



LYCEE SAINT-LOUIS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Lycée Saint-Louis is one of the top state-run schools in France preparing students for entrance to the French “Grandes Ecoles”: engineering schools, leading business schools and ENS (Ecole Normale Supérieure). The French “Grandes Ecoles” are roughly the equivalent of top-ranking American and British Universities.

Students are admitted to Lycée Saint-Louis after having been uncompromisingly selected and our school can be considered one of the most successful ones in preparing students for highly competitive exams. The average level of our students is far higher than that of students in most French Universities.

Please note that the A, B, C, D, E “grades” given by the faculty at Lycée Saint-Louis – formerly on a term basis and now of a half-year one - do not correspond to the British grading system. They can be interpreted as a ranking system which only attributes an “A” to a handful of students and sometimes only one student.

Students can be admitted in classes which differ one from another due to the importance given to some scientific subjects - in year one: MPSI (Maths – Physics – Engineering) and PCSI (Physics – Chemistry – Engineering); in year two: MP (Maths – Physics), PC (Physics – Chemistry) and PSI (Physics – Engineering). The most gifted students are admitted in ‘star’ year two (MP*, PC*, PSI*) so that they can be prepared for the entrance exams to the top ‘Grandes Ecoles’ (Polytechnique, Centrale, Mines).

Therefore, all these classes are synonymous with very high standards and achievements for all their students. The severe marking of the teachers cannot be compared to the way students’ work is usually assessed in other schools. The only real indicator of a student’s work is his or her rate of success in the various exams (s)he takes at the end of the second year.

Head-Mistress - Lycée Saint-Louis

