



THE AQUILA SCHOOL



Real learning for a real future

Part of:



International  
Schools  
Partnership

"We want all our children and students to achieve all they possibly can during their time at school. Our unique learning focused approach helps us to ensure that we can make that happen."

Steve Brown  
CEO, International  
Schools Partnership

## About Our School

The Aquila School is an exciting new international British school in Dubai with so much to offer your child. Our experienced and passionate staff are committed to ensuring every child develops a love of learning and acquires the skills and knowledge they need for the future.

The Aquila School opened in September 2018 to serve the growing educational needs of the surrounding communities in Dubailand and across Dubai. We offer a **high quality British STEAM curriculum** to children, enriched to meet the needs of our culturally diverse community. We cater for children from Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6, and in September 2019 we will expand to Year 7.

As a new school, we are privileged to have a range of brand new world-class facilities and activities, that have been designed to enrich children's learning experiences. The Aquila School will eventually be an all-through school offering IGCSE in Years 10 and 11, and BTEC and IB for Years 12 and 13. BTEC is rare in the UAE and underpins the original ethos of the school reflecting children making choices in their learning.



### Amazing learning is our core purpose

The Aquila School embraces the individuality of every learner. We support learning through a robust student-focused curriculum, and enriching after-school programmes.

The Aquila School focuses relentlessly on each child's ability to amaze. Whether through mentoring, enrichment or personalised study, The Aquila School recognises and nurtures each child's gifts and talents so that they amaze themselves and inspire others.



### We are part of a global family of schools

The Aquila School is the flagship school of the International Schools Partnership (ISP), a focused, growing and financially secure group of schools located within eight countries in Europe, The Americas, The Middle East and Southeast Asia.

All our schools:

- Help children and students learn to levels that amaze them;
- Inspire children and students to be successful now and equip them to be successful later;
- Are truly international, working in partnerships within and across regions, cultures and languages;
- Aim to be the first choice for children, students and their families, wherever we are.

"The Aquila School's mission is to ensure every child loves coming to school and makes as much progress as possible."



International  
Schools  
Partnership



27,000  
Students



4,000  
Staff



34  
Schools



8  
Countries



8  
Curricula



1  
Global Family



THE AQUILA SCHOOL



## STEAM and Design Thinking

### “An education for our future”

Our curriculum prepares our children for a complex, challenging and competitive future – we enhance the traditional STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) with the just-as-important Arts. Our STEAM curriculum combines the best of STEM learning, whilst integrating design, art and performance, to give life to learning.

Every child will learn through a design-thinking mindset – a structured approach to learning, collaboration and problem-solving. Collaborative problem-solving activities challenge our children to go full STEAM ahead, enabling them to take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.

### “Our creative STEAM curriculum combines science, maths, technology and the arts as part of a broader enquiry-based curriculum, to encourage dialogue, problem-solving and critical thinking.”



### An Appreciation of the Local Environment

The Aquila School believes that providing children with an eco-friendly environment will instil a sense of responsibility towards the world. We offer unique environmental initiatives, including:

- **A hydroponics farm:** where children are able to cultivate fruit and vegetables and are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits, and the food produced goes towards the preparation of school lunches.
- **Caring for animals:** enquiry-based learning projects enable students to research, evaluate and provide for the needs and requirements of a variety of animals including our school parrot, fish and chickens.

Children will gain an understanding that much of what has been grown can be eaten and enjoyed. Such unique, hands-on learning experiences enhance and embed classroom learning. This learning environment celebrates our best use of natural resources and how we might grow and develop a sustainable life to enrich our local communities.

### “We believe that providing children with an eco-friendly environment will instil a sense of responsibility towards



## Teaching and Learning

### “Every child is supported in a very open, warm and calm environment.”

As well as a focus on academic achievement and outstanding progress, we encourage our children to be inquisitive and creative and to make their own learning choices. Meaningful enquiry-based learning is at the fore. Your child will be inspired by our exciting and creative STEAM curriculum, which is based on the National Curriculum for England (NCE), combining science, maths, technology and the arts.

