Letter from the Principle

My name is Gunilla Söderström, Principle of Kvarngärdet School – Uppsala International School. I am both happy and proud to welcome you to our school, where the graduating 9th grade students achieved the fifth best results of any school in Sweden last year.

With students from many countries, and a wide range of social and academic backgrounds, our school is a truly multicultural environment where everybody is accepted for who they are. Our dedicated and competent staff has a long history of working with language development and introducing students to Swedish culture and society. Our pupils’ curiosity and desire to learn and the commitment and knowledge of our staff enable us to achieve the excellent results that we do.

Language and communication are our primary goals and we offer tuition in several different languages. Predominantly we work on enriching the students’ language skills in Swedish and English but we also offer tuition in Chinese, French and Spanish. We endeavour to help the students continue to develop their native language through mother tongue tuition. To put it simply, it is a community where pupils thrive and excel in more than one language.

Welcome to Kvarngärdet School, a school where each student is given the opportunity to attain the skills needed to shape their future and move forward in life with confidence.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Kvarngärdet School – a brief overview

**Just 10 minutes walking distance from Uppsala central train station,** you will find Kvarngärdet School - an international school for students from preschool to grade 9 (6-15 years old). Kvarngärdet School is located within an area protected from traffic. We offer separate streams for Swedish-speaking and bilingual Swedish/English-speaking students. In addition to these classes, we offer a school for pupils with learning disabilities and preparatory Swedish classes. All our teaching is based on the Swedish National Curriculum.

**In the Swedish classes,** we have students from preschool to grade 5. Here, we focus on communication and teaching in Swedish. After grade 5, students can choose to continue in our Profile Classes where we offer extra English tuition.

**The bilingual classes** have teachers who are native English speakers or who have lived in English-speaking countries for several years. Here, the teaching is conducted 100% in English during the preschool year and grade 1. The proportion of Swedish increases thereafter, until it reaches 50% in grade 3 and subsequent years. We accept both bilingual Swedish/English-speaking students and students with no Swedish to these classes.

**The classes for pupils with learning disabilities,** which is part of the compulsory special school (grundsärskolan), is for students who need a high ratio of staff per pupil and teachers trained in special education needs (SEN).

**The preparatory Swedish classes** are for those international students who recently arrived in Sweden and who need support in their basic Swedish in preparation for a future here.

**A range of after school activities** are organised for the younger pupils. Grade 1-3 students are in after school care and for grade 4-6 we have an after-school club on our premises.
We offer you

- A friendly atmosphere which is the foundation for all learning.
- An environment of tolerance and acceptance where we embrace cultural diversity.
- Teaching of a high quality by dedicated and qualified teachers.
- The fifth best exam results in the country, based on the national tests for grade 9 (Source: the Swedish National Agency for Education / Skolverket, 2011).
- Swedish as a second language (SVA) and support for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) from grade 1.
- Uppsalas only school to offer English tuition from five years of age to grade 9.
- Access for all students to computers in their classrooms.
- Many adults on duty during breaks and an active anti-bullying group.
- Support with homework on school premises after school hours.
- An active school choir.
- Outings on a regular basis to experience the nature and culture of Uppsala.
- Co-operation with the University of Uppsala, which among other things, has given us the opportunity to name a new asteroid – Kvarnis.
- A global network of schools where we can seek support and share our good practice with other international schools.
Our goals

• We want our students to start school with joy, curiosity and high expectations.
• We want them, during their school years, to get the challenges and knowledge that they are entitled to.
• We want them to feel that they are being seen and listened to.
• We want them to develop their ability to express themselves in different situations in order to be able to share their ideas, opinions and thoughts with others.
• We want our students to leave our school with the knowledge they need to be able to grow as confident individuals.

We educate self confident world citizens with a high level of knowledge and skills, who respect cultural diversity and who show tolerance for each others differences.
Contact details

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If you have questions, would like to arrange a visit or would like to apply for a place, please, do not hesitate to contact the school.

For more information, look at our website
www.kvarngardesskolan.uppsala.se