

Confidence for Life.



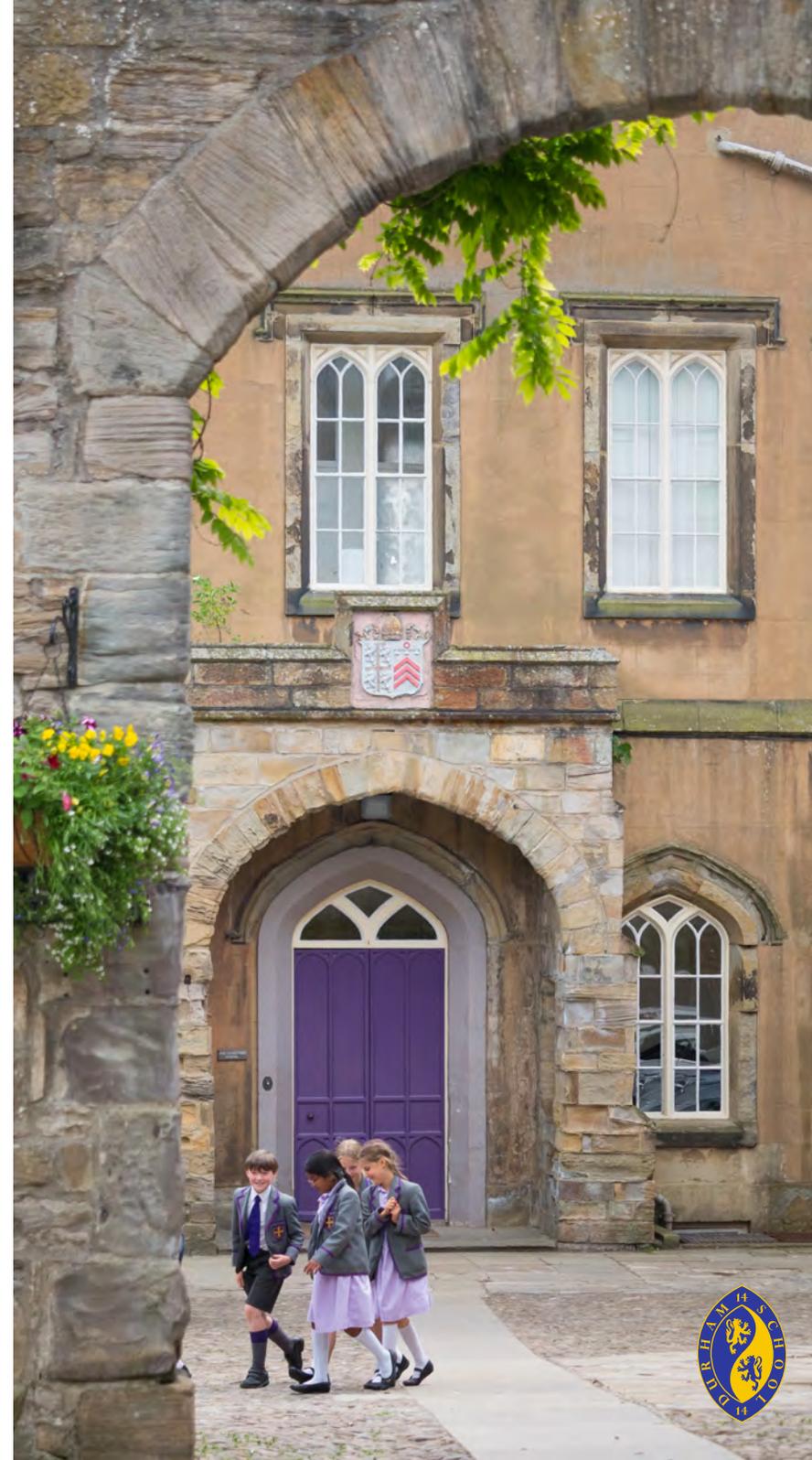
Durham School Dubai

A 600 Year History of Academic Excellence



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Welcome from the Principal

At Durham School Dubai, we are committed to providing our students with a complete education; one that provides opportunities to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically and culturally.

A Durham education cultivates ambition and a desire for achievement whilst fostering and cherishing a respect for others and confidence for life. Our values, Moral integrity, Ambition, Responsibility, and Kindness are the MARK of a Durham education and we develop these by immersing our students into the caring, supportive Durham community where every student's contribution is valued and potential is recognised.