This curriculum encourages children to direct their own learning through collaborative group problem solving. This enables them to apply their skills and knowledge in a meaningful context, facilitating the development of essential critical thinking and communication skills. Opportunities to understand and celebrate the culture and heritage of the UAE and the diversity of our local community are integrated into the curriculum, and we also focus on design and technology – children make things, take things apart, and discover how things work! Learning is authentic. We follow a concept and enquiry-based learning approach to ensure maximum engagement in practical learning.

### We offer a high quality international British STEAM curriculum, in a vibrant, positive and nurturing environment.

### Our teachers are highly experienced and passionate about education

Our class teachers are native English speakers and bring with them many years of UK and international experience. Some of our teachers have also worked with the Leadership Team at their previous outstanding school. Our high quality teachers, all of whom are dedicated to providing an exceptional education for every child, constantly reflect on the impact of their teaching on children's learning. Our relationships with all members of our community is one of our strengths – everyone is very enthusiastic and friendly.



“Like all of ISP’s schools around the world, here at The Aquila School, we want the levels of learning our students reach to truly amaze them and their parents. It’s what our schools are for. Quite simply, we measure our success by the success of our students.”

### Martin Skelton

Group Director of Learning and Education,  
International Schools Partnership





We offer a wide range of enrichment activities

As The Aquila School grows to become an IB school, we are using the language of IB, so instead of referring to clubs or after-school activities or ECAs, we use the IB term CAS – Community, Action and Service.

CAS activities are offered by all teaching staff including the leadership of the school. They run until 3.40pm three days a week and are open to children from Year 2. School-led CAS activities are free of charge.

Encouraging children to make choices and to develop independence is a key part of our approach, and as such, all children are surveyed at the beginning of each term to see what CAS activities they want to take part in. Such activities include drama, basketball, tennis, making eco bird feeders, gardening, Quran, Arabic calligraphy, cookery, baking, Glee club, creative writing, and art, to name a few.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The Aquila School is constantly investing in new technology to enhance our teaching and learning. We have technology such as tablets, Chromebooks and interactive panels for classroom use across the curriculum.

Learning beyond the classroom

Children at The Aquila School are provided with many opportunities to develop and thrive. Learning is not limited to the classroom, but can also take place outdoors, through an educational visit, or a community service project. Lessons are lively, fun and challenging, and provide children with many opportunities to think critically and independently.

Social and emotional development

In addition to the National Curriculum for England, our school values, ethos and teaching approaches encourage children to develop collaborative enquiry skills, and understand that they are important individuals who can make a positive difference to the lives of others. Our aim is to promote curiosity, to encourage students to ask questions,

Early Years Foundation Stage

Our curriculum

At The Aquila School we understand the importance of children leading their own learning and learning through structured play. Our Early Years Foundation Stage children have access to a number of learning areas, both indoors and outdoors.

The curriculum followed in FS1 and FS2 is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, adapted by our staff to have a global dimension and relevance to children living here in the UAE.

From FS1 the children have the opportunity to take part in weekly PE, swimming and music lessons. Both native and non-native Arabic speakers take part in daily Arabic lessons.

Key learning areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Mathematic Development
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

“We understand the importance of children leading their own learning and learning through structured play.”





# Primary School

## Our curriculum

The Aquila School is committed to providing children with engaging and relevant learning activities that help them make as much progress as possible in all areas of the curriculum and prepare them for the next steps in their education - real learning for a real future. The curriculum followed in Years 1 to 6 is based on the National Curriculum for England, adapted by our staff to have a global dimension and relevance to children living here in the UAE.

The core of the curriculum is set but teachers are empowered to group areas of learning together to create topics which are of interest and of relevance to children in their class. We also value cross-curricular learning so that children make links between different subjects. In addition we pay equal status to the teaching of Arabic, Islamic, UAE Social Studies and Moral Education which make up the local Ministry of Education curriculum.

Regardless of the age of a child and their previous experiences, our skilful teachers ensure every child learns what they need to learn right now.

