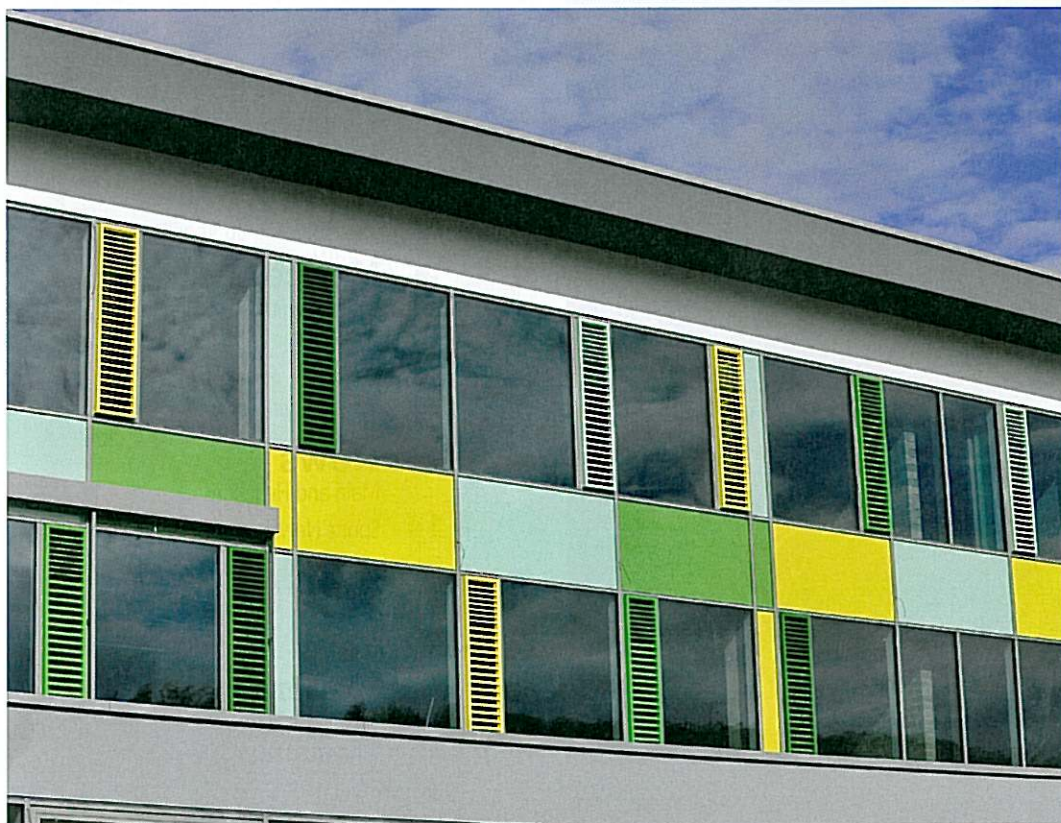


# The Neie Lycee

## – not so new anymore

Text: Ros Browne



The Lycée Ermesinde formerly known as the Neie Lycée is a pilot public school funded by the Ministry of National Education of Luxembourg. It was founded in 2005 as the first school in Luxembourg having its own special law providing and ensuring financial, educational and administrative autonomy including freedom of selecting administrative and teaching staff.

The project for a tailor-made permanent structure in Mersch was launched in 2006 and construction will be completed by December 2011. The school has been in high demand since it opened by parents, pupils and teachers alike. Many young graduates are attracted to starting their teaching career and teacher training with the Lycee.

### Philosophy

The school's philosophy tries to get away from the teacher-centred classroom towards a student-centred learning environment that takes place in and outside the classroom. This means that students have to make their own choices i.e. activities, topic for their biannual research project and what subjects they want to take added responsibilities for. The class syllabus is planned collaboratively and alongside the teacher. "Expert students" ("élèves engagés") are responsible for ensuring that lessons are fed with appropriate content as well as practice opportunities.

### New boarding facility

Veronique Alfonso has been teaching English in the Lycée Ermesinde for four years and she told **352LuxMag** that the school is very excited about its move to Mersch at the end of the year.

"This school is all about making choices and that's how we keep our students motivated"

"We are looking at introducing a boarding facility in the new Mersch school and this is why we recently visited the Kings School in Canterbury in the UK where 80% of their students board. We looked at what student life is like on campus"

### Exchanges to UK

There are plans for an exchange trip to Canterbury in November when students from the school's theatre group hope to perform a play in either French or German to the pupils at King's. A delegation from the school along with the Minister will be making a visit later this year to an award winning secondary school in Moss Side in Greater Manchester in the UK.

There are currently 450 students enrolled at the school and next year will see the first year of graduates of the Lycée Ermesinde.

### Endorsement from Minister

Luxembourg Minister of Education, Mady Delvaux-Stehres, recently said of the school "I would like to congratulate the Neie Lycée on its engagement and continuous outstanding work. The school has been a reference for its tight collaboration between teachers, "éducateurs" and "specialists". She went on to talk of the dedication of the teachers: "Teachers at the school have more obligations, or rather more diverse tasks they need to deal with on a daily basis, tasks that go beyond responsibilities known by teachers in other schools." She concluded by saying: "The school keeps attracting excellent young graduates who keep integrating this school after their teacher training. This in itself seems proof enough to testify to the good working environment and degree of satisfaction for teachers and students alike."

### LYCÉE ERMESINDE EVENTS

Saturday March 12, -  
Schoulfoire Park Housen

Thursday March 24, Open  
Day

Saturday May 7, Open Day

Thursday May 12,  
Information evening