We appreciate that academic results and examination success are crucial to accessing the next stage of a student's educational journey and we take this aspect of your child's education very seriously. However, 'real' education is about so much more than this. It is our responsibility to develop successful, well-rounded, responsible and socially competent young people who will thrive in, and contribute to, the global community of the 21st century.

In pursuit of this aim, we are mindful that every child is an individual and that every educational journey is different. Every child is unique, they have their likes, dislikes, talents and personality. By getting to really know your child, we help them to develop the skills, self-esteem and confidence necessary for future success and thus produce thoughtful, happy, kind, well-rounded young men and women ready and prepared to make their MARK on the world.

Mr Mark Atkins

Principal, Durham School Dubai



Message from Durham School UK

With a continuous presence here in Durham since 1414, Durham School established its international presence in Qatar in 2019 and then in Kenya in 2021: I am delighted that Durham School can now look forward to its branch school in Dubai joining the family of schools where happy children will learn to learn in a place where they feel safe and able to develop to their fullest potential.

Durham School Dubai will share the same values, standards and overall ethos as have long since imbued our way of life here in Durham: we are wholly committed to operate our newest branch school such that it enjoys the same successes as we do here in Durham and so quickly establish its reputation as the best possible place for children to begin their educational journey in Dubai, and so develop their own 'Confidence for Life'.

Durham School Dubai will have a genuinely warm and inclusive pastoral structure where strong and supportive relationships between staff and students, and between students, is both expected and championed, and inspiring and caring staff work energetically and with mutual respect towards shared goals. Each student at Durham School Dubai will benefit from opportunities made available to them in the academic sphere, in sport, in cultural activities and in learning to lead.

Durham School Dubai is well located in the Dubai Investments Park, it has wonderful facilities and will employ teachers passionate about their chosen profession and develop children in their care to their fullest potential; already proud of what a Durham School education provides in Qatar and Kenya as well as of course here in Durham, I look forward to seeing this same atmosphere of overall excellence becoming evident in Dubai.

Mr Kieran McLaughlin
Headmaster of
Durham School UK





About Durham Dubai

Durham Dubai is a branch school of Durham UK, one of the oldest schools in the UK with a 600-year history of academic excellence. As such, we are able to draw upon the skills and experience of our colleagues in the UK and in our other international schools in Qatar and Kenya. Durham is a truly international organisation; its roots may be in the UK, but its outlook is global.

Durham School Dubai is an exciting place to learn. It is a place where six centuries of experience meet the best in modern teaching methods and most importantly, teachers of unsurpassed commitment and quality. It is our aim to provide a broad and rounded education fostering academic achievement and nurturing the talent of each and every student. Our curriculum is based on an enhanced English National Curriculum supported through the use of outstanding resources and hosted in outstanding facilities.

'Confidence for life' for all our pupils is achieved through academic attainment but as importantly, the development social competence, manners, moral integrity, responsibility, kindness and respect.



Location

Durham School Dubai is conveniently located in Dubai Investments Park (DIP), a 32 million square meters development with commercial, residential and educational zones. DIP is designed to become one of the most environment-friendly developments in the region providing a high-quality educational and residential area while it cements its position as the region's premier business park.

The school is easily accessible from the D57 highway, which conveniently links to the E311 and D54; and is walking distance from DIP metro station.

The following residential communities are within a 20 minutes drive from the school:

- Green Community
- Jumeirah Village Circle
- Jumeirah Golf Estates
- Emirates Hills
- Arabian Ranches
- Jumeirah Islands
- Arabian Ranches 2
- Motor City
- Damac Hills
- Dubai Sports City

The school property is fully built and when full, Durham School Dubai will educate more than 1,700 students. The buildings have been constructed to the highest standards with a world-class contemporary design.



- 1 Foundation Stage section, with all classrooms opening up into a central covered play area
- 2 Primary and Secondary libraries
- 3 Acoustically designed music performance hall
- 4 Auditorium
- 5 Dining hall
- 6 Primary and Secondary classroom complex, with specialist science, art and IT labs
- 7 25-meters indoor swimming pool
- 8 Indoor multipurpose sports hall
- 9 Rooftop sports courts
- 10 Sports pitch





Educational Ethos

At Durham Dubai we have a very clear mission supported by our aims and values. These all add up to help us build in each and every one of our students 'Confidence for Life'.

