

Agenda Secondary Class Rep Meeting 28th April 2021

1. COVID Update
2. Student Workload
3. Teacher Absences
4. Distance Learning Policy
5. Last Day of School 2020/21
6. Planning for September 2021
7. School Projects:
 - a. BYOD
 - b. Writing on the Wall
 - c. Improvement for S4/S5 study room
 - d. Solar Panel Installation
8. S4 Compos & S6 Harmonised Tests
9. Mobile Phones
10. S6 Trips
11. Call for Candidates (?)
12. Parent Q&A
13. AOB
14. If anyone interested – BAC 2021 Update

56 participants

1. COVID Update

Teachers confirmed they are still managing to cover the **syllabus** in general despite high levels of sickness and distance learning.

School management noted that many students remove their **masks** as soon as they leave the school premises.

The school still needs to work out the details for the **COVID self test** school scheme but hope to participate soon. Management pointed out that these tests require high level of administration and are not as accurate as PCR tests.

CO2 meters: no plans to install these in our school - management not convinced of usefulness and do not have budget.

Teachers proposed school should communicate more information about sections for positive cases but management reluctant as some sections have few pupils and concerned about confidentiality. Also wish to avoid panic amongst school community.

School management took action to consider proposal from teachers for more information regarding positive cases and revert.

ACTION: Class reps asked to remind class that pupils should keep masks on when leaving the school.

Class Rep Questions & Comments

Q1: primary: teachers has covid, school should inform parents, teachers forbidden from telling about covid cases

Q2: cancellation of exams S5 downwards - exams should take place as scheduled covid measures respected

Q3: tip to share information within a class

Q4: swimming lessons resumed - what about distance, swimming not compatible with covid regulations (answer - authorised by LU gov)

Q5: LU self tests; swimming lessons good for kids

Q6: school buses crowded - issue for ATSEE

2. Student Workload

Pupils raised the issue of having at times almost unmanageable workload. Teachers pointed out that students should approach them in the first instance. Parents and pupils noted the pandemic aspect to this and issue with long tests being crammed into in situ weeks and resulting stress on pupils. Management not keen to explore online testing options.

Action: Class Reps asked to remind class that pupils should in the first instance escalate issue of too much workload with the relevant teachers

3. Teacher Absences

No statistics available on teacher absences but again management confirmed that significantly higher number of teacher absences this year than previously. Doing best to find substitutions and teachers doing best to cover for absent colleagues as well as quarantined teachers continue to teach remotely.

Teachers noted that do not have access to TEAMS if covering for sick colleague which needs to be resolved.

Action: Class reps asked to contact teachers if have issues with teacher absences and escalate to management if no solution found.

Q: no replacement for absent teachers, comment - in S7 no substitute not to disrupt learning

4. Distance Learning Policy

Parents noted the gap between distance learning policy and feedback from parents. Management confirmed that they have not had the time to rewrite Lux I memorandum on distance learning to ensure compatible with DL policy.

Management agreed to send reminder to teachers to put details into SMS as well as to ensure that teachers are available remotely during classes where pupils are set assignments.

Action: Class reps reminded of distance learning policy (previously distributed, available on eursc.eu or contact us if you cannot find it) and to raise issues if not being complied with.

Q: tests during lessons in situ, pupils do not have the same amount of guidelines and explanations, pupils have to learn themselves

Q: different channels of communication - some use Teams, and chat, but not sms, pupils get lost

Q: parents see sms only, when tasks visible only in Teams, sometimes teachers plan lessons during e.g. lunch break - parents should contact teacher, lessons can only take place as in the schedule

Q: teachers mark absent when homework not done - it goes too far

Q: deadlines for homework fall on Sunday - pupils risk their mark

Q: what about printing - not every pupil has a printer not ecological if everybody buys a printer that otherwise is not needed

5. Last day of school for S1-S6 & S7

S7 last day confirmed as scheduled prior to written BACs starting. BAC proclamation will be as scheduled.

S1-S6 : Management awaiting information from OSGES. Management confirmed that need to consider all aspects including timing of class council. More information will be published once available. (NB since this meeting school have confirmed that the last day of school will be 2nd July for S1-S6)

Q: Mamer - last day 25th of June

6. Planning for September

Parents asked what planning was being done for September to take into account potential educational gaps and wellbeing concerns.

