

## **Carlo-Schmid-Gymnasium Tübingen**

Carlo-Schmid-Gymnasium is one of five grammar schools in Tübingen, a historic university town with 87 000 inhabitants in the South of Germany. Carlo-Schmid-Gymnasium has been an independent grammar school since 1988. There are three or four forms per year with 800 students and 65 teachers in total.

In 2004 an eight-year course was introduced for grammar schools in Baden-Württemberg. At our school, English is the first foreign language learned by all children in year five, the year that grammar school starts. In addition our school offers a bilingual track since 2008 which means that subjects like Geography, History or Biology will be taught in English at a later stage.

In year six, students have a choice between French and Latin. In year eight, there is another choice of languages between either Russian and French or, as an alternative, “NWT” (Naturwissenschaft und Technik) a science subject that is also characteristic of our school.

Apart from teaching languages at school we take the students abroad to practice in native surroundings. We have three exchanges with France (Quimper, Lyon, Aix-en-Provence) one with Italy (Rome), and one with Russia (Petrosawodsk). We are about to establish an exchange with England (Redhill Comprehensive, Arnold / Nottinghamshire).

Every student takes two foreign languages up to year ten. In years eleven and twelve, each student has to do German, Maths, and one foreign language as well as two more subjects of their own choice as main subjects (e.g. history, geography, biology, physics, chemistry, music, art, sports). Apart from these, there are another four or more A-level subjects taken.

There is a wide range of extracurricular activities to choose from according to students' preferences such as projects in and out of school, special days for learning methodical skills, a considerable number of clubs, excellent equipment in science and IT labs with a special Life Science centre cooperating with the university, and several workshops.

The school is named after Carlo Schmid who is considered one of the “founding fathers” of the Federal Republic of Germany. In post-war Germany, he was highly respected as a democrat from the very beginning and excelled as one of the authors of the constitution. At the same time, he represented both social commitment and universal scholarship and understanding.

In a process of school development in Baden-Württemberg, new principles of educational orientation are being discussed and strongly influence learning and teaching at our school.