



Viborg Katedralsskole

(in English Viborg Cathedral School)

Vitam Impendere vero – to devote one’s life to truth – this is the maxim to which we strive at Viborg Katedralsskole.

Viborg Katedralsskole is a “general gymnasium” situated in the central part of Jutland – the mainland of Denmark. The word “gymnasium” is a word used in the Scandinavian countries, corresponding to upper secondary school i.e. 10th to 12th grades resulting in an exam which, among other things, qualifies for university studies.

Just recently the school has been accepted into the IB-program and within 1½ year we’ll also be providing our students with the possibility of obtaining an International Baccalaureate that qualifies them for university studies in numerous countries around the globe.

At the moment there are about 1000 students aged from 16 to 19 and 95 university trained teachers. It is an academically-oriented school with a wide variety of subject areas in which the students specialize: math, science, languages, social studies, sports and music. Outside of the specific subject areas the students study for instance Danish, history, religious history, antiquity studies as mandatory subjects and can also choose from different optional subjects such as astronomy, philosophy, psychology, visual arts ect..

Besides from normal school subjects and activities the school has special programs for talented students in music, languages, science and sports and Viborg Katedralsskole also offers its students a wide range of after-school opportunities to develop a special academic, creative or athletic talent or skill. Other activities include fundraising collections and student “cafes”, where students collaborate in homework groups.

Viborg Katedralsskole also has a boarding department with app. 100 students living on the school premises most of whom has parents living abroad or come from remote islands in Denmark.

Among the school’s alumni are several prominent writers, politicians, businessmen, athletes and scientists. The Nobel Laureate Johannes V. Jensen, who won the prize for literature in 1944, studied here in the 19th century, while former Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen who just finished his term as Secretary General of NATO graduated from the school in 1972.

The history of the school

The school was founded at some point between mid-11th and 12th century – the exact date has disappeared in the mist of history. At first the school was closely linked to the important episcopal residence in Viborg and was educating boys for ecclesiastical services. After the reformation in 1536 the school continued as a grammar school for boys and it wasn’t until 1903 that girls were allowed in the school. In 1926 Viborg Katedralsskole moved into its present neoclassic building conceived by architect Hack Kampman. The impressive building that also contains an astronomical observatory is listed by Danish Agency for Culture and we are obliged to preserve and protect it.