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Dear Parents/Guardians (students in S5)

I was very pleased to see so many of you on Tuesday night at our information session. Pleased find attached more detailed information and the forms, as announced.

Regarding the options and choices for your daughter/son please **submit the “Pre-request Choices Form” by Wednesday 9 January 2013** at the latest. I would like to emphasise that you should only indicate those courses/options which you/your child is 100% sure about not taking. A “positive” choices form will be issued and sent out on the basis of this feedback around mid January. For those parents who could not attend the meeting on Tuesday I would like to explain that the request for this information will help us to develop a “tailor made” choices form for the year group and will help us to speed up and improve the streamlining process, where we have to identify the best possible option combination throughout the timetable so that the majority of students can have the options and courses they wish for.

Helpful for decision making regarding the options and courses will be some deeper understanding of the Baccalaureate examinations. Our current S5 students will sit a reformed Baccalaureate. The first cohort to sit this reformed Baccalaureate examination will be our current Year 6 students. The regulations for the 2015 Baccalaureate have not been published yet. However, I would like to give you an outline of the regulations as they stand for the Baccalaureate 2014.¹

Many changes are of an administrative nature but the most obvious is the change in the number of exams. Whereas the number of written exams continues to be five, the number of oral examinations has been reduced from four to three.

The new regulations state:

Article 5 Subject matter of the examination

1. The European Baccalaureate shall cover subjects taught in the sixth and seventh years of secondary studies, and in particular:

- the basic language
- the first foreign language
- mathematics
- two of the options chosen by the pupil

The number of written examinations shall be five; the number of oral examinations shall be three.

(...)

¹ This document refers to the Baccalaureate 2014 session and no liability can be attached for the Baccalaureate 2015 session. The relevant document for the 2015 session will be published once available.

3. The final examinations shall be both written and oral. They shall be marked on a scale of 0 to 10, 10 being the highest mark. The preliminary marks and the marks in the written and oral examinations shall be given a weighting.

4. To pass a pupil must have obtained an average overall mark of 60%. The Board of Governors may also determine the minimum mark to be obtained in certain subjects.

2012-10-D-6-en-1
Regulations for the European Baccalaureate, p. 2 f.
(Applicable for the year 2014 Baccalaureate session)

These basic regulations are explained in detail in the **Arrangements for implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (2012-10-D-18-en-1)**.

For the five written examinations:

6.5.1 Number and nature of written examinations

6.5.1.1 Candidates will take five written examinations:

1. Language 1 or advanced Language 1
2. Language 2 or advanced Language 2
3. Mathematics (5 periods) or Mathematics (3 periods)
4. Option (4 periods)
5. Option (4 periods)

6.5.1.2 Restrictions for compulsory subjects and for options

- Written examinations 1 and 2:

Candidates who have chosen to follow an advanced course in Language 1 and/or in Language 2 will be required to take a written examination on that course, and not, therefore, on the basic course in the subject.

- Written examinations 4 and 5:

The choice of options will have to be made at the time of registering for the examination. The choice may not be changed during the school year.

For the three oral examinations:

6.6.1 Number and nature of oral examinations

6.6.1.1 Candidates will take three oral examinations. The subjects in which an oral examination will or may be taken are as follows:

1. Language 1 or Advanced Language 1
2. Language 2 or Advanced Language 2
History (2 or 4 periods) or
Geography (2 or 4 periods)
3. Advanced mathematics or
Philosophy (2 or 4 periods) or
Language 3 or
Language 4/ONL or
Biology (2 or 4 periods) or
Chemistry (4 periods) or
Physics (4 periods)

6.6.1.2 Restrictions for compulsory subjects and for options

- Examination 1: Language 1 or Advanced Language 1

Candidates who have followed the advanced course will be required to take an examination on that course, and not, therefore, on the basic course.

- Examination 2: Language 2 or Advanced Language 2 or Geography or History
Candidates who have followed the Advanced Language 2 course and who wish to choose L2 for their second oral examination will be required to take an examination on that course, and not on the basic course.
The other candidates will take an examination in either Language 2 or history (2 or 4 periods) or geography (2 or 4 periods). It is possible for candidates to take the history or geography oral examination only provided that they have not chosen to take the subject in question as a written examination.
- Examination 3
Candidates who have followed the advanced course in mathematics will be compulsorily examined on that course.
Candidates who have not followed the advanced course in mathematics will be required to take an examinations in one of the options listed above, which they may choose freely, provided that they have not already chosen to take the subject in question as a written examination.

No changes have been made regarding the time allocation, but obviously the rules for calculation of the Baccalaureate mark had to be adjusted to the new number of examinations; the calculation is explained in Article 6 of the relevant document.

Article 13 explains the option to register for an additional course for a written exam, in case an option cannot be taken but is required for entry into university.

The special arrangements for the Baccalaureate (2009-D-559-en-3) require urgent steps for pupils who might require special needs regulations before entry into Year 6. The details are outlined in the document attached.

Attached to this letter/email are: an abridged version of the "Arrangements for implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate" (2012-04-D-13...), the specific SEN requirements, an outline of the courses/options which might be offered, attendance requirements for S6/S7, exam structure in S6 and, finally, the forms as announced.

The required forms will also be handed out to the students at the information meeting, which will be held on Monday 17 December. We will offer a Q and A session preceding the S5 Parents' Evening on 21 January.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Little, Mr Schmidt, Mr Machefert (our career teachers) or myself if you have any further questions. We are also happy to provide the BAC document in full length or in French or German in case you should wish to have this available (please contact Sharon Leggate with this request).

Yours sincerely



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