



## Gymnasium Am Kothen

*with a German-English bilingual stream starting in Year 5.*

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### *General information*

The Gymnasium Am Kothen was founded over 180 years ago in the leafy mountainous surroundings of Wuppertal. Wuppertal is a city with around 350,000 inhabitants located near the cities of Düsseldorf and Cologne in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Today, the school has more than 1000 pupils from the Fifth (~ 10 years old) to Twelfth Grade (~ 18 years old), taught and supported by around 100 teachers. After the second year of the qualification period in the upper school (Grade Twelve) pupils can obtain a general certificate for entrance to a university (Abitur: German equivalent of "A-levels").



**The School Building**

### *A typical day at our school*

A typical day at our school consists of between four and six 65 minute lessons starting at 8 am and going until around 4 pm. There's a short break for recess at 10:20 am, and a longer break for lunch beginning at 12:55 pm.



**The weekly Circus Club**

On Tuesday afternoons, instead of normal classes, there are opportunities for the pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities, including music, art, circus and sport groups. Sports offered include Sailing, Volleyball, Water Volleyball, Basketball, Football, and more. Several concerts and exhibitions throughout the year show the importance our school places on creative activities.



**One of the Bilingual Classes**

## ***Subjects***

In addition to the standard subjects – including German, maths, hard sciences, I.T., and sport – the school offers a rich foreign languages programme. All students are required to take 2-3 lessons per week of either French or Latin, starting in the Sixth Grade, and Italian is offered from the Tenth Grade onward. English is also a requirement for all students, who have the additional possibility of taking part in an English-German bilingual stream of classes.

The bilingual stream is an optional programme beginning in the Fifth Grade that is designed to give pupils a head start with the English language. Pupils start with one extra lesson of English per week, eventually having geography (from Year 7) and history (from Year 8) lessons almost entirely in English. Approximately 30% of our pupils are participating in the bilingual programme.



**The Orchestra at a Concert**

Every year the school takes in a native-speaker foreign language assistant for either French or English. These assistants enrich our language lessons with cultural and linguistic knowledge.

## ***Excursions, class trips, exchange programmes***

In order to provide a more authentic experience of foreign languages and cultures, we offer a range of day trips and excursions through our language courses. French students are offered trips to Belgium and France. Bilingual classes are given the opportunity to take a week-long class trip to Southern England.

The school also participates in an exchange programme with a high school in Zlotow, Poland, which gives Polish students an insight into German life, and vice-versa.



**German Pupils in England**