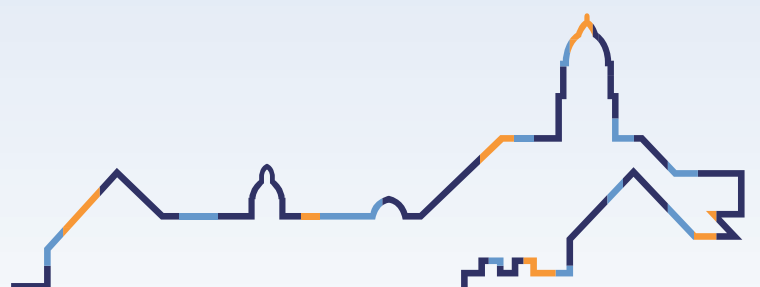




**STUDYING AT  
HUMBOLDT-GYMNASIUM  
PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES**



**Humboldt-Gymnasium  
Berlin-Tegel**



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear readers,

we would like to take the chance to introduce our school in this brochure. Humboldt-Gymnasium is now over a hundred years old and yet in many respects it is a very modern high school. We owe our desire to be progressive and have a wide range of interests to our namesakes Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt, who grew up very close to the school: Wilhelm was a great educator and humanities scholar and Alexander is still revered today in many parts of the world as a natural scientist and geographer. Both of these fields play a significant role at our school and are reflected in the diversity of our curriculum. Many students achieve outstanding results, partly because we set high standards. To achieve this, all our students receive the support and encouragement they need.

We have two buildings, both were built in the early 20th century. Our equipment is very modern and we pride ourselves of a wide range of facilities - a cafeteria, self-study centres, large sports grounds, various computer labs ...

Students can choose from a wide range of languages, e.g. Latin, Chinese, French, Spanish, Ancient Greek, lunchtime clubs, e.g. drama, physics, ball games and after school clubs, e.g. dancing, robotics, rowing, choir.

Humboldt Gymnasium is an inspiring and unique place of learning offering students an environment so that they can develop their talents and thrive.

### **Martin Roth**

Principal  
on behalf of the entire school leadership team



*An early intuition precedes later knowledge!*

Alexander von Humboldt  
1769–1859

*Educate yourself and then make an impact on others by who you are!*

Wilhelm von Humboldt  
1767–1835



## OUR MISSION

Inspired by the educational philosophy of the Humboldt brothers, we at Humboldt-Gymnasium provide a comprehensive education and have made it our mission to enable students to reach their full potential. It is our goal to recognize and nurture students' interests and talents from an early stage and to promote them in a sustainable way. In an atmosphere of mutual respect, we encourage students to take responsibility for themselves and others and to play an active role in school life. This self-image of our school as a learning and living environment is reflected in the following guiding principles:

## COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

The foundation of a performance- and education-oriented school is quality teaching. In our view, education requires demanding academic instruction. Comprehensive education requires a broad range of subjects and a variety of elective options. According to the Senate of Berlin's statistics, Humboldt-Gymnasium ranks among the top in Berlin for course offerings and the variety of subject combinations available.



## PROMOTING TALENT

We are convinced that every child has unique talents and gifts. Identifying and developing these is an important challenge during childhood and adolescence. We see it as our mission to support our students on

this path by offering a wide range of activities. Humboldt-Gymnasium also has a long tradition of supporting highly gifted students.

## CULTURE OF APPRECIATION

The development of potential can only succeed in an atmosphere of mutual appreciation. In other words: Achievement requires stable social relationships. Humboldt-Gymnasium has always fostered an extremely positive school atmosphere due to the high le-

vel of social commitment of the staff, the friendliness and open-mindedness of the students and particularly active parents.

## FAST LEARNER CLASSES

Humboldt-Gymnasium offers two different tracks: the accelerated fast learning track and the regular track. In the fast learner classes, the time allocated to subjects is reduced compared to the regular classes, recognizing that some children learn faster and require less practice time. This approach, known as acceleration, is complemented by enriching the curricu-

lum with deeper or alternative content and methods. The regular classes follow the standard Berlin curriculum. While there are similarities between students in the accelerated and regular classes, there are also differences that we address to create an optimal learning environment for every student.

## HUMBOLDT COURSES

Humboldt-Gymnasium has set itself the goal of promoting the talents of its students in specialized courses. Guided by their talents and interests, students choose the Humboldt courses, which usually last one year, from the 6th or 8th school year onwards. The aim of the Humboldt courses is to support students in independent, creative and research-based learning. Students choose their Humboldt courses according to their interests and talents, accompanied by their teachers' guidance and reflection in the first year. Our students choose their Humboldt

course from a wide range of options. We aim for a class size of 16 students per course. There is no grading of performance. Instead, they receive a certificate.

