

# Neue Kantonsschule Aarau – NKSA

An overview of the Gymnasium  
and Fachmittelschule

neue kantonsschule aarau





Dear Reader,

I am glad that you have obtained a copy of the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau school prospectus. It will allow you to have a preliminary look at our school.

The Neue Kantonsschule Aarau is the right place for young people who are keen to learn. It offers the complete range of lessons of a modern Mittelschule on the way to the Matura, Fachmatur, as well as the Fachmittelschule certificate. Using modern methods it will also prepare pupils well for later challenges ahead at university and at the start of their career.

At the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau, pupils can immerse themselves in other languages and cultures. This is achieved through meticulous language lessons in most of the world's languages, including Chinese and a worldwide exchange programme.

Lateral thinking and actions are part of our programme. Whether it be during the lessons or in project work and workshops, the pupils learn to work co-operatively. In the Computer Science and Communication apprenticeship, students have to immerse themselves into Computer Science and Communication technologies while learning to assess opportunities and consider the risks of using the world wide web.

What is special about our school is the way we work and treat one another. The fact that the school lies in the middle of Aarau but is still surrounded by green, is absolutely typical of our school culture. The ethos of our school emphasises learning together, playing music, designing, discovering and discussion, taking responsibility, showing respect and tolerance.

You can find further information on our website [www.nksa.ch](http://www.nksa.ch). We will, of course, gladly advise you in person and look forward to your visit.

Daniel Franz  
Headmaster



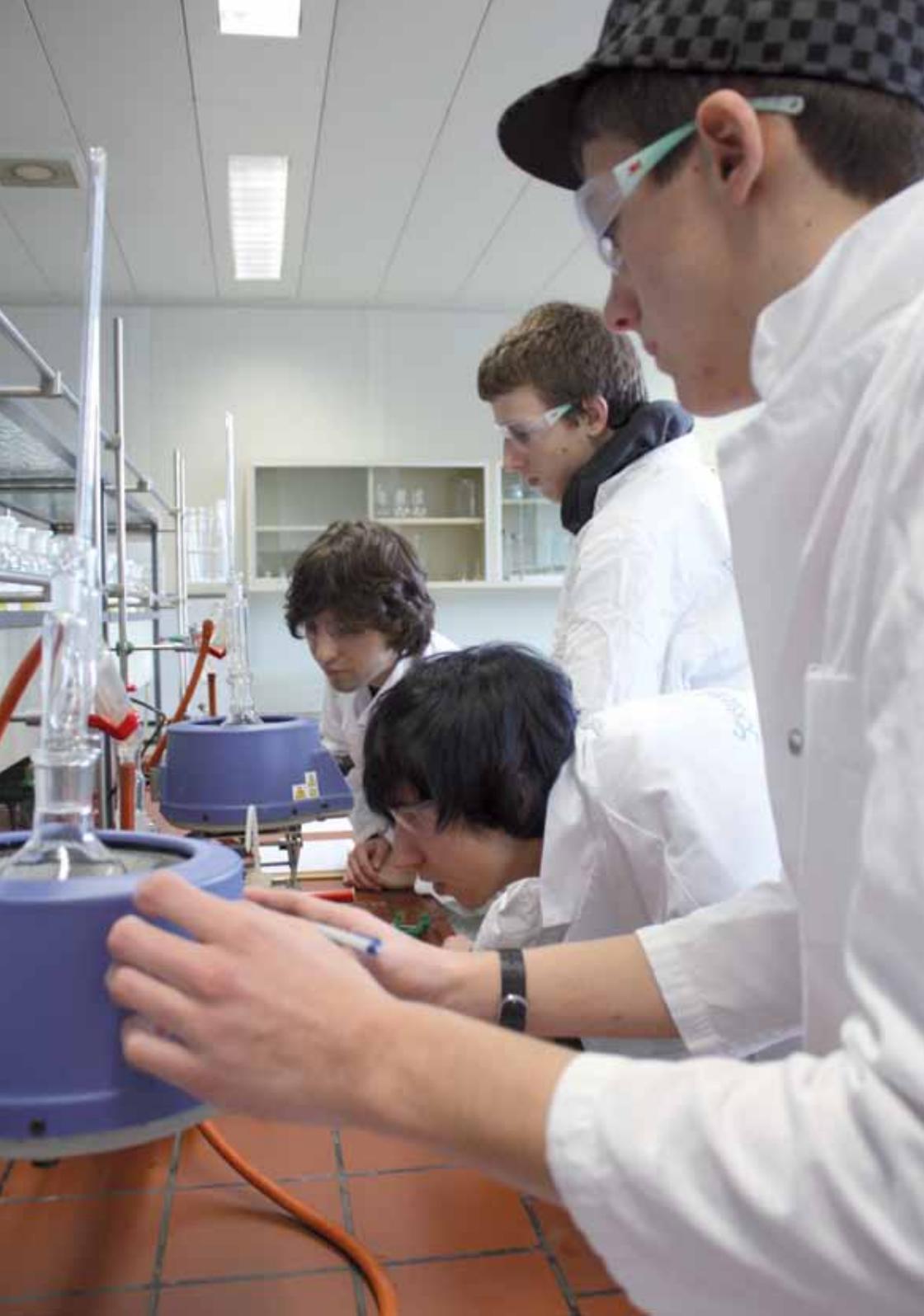
I like the large choice of optional subjects and the opportunity to broaden one's own interests with the Akzent-, Schwerpunkt- and Ergänzungsfach. In the same way, I appreciate the friendly atmosphere at the school. I went to the Gymnasium because I wanted to gain some time for my career choice. Looking back today, it was the right decision. Noemi Landolt



