Respect, Honesty, Kindness, Perseverance, Responsibility and Teamwork

Our Values
SHERBORNE Qatar is a relatively young school, but it has established itself as a one of the premier private schools here in Qatar. We are a truly international school, with pupils from many different nationalities, and we are a culturally rich school.

We follow an enhanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum for England in Years 7, 8 and 9. We prepare boys and girls for IGCSE and GCSE examinations in Year 11. In the Sixth Form we offer a broad range of subjects leading to AS Levels (Year 12) and A Levels (Year 13). From September 2018, we will be offering BTEC Business in Year 12 for pupils that prefer a project-based academic programme that has an emphasis on continual assessment.

The school takes the best of British education and draws upon the rich heritage of our mother school in Dorset. Together with the Preparatory School, Sherborne Qatar was the first overseas school developed by Sherborne School, Dorset, and was established at the invitation of Qatar’s Ministry of Education & Further Education as the only British independent school in the ‘Outstanding Schools Programme’, an association of which we are proud to be members.

Sherborne Qatar is recognised by the UK Department for Education as a British School Overseas (BSO), having met the inspection standards set by Ofsted. We are also members of the British Schools of the Middle East (BSME). ‘Skilled, passionate and genuinely supportive teaching staff.’ (BSO Report, June 2017).

Shared with Sherborne Qatar Preparatory School, our mission is to cultivate: “Well educated, well rounded individuals who have high aspirations and achieve their potential, in a happy and nurturing school.”

Whilst striving for academic excellence, Sherborne Qatar is first and foremost a caring and supportive school. Pupil well-being and happiness is at the centre of everything that we do. We aim to foster confident, responsible and emotionally intelligent global citizens.

Pastoral care is important to us: each child must know that they are valued. Our pastoral team knows not only their pupils, but also their families because we are all part of the same community. We recognise the importance of working closely with parents to help realise a child’s potential. Children have a far better chance of academic success and happiness when schools and families work together. Effective parent school partnerships are based on mutual trust and respect, and the shared responsibility for a child’s education.

‘Well behaved pupils that value the school and are keen to well.’ (BSO Report, June 2017)
At the heart of what we do are our core values:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Perseverance
- Responsibility
- Teamwork

We want these core values to become the essence of our school, reflecting what we live and work by. At Sherborne Qatar we share a similar ethos and values to our mother school, Sherborne UK.

We want our pupils to become positive role models, to embrace positions of responsibility and to develop a range of interests. All pupils have the desire to achieve if encouraged to do so, and given the opportunities to do so. We want our pupils to explore and develop their passions, whatever they might be – academic, creative and sporting – and we seek to create a culture of celebrating success.

Most importantly Sherborne Qatar is a caring, inclusive, family-orientated and supportive school.

This prospectus provides an insight into what Sherborne Qatar can offer its pupils and their families, but there is so much more to learn about us. The best way understand Sherborne Qatar is to visit us and to explore in person what we have to offer.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Nick Prowse, Principal and CEO
Stephen Spicer, Headmaster
OUR HISTORY

SHERBORNE School is an independent boys’ boarding school re-founded in 1550 under a royal charter granted by King Edward VI. It has grown into a modern school of nearly 600 pupils and about 100 teaching staff. Surrounded by the bustling market town, the school attracts pupils from across the world.

Shirburnians follow a diverse range of careers at the highest levels and include diplomats, bishops, politicians, journalists, actors, poets and musicians.

Sherborne Preparatory School is an independent co-educational school for children aged 3-13 years. The school has a long and distinguished history and an enviable academic reputation as a feeder to many of England’s leading independent schools.

Sherborne Qatar was founded in 2009 and is a joint venture between Sherborne School and Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Thani. Members of the Qatari royal family such as the Emir, HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, have attended Sherborne and Sheikh Abdullah and his wife Sheikha Amal have sent some of their sons there too.

Sheikh Abdulla was keen that Sherborne should join him in a partnership to bring to Qatar education opportunities and values that he had seen and liked at Sherborne. He says: “Ahmed our oldest son was transformed by Sherborne. The school’s approach helped him to discover different talents in himself and he was greatly nourished by the experience. We are extremely grateful for what a Sherborne education has given him. Sherborne has history, culture, discipline and a willingness to transform a child. That is what it did for our child and that is what we want to give to Qatar. We need to bring a more structured educational experience to our country. Qatar needs Sherborne’s culture, experience and tradition."

