Feedback from the Secondary Education Council on 26/10/22

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the first Secondary Education Council for this school year on Wednesday 26/10/22. We are pleased to share with you the main topics which were discussed at this meeting:

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A look back at the start of the school year in Secondary

- All seconded teachers were in place on 01/09. Only one L2-L4 EN teacher was missing and arrived mid of November. Internal solutions were found to cover the needs. A new advisor also arrived mid of November to replace Ms Olmedo who became a Spanish teacher.
- In Secondary, the number of pupils now reaches 1 554 pupils.
- Some of the activities which have already started or taken place:
  - European day of languages in S1.
  - The School was visited by a DK Secondary school.
  - S7 Hist 4DE visited Berlin on a special trip for European citizenship.
  - International Law Project for interested S6 and S7 pupils has started.
  - Meeting for S6 trips for S6 pupils already took place.
  - Career programs have actively started under the lead of Mr Castanet, the new career coordinator.
  - ESSS (European Schools Sciences Symposium) will take place in Varese (Italy) and our Lux2 team has been setup for 3 junior projects (10 students) and 1 senior project.
  - School photos have taken. APEEEL2 thanks the School for introducing digital photos but comments that they are too expensive.

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- New ID cards have therefore been distributed.

- Activities planned in the calendar before Christmas:
  - ✓ Trip to Verdun, MUN (Model United Nations), Theatre for French L1 courses and several other programs are foreseen.
  - ✓ Preparation for the examinations in December and for the short Pre-Bac examinations have already started.
  - ✓ Academic Enrichment Program will replace the Play & Learn Activities: the new program will give preference to courses with added value for pupils. Decisions on the proposal have not yet been made.
  - ✓ Preparations for Eurosport in March 2024, hosted by Lux2, have started.

School S6 trips

APEEEL2 is very happy to see that the traditional S6 trips will finally resume for students. Due to the large cohort of 200 pupils in S6 this year, 7 different trips are planned to Ireland, Barcelona, Lake Garda, Croatia, Greece, Rome, and Andalusia.
Feedback from pupils is very positive.
The trip cost has increased from 850€ to 900€. Until this year, the cost has remained the same since 2012, despite inflation and many indexes applied in Luxembourg.

APEEEL2 thanks all the teachers, as well as the coordinator, for the huge amount of work need to organize the trips. We know how important the S6 trip is for secondary students, and we are happy they can finally be organized again.

APEEEL2 would also like to remind parents that we requested payment in installments for S6 trips. Even though this will create much more work for the accounting department, the School Management has accepted our request**, on condition that parents must add the communication mentioned in their invoice when making their bank transfer.**

Prevention programs

- A glance at the Limitiert workshop for alcohol prevention which was addressed to all S3 students (255 pupils). It provided knowledge on the subject and engaged pupils in active learning and reflection. Pupils participated in 3 different workshops:
  - Pupils learnt in a playful way about legal limits, diseases, and precautions against alcohol abuse.
  - How would their vison be impacted if they were walking with a high level of alcohol in the blood? The simulation was done by using special goggles and pupils were requested to accomplish several tasks of daily life.

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- Pupils watched several video clips. They also analyzed publicity for alcohol and prevention videos.
- At the end, there was a final collective workshop, where pupils learnt how to calculate the blood alcohol level, as well as the impact of gender and weight.

The workshops were organized with the support of the Luxembourgish Health Ministry. Pupils' reactions were positive, as this was active learning.

- S4 pupils will attend a prevention program on tobacco and drugs after Easter. The Extra Tour Sucht is also organized for S4, including various workshops on several types of addictions such as drugs and gaming.

Examinations calendar

- S4 pupils will have 2 examinations in L1 and in Maths (Casio calculator will be required).
- S5 pupils will have exams from 15/12/22 until 22/12/22. They will be free on 14/12 afternoon.
- S6 pupils will have exams from 09/12/22 until 22/12/22. They will be free on 08/12 afternoon.
  S6 pupils who do not have Maths Advanced or Art4 as an option will be free on 09/12.
  S6 pupils who do not have L1 or L2 advanced will be free on 12/12.

