



AMADEUS - First class education in Vienna

Jeremy House, new Head of School of AMADEUS, spoke with SOCIETY about the advantages of an international education in combination with a positive and creative environment.

As the new Head of School of AMADEUS International School Vienna, what, in your opinion, is the facility focusing on?

Amadeus Vienna is a young and dynamic international school in the heart of arts, music and culture. We have a motivated and talented teaching faculty, incredible diversity in our student body, high quality boarding, a stunning and safe location, and a supportive and engaged community. The most important thing is to build upon these strengths, to maximise potential where it exists and to realise the great vision of the Board of Trustees for excellence in all that we do. Broadly speaking, I believe there are three pillars which will shape our future. A positive education, a creative education and an international education. We aim to become a research-led school on the forefront of these areas of learning and pedagogy.

What does AMADEUS School stand for? The school also follows the International Baccalaureate, what are the advantages of this IB program?

Above all, we stand for learning! Following that, as a small day and boarding school, we stand for community; as a school with an integrated music and arts academy, we stand for excellence in the music and arts; and, as an International Baccalaureate school, we stand for the vision that we can create a more peaceful world through education. Currently, there are around 4200 IB schools worldwide, collectively educating almost 1.25 Million IB students. What separates this program from others is, (i) it is research based, (ii) it has a strong international dimension, (iii) it emphasizes language learning, and (iv) it necessitates curricular depth and breadth. The most important aspect however, is that the students are at the heart of learning, so we can be flexible in order to strengthen their creativity, their passions and their enthusiasm.

AMADEUS has a special commitment to music and arts – how do you think this is beneficial to your students?

An education in music and arts not only has the neuro-scientific evidence of contributing to improved cognition and wellbeing, but also fosters the

development of well-rounded, creative, and confident individuals. It promotes teamwork, engagement and cultural awareness. Furthermore, students at our school have the opportunity to develop their talent to the highest possible professional level.

In a quite challenging, fast and globalized world, what are the essential skills and values that a school should convey to its students?

The rate of change in the world is exponential. It is also clear that to succeed in a complex and dynamic future such as this will require continual learning and adaptability. Alongside this, stands communication (in multiple languages, written and oral, for different audiences and purposes), collaboration (in person and digitally), critical thinking (deep thinking that cuts across domains of knowledge), and creativity (the ability to imagine new possibilities and bring them to life). These can be thought of as the competencies for the future, yet they still require an engine. We want our students to realize that they are powerful actors in the world who can make a difference.