So, what should students and parents expect to see and feel when they come through the doors at Durham Dubai?

First, we believe that the students are the stars; they are our reason for Durham Dubai and they are at the centre of everything we do and every decision we take. Next, we are a 'hands on' kind of school – if a job needs doing, we all contribute: staff, students and parents, no matter what the task or what our role is within the school. Importantly, we are positive, optimistic school. We meet challenges head on and look for solutions in the belief that they can always be found. We look for the best in people. We expect the best from our students and staff and as a result, will be rarely disappointed.

At Durham Dubai we are also humble and we accept that we all get things wrong from time to time. We recognise when something has gone wrong, we apologise, we fix it, we learn from it and we move on.

And finally, we are kind, accepting of each other, supportive of one another and appreciative of all that a person has to offer.





Our Aims

Within a community shaped by moral integrity and kindness, Durham School Dubai aims to cultivate responsibility and ambition to ensure that every student can thrive, be happy, and make a positive mark in the world.

The three pillars of a Durham School which support this aim and shape the environment where students can learn and grow are:

Academic challenge: providing students a lifelong appetite for learning.

Pastoral care: supporting students emotional, moral and spiritual strength.

Co-curricular: opportunities to enrich and develop the individual, fostering leadership, collaboration and teamwork.

We do this by nurturing and supporting our students to become:

- Thinkers who can understand, research, evaluate and create, both collaboratively and independently.
- Individuals who are morally sound, emotionally resilient, reflective and effective communicators.
- Adults who act with responsibility, humility and kindness and are ready to make a positive contribution to society.





Our Mission

It is our mission to provide its students with a complete education; one which instils in them an aspiration for achievement, a respect for others and a 'Confidence for Life'.

Whilst academic life is at the heart of the school, we set out to provide a host of opportunities in sport, music and drama so that every student is given a chance to explore their potential.

Durham School Dubai is committed to educating its students in the very broadest sense of the word, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century whilst retaining a sense of traditional values established both here in Dubai and over Durham School's 600 year history.

Our Values

M

MORAL INTEGRITY

- We demonstrate a desire to do the right thing.
- We act in private as we do in public.
- We have the courage to say and do the right thing.
- We stand firm for what is right.
- We challenge things we think wrong and are open to challenge from others.
- We are accountable for failure as well as success, and do not allocate blame.
- We can be relied upon to do what is right.
- We demonstrate and promote honesty.



A

AMBITION

- We achieve our goals by consistently working toward them.
- We go above and beyond the call of duty.
- We aim for the best in 'me and them' and take pride in all we do.
- We seek help and support before giving up and identify lessons in setbacks.
- We encourage all to develop maximum potential and support others to achieve.
- We embrace opportunities, challenge, and seek to develop our skills and talents.
- We identify opportunities for School Development.



R

RESPONSIBILITY

- We do what we say we will.
- We are punctual and prompt in all that we do.
- We use our resources responsibly, developing and caring for our environment.
- We act before being asked and consistently deliver on expectations.
- We prepare thoroughly for all tasks.
- We encourage autonomy in all and seek leadership.
- We acknowledge and seek to resolve problems.
- We pioneer better ways of doing things.



K

KINDNESS

- We are open and approachable to all.
- We welcome and listen to the opinions of others.
- We look to engage & involve all in the community.
- We attend to newcomers and those needing help, and build relationships actively.
- We are positive in responding to questions.
- We support each other and stand up for fellow colleagues and pupils.
- We acknowledge individual needs within the community.
- We speak positively of the School community.





The Durham Way – Confidence for Life

At Durham School Dubai, 'Confidence for Life' underpins everything that we do. We equip our students with skills, knowledge and ambition to succeed: we develop their abilities and aptitudes, we guide them through their education at school and prepare them for the challenges of university and life thereafter. Our reward is to see them grow into confident young adults ready and able to make their mark on the world.

How we think about ourselves, how we talk to ourselves and how we project ourselves depends on this appreciation of ourselves. In today's society where images of supposed perfection constantly bombard us, it has never been harder to be confident. Our aim at Durham is to celebrate each student's uniqueness. Our aim is for them to be the best version of themselves that they can be, and this is only possible if they believe in themselves and are confident of who they are and what they can do, whatever that may be.

From our EYFS classes right through to Sixth Form, we work on positive mind sets, constructive feedback, mentoring through our total commitment to outstanding pastoral care, house systems and student counselling. We celebrate each individual and their achievements and we challenge our students to work hard, try their best and be positive about themselves and others.



