

Kuwait National English School - Secondary Department Teachers' vision for teaching and learning



Kuwait National English School is an inspirational school. We listen, we care, we respect, we aspire; we work together to create a happy learning community where resilient and confident students relish the opportunities and challenges that come their way.

ASPIRE:

Teaching and learning

Teaching the way we aspire to teach: Now and in the Future.

Education depends on what teachers do, and what teachers do is shaped by who they are, what they believe, and how vital and alive they are when they step before their students. High expectations are key to aspiration and this permeates our teaching and learning. Our teachers design lessons to inspire and challenge. Nothing but a student's best work and a positive attitude to learning is accepted. Achieving high levels of literacy and numeracy is crucial to our success. We lead dedicated literacy lessons in Key Stage 3 and all subjects further develop these skills. Extra support is available for students who need to catch up quickly with reading, spelling or numeracy and we know this improves learning and aspiration.

Educational visits

Aspiration and inspiration often takes place outside the classroom. We take students to visit the Desalination plant, the stock exchange of Kuwait, the pasteurization of milk at Kuwait Danish Dairy, Kuwait oil

Company (KOC), universities in Kuwait. We have visits to Tariq Rajab museums and Cultural Centre, talks by inspirational speakers and events run by the Junior Achievement Award (Injaz) involving business and careers people – all of which help students raise their aspirations. Students compete in various challenges: Science Fair, English quizzes and mathematics challenges organized by the University of Leeds and Gust university. These activities often involve other schools locally and nationally and our students gain confidence from taking part and winning.

Other opportunities

We constantly find ways to challenge our students to aspire. Several attend and perform in the School musical plays (Cinderella, Oliver Twist, etc). In sports, students compete locally through KFSAC and ISAC, these events allow our students to aspire and be inspired together.

COLLABORATION

Teaching and learning

Being able to collaborate is a skill that will enable students to be successful in the future. Lessons are designed to enable them to work together, challenge each other and develop confidence through team skills. Staff plan carefully, ensuring collaboration leads to better understanding of the work. Our teachers value the opportunities of cross-curricular activities to share best practice and we ensure our expectations for students, teachers and leaders are in line with others.

Student voice

We value what students tell us about their school and student voice is central to our school's development. The student council works with the management team to make improvements and our Head Boy, Head Girl and school Prefect have a lasting impact on the life of the school.

The school as a community

We collaborate at many levels to develop a sense of community. Our annual fundraising events (Fun day, Arm Wrestling competition, non-uniform days, Valentine day, raise money which are donated to the Kuwait Red Crescent, Hope and Homes.

Parents

Working with parents is crucial to students realising their ambitions. As well as parents' evenings we hold Year 9 option night, Year 11 career evening to meet and listen to parents. For busy parents we have our school portal, ClassChart, a regular newsletter and up-to-date website highlights, a histogram on school activities and events to help keep parents in touch.

RESPECT

Relationships

Developing successful relationships based on mutual respect is key to our success and enables students to thrive. We create a safe classroom environment where students feel their voice is respected. We value emotional intelligence within the school. We reward good work, effort and behaviour and ensure students work hard and achieve well.

Integration from SEN into mainstream

A culture of respect enables us to develop a very inclusive ethos. Students are tested for their reading and spelling ages, as well as their working memory. This ensures their needs are met in both the classroom and socially. The inclusion team works closely with teachers to ensure all students can achieve their goals and extra support can be given.

PSHE Curriculum

Our Personal, Social and Health (PSHE) programme enables students to discuss difficult topics such as healthy eating and living, relationships, drugs and alcohol awareness, mental health issues and anti-bullying within a respectful environment. This allows them to develop their understanding and respect others' views.

Islamic Studies and Qur'an

We promote an enquiring and sympathetic approach to Islamic studies and Qur'an. Students learn about the rich range of diverse cultures which contribute to Muslim Society and values. We recognise our school, its staff, students and families have more in common with each other than the things that divide us.

Sports

The team-building and competitive aspect of sport helps develop respect between students. The success our teams experience at local and national level inspires us all. From football to handball, badminton to basketball, students enjoy the fitness, competition, skills and respect they develop through sport.

RESILIENT

Teaching and learning

One of the fundamental aspects of our teaching and learning policy is creating a learning environment that promotes risk-taking by both staff and students, where making mistakes is actively promoted as a tool for learning. Teachers prepare lessons to challenge students and build resilience in learning

Curriculum and Assessment

Our broad curriculum at KS3 ensures all students experience a wide-range of subjects. Year 7 students will be timetabled for Art & Design, Computer Science, Geography, History, PSHE, Kuwait Social Studies (Year

7 & 8 only), business studies (Year 9) and PE as well as the core subjects of English, maths and science. In Year 9, students will choose to study some subject areas for their KS4 IGCSEs before making further focused choices post-16. Students receive clear advice and guidance throughout to ensure the right choices are made at every stage.

Our assessment system allows for Monthly reports (every month), termly tests in each subject at the end of each term (December and March) and formal exams at the end of each school year (May/June). This helps our students to develop a resilience to testing requirements, as well as embedding and securing the skills and knowledge needed to succeed at each level. Students get regular feedback and are expected to respond to this which helps to ensure they are always involved in reflection.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We strive to develop the resilience of students in many ways outside the curriculum. Year 10 students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, including community work, camping and hiking. Sixth-formers can take this a step further by aiming for the silver award. Students who demonstrate resilience, aspiration, respect and collaboration on a regular basis will be rewarded with the prestigious Awards during graduation.