Sherborne Qatar is a founding member of Qatar’s Ministry of Education & Further Education Outstanding Schools Initiative and is overseen by the Ministry’s Private Schools Office. Sherborne Qatar is a self-financed, not-for-profit school with its own Board of Governors, of which Sherborne School has half of the appointed membership. Our ethos, brand and educational standards are overseen by and aligned to Sherborne School.
OUR aim is to enable all pupils ultimately to have the opportunity to gain entry into the best universities in the world. To that end, our curriculum is academically broad and demanding, featuring additional elements that will enhance not only the curriculum vitae of each pupil, but will also help them to develop interests and skills that will benefit them as they enter the adult world beyond school.

As a leading British school, we require all pupils to have a sound grasp of both written and spoken English. With the exception of Modern Foreign Languages and some Islamic Studies classes, all teaching is carried out in English.

All pupils benefit from specialist, well qualified and experienced teaching staff. It is our policy to employ teachers who have studied for their professional qualifications in the United Kingdom and who have gained relevant teaching experience there. Expectations are high at each stage of the school, and especially in Years 10 and 11, because we know that in their I/GCSE examinations our pupils are competing in a global arena. Our I/GCSE results exceed the UK national averages by some distance. In 2017 85% of our pupils achieved 5 or more A* to C grades, including English and Maths, (the UK average was 65%) and 43% of all grades were A* or A (the UK average was 21%).

The compulsory subjects in Years 10 and 11 are English Language, English Literature (English as a Second Language is also offered), Mathematics (and Further Mathematics for selected pupils) and Combined (Double Award) Science. The optional subjects that we offer are: Biology, Chemistry & Physics (separate Sciences at I/GCSE are available as an option and this then replaces Combined Science), Arabic, Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Drama, French, Geography, History, ICT, Islamic Studies, Music, PE and Spanish. The curriculum in Years 7 to 9 covers most of these subjects too, so that pupils are well prepared for the demands of the I/GCSE courses.

Our new Sixth Form programme is international in nature and caters for the diverse needs of our pupils and parents. Sixth Formers study three or four AS subjects (four being the norm) in Year 12 and each subject leads to an AS examination at the end of Year 12. English Language and Mathematics I/GCSE re-sit classes are available as part of the Year 12 programme. Most pupils will then continue into Year 13, and full A levels, in three or four of their subjects. Our A Level results also compare very favourably with UK national averages. In 2017 70% of all A levels were graded A* to C, with over one in five grades being at A* or A.
From September 2018 we will offer a one-year BTEC Business Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (which is equivalent to 1 A Level) in Year 12. BTECs (Business and Technology Education Council) better suit the learning style of some pupils as they have an emphasis on continual assessment rather than terminal examinations (as is the case with I/GCSEs and AS/A Levels). The I/GCSE entry requirements for the alternative BTEC programme will not be as rigorous as the AS/A Level entry requirements. In addition to this qualification, pupils on this alternative programme will be able to re-sit I/GCSE English and Mathematics (if needed) and, subject to pupil ability, they will be able to take a single AS subject.

The BTEC has earned its reputation as the world’s most successful applied learning qualification, providing students with a clear line of sight into work. For pupils they allow a greater breadth on the opportunities schools can give to them, focusing on what they find interesting and relevant to their future. The strength of BTEC qualifications is that they are career-based, designed to give pupils the skills they need to move on to university or to go straight into employment.

Throughout the school a wide-ranging Personal, Social and Health Education programme is delivered as part of the pastoral provision.

The Examination Boards to which we are affiliated are: CIE and Edexcel.
THE school incorporates a traditional house system, led by Heads of Houses. Among other benefits, our house system nurtures a sense of belonging, facilitates healthy competition, encourages pupils of different ages to interact and it provides older pupils with responsibility and leadership opportunities. There is a fortnightly inter-house event (last lesson on a Thursday, Week B) to give pupils and teachers a regular opportunity to work in their houses.

To provide specialised pastoral support we have Heads of Year who oversee the Form Tutors for pupils in a particular year group. These Heads of Year cater for the specific age related educational and pastoral needs of our pupils.

The role of the Form Tutor is to work closely with tutees in all matters academic and pastoral, meeting regularly to review and monitor progress. Form Tutors are the first point of contact for parents. Form Tutors are regularly in touch with parents because we appreciate the part that parents want to play in their children’s education.