Our Teachers

Our teachers are our greatest resource – it is they who inspire, educate and shape your children, setting them on the path to future success. There is no better way for your children to spend their time than with a passionate and caring practitioner – one who stretches and supports in equal measure, one who sets the example and one who helps your child to do just that little bit more than they thought they could.

We select our teachers very carefully, all highly trained, predominantly from the UK, and all with experience and a track record in bringing the best out of their students. We value them as you do and set out to fill your child's world with teachers who will be long remembered as people who really made a difference.







A Durham Education

A Durham education is one that inspires, nurtures and encourages its students through the provision of the finest quality teaching coupled with extensive opportunities to enable our students to achieve. Our excellent teachers encourage students to think creatively, to apply knowledge and skills successfully and imaginatively, and to constantly challenge themselves whilst building 'Confidence for Life' in a positive and supportive environment.

Durham School Dubai is committed to delivering an education that is engaging, challenging, motivating and fun. Using a holistic and rigorous approach to education, our students learn through stimulating and creative experiences, in the classroom and beyond, in lessons and co-curricular activities. We aim to ensure that every Durham student's experience of school is positive and productive laying the foundation for academic success.





Early Years Foundation Stage

Overview

Children entering Durham School Dubai in EYFS start Foundation Stage1 in the September after their third birthday. The Early Years Foundation Stage is a two-year phase. Teaching assistants support the class teachers in the delivery of the curriculum and specialist teachers deliver carousel activities in Art, Music and Computing, as well as an informal approach to Arabic. The children in Foundation Stage will also love visiting the Library each week.

The children have a dedicated play area featuring a range of activities, apparatus and resources keeping them fully occupied at breaktimes! Our talented and experienced staff provide a range of outdoor play activities such as water, sand, mark making and small world. The learning environments are a hive of activity providing the children with a range of multi-sensory activities. Display areas celebrate the children's work across all curriculum areas. All classrooms have interactive screens to support the children's learning.





Early Years Foundation Stage

Curriculum

The Early Years in Durham School Dubai will be a delightful experience filled with exciting learning opportunities and lots of fun. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which is broken down into 7 areas further divided into Prime and Specific areas.

The three Prime Areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

The four Specific Areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Our classrooms and outdoor areas are organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. At Durham School Dubai, we believe that children learn through play as this is the natural way for children to acquire knowledge and understanding.

Opportunities to enrich the curriculum are developed through trips and visitors. Parents are invited into school to attend school productions that are appropriate to the children's age. The children have great fun preparing for these through songs, actions, dance and some speaking parts.



Primary School

Key Stage 1 – Overview

Key Stage One is a two-year phase, covering the 5 – 7 years age range.

As your son or daughter moves from Early Years to Key Stage One (KS1), a more formal approach to lessons begins although a lot of the learning is still taught through play, especially in Year 1. We believe that it is essential that children have a good grounding in the basics and we will concentrate on the teaching of reading including a daily phonics programme, developing writing skills and vocabulary and increasing familiarity and confidence with number.





Primary School

Key Stage 1 – Curriculum

A smooth transition takes place between Foundation and Key Stage One (KS1) of the English National Curriculum. The subjects the children will experience include English, Mathematics, Science, Arabic Language and Islamic Education (for Muslim students) History, Geography, Design Technology, Music, Art PE and Swimming.

Links across the curriculum subject are made wherever possible and all activities are planned and delivered to maximise first-hand experience and respond to differing learning styles. Role play continues to be used as a way of developing expressive language skills.

The Children will also benefit from out of school for activities that support and enrich the curriculum, for example, the Y1 students may visit a local science museum where they get the opportunity to engage in many 'hands on' practical activities. Y2 children may visit a local wildlife park as part of their study of animals in the local environment.

Parents are regularly invited into school to join assemblies and celebrate their children's' achievements. The children have great fun preparing for this through songs, actions, dancing and some speaking parts. Similarly, visitors with special skills and experience are invited into class to further enrich the curriculum.



Primary School

Key Stage 2 – Overview

Key Stage Two (KS2), is a four-year phase covering the ages of 7 – 11 years old. In KS2 Learning becomes more formal and children will continue to read in school each day, as well as have daily English and maths lessons. In some curriculum areas the Key Stage 2 timetable will run parallel to the KS3 Secondary school timetable, this allows more specialist teaching in Upper KS2.

