

**TO ALL STUDENTS OF 5<sup>th</sup> YEAR AND THEIR PARENTS  
TO TEACHERS OF THE SECONDARY CYCLE**

**INFORMATION REGARDING CHOICES FOR 6<sup>th</sup> AND 7<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

The pupils' timetable must comprise a minimum of 31 periods and an advised maximum of 35 periods weekly (depending on choices, this may be exceeded), and is made up of **compulsory courses and, based on the pupil's own choices, optional, advanced and complementary courses.**

**I – Basic Course: Compulsory subjects**

Language I	4 periods
Language II	3 periods
Religion / Ethics (see point C)	1 period
Physical Education	2 periods
Mathematics	3 periods
	OR
Mathematics	5 periods
Total	13/15 periods

**II – Basic Course: Compulsory subjects unless chosen as option**

Biology	2 periods
History (in vehicular language)	2 periods
Geography (in vehicular language)	2 periods
Philosophy	2 periods

**NOTE:**

- a) The 2-period Biology Course is not compulsory if the pupil chooses to follow any of the 4-period science options - Physics, Chemistry or Biology.
- b) Each of the 2-period courses in Geography, History and Philosophy is compulsory unless the pupil selects the corresponding 4-period option.
- c) The morale/religion course must be taken in the pupil's L2. In general, a morale/region course can open for a minimum of 7 pupils. (ref. Doc.: 2019-04-D-13-en-4: 2.4. Minimum group/class/option sizes)

<b>Optional courses</b>			
		Ancient Greek	4 periods
Philosophy	4 periods	Latin	4 periods
Language III	4 periods	Physics	4 periods
Language IV	4 periods	Chemistry	4 periods
History in vehicular language	4 periods	Biology	4 periods
Geography in vehicular language	4 periods	Art	4 periods
Economics	4 periods	Music	4 periods

NOTE:

- a) Each pupil must choose **at least two optional courses**.
- b) Before choosing an option in Year 6, a pupil must have obtained satisfactory results in that subject in Year 4 and Year 5. The choice of optional subjects is particularly important, so it is necessary **to consult the teachers concerned and heed their advice**.
- c) Choice of Languages: In principle, there are no changes on entering 6<sup>th</sup> Year. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the Direction and the Class Council and following the passing of a test, some changes may be allowed.
- d) If a change in first foreign language (L2) is accepted, the pupil's vehicular language (language used for history and geography) may under no circumstances be changed in Year 6 and 7.

<b>Advanced Courses</b>	
Advanced Language I	3 periods
Advanced Language II	3 periods
Advanced Mathematics	3 periods

NOTE:

- a) Advanced courses offer a more intensive study of the subject and should be chosen only by pupils who possess a strong interest in and aptitude for the subject. They are not support lessons.
- b) Advanced courses are compulsory examination subjects for the Baccalaureate.
- c) Advanced Mathematics is reserved for pupils who are already enrolled in the 5-period Mathematics course.

<b>Complementary Courses</b>			
Art	2 periods	Storia delle idee	2 periods
Music	2 periods	Physics laboratory	2 periods
Theatre	2 periods	Biology laboratory	2 periods
Sociology (in Italian)	2 periods	Chemistry laboratory	2 periods
Sport	2 periods	ICT	2 periods
Language V in .....	2 periods	Microelectronics	2 periods
Film studies (in English)	2 periods	Political Science (in English)	2 periods
Classical studies (in English)	2 periods	Sustainability and active citizenship (in English)	2 periods

**NOTE:**

- a) Complementary courses are only compulsory for those students who do not reach the minimum 31 periods through basic, optional, and advanced courses.
- b) Complementary courses are not examined as part of the Baccalaureate.
- c) Art and Music cannot be taken as complementary courses if already chosen as optional courses.

**General Observations**

If an optional course cannot be established in the language of the section, it will be offered in one of the vehicular languages.

If it is not possible to provide the 4-period optional course in History and/or Geography in the pupil's vehicular language, these courses can be taken in another vehicular language, provided that this is not the pupil's L1 and subject to the approval of the teachers concerned.