The School Council, with its elected Form Representatives and Year Representatives (Year Representatives from across the school then make up the School Council Executive Team), provides genuine and frequent opportunities for pupils to be heard.

The Prefect system, led by the Heads of School, also enables senior pupils to develop leadership skills and to be positive role models for their peers. We set high standards in expecting sensible behaviour and in trusting pupils to get things right. We have a rewards system that acknowledges and celebrates success on many fronts. Regular house, year group and whole-school assemblies reflect our pupils’ many achievements.
ENRICHMENT

At Sherborne Qatar education is for life and so we have a wide range of enrichment activities which help pupils to build on their talents and to discover new interests and strengths. Enrichment activities are offered every night of the school week and there is also provision (at no charge) for after school homework until 3.30pm in the form of Prep Club.

There are opportunities for individual music tuition and for participation in ensembles and choirs. As an enrichment activity we also offer the opportunity to compete in our ‘Battle of the Bands’.

Specialist external providers add to the wide selection of enrichment activities provided by our staff. In 2017 activities offered by our external providers included: STEM, engineering, science, coding, pottery, boxercise and zumba.

Sport beckons for those who want to play in a team or as an individual. Regular fixtures and tournaments are held between schools in Doha. In the local QUESS competitions we have featured as winners and runners-up in several sports for both boys and girls. Tournaments are organised in basketball, cricket, football, netball, rugby and volleyball.

There are also opportunities for scuba diving, jui jitsu, rowing, swimming, golf and sailing, all of which are part of an increasing array of enrichment activities on offer.

Drama is strong and we have an annual production that combines acting and musical talents. We have participated in the BSME Drama Festival and there are regular trips to professional productions in the Cultural Village.

There are opportunities for pupils to display their Art, both in school and elsewhere. Some of our pupils have been successful in local competitions and have had their work displayed in Mathaf, the Museum of Modern Art.

We have teams which have been successful in Qatar Debate competitions, and we are members of the Model United Nations organisation. Pupils in Year 9 have the opportunity to complete the Bronze Award and those in Years 10 and 11 can complete the Silver Award of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (known overseas as the International Award). In the Sixth Form pupils can complete their Gold Award, which offers an opportunity to work alongside pupils from Sherborne Dorset and to complete gruelling expeditions in some of the UK’s finest National Parks.
We have groups of pupils interested in fundraising and in volunteer work. We are proud of our relationship with Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) and United World School (UWS). Each year our pupils contribute significantly to special causes.
AS part of their all-round development, education and well-being, all pupils are encouraged to participate in the Sherborne Qatar Sports Programme. Girls and boys have the opportunity to participate in several team sports during the course of the academic year. It is expected that pupils will take pride in representing Sherborne Qatar in sports in which they have talent or an interest. Whilst pupils have the opportunity to excel in sport, Sherborne Qatar recognises that there are enormous social, health and service benefits from representing the School.

Pupils benefit from use of a sports hall, astro-turf and indoor fitness area that allows for elite performers to also train at the school. Permission has now been granted for a swimming pool on the Senior School site.

Sports teams for girls and boys are entered in various disciplines in the QUESS competitions, which is the inter-school sports events for English speaking Qatari schools. In addition to this, the School enters sporting events run by local authorities such as Qatar Foundation, QFA, QRF and QCA. The school also has links with Doha Golf Club and is unique in providing a rowing programme at the School.

Masterclass sporting sessions are provided by staff who possess expertise in that particular sport and these opportunities are provided for local feeder schools. Sports included in this are girls’ and boys’ football, netball, rugby and cricket.
MUSIC AND DRAMA

BEYOND the Drama & Music curriculum we offer chances to develop skills learned in the classroom. There is a musical theatre production every year and we also offer to those who prefer straight Drama the chance to join The Sherborne Players (a focused group of performers dedicated to improving their skills for professional Drama).
For an application form go to: www.sherborneqatar.org
Or contact the registrar on: registrar@sherborneqatar.org
School office opening hours are: Sunday – Thursday 7:00am – 3:00pm
Senior: +974 4459 6400 (Office hours) • Prep: +974 4459 6566 (Office hours) • Fax: +974 4459 6412
PO Box 93503, Doha, Qatar
Well-educated, well-rounded individuals who have high aspirations and achieve their potential, in a happy and nurturing school.

Our Mission