

# Eupheus International School introduces lower secondary education

By MICHAEL BRUXO  
michael.bruxo@algarveresident.com

**LOULÉ** || Following "overwhelming demand" from parents, Eupheus International School in Loulé is now expanding and will be opening, in September, a Lower Secondary School for students aged 11 to 14 alongside its Pre-Preparatory and Preparatory School.

The Lower Secondary School will be based in a building that has been taken over by Eupheus, just a stone's throw away from the Pre-Preparatory and Preparatory School.

"We were going to do this in a year or two, but the need is there now, so we decided to bring the plan forward," Eupheus Head of School Penelope Best told the *Resident*.

Both schools will have extremely modern facilities at their disposal, such as a purpose-built auditorium, state-of-the-art classrooms, brand new science labs and a giant sports hall described as the "biggest out of any school in the Algarve".

Eupheus will be opening for its first school year in September. The school is situated to the south of Loulé, a short distance from junction 12 of the A22 motorway.

The idea to open the school came from a "group of people who saw a vision of a concept of a school that was not available in the Algarve", Penelope told us.

"Everybody I'm working with has been in education for 20 years and saw the same concept of what to do and where to do it," said Penelope Best, who herself has 18 years of headship experience in the Algarve.

Loulé was chosen as the site as it is a "superb area with a great need for an elite international school".

"It catches the Golden Triangle area, it is central and has a superb local government. All in all, it is an ideal location and is also very accessible," she explained.

## Tackling technology

Technology will play a big part in the school's education system.

"The 21<sup>st</sup> century is about technology. It's important for



The Eupheus Lower Secondary School building is currently undergoing renovations

children to learn about it in a structured and monitored way from a young age. You have to tackle it right away."

But technology won't be the only innovative facet of Eupheus.

Penelope Best says that starting a new school means having the opportunity to "embrace the latest of everything, from schoolbooks to the latest schemes of work."

"You can have the best and latest of everything," she explains.

The school's educators will all boast qualified teacher status (QTS). Class sizes will be kept deliberately small in number, allowing for an individual approach to learning for each child.

The British curriculum will be taught and expanded upon with lessons taking place within the classrooms as well as utilising the specially created outdoor learning areas.

## Eco education

Eupheus will also implement the Forest School programme, focused on teaching students the importance of protecting the environment.

"Being a Forest School is not solely about going on camping trips, it's about embracing the environment through everything

you do and taking action on a daily basis, realising there is only one planet," says the Eupheus Head of School.

Printing will be reduced to a minimum, only indigenous trees will be planted and everything will be recycled as much as possible. Even the school uniform is "eco-friendly".

"We will do everything we can do to limit our impact on the environment."

Eupheus children will also have specialist teachers for "vibrant, innovative" Music and Physical Education lessons. They will also offer a bespoke afterschool enrichment programme, Eupheus Quest, which allows children the opportunity to discover talents, develop new skills and embrace challenges.

Says Penelope Best, the ethos of the school is to provide a "safe and supportive environment where Eupheus children can experience diverse learning strategies that lead to educational excellence".

The goal is to unite parents and the community in assisting children to become free thinking, active and responsible members of society.

Eupheus is now accepting enrolments for September 2019.

289 154 800 / 910 323 080  
penelope.best@eupheus.pt  
www.eupheus.pt