

Proviseur's P.& C. Report

School year 2020

May 2020

Second term is just starting and as you keep hearing, it begins as term 1 ended, in the context of the covid 19 pandemic with its restrictions put in place to protect the population and especially the most vulnerable and the implementation of distance education for students who need to stay at home.

The Lycée franco-australien de Canberra is attentive to the development of the coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic. Regular updates are made by the authorities of the Australian capital territory, the French Embassy and the relevant AEFE – Agency for French Teaching Abroad- services. The ACT Health Department has procedures in place for the management of infectious diseases and is working in partnership with the Australian Department of Health, as well as other state and territory governments, to monitor the situation and respond to it. Given the very evolving nature of the pandemic, AEFE is updating its recommendations with regard to the measures taken by the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health (MSS): <https://www.aefe.fr/vie-du-reseau/toute-lactualite/coronavirus-covid-19-point-desituation>

On April 17, Olivier Brochet, AEFE director sent a message published on the French TPS website <http://www.teloopa.act.edu.au/fr>, to the school communities of the 522 schools making up the French education network abroad. He thus offers students, parents and staff to "take stock" while "for several weeks, he said, you have, we have all been immersed in action to deal with all the emergencies arising from the health crisis the whole world is facing. "

Measures for remote learning

The entire French teaching team works hard to maintain educational continuity and meet current challenges. To help them deliver their programs in the most efficient way and in the context of distance education, the French Agency for French Teaching Abroad (AEFE) offers teachers teaching materials and recommendations.

The e-learning protocols are in place, have been sent and they are on line, to ensure the best learning conditions and compliance with the rules in the circumstances. Details are also

provided by each teacher on the platform they use – in KG, Y1 and Y2, class DOJO and from Y2 to EFS Y12, Google classroom.

All of this is possible thanks to the responsiveness and involvement of teachers, school staff and the support of families. We know that it is not easy for families who must organize themselves for distance education, while continuing to manage their work and their daily life which may have been impacted by the economic crisis.

We are fully aware of all this and try to respond to difficulties as much as we can. Families who expressed the need were able to receive chromebooks and iPads from the school, at the end of term 1.

The remote learning system, new for teachers, continues to be adapted to the different contexts and from the feedback we receive from students and carers. They have followed and follow training courses offered by the directorate and the AEFÉ

The teachers and I are working on three main priorities for these coming days and weeks, in order to make remote learning more efficient:

- The conditions for greater exposure / support to the French language which is not, for the vast majority of our students, the mother tongue
- Assessment
- Resumption of face-to-face teaching.

Teachers will respond to family mails within 48 hours between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on business days. The carers mustn't hesitate to contact them for any technical, pedagogical difficulty. ...

I remind that parents do not have to replace teachers. As well as they can do, they support and supervise their children who work from home.

I would like to thank the P & C for all the help and support you provide to families in difficulty and in need and I thank you for your collaboration with the school which allows us all to overcome this difficult period together.

Remote learning – first feedback

The participation rate of the students from the French stream – EFS K-12- in remote learning system was 96% on the eve of the holidays, after two weeks of remote learning. This rate is

based on the count of student work returned as well as on the participation of students in live sessions which are increasing in number and which are to us very important to maintain the link between the student and the school. And we will continue to develop our monitoring tools for the weeks to come.

Families of students who have not connected, are contacted to raise awareness of the problem and help them resolve it. Our LSAs and student services are also in very close and regular contact with students with special needs.

We are capitalizing on this new pedagogical experience that we are living and this “revolution” will undoubtedly help us to continue to develop and improve teaching practices.

French national examinations

Friday 3 April, the French Education Minister confirmed for French schools abroad that the brevet for EFS Y9 students and the French Baccalaureate for EFS Y11 and Y12 students are maintained, so that students do not lose a school year.

For EFS Y9, on the model of other countries, such as Australia, this year, there will not be any final oral and paper based exams, given the exceptional situation we are going through.

The issuance of the French brevet diploma will be based on the acquisition of the common core of knowledge, skills and culture as it is usually the case (50% of the final points) as well as the average marks obtained in each subject for the 1st and 2nd periods of the year of Troisième. We shall also take into account the marks that students could get in class by July 4, if students returned before July 4, at Telopea Park School (the assessments made in class during this 3rd period would be based on the lessons delivered in class and they would be positively marked). A jury will decide on the final marks in July 2020.

For EFS Y12, the issuance of the Bac diploma will be based on continuous assessment: the average marks obtained in each subject for the 1st and 2nd terms of the year of Terminale, as well as the marks obtained in class by July 4, if the students returned before July 4, to Narrabundah College (the assessments carried out in class during the 3rd term would be based on the lessons delivered in class and would be positively marked).

The marks for the 1st preliminary bac exams obtained last year are kept.

The weight/ratio of the different subjects will remain identical, depending on the stream (literary or scientific)-

As usual, a school booklet has been completed for each student, by the teachers with average marks and comments for the year of Première. It will also be the case for the year of Terminale.

A jury will decide on the final marks in July 2020 in the light of the average marks obtained during the year of Terminale. It will take into account all the other elements of the booklet (student progress, efforts noted by the conseil de classe, attendance) to assign the final marks. Students with an average mark between 8/20 and 9.9/20 will be able to take the catch up exam: two subjects chosen by the students to be presented orally in September.

