

**Nicola Snow****Primary Teacher**

After teaching in the same school for 19 years and getting married in Australia in the summer, I decided I needed a challenge and made the decision to teach abroad. AAESS was the second school I have applied for since starting my teaching. I had never even visited the Middle East before. I had heard of Dubai and Abu Dhabi but not Al Ain. I was quite nervous, especially when I was offered an interview in November. This is where I met Mrs McCauley, from the first moment of meeting her and hearing all about AAESS I knew I wanted to teach there. Receiving the offer of employment was the most exciting thing to happen to me (well after getting married to my husband). The whole process from accepting the job to arriving at the airport in August was so easy, all the HR staff were fantastic at guiding me through the process of working abroad. Upon my arrival with my husband at the airport, meeting my other colleagues and the amazing HR people who are the best, this exciting journey became real. My nerves about living in Al Ain soon faded, especially with the visit from the SLT to our apartment and the kind, helpful Mr Hassan who took us shopping the first day we arrived, nothing is too much trouble to them. The apartment provided by the school was beyond my wildest dreams, so spacious and clean, located so near school. The school provided a very in-depth induction course where most of my questions were answered. During the induction, I had the opportunity to meet the rest of my team and the school, what can I say, it was like entering into a new family, everyone (from Senior management to the utility staff) are so kind, caring and helpful, a wonderful feeling of belonging.

Since meeting the children at AAESS wow they are so amazing, very caring, kind, helpful and wanting to learn. My Year 2 class are the best (in my opinion) they are so eager to learn, teach me the Emirati language and way of life and creating enthusiasm in my teaching. No day is ever the same but every day is full of enjoyment. Here I have the best of life, a fantastic work life working with incredible teachers but also an amazing home life spending time with my husband and new friends and exploring this wonderful place. For anyone thinking shall I, shan't I – do it the best decision I have ever did saying yes to becoming a teacher here at AAESS. A life become my wildest dream I have here at this amazing school and country.



Charlotte McIlroy
Physical Education Teacher

I had never been to the UAE before accepting the job at Al Ain English Speaking School. I had heard a lot about Dubai, a little about Abu Dhabi and nothing at all about Al Ain so I didn't know what to expect. I told myself I would see how the first year or so goes and then reassess I am now in my third year and still haven't got to the reassessing part; I can honestly say that it is one of the best decisions I have made.

Since arriving as a PE teacher I have had the opportunity to enhance my career to a Head of Year role which now sees me in charge of both Year 10 and Year 11. This pastoral role has given me the chance to build effective relationships with a wide variety of students.

At Al Ain English Speaking School, I have had the wonderful opportunity to teach students from such a wide array of different countries. I once took a group of students to a sports fixture and not one student was from the same country as another, they spent the whole commute discussing each other's cultures and traditions. The students are a delight to work with; they are hard-working, cooperative and passionate about their education. We have seen some outstanding results by our students and therefore go on to well renowned universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard amongst other notable institutions.

Staff at AAESS are very welcoming and supportive. Almost everyone has made the move to a different country so the staff community is extremely supportive, friendly, helpful and like a second family.

Living in Al Ain has many advantages; Dubai and Abu Dhabi are only a short drive away, the climate is slightly more tolerable than other places in the UAE and it's also much quieter and friendly than the bigger cities.

The UAE as a country has so much to offer – you never get bored. However, if you do have the passion to see the world it's such a central place to be based in to travel to other parts such as Asia, Africa and Australia for example.



'Achieving Excellence'



Aled Jones
Year 3 Teacher

I had never been to the Middle East before coming to Al Ain and I had heard so many different stories (from good to bad) and I just didn't know what to expect. To say I was nervous about coming here would be an understatement but all of my fears couldn't have been further from the truth! I had only been teaching for 2 years and had recently passed my NQT year before coming out here. I had taught in an inner city school in Bristol and didn't really know what to expect from a private school or who I would meet here. There was always a fear looming in the back of my mind about if I would meet people my age? Are they going to be friendly? What are the children going to be like?

During my arrival I was welcomed by the Head of HR who was very accommodating and lovely. From the airport, she took me to my accommodation (in which the school had provided). It was very spacious and clean with all the necessary equipment and a lovely food pack was provided to see me through a few days. The following two days resulted in an induction day at the school and at the local rugby club, in which I was able to meet members of SLT and familiarise myself with the area. These days ran extremely smoothly and gave me a better indication of what the school and its staff members were like.

As my first day of teaching loomed, I was able to contact my head of year in regards to what was expected from me and the children in the first week. She was also very welcoming and supportive of any questions I had. After my first week of teaching I found that the students were co-operative and enthusiastic in which allowed me to just teach, which was often very difficult to do in the UK. At AAESS I have found a really supportive team of staff who are open minded to suggestions and willing to help others. Although I have only been here for a short period of time, I have already met people from all walks of life with a range of experience and I find that there is something to be learnt from each one of them. I would highly recommend AAESS to others thinking about teaching abroad or wanting a change in their career.



'Achieving Excellence'



Emma Quick
Early Years Teacher

I have recently arrived in Al Ain and am already enjoying my time here. I had always wanted to teach in the UAE and I am so glad that I have followed this. From being offered my job back in February to arriving in the UAE in August the whole process was made easier due to the helpfulness of everyone involved at school and everyone has been so helpful and friendly and have made my big move feel less scary! Al Ain English Speaking School is a friendly environment to work in, everyone is so kind and helpful and everyone has made me feel welcome since arriving.

I have recently started teaching in FS2 and am really enjoying it. From what I have already witnessed the school has every child's best interest in mind and to strive hard so every child has the potential to achieve and succeed in the future and that makes me happy to work in a caring and nurturing school environment.

The UAE is a great place to live and is so central to the rest of the world and is great base for travelling. Al Ain itself is lovely and feels like a big family. I have found Al Ain to be extremely safe and welcoming to all and I look forward to continuing to live here in the near future.