Feedback from the Secondary Education Council on 28/02/24

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

1/ Questions raised by APEEEL2

We start with these points, which can have a direct impact on secondary school pupils and their parents:

- Access to exam papers for pupils from S4-S6: APEEEL2 complained to the School management that pupils were not authorised to bring back home their exams papers when they get their marks. We knew the General Rules demand that exams papers must be archived (in S6 for example) but we considered that pupils could at least take a picture to take the time at home to learn from their mistakes and improve. This was forbidden until then but Mr O'Coïmin, Deputy Director for Secondary understood our request and agreed with our proposal. This is even retroactive to December compo exams. So, if you are interested in seeing your child's exam papers from December, please ask him/her to make a request to his/her teacher who should have now been informed about this new decision.

- Homework Policy: The draft homework policy presented in October has finally been approved by teachers and by APEEEL2. It should have been implemented from next September but APEEEL2 requested an earlier implementation, and we are pleased to announce that the secondary director agreed and confirmed it will come into effect on 11/03/24. We have asked for the document to be made available to parents as soon as possible.

- C authorisation: As you know, as secondary parent, you sign at the beginning of the year an A or B authorisation to authorise your child to come later or leave school earlier when he or she has gaps. From S5, they can get the C parental authorisation to also leave the school premises during the day when they have gaps. We requested the school management to get the C authorisation from S4 if parents agree. Our request was declined by the school as advisors have the feeling pupils are too young in S4.

- Copyright pedagogy: Secondary pupils are used to do presentations in different subjects, they usually make their research online but unfortunately, they are not taught to add their sources and references which is something demanded at universities. A workshop is usually organised by the secondary librarian in S7 but APEEEL2 requested to start earlier in S4 and S5. Our request was accepted.

2/ Projects, competitions, school trips and events in secondary

Many pedagogical day trips, projects, competitions, and events were organized, during the first part of the school year, in the secondary cycle on different subjects. This is a tremendous change compared to previous years where teachers faced difficulties with the previous secondary management to get authorisations for pedagogical projects. APEEEL2 was really impressed by the list of projects presented

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at the Education Council, we will not list all of them here, but we strongly recommend secondary parents to read the "*Blue Bridge*", the newsletter from secondary edited before each school holidays. APEEEL2 would like also to express its gratitude to all secondary teachers involved in all those interesting projects.

- Competitions: Whether they have a more scientific, sporting, artistic, literary or linguistic profile, secondary school pupils have the opportunity to take part in various competitions within the School. It's always an enriching experience for students to face new challenges. Here are some examples: Junenes Translatores, Luxembourg Science Olympiad, British & Irish film festival, Diplomat for a Day competition, Biology Olympiads, Chemistry Olympiad, Mathematics Olympiads, Reading competition, English as L2 Olympiads…

- School trips: Visits were organised to the University of Luxembourg for a conference about Spectroscopy in materials research for S7 pupils, to Lux1 for their 70th anniversary, to Verdun for S6 pupils, to Prague for S6 and S7 CS pupils, to the Science festival for some S2 and S3 classes from the FR section. The S6FR classes went to Charleville-Mézières where Arthur Rimbaud was born, the S4DE doing Latin as an option went to the Archaeological Museum in Arlon, the S3FRA went to the Philarmonie for a concert. Some S6 students went to visit the Science centre in Differdange when other S6 went to Metz. Some S7 pupils doing history and Geography in FR had a guided tour of the European Parliament in Strasbourg…
  Apart from these day trips, the traditional S2 and S6 trips are planned for all pupils from that level.
  The objective of the S2 trip is to strengthen cooperation and communication between pupils so 221 S2 pupils will go beginning of May in Charleroi or Durbuy or Malmedy doing some cultural, fun and sporting activities.
  The S6 trips, considered as the key trip for many secondary students, are planned end of April, beginning of May and cost 950€ per student. There are 6 destinations with various programs (Ireland, Barcelona, Andalucia, Italy; Slovenia, Croatia and Greece).

- Events: Again, we will not quote all the events organised in our secondary school as there are too many and diversified (International Greek language Day, Fairtrade rose sale for St-Valentin day, International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victimes of the Holocaust, Cake sales, conferences,…)

3/ New course STS

We just learnt that the option BIO2 in S6-S7 will be replaced by a new course named Science, Technology and Society (STS). This course is both designed for pupils who are not enrolled in any 4-period science option in S6-S7 and for pupils who are enrolled in physics, chemistry and/or biology. Topics which may be covered in this course include:

- Brains, minds, intelligences, and learning
- Climate change and biodiversity
- Developing technologies
- Energy
- Food, nutrition and health
- Personal and public health

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- Water

Even though this new course seems very interesting, APEEEL2 regrets the decision of the Central Office in Brussels to entry this new subject into force already on 1 September 2024 for S6 students. There are still many questions which remain unanswered at this stage.
Because of this change, current S5 students had to redo their option choices which may also lead to a delay in the long process of preparing timetables for next school year.

4/ Prebacs

The average pre-baccalaureate result for S7 students was 81.37, the highest pre-baccalaureate average ever achieved at Lux2. The APEEEL2 would like to congratulate the S7 students on these excellent results.
There are, however, 8 students whose results are low and who are therefore at risk, for whom meetings will be organised to help and support them.

5/ Eurosport: please refer to our Eurosport article entirely dedicated to this major event for our School.

6/ Use of smartphones in secondary school

The school management regrets that young secondary pupils spend a lot of time on their smartphones during breaks often at the expense of socialising with other students.
A suggestion was made to switch off the school WIFI during breaks. As there are diverse opinions on that topic, a working group will be created with representatives from parents, pupils, teachers, advisors and management.





APEEEL2 Secondary Education Council Committee – February 2024

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