The 2020 baccalaureate gives the usual rights to all its holders. Thus, if you are admitted to French universities or Grandes Ecoles, though Parcoursup, you will be able to register in the French university or Grande Ecole you will choose.

I will work with my counterpart from the French Lycée in Sydney, with the relevant department of the French Embassy and AEFÉ, to provide all the necessary explanations to universities and other organisms in Australia or elsewhere. They will thus correctly perceive the quality of the 2020 Baccalaureate diploma with the knowledge and skills acquired by our graduates.

For EFS Y11, The French paper based examination which was to take place in June is canceled. The average mark for this examination will be calculated on the basis of the average marks obtained in French during the school year (average marks obtained in French for the 1st and 2nd terms of the year of Première, as well as the marks obtained in class by July 4, if the students returned before July 4, to Narrabundah College (the assessments carried out in class during the 3rd term would be based on the lessons given in class and would be positively marked)).

The French oral examination is maintained and will take place end of June.

The other subjects which are counting for the 2021 baccalaureate, which had to be assessed this year through punctual examinations, will be assessed through continuous assessment.

The use of continuous assessment, the expected attendance of students throughout the term, will therefore validate by these French national diplomas, the school year taking into account current difficulties. However, taking into account the particularities of French education abroad in terms of calendars, health or safety, some adjustments – especially financial- may be required; and parents will be informed of these.

Information nights cancelled

It is clear that the information meetings scheduled in the second term, for the families and students of the bilingual stream, cannot take place – KG, Y6, EFS Y10, 11 and 12-

Other ways of communication will be used. The creation of websites can be one of these means, like that set up by Melanie Consola to replace the "Y7 expo nights" which are used to be held, at the beginning of May, for students who will be in Y7 , in February 2021.

EFS Y6 parents and students will find in this website, informations about the expectations of the English French stream at high school.

Conseils de classe and conseils de cycle

Like each term, conseils de classe take place for all levels.

They are held by videoconference. Student representatives cannot participate in these meetings; but their voices are heard through the head teachers who prepare the meetings with them.

This year, the Y6 French report will be different. Following reflection and the work undertaken with the teams for several months, the Y6 reports will no longer contain average marks; they will be skills reports. A communication will be sent to explain the change to the families during week 3, the week during which the first Y6 conseils de classe will be held.

In the Primary, conseils de cycle will also take place, weeks 2 and 3, by videoconference in order to establish strategies to support students during this remote learning time.

2021 KG enrolments

The calendar for KG admissions will be well respected, with applications that can be sent to the school since April 28. The new admission procedure I worked on for a year and a half, with some board members whom I thank very much, was adopted by the board, before the end of term 1 holidays, then validated by the directorate, during holidays.

Information and documents are available on the site, with a document clarifying the admission procedures in the bilingual stream, from Y1 to EFS Y12.

School trips

Our preparation of the Year 6 classes Exchange with College BAUDOUX is on hold, waiting for news from authorities.

Despite this very challenging context, we are preparing for the future with the **recruitment of new teachers for the French stream**. This year, a significant number of French teachers will go back to work in France or in some other French school abroad.

In Primary, it will be the case for Mrs BOUTAUD, Mrs RUFFLET, M. and Mrs BUATOIS.

After our recruiting process (we had about 200 applicants), teachers have now been selected.

New Primary teachers will be Mrs Michèle GALLAIS, Mrs Mildrède GUIRAUD, Mrs Christel ARTHAUD. Mrs Nathalie CARER, specialist in France for special needs, will be in charge of the Bonus Class. Mrs BUATOIS will be replaced by Mrs Myriam NOUVEAU who is headmaster in a big Primary school in Paris and has a teaching experience in the United States.

We'll welcome them and introduce them to you in due time.

In Secondary, teachers leaving will be M. Thierry GRENET (Maths), M. Clément JEGO (History-Geography), M. Bilal BRAHIM (French Literature and philosophy), Mrs MICHEL (Physics) and M. BOUTAUD (Biology). They will all be replaced by accredited experimented teachers coming from France or a French school abroad. We'll thus welcome: Mrs Liza KARTMANN (Philosophy and French Literature), M. Fabien GUIRAUD (Biology), M. Franck RESSIGUIE (Maths), M. Martin DAVID (History-Geography), and Mrs Aline POTTIER (Physics)

One of my assistant, Mrs Stéphanie PETITDIDIER will also go back to France. I am looking for a new assistant

We warmly thank the teachers leaving Teloepa Park School / Lycée franco- australien de Canberra for their commitment to the school and their hard work. Each and every one of them contributed to bring a little bit of France into our school to ensure that our students would get the best bilingual education possible.

I am in regular contact with these future colleagues, to make sure they are well and that they keep their plan to come to work at the Lycée franco-australien.

I contacted the HR services of the French department of Education, the AEFÉ and the Australian immigration services to anticipate any difficulties in July-August.

All the AEFÉ schools continue their recruitment policy even if the administrative functioning is slower and that the new teachers risk not to join their position on time. In view of the travel bans in force in Australia and elsewhere, which could extend beyond September, I do not exclude the option of asking departing teachers to stay an additional month, if the French and Australian administrations allow it and especially if these teachers agree

David Binan

May 2, 2020