I am fully accepted and supported by the teachers so that I can catch up on the material that I did not follow. That is a strong feeling. Also as a volleyball player in the national team, I can count on support and authorised leave for the training camps. Stefan Käser, hearing-impaired



The Neue Kantonsschule Aarau is in every sense «new». It is open to ideas and creativity, critical thinking and simply trying things out. I have seen myself in a completely new light. I take on responsibility and learn the art of organisation, and not only as the president of the school organisation. Josianne Magnin



## The Neue Kantonsschule Aarau

The straightforward layout of the school grounds of the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau allows concentrated work in peaceful surroundings. We pay attention to detail and build upon the strengths of our pupils. Here are a few examples to show what we mean by that:

### Individual support for talented pupils

In the last few years, the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau has been regularly successful with between four and eight Matura theses at the final stages of the «Schweizer Jugend forscht» competition.

### Sampling the high-tech world

We work with more than 100 PCs and laptops, two electron microscopes, a laboratory for molecular biology and chemically analytical methods of working, fuel cells or programmable sensor-controlled Mindstorms NTX-robots. Music can also be programmed in the school's own sound laboratory.

### Apropos music and theatre

«Lysistrata» by Aristophanes, «Tell it» by Schiller or «Weihnachtsoratorium» by Saint-Saën represent some of the inspiring theatre productions or concerts, the collective choral projects, orchestral, dance and theatre groups. Pupils exceed their expectations and experience diverse forms of artistic expression.

### The «Stützpunkt Landenhof-NKSA» Project

Together with the «Landenhof» centre for pupils with impaired hearing the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau has set up a support scheme for pupils with hearing difficulties. In this way, they will be integrated into mainstream lessons.

### ...and what comes after the NKSA?

Every pupil will be guided by the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau through information and open days on an individual basis on their career choices after the Mittelschule.

## Russian, saxophone, mathematics or political debate?

Those who want to understand the world often have to keep an open mind. For this reason, the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau places much value on the wide range of optional subjects on offer.

Among others, there are the **science-orientated optional subjects** such as the Science Practical Work, Mathematics or Political Education. **Music and design optional subjects** include, for example, Musical Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Wood- and Metal Work, Theatre Courses, Orchestra or Choir.

Besides the usual **foreign languages**, the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau offers courses in Russian, Chinese and Swedish and prepares the pupils for the most important international language certificates.

Furthermore, we organise accompanied two-week language stays in Spain and England at reasonable prices. **Exchange programmes** with Swiss schools in South America and Spain are also part of what is on offer.



## The Gymnasium

Thirst for knowledge and ability is a prerequisite for students who want to attend the Gymnasium. At the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau, they will acquire a broad general education, learn scientific methods and become familiar with foreign languages and cultures. Thus, they will be best prepared for university. Those interested in new media or a bilingual Matura, will find exceptional courses here.

