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1 Scientist—1 Class: Chiche! Pilot phase of the programme launched in schools in the Lyon region

As announced on 20 November, 2019, at the Educatec-Educatice education and training trade show with the signing of an agreement between Jean-Michel Blanquer, the French Minister for National Education and Youth, and Bruno Sportisse, CEO of Inria, the programme "1 Scientist – 1 Class: Chiche!" has entered its pilot phase. With the support of the Digital Learning Department of the Ministry for National Education and Youth and aid of the Lyon Board of Education, scientists from the CNRS, Fondation Blaise Pascal, Inria and SIF will make their first visits next week to four secondary schools in the Lyon region to coincide with the SIF annual conference.

This is an ambitious programme to bring 15-year-old secondary students and digital scientists together.

The programme is aimed at 15-year-olds following vocational, general or technology/science curricula and is based around giving classes the chance to meet a scientist. It is part of the new digital science and technology class introduced at the beginning of the 2019–2020 school year.

Creating an opportunity for students to chat with a scientist serves two objectives, the first being to discuss career pathways and what it's like working as a researcher, and the second, to illustrate that advanced-level research underpins our daily use of digital technology. The idea is to equip students with the knowledge to understand how the digital world in which they live is changing and, if possible, to encourage students to enter the field, particularly girls influenced by gender stereotypes – especially since historically the first IT engineers were in fact women.
Launch of the pilot phase
The Chiche programme will initially be rolled out in pilot locations until June 2020. While the annual SIF conference is being held in Lyon on 4 and 5 February, the first school visits will be held with the support of the Digital Learning Department of the Ministry for National Education and Youth and aid of the Lyon Board of Education. 15-year-old students from four secondary schools in the region will be visited by representatives from the project partners:

- Sylvie Alayrangues, head of the scientific council of the Fondation Blaise Pascal, and Pierre Paradinas, director of the SIF, will visit Lycée Jean-Paul Sartre in Bron;
- Ali Charara, director of the Institute for Information Sciences and Technologies of the CNRS, will visit Lycée la Martinière Montplaisir in Lyon;
- Marie Duflot-Kremer, deputy director for outreach at SIF, will visit Lycée Charlie Chaplin in Décines;
- Bruno Sportisse, CEO of Inria, and Serge Abiteboul, head of the strategic council of the Fondation Blaise Pascal, will visit Lycée Frédéric Fays in Villeurbanne.

Visits will also be held in schools in the Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes and Nice regions, while schools in other regions will join the project in the coming weeks.

A qualitative and quantitative assessment of the first phase will then be conducted before the project is rolled out across France.

About the Lyon Board of Education
The Lyon Board of Education covers the Ain, Loire and Rhône departments. It includes 2,740 primary and secondary schools, 800,379 students and apprentices, and 52,486 Ministry for Education staff, including 41,618 teachers. The head of the Lyon Board of Education is in charge of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes academic region.

About the Digital Learning Department
Within the Ministry for National Education and Youth, the Digital Learning Department is responsible for setting up and implementing the Ministry for Education's digital learning programme. The Department is endowed with broad powers to oversee and implement information systems. It uses digital to further the French government's "École de la confiance" education reform of 2019.

About the CNRS
The French National Centre for Scientific Research is the foremost public research body in France and Europe. It innovates, creates businesses and generates knowledge to further society. With nearly 32,000 staff and locations across France, the CNRS carries out its work in all areas of knowledge through more than 1,100 research laboratories.
About the Fondation Blaise Pascal
The Fondation Blaise Pascal is a national body that promotes, supports, develops and safeguards the long-term future of science outreach initiatives in mathematics and computer science for all audiences. Its initiatives are more specifically aimed at women along with socially and geographically disadvantaged youth.

About Inria
Inria is the French National Research Institute for Computer Science. World-class research and technological innovation are part of its DNA, with the aim of developing and supporting scientific and entrepreneurial projects that create value for France within a European perspective.

About the SIF
The French IT Society is not only a forum for thinking about and collaborating on issues in computer science, but also for taking action through the efforts of the computer science community. Its aim is to bring together people whose job or passion revolves around driving the field forwards, such as teachers, researchers, engineers, industry stakeholders, consultants and students.

Other partners of 1 Scientist – 1 Class: Chiche!
- Ministry for National Education and Youth
- La Société de Mathématiques Appliquées et Industrielles, the French industrial and applied mathematics society
- The Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering
- Class’Code, a not-for-profit organisation that offers training on teaching 8 to 14-year-olds about computational thinking
- Femmes et Sciences, a not-for-profit organisation for women in science
- The Inria Foundation

A press conference is scheduled for 4.40 p.m. on 4 February at Lycée la Martinière Montplaisir, Lyon, to present the aims of the programme and provide a report on the first visits.

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