



APL Meeting Minutes

Presentation of the LFCG's New Bilingual Programme

7 October 2026

The presentation materials were due to be published on the Lycée's website.

Panel members

- Gilles Morellato, Deputy Cultural Counsellor at the French Embassy in the United Kingdom and Education Cooperation Attaché.
- Ségolène Merlet, National Education Inspector for the ZENOS region.
- Étienne Jeanson, Head of Marie-d'Orliac school.
- Gilles Soulié, Head of South Kensington school.
- Thibaud Ventelou, Head of Wix school.
- Adrien Vodslon, Deputy Head of the Lycée.
- Daniel Riggs, Head of André-Malraux school.

Why is the Lycée proposing a new programme?

The partnerships at Marie-d'Orliac and Wix are ending following an institutional request to refocus learning on the French curriculum. A decree issued in August 2025 changed the rules for accreditation. The Lycée must now manage the French programme, the language pathway and pupil support directly, as well as teacher training and career development. The school calendar must also meet AEFÉ requirements.

The project is supported by the AEFÉ and the French Embassy. The Lycée presents it as an evolving model designed in the pupils' interests, and welcomes questions and feedback from families.

What does the new international class offer?

The French programme will remain the reference point. French and English will both be languages of learning: pupils will learn and reason in both languages. The aim is to build a coherent pathway rather than place two separate programmes side by side.

Each class will have two lead teachers, one French-speaking and one English-speaking. They will share the planning of learning, the monitoring of pupils' progress and pupil support. French national assessments will continue.



How many hours will be taught in each language?

The programme will comprise 26 hours a week, with at least 12 hours in French and 12 hours in English.

The hours presented vary by year group:

- In PS and MS: 13 hours in French and 13 hours in English. The third language would be incorporated through team teaching.
- From GS to CE1: 12 hours 30 minutes in French and 12 hours 30 minutes in English, plus 1 hour of a third language.
- In CE2: 12 hours 15 minutes in French, 12 hours 15 minutes in English and 1 hour 30 minutes of a third language.
- In CM1 and CM2: 12 hours in French, 12 hours in English and 2 hours of a third language.

How will the week be organised?

In nursery, pupils will alternate between French and English by half-day, in short, regular periods. In primary, the alternation will be by full day, allowing for longer periods of immersion. This organisation, particularly in nursery, may evolve following evaluation.

On Wednesdays, lessons will take place in the morning only. The Lycée plans to provide needs-based groups and targeted support in French or English. After-school clubs and childcare will be available in the afternoon; the range of clubs could be expanded, for example to include coding.

Will the school holidays change?

Yes, for the current equal-hours pathway. From the start of the 2027 school year, both pathways will follow the AEFÉ holiday calendar, with 36 teaching weeks per year.

What will the third language be?

Mandarin ranked first in the survey presented to families. The choice was for a language with an alphabet different from French, to be introduced gradually: an introduction in nursery, followed by more structured learning as pupils grow older.

The aim is not for pupils to master three languages straight away, but to learn to compare them and understand how they work. Continuing Mandarin into secondary school is also being considered.



What place will PE and British culture have?

A dedicated teacher will deliver a progressive PE programme focused on health, motor and social skills, cooperation and self-confidence. In primary, two one-hour sessions per week are planned; in nursery, four 30-minute sessions.

The programme will also include elements of British school culture, notably PSHE, as well as British perspectives in history and geography. Mathematics and science will remain based on the French curriculum, while drawing where appropriate on British methods. Wellbeing and safeguarding will also be part of everyday school life.

When will the new programme be introduced?

At Wix and Marie-d'Orliac, the international class will begin in September 2027. It will replace the equal-hours pathway and become the new option offered to new families in PS-MS, where enhanced English will no longer be available. Enhanced English will then be phased out cohort by cohort over approximately eight years.

At re-enrolment, pupils currently in the *parité horaire* programme would move into the International Class. Pupils in *Anglais renforcé* would remain in that programme. Families wishing to change programmes may request a transfer in either direction using the usual form (see the question on transfers).

What options will be available in 2027?

- **Marie-d'Orliac:** international class from PS to CM2; enhanced English from GS to CM2.
- **Wix:** international class from MS to CM2 (there is no place in PS); enhanced English from GS to CM2.
- **South Kensington and André-Malraux:** enhanced English will continue in 2027; no immediate change has been decided.

At Wix, the current number of classes per year group is expected to be maintained, with a stated maximum of 26 pupils per class. At Marie-d'Orliac, the number of classes will depend on demand.

