



SCHWEIZERISCHE ALPINE
MITTELSCHULE DAVOS

High School Boarding School Intermediate Business School



Welcome to
SAMD in Davos.



Committed to success

Educating young people is our mission and our passion. For over 70 years, we have successfully ensured that our young people grow up to be responsible adults.

We give them the necessary space for their personal development and offer a well-rounded education and care as well as the unique experience of a living and learning community in the midst of one of the most charming landscapes in Switzerland.

Our school pursues a holistic educational approach whilst responding to individual needs. We look forward to welcoming you at SAMD. You can find further information at www.samd.ch.

Best wishes

Severin Gerber
Principal



1560 metres above sea-level





Learning and Living Space



The SAMD combines a high school, intermediate business school and a boarding school all under one roof. 240 pupils receive a comprehensive and in-depth education. We are recognised and authorized by the Swiss government to have the Swiss school leaving examinations known as the *Maturitätsprüfungen* sat in our school and for our teaching staff to supervise the examinations.

Best Conditions

This places high demands on our teaching body. Therefore we select our professionals with great care. Regardless of the choice of education, our students all benefit from the vast experience and expertise of our teachers but also from the outstanding infrastructure and the unique location in the highest town in the Alps. With its sports, culture and recreational opportunities, it really does offer the optimum balance for school life.

Support and Demand

There are various ways to achieve your goals. It's important that everyone recognizes what their own contribution to success is. We therefore expect every individual to fully immerse in the school community to play their part. On the one hand this means that we cater to the individual needs of each pupil and support them wherever and however possible in their personal development. On the other hand, we demand from the pupils that they demonstrate the required willingness to do the work required. Young people need clear objectives and rules to which they can apply themselves. Both can be found at SAMD in a proven, structured environment.

Responsibility and Tolerance



SAMD is a learning and living environment where self-responsibility, motivation and consideration play an important role. Mutual respect and support are central to integration into the community. With young people, this process does not always run smoothly. Therefore, disagreements must be openly discussed and resolved fairly. By using discussion, counselling and prevention measures, we have created an atmosphere of tolerance where there is a place for everyone.

High School

As the high school serving Davos, the Upper Prättigau region and the Albula Valley, SAMD offers both long-term and short-term high school education with linguistic, scientific and business subjects, as well as a bilingual Matura curriculum in German and English. The *Maturitätsausweis*, the school leaving-certificate awarded in Switzerland, allows the holder to enter any course of study in any faculty of a Swiss university or Swiss Federal Institute of Technology without the requirement of having to sit an examination.

Boarding School

In the boarding school at SAMD, we pursue a holistic approach to education that incorporates every single pupil and their individual abilities. Tolerance, respect and responsibility are at the core of this. By living these values on a daily basis, we accompany the pupils on their path to achieving the *Matura*, as well as give them important tools for their future development as a result of their experiences within the boarding school community.

Intermediate Business School

The Intermediate Business School at SAMD follows the 3rd year of high school. In addition to the business subjects, the curriculum also includes the subjects German, English and French, as well as history, geography, mathematics and the natural sciences. At the end of the vocational education are two qualifications: The Swiss certificate of proficiency for business people (EFZ) and the Vocational *Matura* Certificate (BM). Both allow the holder to immediately enter into a profession or attend a Swiss technical college without the requirement of having to sit an examination.

240

School Places

70

Boarding School Places

Strong Partners



SAMD maintains numerous partnerships with schools and institutions both within Switzerland and abroad. The cooperation with these enriches everyday school life and broadens the horizons of all pupils. The cultivation of these relationships has resulted in numerous successful internships, as well as first-class and prize-winning *Matura* papers.

Global Network

We have intensive contact with our partner schools abroad. This also includes an active pupil-exchange programme, something from which both sides benefit enormously. This not only gives our pupils insights into the way that other cultures learn and live, but also allows them to build valuable relationships, as these are very often the basis for life-long friendships. Among our partners are Victoria Junior College (Singapore), the Parklands College in Cape Town (South Africa) and the Pachamama School in Quito (Ecuador).

Swiss Partner Institutes

SAMD also maintains close contacts with various institutions on both a regional and national level. Among the research institutions are the WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF), the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF), the AO Foundation, the Physical Meteorological Observatory Davos (PMOD/WRC) as well as the Global Risk Forum Davos (GRF). In addition to the above-mentioned institutions, SAMD has also excellent relations with the Training and Consultancy Centre for Computer Science Studies ETH Zurich.

SAMD sees itself as a learning and living community. That is why joint and shared activities are just as important as individual support and well-being of each individual.



Leisure, Sport and Health



Davos offers a very healthy Alpine-mountain climate and a corresponding wide variety of leisure-time activities. Both are important for a healthy balance to everyday school life. This is why we put great importance on the fact that each pupil regularly pursues a hobby and we actively support them in this.

Cultural Activities and Parties

The majority of our boarding school pupils use their free time for cultural and sporting activities. Those wishing to pursue cultural activities whilst being creative at the same time can take part in the choir, the orchestra, the theatre or in a dance group. We also offer photography, philosophy and chess courses. Equally as important are the regular school highlights, such as Start-of-Year parties, adventure and cultural weekends, St. Nicholas Day and Christmas parties, the boarding-school ball and the *Schlittelpausch* (sledding). All of these enhance the feelings of togetherness and community within the school.