### **The two-stage Gymnasium education**

The Gymnasium education lasts four years. It consists of two stages. That means that the pupils choose an Akzentfach before entering the Gymnasium. This and the Grundlagenfächer will be the focus of the programme of study during the first two years.

Before entering the third year, pupils select their Schwerpunktfach, which is decisive for their future education path. In the fourth year, the Ergänzungsfach is added. It allows for further consolidation, also with a view to the study or career goals.

The Gymnasium is completed with the Matura. This is the only qualification at secondary school level which allows direct entrance to all federal colleges and universities.

## The Akzent-, Schwerpunkt- and Ergänzungsfächer

The Neue Kantonsschule Aarau has five **Akzentfächer**: Modern Languages, Mathematics, Latin, Humanitarian- and Social Sciences, as well as Computer Science and Communication (infcom.ch). Part of this will be taught immersively (that is, bilingually) in German and English.

As **Schwerpunktfach**, pupils can choose from: Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, Physics and Applied Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry, Economics and Law, Philosophy/Pedagogy/ Psychology, Visual Arts and Music with instrument lessons.

The **Ergänzungsfächer** are Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, History, Geography, Philosophy, Religious Education, Economics and Law, Pedagogy/Psychology, Visual Arts, Music with instrument lessons and Sport.

4 <sup>th</sup> year	<b>Grundlagenfächer</b> like the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year without Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Visual Arts or Music	<b>Ergänzungsfach</b>	<b>Schwerpunktfach</b>	<b>Matura thesis</b>	<b>Optional subjects</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	like the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year without Economics and Law			<b>project lessons</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	like the 1 <sup>st</sup> year plus Physics			<b>Akzentfach</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> year	German, French, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Economics and Law, Visual Arts or Music with instrument lessons, Sport				

Composition of subjects overview



When I think back to my time at the Neue Kantonsschule Aarau, many very good classmates come to mind. It is hard to believe that I produced my own film. My career did not follow on from my Matura thesis but I learned how to follow a project through. In addition, the practical lessons gave me the foundation on which I can build during the studies to becoming a civil engineer. Nicholas Keller

## The NKSA sets special priorities

### **The Computer Science and Communication Apprenticeships (infcom.ch)**

What is Computer Science? How does the web tick?  
How do I design a website? How do I set up a data bank?

The internet is constantly changing. New media offers numerous possibilities in which to be informed and exchange ideas, to present oneself and meet people. Just as in real life, this has both positive and negative aspects.

The four-year Gymnasium apprenticeship in Computer Science and Communication gives the pupils enhanced competency in the areas of Computer Science and Communication. They will learn how to combine Computer Science knowledge, Data Bank Programming and New Media, as well as how to set them up. Opportunities will be given to show creative and artistic flair with web tools, podcasts, interactive films and much more. The prospects and dangers of the new media will also be examined in detail.

The apprenticeship is based on the Akzentfach Computer Science and Communication, however, the choice of the Schwerpunktfach and the Ergänzungsfach is however not restricted. In the 3rd and 4th years, the apprenticeship integrates further practical modules and concludes with the Matura.



## **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

The Neue Kantonsschule Aarau offers the future possibility to obtain an internationally recognized diploma together with the Swiss Matura: The International Baccalaureate (IB).

The programme will not only allow students to broaden their English skills but will also introduce them into scientific learning at an advanced level.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year programme that expands our existing bilingual educational programme. The IB diploma which is obtained in addition to the Swiss Matura is an excellent high quality academic and social education for motivated and gifted students who wish to pursue their future academic studies at home or abroad.

## The Fachmittelschule

The Fachmittelschule is a federally recognised Mittelschule which is affiliated with the compulsory schooling time. In the tradition of the early Diplommittelschulen, it provides a broad general education and prepares its pupils with challenging vocational training in five career areas: Education, Design, Health, Social Work and Communication.