Key Stage 2 – Curriculum

KS2 children will continue to follow the school reading scheme however, during KS2, they will become free readers and enjoy the range of carefully selected books in our school library. Alongside the core subjects English, maths, and science, history and geography, are taught in greater depth. Art music and PE will promote the children's sporting and creative development.

We will be following the UAE Ministry of Education Curriculum for Arabic Language, Islamic Education and Emirati Social Studies. This will be supported with additional Arabic reading schemes and songs. Wherever possible, the students will benefit from out of school visits and activities to support and enrich the curriculum.



Secondary School

Key Stage 3 and 4 – Overview

Durham School Dubai aims to provide an education that challenges young people to make a difference in the world. At all levels our curriculum is designed to embed this ethos and prepare students to stand out. Our bespoke Key Stage 3 curriculum enriches the English National Curriculum and includes a range of lessons to develop young leaders of the future. Towards the end of KS3 (Y9) students have the opportunity to select some of the subjects that they will follow in KS4 over the two year period until their IGCSE examinations in the summer of Y11.

In the secondary school, students have form rooms with an experienced form tutor who oversees their education and pastoral care. In addition, the House System is embedded into the school creating opportunities for friendly competition and house events and also to develop peer mentors across the age groups. The form tutors meet with the students daily and oversee their development liaising with all of their subject teachers. They will know each student in their class extremely well and will be the parents' link for all the students' needs.

Year 10 and 11 students at Durham School Dubai are offered a challenging, stimulating range of subjects to study for their IGCSEs designed to cater for their interests and strengths whilst maintaining a strong focus on the core skills in mathematics, English and the sciences. Our secondary school students will be given a great deal of time and individual attention to ensure that they perform well in their IGCSE examinations whilst at the same time developing the self-discipline, time management and study skills required to set them on the road to towards the best possible grades in their exams.



Secondary School

Key Stage 3 and 4 – Curriculum

Alongside their academic studies, our students will also find opportunities for both leadership and participation in many events and activities such as debating, music concerts, school shows, STEM Olympiads and competitive sport.

In Key Stage 3 and 4, along with the National Curriculum, our students also follow the Arabic Language and Islamic Education Curriculum as prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

The range of subjects and opportunities in secondary school is broad and students will have to opportunity to study:



Arabic Language



Geography



Islamic Education



Art



Emirati Social Studies



Computing



English – Language
and literature



Music



Mathematics



Modern Foreign
Languages



Science – Chemistry,
Biology and Physics



Physical Education
and Swimming



History



Personal, Social and
Health Education



Sixth Form

Durham Dubai 6th Form will offer a range of A-level options for our students allowing them to specialise in subjects of particular interest to them. We aim to support our students in their studies to obtain the best possible grades to enable them to access their universities of choice. Students will be guided as to the subject choices and to university placements through a dedicated student support team with experience in placing students in universities in the UAE, the UK, the United States, Asia and Europe.

We also understand that A-levels might not be the best option for some students and therefore BTEC awards are under consideration as an alternative pathway for some. In keeping with our promise to all of our students, our education programme is tailored to fit the students; our students are not manipulated to fit our programme.

Leadership skills, community projects and service are all important aspects of our 6th Form education. Whilst academic achievement is extremely important, so too are social skills and social competence. Our students will be given plenty of opportunities to develop and extend themselves through a range of activities and a comprehensive extra-curricular programme.



Arabic Language and Islamic Education

The teaching of Arabic Language for both native and non-native speakers, Islamic education for our Muslim students and Social Studies and Moral Education are all a part of our core curriculum. These subjects will be taught as directed by the Ministry of Education and our students will follow the Ministry approved syllabus in each component. We believe that high quality teaching results in the best learning outcomes for our students and we are determined that these subjects will be taught to the highest standards encouraging learning and enjoyment and a pride in Emirati roots and culture.

Arabic Language

The Arabic as a first language curriculum promotes language development adhering to the UAE Ministry of Education expectations for Arabic Language. From a young age, or students develop their native language skills through Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing, and Grammar. Students in the Primary School and KS3 will have specialist Arabic lessons four times in a week.

The teaching of Arabic to non-native speakers is most important. The curriculum teaches Arabic by implementing the best practices associated with the teaching of modern foreign Languages. Our students will learn Arabic through the development of four skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Our students in the Primary School and KS3 will attend specialist Arabic lessons four times in a week.



