EXUPERY SUMMER SCHOOL –

where to spend the summer

This year, for the first time, the Exupery International School in Latvia is offering a unique summer school programme for children ages 10 to 15 in which, under the guidance of experienced educators, they will examine topical and global issues based on the UN's declared Global Challenges for Humanity.

The Summer School will take place in Latvia, at the Exupery International School in Piņķi. The school was founded in 2016 by IT entrepreneur Elena Buyanova, a mother of two who, when doing some farsighted thinking about the education of her children, realised that a classical school education was not being aimed at acquiring critical life skills such as teamwork, effective communication skills, critical thinking, and so on. An increasing number of schools around the world are beginning to teach their students the skills necessary for high-demand professions in fields such as information technology, and the Exupery International School is no exception, providing its students with an education based on progressively integrated training programmes such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math).

Nargiz Asadova, the developer of the Summer School curriculum, says that the concept for having such a programme is based on scientific research: namely, during the school year, children's minds are kept at a constant tonus, but in the summer they abruptly experience an extended period of slackening. Research has shown that during the summer, children lose a considerable amount of their learned skills and knowledge, which is why constructive summer camps that stimulate the mind ensure higher achievement levels in the coming school year. 'I'm convinced that Exupery Summer School is a unique project with a promising future,' she adds. In addition, the Summer School is a great opportunity for you and your children to learn about the principles and learning methods employed by Exupery International School.

Exupery Summer School offers three periods that are each 12 days long. All activities are held in English to allow for children from different countries to participate. The teachers and lecturers are IT experts and young scientists and artists from well known European universities. Special guests and speakers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will also take part.

The Summer School's educational programme is based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 – such as clean water and sanitation, zero hunger, reduction of environmental pollution, and other issues – which the children will creatively address through the use of science, technology and art as they work on projects under the guidance of experienced educators.

The Summer School programme is divided into two courses of study that contain the word fox in their titles (the fox is the Exupery School's mascot, as sourced from the classic book The Little Prince): Sciencefox – chemistry and biology labs; and Digitalfox – Python coding, stop-motion animation, robotics and engineering labs. At the end of each summer school period, students will present their projects, which scientists and IT specialists from Latvia, the UK and Russia helped them to create. To facilitate these activities, the school is equipped with the most advanced modern technologies: a 3D printer, a VR zone, 3D monitors, an iMac classroom, a Windows classroom, and interactive whiteboards. In the second half of the day, all students take part in Artfox (art) classes, from which students can choose to attend dance, music or installation classes. At the end of each period, students will perform a multimedia show which they have created with the help of professional theatre directors and musicians.

The daily schedule consists of lab/project work, art classes, and, of course, sports activities. The school is located in Piņķi, a small village surrounded by pine forests and fresh air, which is also very close to the resort city of Jūrmala – in all, it's the perfect environment for learning, playing, and sports. exupery.lv