Feedback from Secondary Educational Council on 24/10/2023

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the Secondary Education council held on Tuesday 24/10/23. This meeting is chaired by the Deputy Director for Secondary, Mr Aibhistin O'Coïmin.

Priorities for 2023-2024

As our new director for Secondary, Mr O'Coïmin presented his priorities for this school year which can be summarized as follows:

1. **School spirit**: To foster positive school spirit for all, build up school community and positive partnership grounded in mutual respect.
2. **Assessment**: To reduce summative assessment where possible, encourage formative assessment, respect test calendar, and differentiate long tests from mini tests.
3. **Homework policy:** To design a Homework Policy document using the input from the different representatives and implement it.
4. **Harmonisation of the pedagogical planning:** The template for teachers will be updated, the 8 key competencies of the European Schools will be promoted and peer observation on how teachers promote the 8 key competencies in their classrooms will be developed.
5. **Eurosport:** To make this event a school community event at system level (promoting exercise, healthy diet and living for all, partnership with the school orchestra and choir…)
6. **Continued Professional Development for teachers** with the Pedagogical day, a compulsory training on ADHD support for example…
7. **Communication:** To improve communication with teachers (weekly newsletters), with parents (monthly newsletter: "The Blue Bridge"), with pupils through SMS and school screens.

S6 School trips

1. **7 destinations are offered this school year:** Ireland, Barcelona, Andalucia, Jesolo in Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Greece.
2. There will be around 33-34 students per trip.
3. The cost is 900€ to be paid by parents in 2 installments.
4. Trips are organized during the week starting on 29/04/24 until 03/05/24 (some trips may leave or return at the weekend).
5. Pupils were requested to choose one friend with whom they were guaranteed to travel to the same destination. They could also express their favorite destination, but without any guarantee it could be respected.
6. APEEEL2 thanked all the teachers involved in the preparation and organization of these interesting school trips.

Work experience in S5

As the Internship has been compulsory in S5 for a couple of years now, it is always interesting to review some statistics. In June 2023, 220 conventions were signed out of a total of 230 S5 students. 145 students did their Internship in Luxembourg, while 75 did it

Disclaimer: *These are informal notes taken during the meeting and should not be read as an official document*

abroad. S5 students handed back their Internship report in L2 last September and will receive a certificate for it.

Homework Policy

1. Creating a homework policy in secondary is a new objective aiming at balancing academic rigor and pupils 'well-being. The policy will emphasize the importance of manageable workloads.
2. The same policy will apply from S1 to S7, irrespective of language sections or learning abilities and will encompass all subjects taught at school. It will support overall educational objectives, while embracing inclusivity.
3. Time allocation for homework varies per year and per subject.
4. APEEEL2 could already access the first draft of the document and make some remarks which the School Management took into consideration.
5. APEEEL2 is now looking forward to the next step forward, and the implementation of the new policy being clearly communicated to all stakeholders (teachers, pupils, and parents).

Well-being

1. The School Management confirmed that the well-being of pupils and teachers was considered of paramount importance.
2. Despite being a large institution, emphasis will be put on the human touch and on delivering a hidden curriculum of core values, starting with mutual respect.
3. The School Management will work closely with the Pupils' Committee and support their actions.
4. The Prevention Program has been presented for all levels (CFL safety awareness for S1, depression awareness workshop in S3, stress management workshop in S6-S7…)
5. All pupils are encouraged to use the School psychological services for well-being.
6. The School will continue with its program to support pupils at risk of promotion.

Questions from the Parents Association (APEEEL2)

Class teachers' selection: APEEEL2 raised the issue of main class teachers not teaching any of the pupils they are responsible for, and not speaking the language of the section. The School Management reminded us how class teachers' appointments are defined in the General Rules:

1. If possible, the class teacher appointed in S6 remains the same in S7.
2. If possible, the class teacher appointed in S4 remains the same in S5.
3. If possible, the class teacher appointed in S1 remains the same in S2 and S3.
4. Otherwise, preference is given to appoint a teacher who teaches all students from the class.
5. Otherwise, preference is given to appoint a teacher who teaches at least part of the students from the class.
6. Otherwise, preference is given to appoint a teacher who is not already a class teacher in another class and speaks the language of the section.

APEEEL2 suggested that criteria n°4 could take precedence over criteria no 1, 2 and 3 (a class teacher remaining the same for 2 consecutive years). The School Management will reflect on our proposal.

Disclaimer: *These are informal notes taken during the meeting and should not be read as an official document*

As a conclusion, APEEEL2 representatives are pleased to underline some important positive changes in our relationship with the Secondary School Management since September 2023. We really appreciate our new Director' direct and easy contact, getting prompt and more concrete answers to the queries and issues we raise, as well as the attentiveness and openness shown to our proposals. We are looking forward to developing further a close collaboration with the School on many different topics linked to the secondary cycle.

The next secondary Education Council will take place in February 2024.

Disclaimer: *These are informal notes taken during the meeting and should not be read as an official document*