The Economics courses are organised in Language 2. In the transition from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Year, the language of the course is sustained.

Optional and supplementary courses may be organised if there are at least 5 pupils enrolled.

Please note that it will not be possible to change optional or complementary courses after final choices have been made.

**In truly exceptional cases, the school may authorise a change of choice in S6 within the first two weeks of the school year.**

Changes that affect the organisation of courses will not be permitted.

Under no circumstances is it possible to drop a course at the beginning of 6<sup>th</sup> year that was established with the minimum necessary number of pupils.

## Changes between 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> years

A subject chosen for Year 6 and Year 7 can be dropped only at the end of 6th year and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The pupil's timetable must still consist of a minimum of 31 periods.
2. The pupil must continue to follow two optional courses.
3. The pupil must have at least 29 periods of compulsory and optional courses.
4. A course studied in Year 6 may not be replaced by a course not studied in S6.
5. The pupil must keep at least one science subject. (4-period Biology, Chemistry or Physics, or 2-period Biology).
6. **If a pupil wishes to drop a subject, a written request must be submitted to the Deputy Director by mid-June and prior to the Class Council.**
7. **A change of level in a particular subject is only possible with strong justifications.**

A written request presenting all necessary justifications must be submitted to the Deputy Director by mid-June at the latest, prior to the Class Councils. (cf. article 4-2 of the Regulations for the European BAC)

- Requests for a derogation at the end of Year 6, concerning a level or language, must be approved by the Class Council. Requests are then examined by the Director, who is responsible for the final decision.

- The changes of choice are:

Mathematics 5 → Mathematics 3

Optional 4 periods → Compulsory course of 2 hours (same subject)

The change in the other direction is conditional on the successful completion of a test certifying the pupil's aptitude to follow the required course/level.

The substitution of one optional course with another is not permitted.

Please take note that pupils in Year 7 must indicate their choice of subjects for the written and oral exams, which they will submit to the BAC, at the beginning of their S7 school year (end of September).

Article 4.2: In every subject, the examination papers must be taken at the level and in the language in which they have followed the course in S6 and S7.

## Written Examinations in 6<sup>th</sup> Year

### Two series of examinations:

1. 1st series at the end of December.
2. 2nd series at the end of the school year.

Subject	Length of exam
1st Language (Advanced)	4 periods
2nd Language (Advanced)	4 periods
1st Language	4 periods
2nd Language	3 periods
3-period Maths	3 periods (2+1)
5-period Maths	4 periods (3+1)

### Options:

Art	5 periods
Philosophy	4 periods
Biology	3 periods
Chemistry	3 periods
Economics	3 periods
Geography	3 periods
History	3 periods
3rd Language	3 periods
4th Language	3 periods
Ancient Greek	3 periods
Latin	3 periods
Music	3 periods
Physics	3 periods

### For all other subjects:

2-period Geography	2 single-period tests each semester
2-period History	
2-period Biology	
Advanced Maths	1 two-period test each semester.
2-period Philosophy	

**Complementary Courses:** 1 single period test each semester.

## Written Examinations in 7<sup>th</sup> Year

### Term exams in January

Subject	Length of exam,
1st Language (Advanced)	4 hours
2nd Language (Advanced)	4 hours
1st Language	4 hours
2nd Language	3 hours
3-period Maths	3 hours (2+2)
5-period Maths	4 hours (2+2)

### Options:

Art	5 hours
Philosophy	4 hours
Biology	All other options - 3 hours
Chemistry	
Economics	
Geography	
History	
3rd Language	
4th Language	
Ancient Greek	
Latin	
Music	
Physics	

Each pupil must sit an exam in all the options chosen.

### For all other subjects:

2-period Geography	2 single-period tests each semester
2-period History	
2-period Biology	
Advanced Maths	1 two-period test each semester.
2-period Philosophy	

**Complementary Courses:** 1 single period test each semester.

The document for the European BAC can be consulted on the website of the European Schools: [www.eursec.eu](http://www.eursec.eu)