

The British International School

by
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The British School began in Riyadh in the late 1970s as a response to the needs of the British and Dutch communities with the first young pupils receiving their education in a small villa. The school had soon grown enough to move to new premises in the old El Seif Compound. It developed there, with classrooms being built and a swimming pool and gymnasium added.

The school expanded when it moved to a site adjacent to Al Hamra Compound. A new principal, Mr Patrick Bloomfield took over in 1998. Education at the school prospered in many ways. It had a very successful Inspection by Ofsted inspectors in February 2000.

“This is a very effective school which achieves high standards... Pupils are a credit to their school and their families... There is a very good ethos; relationships between teachers and pupils are very good and the school fulfils its aim to raise standards of achievement”

Pupil/staff relationships were high and the children were very happy in their environment. SAT results matched and usually exceeded those in the independent sector in the UK. The move to Al Hamra had allowed us to expand and provide far more by way of facilities. A sports complex containing a large sports hall, gymnasium and



25-metre swimming pool with training pool for young children was built. Other resources were steadily introduced: a new ICT network with 5 fully networked ICT rooms, smaller banks in the Library, science, DT, music, geography, SEN. Projectors and an interactive whiteboard were in use.

A major development at this time was the introduction of KS4 (Years 10 and 11 and external examinations). When children reached the end of Year 9, parents had always to decide whether to send them to another school in Riyadh, or to boarding school in their country of origin (so splitting the family up), or do they uproot and move back home? The decision was often complicated by the presence of younger siblings. However, in the summer of 2002, it was decided to start a Year 10 group who would eventually sit IGCSE exams. Thirty five pupils began their