How can families request a transfer to the international class?

The registration platform opens on 8 October. Families wishing to transfer between pathways will need to use the usual educational form, which will be sent to the families concerned. Pupils already in enhanced English will have priority when requesting a transfer. Pupils from partner schools may apply, but will not receive particular priority.

The French- and English-speaking teachers will consider whether a transfer is possible and appropriate for the pupil. They may also recommend postponing the



request and reviewing the situation later in the year. Transfers between schools for geographical reasons will follow the same procedure.

The timetable presented was as follows:

- **November 2026:** complete and submit the transfer request to the school.
- **December 2026:** educational opinion from the French- and English-speaking teachers; the first committee is planned for mid-December. Transfer requests will be considered before external applications.
- **January 2027:** class structures determined according to requested transfers and initial admissions.
- **February 2027:** confirmation of accepted transfers.

Families will need to decide quickly: committees will meet in succession, and a declined place may be offered to another pupil.

Will the new programme cost more?

No additional charge specifically linked to the international class was announced. It would be charged at the current equal-hours rate; the enhanced-English rate would remain unchanged. These indications do not include the annual general increase in tuition fees. Further details were due to be provided at the School Council with the Finance Director.

Will the canteen or school day timings change?

No change to the canteen is planned: it will continue to be managed by the Lycée at Marie-d'Orliac and by a contractor under contract at Wix. Each school will continue to set its own start and finish times, with no harmonisation announced, to reflect local circumstances.

Will continuity into secondary school be ensured?

The secondary school already has an international section; there has never been an equal-hours pathway at this level. The Lycée wants to ensure continuity between the primary international class and the secondary international section, but the arrangements for access have yet to be defined. Continuing Mandarin into secondary school is also being considered.

For pupils who need additional support in French, a French as the language of schooling group has been set up in Year 7. The Lycée says that, so far, results in the entrance exam for the International Section at secondary level have shown no clear difference between pupils from the different primary school programmes.



How will the project be evaluated?

The Lycée plans to monitor pupils' progress, how their needs are met, how the teacher partnerships work and feedback from families. At South Kensington and André-Malraux, arrangements for any potential roll-out will be discussed with families this year, notably at school council meetings.

Premises and leases - MDO and Wix

The leases for Marie-d'Orliac and Wix are currently in force. The allocation of premises between the Lycée and the partner schools is already set out in the existing leases and should therefore continue under those arrangements. Around 2030, the leases will need to be renegotiated with the relevant landlords.

The Lycée has never indicated that it is considering closing any of its sites. It plans to roll out its new programme across all four primary schools over the coming years. The terms for renewing the leases will be discussed by the Lycée's School Establishment Council and the individual School Councils.

Outstanding questions, next steps and dates

Points still to be clarified

- **South Kensington and André-Malraux:** no change is planned for September 2027. Any potential roll-out from 2028–29 will be discussed with families and decided this year, notably at school council meetings.
- **French or English level required:** what level of French or English will be needed to join the international class? How will children who do not yet speak English, especially those joining part-way through the programme, be welcomed and supported? Will support on Wednesday mornings be sufficient, or will other provision be available during the week?
- **How will classrooms be organised for the alternation between French and English?** The arrangements, including any changes of classroom for pupils, will be discussed at each site's School Council and adapted to its organisation.
- **Continuity into secondary school:** the Lycée wants a coherent pathway into the international section, but access arrangements still need to be defined.
- **Mandarin in enhanced English:** this is being considered and will depend on available hours, pupils' needs and families' wishes.
- **Support and after-school activities:** other forms of out-of-school support and an expanded range of clubs are under consideration.
- **Tuition fees:** the rates for the new programme must be clarified at the School Council with the Finance Director. No specific increase has been announced.

Next steps and timetable



Date	Announced step
7 October 2026	The pages presenting the programme at Wix and Marie-d'Orliac were due to go online.
8 October 2026	Registration platform opens for September 2027 entry.
November 2026	Transfer requests submitted using the usual form.
Mid-December 2026	First committee and educational opinion from the French- and English-speaking teachers. Transfers will be considered before external applications.
January 2027	Class structures determined according to requests and initial admissions.
February 2027	Confirmation of accepted transfers.
September 2027	International class begins at Wix and Marie-d'Orliac.
From September 2028	Enhanced English phased out gradually at Wix and Marie-d'Orliac; pathways already under way will not be interrupted. Full roll-out is expected to take approximately eight years.