



Martyn Crocker
Music Teacher

I came to Al Ain English Speaking School after 5 years of teaching Music in the UK. I have moved here with my wife and 3 children as we were all looking for a change and a new, exciting adventure. We had never visited the UAE prior to joining the school but can so far say that we've made a fantastic choice in coming out here. The change of pace has been perfect, and our experiences continue to improve the longer we are here. We are spending more time than ever together and there is so much to do and explore in Al Ain that it will be months before we exhaust all of our options.

The School have taken great care and support with getting my family settled, our Apartment is superb and the introductory week really helped us to see Al Ain and settle into our new environment. Two of my children are also attending the school and they are loving their new teachers and being in such a multicultural environment.

My music classroom is very well equipped, the staff and the performing arts department are very helpful, and I am really enjoying teaching the students at the school. Their attitudes to learning and progressing across all years is fantastic and they really celebrate academic achievement here. I have not experienced students with such positive attitudes in the UK and am excited to create engaging lessons for them. I am looking forward to putting on some exciting performances over the next few years and helping students to achieve great things.

It's still early days at Al Ain English Speaking School, but I am very confident that I have made the right decision in coming out here, for myself, my career, my family and I look forward to my future here.



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 have 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 whole the 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 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.



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 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 familiarize 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 myself 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 had found a really supportive team of staff which were 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 other 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 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 want to strive 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.