Arabic Language and Islamic Education

Islamic Education

Our Muslim students in Primary School and KS3 will attend specialist Islamic Education lessons twice a week. The curriculum provides helps the students to develop their understanding of their religion, values and beliefs.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, the students will follow the MOE Curriculum. They will learn about their culture, national identity and UAE citizenship helping them develop a sense of belonging and pride in their country and heritage.

Moral Education

The Moral Education Curriculum is divided into four core areas:

- The Character and Morality curriculum which supports the Durham values and develops honest, tolerant, resilient, kind individuals.
- The Individual and the Community Curriculum helps our students understand about contributing to the good of society, participating actively and leading others to strive to make things better.
- Civil Studies ensures that whether a student is an Emirati, born in the UAE, or an ex-pat who moved here with their family, they understand and appreciate the fundamentals of how the UAE was formed and how it is governed.
- Culture is an inherent part of a society and the programme highlights UAE's shared human culture that encapsulates the traditions and symbols that help define who we are.





Co-Curricular

A Rounded Education

Alongside our strong academic focus, Durham Dubai encourages our students to participate in an have an extensive co-curricular programme which includes sporting, artistic, academic and musical opportunities.

We believe that co-curricular opportunities enrich and develop the individual, fostering skills such as leadership, collaboration and teamwork.

Our mission is to provide students with a rounded education; one which instils in them an aspiration for achievement, confidence for life and respect for all.





Co-Curricular

Sport

A comprehensive programme of sporting activities will be available to all students starting from the very youngest children and continuing right through the school. The school will run a number of sports teams in the major sports and Durham students will compete against other schools in Dubai and the Middle East.

In addition, there will be internal sports competitions through the House system allowing all students to represent their House in competitive events.

In addition to competitive sport, recreational sport will also be available for those students who wish to participate simply for the enjoyment and pursuit of a healthy lifestyle. Our skilled and experience PE staff will be supported by a number of coaches to help us achieve our aim of providing a comprehensive range of sporting opportunity for all of our students.

Swimming

Alongside a variety of sporting activities such as football, rugby, netball, basketball, athletics and volleyball, swimming as a recreational activity and competitive sport will also be available to the students. As well as coaching for good technique, all students will be taught essential life-saving skills and related first aid.



Co-Curricular

Music

Music is taught as a part of the Durham curriculum but we believe it is also very important to give all students the opportunity to further develop their musical interests and talent. Throughout the school, we strongly encourage every student to learn an instrument and participate in musical events. The school provides outstanding facilities for music and an array of peripatetic music teachers will be available to work with students to develop their skills. Lessons will be available for students who wish to pursue studies of piano, woodwind instruments, brass instruments, voice and drums. In addition, opportunities will be available for students who wish to study musical production and recording techniques.

Art & Drama

Art and drama, alongside other creative subjects, are an important part of a Durham education. We strongly believe that encouraging student creativity is an essential component in the provision of a broad and balanced education. Art opportunities include drawing and painting, sculpture and art appreciation whilst all students will be encouraged to participate in drama as part of the curriculum as well as in school performances and shows – this will start from as young as Early Years where children will perform in assemblies and parents will have the pleasure of coming to watch. In addition, public speaking and oration are important skills for promoting student confidence and confident persuasive speaking is an essential element in leadership.





Durham School UK

Durham School is one of the UK's oldest schools, with a 600-year tradition of academic, sporting and cultural excellence.

Durham School's history stretches back centuries, certainly to 1414 and the re-organisation of the school by Thomas Langley, and some would claim even further back to the monastic settlement on Lindisfarne that came to Durham City 900 years ago.

The School was originally situated on Palace Green, adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Durham Cathedral in the heart of Durham City, but was moved to its present magnificent site on the other side of the River Wear in 1844.

Durham offers a high-quality education to all its girls and boys who can be day students or, at the Secondary School, boarders. The School has a particularly high reputation for academic studies, music, sport and drama.







Contact

We invite your child to make their mark at Durham School Dubai and look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

If you would like further information, our friendly team would be delighted to answer your questions and can organise a tour so that you can see for yourself all that we have to offer.

We fully understand how important the decision is when choosing your child's education and we are committed to ensuring that their first experience of education is one filled with happiness and learning.



Durham School Dubai

Confidence for Life

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