In S5 and S6 Math exams, pupils will use the NumWorks calculator. Following this information, APEEEL2 has organized a grouped purchase for parents.

Work Experience in S5

Last year, there were 198 pupils in S5, and 188 of them were successful in finding work experience placement: 121 pupils (61%) found a placement in Luxembourg, although 67 pupils (34%) found it abroad. Only 5% were unsuccessful.
Pupils must write a report in their L2, to be reviewed by their L2 teachers. Once they have submitted their report, they will receive a certificate.
It is to be noted that the School insurance covers students within the EU, but not outside.
The S5 advisor, Mrs Eleni Kargopoulou is the coordinator for S5 work experience. Application forms are available in TEAMS pupils' accounts.

Wellbeing

The School Management presented all the actions/events organized at the Secondary level which can improve pupils' wellbeing.

- Assemblies for all class levels took place at the beginning of September. It was a nice opportunity for all pupils to be introduced to their advisor and ask questions.
- KiVa program: Mr Perez (S6 advisor), Mrs Giorgetti and Mr O'Coïmin participated in online training with Turku University in Finland. They and are now qualified KiVa trainers, in addition to Mrs Vlahaki and Mr Halima-Filali. Training sessions will be delivered to S1 & S3 teachers who in turn will train their pupils.
- Clean school: This project encourages pupils to clean up after themselves. It is coordinated by Mrs Perez, S6 advisor, and involves 2 class groups per day in years S1 to S5. Before half-term, the project was already up to the S3 class level. The activity lasts 25 minutes and the class is divided into 4 groups: 2 outside, 1 inside and 1 at the canteen. The purpose of the project is

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to make pupils aware that if they litter, someone must pick it up. So, by cleaning up after themselves, pupils are less likely to litter.

- Bee Secure is a program delivered to all S1 pupils about helpline/stopline and cyber-bullying. It is coordinated by the S2 advisor, Mrs Salerno, and offers pupils personalized guidance in making the family computer safe, avoiding internet scams, safe social networks, privacy etc…
- CFL: This is a safety awareness program for train users, delivered by CFL. It is coordinated by Mr Filali, S1 advisor, and all S1 pupils attended in November.
- Sex education: S7 completed the sex education program coordinated by the School psychologist, Mrs Fallahzadeh. S6 pupils also completed the program (only S6ENB was temporarily postponed).
- Meetings for "Pupils at risk": Mr O'Coïmin and Mr Toussaint (S7 advisor) have started meeting with S7 pupils/parents who could be at risk of failing their Bac exam. In this formal interview, the School looks back at these pupils' results in S6, getting up-to-date information from teachers in the subjects pupils were struggling and takes stock of the situation. A plan is put in place for supporting the pupils, looking at support options and advice on studying skills and looking at a breakdown of the Bac marks. This exercise will be repeated for all year groups.
- Pupils' committee: They had a first meeting with the management and put an action plan in place. Their first initiative was Halloween costumes day and a bake sale on Friday 28/10. They also granted prizes for the best costumes and had a photo booth for pupils.

Parents' questions

- **Calculator NumWorks:** APEEEL2 requested some explanations about the use of this new calculator.

  The School Management confirmed the new calculator is now mandatory for S5, S6 and, S7 pupils. This is in the memorandum from the Central Office. They confirmed that unfortunately Geogebra was doomed to fail from the beginning, and that we are now back to using calculators. However, during lessons, depending on teachers, pupils can still use the free app on their smartphones. Further to receiving this information, APEEEL2 has decided to organize a calculator group purchase for parents.
- APEEEL2 asks about the possibility for the School to publish the **Secondary planning** on their website to give more visibility to parents about activities and events in Secondary. The School Management acknowledged our request and will now ensure meeting dates for parents are published earlier.

  We also requested for the end-of-school-year date for Secondary pupils to be published earlier than last school year, as they usually finish school earlier than other cycles. The School confirmed that the date will be published in March, but not any earlier as it will depend on the dates for the Bac oral examinations.

  We also requested information on the SMS policy which was supposed to be communicated to parents.

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