Examples of Humboldt courses include "Discovering and exploring scientific phenomena", "Humboldt's world - geography", "Hard talk - the power of words. Introduction to debating", "Tinkering, building and coding: discover and design your digital world", and "freiraum - Art Workshop and Studio".

## COMPETITION PARTICIPATION AND SUCCESSES

Regular participation in recognized competitions is the logical consequence of our diverse and targeted promotion of talent. Our students are often successful in a wide variety of fields. For example, Humboldt-Gymnasium was first honored as a Berlin "Jugendforscht-Schule" (a school with excellent support for student research) and then as a "Youth Research School" by the Conference of Ministers of Education

and Cultural Affairs on a national level. Our school has a long history of producing state champions who then go on to compete in the national finals. In recent years, individuals and teams have also achieved state and national victories in the fields of sport, art, foreign languages and computer science. The school actively encourages and supports students' participation in various ways.



## DEBATING

Our school is an active member in various regional, national and international networks promoting debating competitions. Students in year 9 receive debate training in Humboldt Courses and participate in class, school and regional competitions. The winners on these competition levels take part in the state and national finals. Additionally, upper-level English courses participate in the „Debating Matters“ competition, a

school debate format in English. Berlin competitions are preceded by our in-house debating format “HUMBATE”, offering a platform for all students interested in foreign languages. Humboldt teams have frequently won these competitions.

## REVOLVING DOORS FOR THE PARTICULARLY GIFTED

Once every semester, particularly talented students have the opportunity to leave their regular lessons for three days and work intensively on a specific question or a special field of learning in a project-based course. For example, this may include sustainable energy security, astrophotography, or solving a

murder mystery case in a role play in English. Students can apply if they are interested, and teachers encourage suitable candidates to participate and must also give their permission. The missed lessons are caught up on independently.

## OUR SCHOOL AND INCLUSION

As a school community, we are committed to actively shaping a socially inclusive environment. We believe that all students benefit from an inclusive school, as everyone learns to be considerate of others' special needs. Supporting students with autism is a particularly important focus for us. The school receives ad-

ditional resources, such as extra staff, dedicated spaces, and specialized training, to better meet the needs of these students. Our HumboldtPlus team provides support and guidance for students with special educational needs and their parents.



## HUMBOLDTPLUS – GUIDANCE AND MORE

The „HumboldtPLUS“ team aims to support students and parents both in and out of the classroom with a wide range of social and special educational services. We are pleased that our team now includes 15 professionals working for our students, on a wide range

of topics, among them friendship, family, and school stress, as well as intervention in conflicts and crises. The team also conducts social learning and media prevention workshops for grades 5–8.

## VIBRANT SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Comprehensive education can only thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. In other words: Performance requires stable social relationships. Humboldt-Gymnasium has always had an extremely positive school climate, partly due to the high level of social commitment of the staff, pupils and parents. Questions and problems are discussed in an atmosphere of mutual trust and viable solutions are sought. The special spirit at Humboldt Gymnasium can always be felt at the many celebrations, presentation days, study trips and other gatherings. The Humboldt and Woelkerling Awards are presented every year. The Humboldt Award is given for special achievements outside the traditional classroom, encompassing everything from sports to computer science. The Woelkerling Award, named after a former teacher who bequeathed his estate to a foundation, honors exceptional community involvement within the Humboldt-Gymnasium community.

## SUMMARY

Comprehensive education, promotion of talents, and a culture of appreciation—these are the pillars of Humboldt-Gymnasium. As guiding principles of our daily work, they encapsulate the diverse activities of a school where over 1,100 students learn with motivation and success. At Humboldt-Gymnasium, the joy of learning takes many forms, depending on the learner, from mastering ancient and modern languages to solving mathematical puzzles, conducting scientific experiments, exploring history, engaging in philosophical or economic debates, acquiring digital technology skills, or pursuing musical and artistic endeavors. This vision of comprehensive education also fosters a strong commitment to achievement, as evidenced by our students' graduation results. Our Abitur examination results have consistently been well above the Berlin average for years. Approximately 40% of our graduates regularly achieve an average grade starting with a 1 (A), and a significant number even attain the dream grade of 1.0. The German National Academic Foundation has also repeatedly recognized that our students are particularly well-educated and ver-

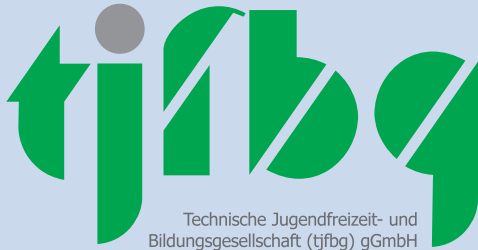


satile. Beyond academic success, it is gratifying to know that many of our alumni remain connected to the school in various ways even after their final exams. From the feedback we receive, it is clear that generations of students have cherished their time at Humboldt-Gymnasium as a special period in which they were able to grow into who they are today.





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