Management sought to reassure parents that there were no systematic educational gaps (parents not reassured). However, will consider options to test levels at start of next academic year and have teacher evaluations on pupils levels vs expected levels.

Accepted we have wellbeing issue. Parents asked Management to ensure that all relevant policies (KIVA; anti bullying mobile phones etc) were reviewed and ensure up to date and fit for purpose prior to start of new academic year.

Action: Secondary VPs to follow up with school management

7. School Projects

BYOD

Management confirmed that next week will have session with group of 25 teachers to consider different ideas how to better use devices in the classroom. They are looking at options to provide students with devices but have no response yet on this point. Will request teachers to consider digital book options prior to sending out book lists for 2021/22

Confirmation that investigating options to fund laptops for pupils although no solution found to date.

Reminder to complete the BYOD parent survey (closing date extended to 9th May)

Action: Class reps to remind parents to complete BYOD survey

Q: access to one2one

Writing on the Wall :

Proposal to take a school wall and create a mural depicting need for climate change action,. Would include highlighting Luxembourg progress on cutting emissions. This project also being carried out in other European schools. Management supports this project and currently looking at options to use panels instead of actual wall (no permission to paint on walls). Project has good support from Art department and pupils. Need budget for paint and panels.
climate change action

Improvements to S4 & S5 study rooms:

Students proposed improving the S4 and S5 study rooms. Management generally in agreement but need to see proposals so can estimate budget. Action for management and pupils to discuss further.

Solar panel installation

Parent requested update as phase I had been due to be turned on over Easter. School confirmed had been delayed due to technical issue and now scheduled for 15th May.

8. Evaluation of S4 compos cancellation & S5 harmonised tests

School Management need more feedback from teachers particularly given concentration of long tests in S4. Need to consider for next year's S4. Feedback to date from both pupils and teachers is mixed - some regret missed opportunity to practice compos. Management stressed need to evaluate in order to make decision for next academic year. Some teachers raised the need to focus more on teaching in general rather than assessment.

Will S6 compos be harmonised as harmonisation of S5 tests were cancelled? Management took action to review with subject coordinators. Whether S6 compos should be harmonised because S5 harmonised compos were cancelled.

9. Mobile Phones

Discussion:

Challenging subject; in S1-3 very difficult to enforce. When you see a child with mobile phone you don't know in which grade it is.

Several parents in favour of "mobile free zone" in whole school.

Difficult situation; some parents have to reach their children, sometimes they are even used for educational support as only way to memorize.

Often pupils make photos of text written on blackboard.

Result: It is agreed after long discussion that we ask the direction to at least enforce the **current** rules.

10. S6 Trips

Trips cancelled last year and this year. Pupils asked if there would be a possibility to extend the S6 trips to S7. Management foresees issues with loss of teaching time in final year. The School Management agreed to explore this proposal further once situation for new academic year regarding pandemic is more certain.

11. Call for Candidates to stand for APEEEE MC

The deadline will be extended. The information session last Monday at lunchtime was very well received. If there are burning questions, please turn to office. Email address to contact for more information is office@apeeel.lu

12. Parent Q&A

Some parents have problems sending emails to apeeel-account. They seem to be blocked as spam.

We are working on it, have to change probably provider.

13. AOB

Warning letters were sent out. Same numbers as last year. Last academic year more distributed through all school years. This year mor S4/S5 pupils.

Action: Secondary VPs to discuss this further with Marco Alberici.

14. BAC 2021 Update

Pre-BAC average last year 7,85, this year only 7,53. Difference most likely due to NMS. Follow up!

If there are positive or quarantine cases during BAC session, there are no special provisions made. If necessary, they can use reserve sessions in June and September (reserve session end date is June 18th with potential of flexibility if needed). This could present the pupils with some serious challenges (start university). OSGES is considering whether there is scope for extension of June reserve session for pupils with COVID or quarantined during written BAC exams.

School will use same 3 rooms for BAC as for PreBac due to national regulations to not have more than 100 pupils in same room. 2m distance rule will be respected.

Current S7 should not be discriminated due to COVID!

If parents would like to raise a complaint, they have to follow a special procedure (more information to follow). If there is an issue with a certain teacher, there is normally no possibility for a complaint.

END OF MEETING