

Franconian gateway to the world

With the professional world becoming increasingly globalised, the need for international schools is constantly rising. Yet the times when such schools were limited to large metropolitan areas like Frankfurt or Munich are long gone.

TEXT: SONJA IRANI | PHOTOS: FRANCONIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Today, internationally operating companies can be found anywhere. Erlangen, a city of roughly 107,000 inhabitants in the Franconian region of Bavaria, is no exception. In fact, in 2014, the patent applications here were higher than anywhere else in the country. According to business magazine *Wirtschaftswoche*, this makes Erlangen the third most liveable city in Germany. Ideal conditions then for Erlangen-based Franconian International School (FIS).

Since starting out in 1998 with merely 25 pupils, the school has established an excellent reputation worldwide. Today, it counts 90 international teachers and more than 600 pupils. "The school's official language is English," says Bettina Wiegel, ad-

ministrative assistant for events and communication. "From Kindergarten onwards, German is taught as well and in sixth grade, Spanish is added."

By now, the "pioneer children" have finished their university studies. Sharing their experiences with current pupils, they often stress that the International Baccalaureate Diploma acquired here proved to be a valuable entry ticket into the globalised business world. It allows the school's graduates to be accepted at any university worldwide including such prestigious facilities as Oxford and Cambridge. Moreover, the FIS alumni greatly profited from the soft skills obtained throughout the course of their school education. These include integrity,



independence, decisiveness, the capacity to take risks, mindfulness, good judgement, persistence, creativity and self-confidence.

www.the-fis.de

Offering children a caring and challenging education

International School Augsburg (ISA) on Munich's doorstep is committed to fostering open-mindedness and respect. The school focuses on providing individual challenges and support, allowing students from pre-school to secondary school to fulfil their potential.

TEXT: JESSICA HOLZHAUSEN | PHOTOS: INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AUGSBURG

At ISA, relationships are at the heart of learning and education. Students here feel at home. "It is crucial that young people feel safe to take risks and make the mistakes that lead to learning, so they cannot only develop intellectually, but gain confidence," says Cathie Mullen, director (education).

ISA is an authorised IB World School, teaching the International Baccalaureate® (IB) programmes. "We have to look into the future and give young people the skills and attitudes they need to be successful in a rapidly changing world," says Mullen. Critical and creative thinking are a main focus, hence the recent introduction of computer science classes for all students of 11 years and upwards.

It is the flexibility that makes the school a great place to learn. Experiencing cultural diversity on a daily basis, children at ISA are curious about the world and respectful of cultural differences. Although students and staff come from many countries, the school maintains strong ties within the local region.



In 2015/16 the school is celebrating its tenth anniversary, with a unique feature: in mid-November it became a non-profit publically owned company and has pledged to make every graduate a shareholder. Over time, International School Augsburg will become a school owned by its own alumni. This perfectly illustrates the innovative vision that drives the school's development both from a pedagogic and community perspective.

www.isa-augsburg.com

