Feedback from the Secondary Education Council on 26/10/21

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the first Secondary Education Council for this school year on Tuesday 26/10/21. We are pleased to share with you the main topics which were discussed at this meeting:

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Prevention workshops

APEEEL2 has encouraged the School to fully restart the prevention programs for which some workshops were put on hold due to the pandemic. We are pleased to announce the following information:

- The prevention **railway safety** workshop run by CFL has been completed for S1 and S2 pupils.
- **Bee Secure** (internet safety program) is planned for S1 pupils on 21-22/11.
- **Limitiert** (alcohol prevention program) is planned for S3 pupils on 22-26/11 and for S4 pupils on 15-19/11.
- **Kiva Program** is returning for S1-S3 pupils to prevent bullying.
- A **tobacco** prevention workshop is planned next spring for S3-S4 pupils.
- **Planning familial** is planned for S2 and S6 pupils.

Due to the sanitary crisis, we are aware that some secondary levels have missed out on some of these important workshops. The School, while doing its best to take this into account, cannot guarantee that all cancelled workshops during these past 2 years, will be rescheduled due to time constraints

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School projects

Even if strict restrictions are still in place for activities with mixed-levels pupils, some efforts are made to develop projects in the School and improve students' wellbeing.

- Training for **Eurosport** is up and running, as the competition is planned to take place in Mol European School next March. As pupils' levels are mixed, self-tests are carried out prior to each training session.
- **Clean Schools** program is up and running again.
- **Play and Learn** activities program has been reactivated by level. 110 pupils are registered to participate to various scientific, chess and coding groups.
- **School trips**: Day trips are still not encouraged by the School Management. However, teachers are motivated to organize again S6 trips and have already short-listed possible locations, building primarily on trips organized in past years. Unfortunately, there are still issues linked to the pandemic which remain unanswered. Therefore, the School Management may undertake a risk assessment and will wait to see the developments of the Covid situation before making a decision.
- Our **Lux2 Pupils Committee** has many ideas and projects for this school year. APEEEL2 will soon organize a meeting with the Pupils' Representatives to find out how we can best support their initiatives. A similar process will be followed with the recently elected members of the **Bac Committee**.

Pupils at risk of non-promotion (repeating their school year)

Since last year, the School Secondary Management has developed a new program to accompany/help pupils who are at risk of repeating their school year. Priority is given to S7 pupils. Concerned pupils have already met with the School team to put in place strategies for best supporting them. S1 pupils will be the next ones to benefit from this personalized accompaniment. APEEEL2 welcomes this initiative, especially as we are aware that a substantial number of pupils have suffered academically during the distance-teaching period.

Covid restrictions

At the start of the current school year, Covid restrictions were clearly explained during assemblies for all year levels in Secondary. We can also mention that a similar number of Secondary pupils in Lux2 compared to Lux1 have received the first dose of the vaccination program in October. Regarding self-testing, the participation rate statistics in Secondary have sightly increased since the beginning of October - from 32% (average for all levels) to 47% before the All Saints break. We estimate that numbers will continue to increase, as the parents' consent procedure has finally been simplified further to APEEEL2's request.

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Deadlines for option choices

We have been informed of the following dates for parents to return the Option Choices forms for their children**. We kindly remind of the importance of these choices**, as the School Management rarely shows any flexibility in modifying any option choice within a cycle once they have been confirmed. We strongly recommend parents attend **Information Meetings** organized by the School on this topic:

Calendar:

P5 → S1: documents to be returned by parents at the latest by 28/11/21 – Information meeting on 22/11/21

S1 → S2: documents to be returned by parents at the latest by 15/12/21

S2 → S3: documents to be returned by parents at the latest by 28/11/21

S3 → S4: documents to be returned by parents at the latest by 14/01/22 – Information meeting on 06/01/22.

S5 →S6: documents to be returned by parents at the latest by 23/01/22 – Information meeting on 12/01/22.

Examinations and Pre-Bac DRAFT calendar

S4 pupils will have 2 examinations in L1 and Maths on 10 and 14/12 in periods 1 & 2. They will then resume with their regular timetable.

S5 pupils will have their exams from 10 to 17/12. As usual, they will be free in the afternoon on the day before the start of their exams, i.e. from 13:00 on 09/12.

S6 pupils will start their exams on 06/12 with Art 4 and Music. On 07/12, they will have L1 Advanced and L2 Advanced, as these exams do not concern many pupils and can therefore be organized in classrooms. The Salle des Fetes is busy on those days with S7 Prebac (2 periods) and will be used as of 08/12 for S6 pupils. S6 will also end their examinations on 17/12/21 with Economics.

S7 Prebac (2 periods) will be organized between 02/12/21 and 12/01/22. Prebac examinations for subjects with 3-4 periods are planned between 17/01/22 and 28/01/22.

The calendar has been optimized to reduce the number of pupils having 2 different exams on the same day. However, due to timing and logistics constraints, this has not always been possible for a few S7 pupils, depending on their option choices.

APEEEL2 has urged the School to publish the definitive calendar as soon as possible for all Secondary levels.

Miscellaneous

- **Geogebra**

Various meetings have taken place between the School Management, Maths & Physics coordinators and APEEEL2. The School needs to buy devices to be used as a reserve during examinations, in case of a student's device exceptionally not working on the day of the exam. The School Management seems to have selected the Microsoft tablet Surface Go 3. As this device is not cheap, APEEEL2 together with the School is still looking for a bulk purchase solution for parents on any device meeting the Geogebra criteria. We will keep you informed as soon as we have more information.

S5 and S6 pupils will need to use a device for their June examinations in Maths and Physics. The first Baccalaureate using Geogebra with a device will take place in 2023.

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The School plans to organize a trial examination before June this school year to test these new exams conditions with the pupils.

- **School photos**

Class photos have already been purchased by pupils and new ID cards are ready to be distributed soon after All Saints holidays.

- **Use of SMS**

APEEEL2 informed the School on disparities between teachers in the use of SMS. The School Management confirmed that guidelines for teachers on SMS use are shared with all teachers and that training is available. They agreed to add a reminder on the use of SMS in the teacher's newsletter.

- **European Schools Exchange Program for S4 and S5 students**

APEEEL2 asked if there was any chance of the program to restart in 2022/23, as registrations must be organized well in advance. This program is centrally organized by the Office of the Secretary General and no information has been communicated yet. From what we understood, unfortunately we can expect that the Exchange Program is cancelled again for the school year 2022/23.

- **School Advisors' organization**

APEEEL2 queried why the School has changed the advisors' organization, as in the past a cohort of pupils was followed by the same advisor from S1 until S7. The School now considers that each level has its own specificities, and therefore prefers to have experts within a year group, with specific tasks linked to this year group.

- **Parents' emails to teachers**

Teachers' representatives reminded APEEEL2 that teachers also have the right to a weekend rest. Parents who are sending messages to teachers during the weekend, should not expect to receive a quick answer. Therefore, we recommend parents only contact their child's teachers during weekdays.

APEEEL2 Secondary Education Council Committee – November 2021

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