Sport

Davos offers everything that a sports fan's heart could desire. Winter sport is traditionally very important in our school. Many of our teachers are themselves passionate skiers, snowboarders and cross-country skiers. But many other types of sports are regularly trained for, such as: football/soccer, volleyball, cycling, jogging, swimming, surfing, sailing, tennis, squash, badminton, as well as horse riding, golf and various types of Japanese martial arts. The school can also offer pupils a professionally equipped weights room.

Health

We ensure that our pupils get a balanced but tasty diet. Salad and vegetables are always available as part of the meals. Our team in the kitchen is well-known and loved for the delicious and varied meals that it offers. We also take any special dietary requirement of pupils into consideration. In medical matters, we closely consult with the school doctor and the parents when it comes to caring for ill pupils, which includes visits to the doctor and the administration of medicines.

Specialities



SAMD boarding school

The boarding school at SAMD offers pupils a unique learning and living community under one roof. Girls and boys live separately either in their own room or two pupils sharing a room. We do everything to ensure that the pupils feel safe and at home within the boarding school community. Besides clear rules, this also requires a willingness to be tolerant and respectful of others. We cater to each pupil's individual needs and we respect the right of each pupil to privacy. The boarding school also offers its young residents a person they can approach and talk to at any time of day or night. These people have well-founded pedagogical knowledge, but also plenty of life experience and compassion for young people and the issues they face.

SAMD plus

In 2007 we introduced the programme SAMDplus for particularly motivated and talented young people. Besides the quality education, those who participate also benefit from the individual academic talent programme. The talent development programme begins in seventh class and continues until the *Matura* examinations are sat at the end of the pupils' high school level education. It is possible to join the programme at any time in the classes seven to ten. It includes, among other elements, a second specialised subject, a school term abroad, science internships, study weeks and the participation in competitions. The pupils can avail of subject-specific one-to-one support from a teacher. We sign an individual academic-performance contract with each pupil with the goal of achieving an average mark of 5.3 (equivalent to A) in the *Matura* examinations.



SAMD primar

Our education programme SAMDprimar intensively prepares primary-school pupils from the fifth and sixth classes for the first class of our long-term high school within small groups. SAMDprimar is an individualised, targeted and goal-orientated education. This programme prepares the pupils for the academic challenges that they will face at high school in a very individualised manner without any pressure. The close support provided within the boarding-school environment offers the very best conditions for effective learning. And the attractive range of activities available to pupils in their free time offers them the perfect balance to everyday school life. SAMDprimar is a programme that has been recognised by the Canton.



SAMDhealth

Ever increasing numbers of children and teenagers suffer from allergies. At the same time, the demands at school, university and in professional life are increasing. Due to the fact that allergy disorders can have a detrimental effect on their academic performance, we have started the programme SAMDhealth in cooperation with the medical clinic Hochgebirgsklinik Davos (HGK). The HGK is one of the few medical clinics in the Alpine region with comprehensive allergological expertise when it comes to the treatment of allergies in children, teenagers and adults and it covers the entire spectrum of allergies, pneumology, dermatology, paediatrics and psychosomatics. The goal of the project is to offer pupils suffering from chronic diseases and medical disorders the optimum framework conditions in order to successfully achieve a good education.



About SAMD

School Management

Severin Gerber, Principal
Dr. Christoph Hangartner, Vice Principal
Markus Schmid, Vice Principal
Gundolf Bauer, Boarding School Director
Georg Kühnis, Secretary

School and Foundation Board

Prof. Dr. Erich Schneider, Davos* (President)
Dr. Patrik Bergamin, Davos* (Vice-president)
Dr. med. Christian Buol, Davos*
Dr. Rolf Dörig, Küsnacht
Robin Hull, Zürich
Silvia Giovanoli Hehli, Davos*
Prof. Dr. Nicolas Gruber, Zürich
Ralph Krueger, Wollerau
Dr. Maria Meyer-Grass, Klosters
Dr. Urs Saxer, St. Gallen
Daniel Siegenthaler, Aarau
Stefan Walser, Davos*

*The members resident in Davos also form the school board.

Partner Schools and Institutions

Victoria Junior College (Singapore)
Parklands College in Cape Town (South Africa)
Pachamama-Schule in Quito (Ecuador)
Liceo Galileo Galilei, Catania (Italy)
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF)
Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF)
AO Foundation
Physical Meteorological Observatory Davos (PMOD/WRC)
Global Risk Forum Davos (GRF)
Hochgebirgsklinik Davos (HGK)

The Schweizerische Alpine Mittelschule Davos (SAMD), a foundation of the municipality of Davos, is the high school for the Davos area, the Upper Prättigau region and the Albula Valley. The school also has a boarding school in which pupils from both Switzerland and abroad form a learning and living community.

240 pupils receive their education at the SAMD high school or the Intermediate Business School with *Berufsmaturität* (vocational school-leaving certificate) and the *Eidgenössisches Fähigkeitszeugnis Kaufmann/-frau* (Swiss certificate of proficiency for business people) (EFZ). The *Maturität* and *Berufsmaturität* examinations are recognised by the Swiss government and are supervised by our teaching staff.

The *Matura* certificate allows the holder to attend any faculty at any Swiss university or Swiss Federal Institute of Technology without the requirement of having to sit an examination and the Vocational *Matura* Certificate allows the holder to immediately attend any technical college in Switzerland.

In addition to the high-quality and comprehensive education, pupils also benefit from a wide range of sporting, cultural and leisure-time activities in the world-famous holiday resort Davos.



«SAMD offers a holistic education and combines learning with sport in a very unique way. Students educated at SAMD are perfectly equipped for the big wide world.»

Ralph Krueger

Member of the SAMD Foundation Board

SAMD

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