### Year 1 to 6 subjects:

- English
  - Maths
  - Science
  - Computing
  - History
- Geography
  - Spanish, from Year 3
  - Art and Design
  - Design and Technology
  - Food Technology
- Music
  - Physical Education
  - Swimming
  - Arabic
- Islamic Studies (for our Muslim students)
  - UAE Social Studies
  - Moral Education

“We value cross-curricular learning so that children make meaningful links between different subjects.”



# Secondary School

The Aquila School (Key Stage 3) will expand to Year 7 in the 2019/2020 academic year.

The ethos and high levels of pastoral care established in the primary school will follow through to the secondary school, with young people’s ability to develop resilience, approach challenges positively, and work collaboratively for the good of the whole community being central to their learning.

We will teach the English National Curriculum, together with the Ministry of Education curricular requirements, and themes will include teaching in the following subjects.

- **Core Subjects:** English, Maths, Science, Arabic, Islamic Studies, Social and UAE Studies, Civics, Computing, Citizenship, and Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE)
- **Foundation Subjects:** History, Geography, Physical Education (including Swimming), Computing, and Modern Languages: Spanish
- **Electives:** Art and Design, Design Technology, Music, and Spanish

Following a broad provision in Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 students will have the option to select options for further study leading to GCSE/ IGCSE examinations in Years 10 and 11.

## Arabic, Islamic Studies, Moral Education & UAE Social Studies

Learning Arabic is crucial for both cognitive development and the maintenance of cultural identity. Our Arabic curriculum is concept- and enquiry-based and founded on the UAE national curriculum. Arabic is compulsory for Arab nationals throughout their schooling, and Arabic as a foreign language is required for students through to Year 9.

Successful learning in these subjects, as any other, depends heavily on high quality teaching. Just as we enhance the curriculum in other subjects, we also ensure the learning of Arabic is inspiring and relevant to children. Our Arabic colleagues work hand-in-hand with English class teachers to ensure a consistent experience for children, and equally amazing progress. It is compulsory for all Muslim children to study Islamic Studies. The Aquila School provides the highest possible standard of Arabic through guided reading and talking for writing, to develop students’ skills by using a 21st century approach to teaching.

## Inclusion, Learning Support & EAL

Teachers at The Aquila School work tirelessly to ensure all children make as much progress as possible and that the activities the children take part in are matched to their ability level. Our teachers are all very experienced at teaching the English National Curriculum and personalising the curriculum to meet the needs of all of the learners in their class. We know that some children require extra support and interventions to meet their individual targets. We have a skilled teacher who works with these children to help them meet their targets - this could be in class or on a withdrawal basis.

For children who excel in a particular subject or area, our teachers ensure they are challenged and have access to a variety of different provisions so they can continue with their passion.

For children who may require specialist support, for example occupational therapy or speech therapy, we are keen to work with families and other agencies so children can receive this therapy during the school day (this provision will incur additional charges). We work closely with the HEMAM centre who are based in our school to provide specialist care for children with specific autistic needs.

**“We ensure EVERY child, whatever their learning, language or emotional needs, makes the best possible progress within a truly inclusive and caring ethos.”**

## Campus and Facilities

**As a new school, we are privileged to have a range of brand new, world-class facilities and activities, that have been designed to enrich children’s learning experiences.**

All children have access to:

- Two temperature controlled swimming pools, with weekly swimming lessons from FS1 in the training pool.
- An auditorium that can be used for a range of events, from assemblies to music and theatre performances.
- Two large multi-purpose sports halls, a multi-purpose astro pitch, and an outdoor hard court.
- Spacious, well-resourced classrooms, filled with natural light, providing excellent conditions for learning.
- Music, art and dance studios. Specialist teachers ensure all children have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.
- Dedicated food technology/cookery and design technology rooms.
- Technology such as tablets, Chromebooks and interactive panels for classroom use across the curriculum.
- Large library housing thousands of books to encourage children to develop a love of reading and to support learning.



# AMAZING LEARNING

is central to everything we do



THE AQUILA SCHOOL