

BRIGHT, CONFIDENT AND ENGAGED

WITH A **STRONG** REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC **EXCELLENCE**, THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NICOSIA IN CYPRUS FOSTERS CLOSE BONDS, A **VIBRANT** ATMOSPHERE AND A RICH CHOICE OF **INSPIRING** ACTIVITIES

'OUR PHILOSOPHY IS BASED ON PROVIDING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EDUCATION,' SAYS DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KAM STYLIANOU.

'We strive for educational excellence while simultaneously promoting a global awareness of issues that affect young people. Students are encouraged to gain the confidence to express themselves on a variety of topics that extend beyond their academic work.' The Grammar School maintains an enduring commitment to democracy and discipline that was established by its founders in 1963. As Kam describes: 'Our ambition is to cultivate successful individuals who stand out due to their sense of responsibility, motivation and understanding of what is required to be high achievers and good citizens.'

DEMOCRACY AND DIVERSITY

Relatively small in size (1019 students making up 42 classes), the school has an organised, friendly atmosphere helped by the close relationship between students and teachers. Regular meetings between staff members and a student-elected committee promote a democratic environment in which pupils' ideas are heard and discussed. 'The student presidential campaign is a unique opportunity for students to learn about democracy and conduct their own election campaigns, which teaches them about the power of the media and the importance of teamwork and rhetoric through their presidential speeches,' Kam reveals. 'As well as this, the multicultural school body made up of students from a diverse range of backgrounds enhances the learning process, especially through discussion and debate.'

ACADEMIC PROWESS

The school's curriculum follows the British system of IGCSE, AS and A2 level, as well as the Cypriot Ministry of Education's Greek-language agenda, so students graduate with fluency in both English and Greek. 'Emphasis is placed on achieving academic excellence, proven by our track record of awards from Edexcel Examinations and the LCCI for highest subject marks in Cyprus and

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internationally,' Kam explains. 'The majority of our students enter universities in the UK, with many entering competitive courses in Russell Group universities. Another achievement we are proud of is our Fulbright scholars who obtain competitive scholarships to study in the USA.'

A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

A strong sense of community is supported by house and mentor systems where small groups meet daily to share their thoughts. Rapidly expanding sports facilities give students the chance to form competitive teams, and charity events such as the annual futsal tournament include an exciting backdrop of entertaining activities such as cheerleading and radio broadcasting by the student Radio Club members. Meanwhile, traditional celebrations, fun days and bazaars involve the whole student community in barbecues, music, dance, sports, games and socialising.

A wide range of extra-curricular activities are offered by popular clubs such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, the Social Work Club which raised €25,000 for charity last year, and the Environment Club involved in tree planting, beach cleaning and excursions. Students can also get involved in annual Cultural Evenings and performances by the Drama Club, art and photography exhibitions or interschool poetry and creative writing competitions.

INSPIRING FUTURES

'As well as embarking on an ambitious renovation project to extend our facilities, we aim to maintain our high educational standard and continue to introduce new ideas,' says Kam. 'Our new, innovative Academic Advisory Team has been created as a response to the increased competition for places at university. The team's regular attendance at UK conferences, such as the CRAC Decisions at 18, ensures that we are up-to-date regarding current issues in careers and further education. New ideas are then implemented to promote best practice in these areas.'

Providing a rich educational experience within an environment that encourages students to find their feet in life, The Grammar School's passionate initiatives inspire promising futures for its graduates.