

## PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL

The Istituto Statale "E. Montale" is a secondary school situated in the industrial and commercial town of Pontedera, in the heart of Tuscany, near the well-known towns of Pisa, Florence and Siena. We provide a high quality education with an emphasis on all round development, so as to enable our students to achieve and develop a good level of skills, knowledge and competence, and we aim to produce happy and successful individuals who are well-prepared for twenty-first century life.

Our school is based in three separate buildings with classrooms, library and IT, Language and Science laboratories. There are currently 54 classes with the 1,248 students - aged between 14 and 19 who come from a variety of backgrounds - are taught by 160 teachers.

Our curricula follow three paths:

- Liceo delle Scienze Umane, whose broad-based curriculum focuses on the study of Social Sciences and includes Psychology, Pedagogy, Anthropology and Sociology;
- Liceo Economico-Sociale which introduces the students to subjects related to business, law and economics;
- Liceo Linguistico, whose broad and stimulating curriculum includes a wide range of subjects and concentrates on the study of three modern languages through the communicative approach. In the Liceo Linguistico, pupils can choose between the Historic-Literary course.

All paths are focused on preparing the students for their future, either at University or in the working world. We also provide pupils with a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which enable them to cope with the challenges of our contemporary world. Some of the most significant are:

- Preparatory courses to the following Examination Boards Certifications: Trinity College of London, Cambridge ESOL (English), Delf (French), Goethe Institut (German), Istituto Cervantes (Spanish)
- Cultural exchanges, study-stays abroad; E-Twinning and Erasmus projects
- Work experience placements in environments related to the course of study;
- Preparatory courses for the European Computer Driving Licence;
- Sports groups

In order to meet the individual needs of all pupils so that they benefit as fully as possible from the education they receive and fulfill their individual potential, we organise various activities, such as:

- Reception groups for the first Forms
- Learning support for pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Lessons of Italian as a foreign language for non-Italian students
- Afternoon tuition in small groups for general revision or remedial work
- Drama club.
- Chinese and Portuguese language courses

Important qualities such as empathy, emotional intelligence, team working and co-operation are best fostered in an environment where students work together, and where the emphasis is on valuing the individual.