a teacher seems not to have covered the syllabus in class or the school bus was delayed, causing a candidate to be late, for example.

InterParents may be able to help clarify the situation with the Central Bac unit before the announcement of the results. InterParents, as coordinator for all the Parent Associations, has an open channel with the Baccalaureate Unit.

However, it is important to note that InterParents plays no part in any official process of investigation, possible remediation or appeal. For some years now it has, however, been common practice for the Parent Associations of all the European schools to collate the feedback received from parents about problems arising during exams so as to identify possible errors and patterns and bring them to the attention of those responsible for managing the Baccalaureate, i.e. the Secretary

General of the European Schools, the Head of the Baccalaureate Unit and the Chair of the European Baccalaureate.

Your Parent Association and InterParents reps will work closely together on any issues arising during the Bac Season and keep you informed of relevant progress. Our aim is for any corrective action deemed necessary to be taken prior to the results being published. These informal options for raising concerns are exhausted by the time the Baccalaureate results are published.

Please consider that we are rather few volunteer parents who need to react quickly to possible concerns raised by you. In order to build a strong argumentation when contacting/meeting the Bac managers, we need your active collaboration. In particular, if you need to raise a concern, we would ask you to:
- consult with other parents and students to see if the concern is shared and send a single joint complaint detailing the names of the concerned parents.
- get informal feedback from the educational advisors and teachers.
- go to the Interparents Baccalaureate helpdesk where you can share your concerns/complaint with us.
- describe the problem in as much detail as much as possible, including any feedback you are able to get.

Furthermore, are you a specialist in an academic field corresponding to one of the Baccalaureate subjects, or in one of the languages in which exams are conducted? Could you spare some time, if needed, to help us analyse any problems which may arise? We would like to hear from you! Send a mail to president@interparents.eu or go to http://interparents.eu/bac/.