

## Talent promotion of cognitively gifted students at the Sir Karl Popper School in Vienna, Austria

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### Poster presentation

The Sir Karl Popper School, an integral part of the Wiedner Gymnasium in Vienna, Austria, offers a specialized educational program for cognitively gifted students in grades 9 to 12. This unique initiative fosters intellectual excellence and holistic personal development while embracing inclusivity by welcoming students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. The school's educational philosophy emphasizes critical thinking, lifelong learning, and active societal engagement.

A defining feature of the Sir Karl Popper School is its modular curriculum system, introduced in grade 10. This approach enables students to design personalized study plans by choosing from a variety of core, elective, and enrichment modules. These modules cater to individual interests and aptitudes, while also enhancing independent learning skills and preparing students for future academic and professional pursuits. Students benefit from interdisciplinary learning environments and active participation in project-based and inquiry-driven education.

The school's gifted education program is built on three pillars: acceleration, enrichment, and grouping. Acceleration is achieved through compacted curricula and flexible progression pathways, such as the option to complete selected subjects early or participate in advanced coursework. Enrichment is embedded throughout the program, emphasizing depth of understanding over rote knowledge and offering opportunities like scientific research projects, individualized creative endeavors, and extracurricular activities such as "Experts go Popper" lectures and international conferences. Grouping strategies support gifted learners by creating homogenous learning groups within the modular framework, fostering peer collaboration and intellectual synergy.

This comprehensive approach is supported by a team of highly skilled educators who adopt a constructivist teaching philosophy. The emphasis is on empowering students to actively construct knowledge, develop autonomy, and embrace challenges. Graduates leave the Sir Karl Popper School as motivated, reflective, and responsible individuals ready to make significant contributions to society.