### **The two-stage education**

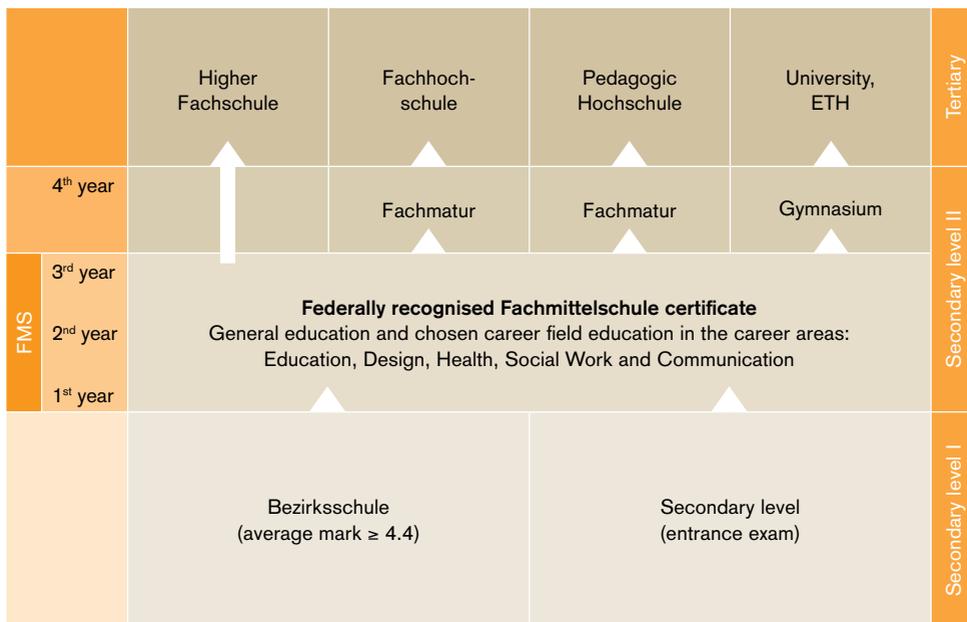
Depending on the qualification sought, the Fachmittelschule lasts three or four years. In three years, pupils attain the Fachmittelschule certificate, which allows direct entry into further education at a higher Fachschule. Students wishing to acquire the Fachmatur, have to pass an additional, mostly practical-based educational module. This fourth year opens up the possibility of pupils being able to continue their education at a Fachhochschule.

### **General education at the core**

Students aiming to complete their qualified vocational training, now require a broad general education also. This general education is at the core of the Fachmittelschule. It is likewise important that the pupils develop and learn how to conduct themselves, in order to take on responsibility.

Within the educational framework of the Fachmittelschule, pupils can attain international certificates within the areas of Languages and Computer Science. Lessons in the chosen career field, work experience in the real world, project weeks, longer independent work, excursions, or the optional subjects, all broaden the pupils' views beyond school and play a vital role in personal development.

During the education at the Fachmittelschule, pupils develop self-discipline and the readiness to take responsibility for their own learning processes. Both are important requirements for successful studies at a higher Fachschule or at a Fachhochschule.



The Fachmittelschule within Aargau's educational system



The Fachmittelschule allowed me to take away with me an unbelievably wide basic knowledge. Not only that, I had many thought-provoking situations which made a lasting impression on me far beyond the school. I benefit from both, personally and in my education to become a social education worker. Daniela Setz

## Diverse career prospects

With the Fachmittelschule certificate or the Fachmatur, pupils gain access to sought after vocational trainings. There are five specialisations at the forefront of this:

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### Education

Teacher at the entry level or the primary level

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### Design

Fashion Design, Media Art, Visual Communication, Graphic Design, Interior Design

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### Health

Care, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Obstetrics (midwife), Nutrition Counselling, Technical Surgeon's Assistance, Radiology

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### Social work

Social Education, Social Work, Sociocultural Animation

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### Communication

Multimedia Design, Computer Science, Specialist Journalism

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## Who goes to the Fachmittelschule?

The Fachmittelschule is suitable for high-achieving pupils from the Bezirksschule. This option is also open to high-performing secondary pupils who must pass an entrance exam.



With the Fachmittelschule at the Neue Kantonschule Aarau, I found the type of school that suited my desired further education: art or drama college. It is very useful that I can also immerse myself in Computer Science and Communication and that the lessons are closely related to the career. Luca Schaffer



Our website [www.nksa.ch](http://www.nksa.ch) offers the following information:

- details about the lessons on offer
- things worth knowing about school life
- dates of orientation events, visitors' weeks and open days
- who to contact for further information
- application dates

We will gladly give you information in person:

Tel: 062 837 94 55

E-mail: [info@nksa.ch](mailto:info@nksa.ch)

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