

CdE proposal for the reorganization of the Etude in light of the new secondary timetable

The new timetable for the secondary years stipulates that from the 2019-2020 scholastic year, all students, including the S123 years will cease to have short days on Fridays and will begin having long days instead. Without changing how the Etude room is used, this means that S123 students would have to spend more time sitting in silence in the Etude. Since the administration has already promised¹ to look into revising how the Etude functions mainly because of this issue, the CdE² puts forth a proposal concerning this revision. Essentially, S123 students should not be required to go to the Etude, as they can make much better autonomous use of their free time outside the Etude – there are sportive, learning and social activities available for them and the fact in itself of autonomous deciding ability aids them on their journey onwards to the BAC. The room that would be freed up, the Etude, could then be used as a chill-out and study room for the S4567 which would be managed by the students and the other stakeholders. Furthermore, it can occasionally double as a meeting/conference room. These changes would also fix the constant overcrowding of the S4567 Cafeteria and would address a common complaint from both S123 and S4567 students.

Our school does have facilities available for the S123 students in their free time outside the Etude and the S123 can be trusted to manage their own time autonomously. Research in education has consistently shown that autonomy is also a learning experience. If students are not required to go to the Etude, they can perhaps play sports like football or basketball on the pitches available. They can sit on benches or have fun outside. Or to study, perhaps go to the Library or take a seat elsewhere on school grounds – as it stands currently, students in the Etude cannot even study together due to the rules of being quiet. Furthermore, the Cafeteria is a place for them where they can eat or drink and have access to social activities such as the board games available (this would also increase revenue for the APEEE Services). Our school territory is a vast territory of 47009 m² and is full of opportunities and adventures for the S123 students. Infinite wisdom, unbreakable friendships and fair sportsmanship awaits those who dwell on our grounds.

As such, the CdE proposes to abolish the rule of requiring S123 students to visit the Etude, and to leave the Etude as a voluntary chill-out and study room for S4567 students (managed by the students themselves in cooperation with the other stakeholders). When needed, it can be used as a spacious meeting/conference room. Other European Schools, such as Lux1, EEB2, EEB3 and EEB4, have some form of chill-out room for the S4567 (or at least for the S6 and S7) and a dedicated meeting/conference room alongside their Cafeterias – this works great for them. Making these changes would also help solve the long-standing problem of constant overcrowding in the S4567 Cafeteria as the influx of students would be halved and would address a common complaint from both S123 and S4567 students (i.e. the Etude rule and why there is no separate chill-out and study room³). In addition, as described before, it would give S123 students who have free periods⁴ more time for autonomous learning/social/sporting activities and would provide for a (long-awaited) proper meeting/conference room.

¹ Minutes of the Conseil D'Education on the 20th of May 2019 and email on the 1st of July 2019 titled "Nouvel horaire du secondaire - clarifications - New timetable Secondary" by the administration.

² This proposal was supported by students on Instagram 83% to 17% (138 students voted).

³ The S4567 Library is sometimes full, and it does not have a big enough place for studying together, only a small room in the back.

⁴ Maximum ~75 S123 students per period.