

UNDERSTANDING HERITAGE

Salamah Ghudayer, senior presenter at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding, on the importance of preserving heritage

“A modern environment of glass and steel mega structures that house nearly 200 nationalities speaking and behaving differently; this is the reality of the young Emirati growing up in the UAE today as the world shares the plot of their indigenous land. But they too have their own past steeped in heritage and tradition.

“Preserving heritage does not take away from the uniqueness that makes up the modern mega cities of the UAE, but it provides a platform for the Emirati in which to greet that world. History and tradition offer a handbook of ‘why’ and ‘how’ to help Emiratis understand their heritage and the heritage of the region.

“The danger of not preserving heritage leaves that young Emirati to assume the lessons learned by ancestors. Their techniques and their language, for instance, become nothing but an old fashion and not a tried and tested procedure for getting us to where we are now and further into our future – things that can be tossed aside as younger generations start culture anew.

“However, our ancestors got stuff right! Look at how the UAE is home to representatives from the world over. One man didn’t wake up and say he would welcome the world, and handled the challenge of their differences successfully simply by accident. That man learned how to address the challenge from his father, his mother and bits of generations past.

“History and heritage shouldn’t be fable. We should know why we do as we do. Otherwise we could be wearing an item of clothing or cooking in a particular way thinking it part of our heritage when perhaps it was just the best option for one or a group of our ancestors.

“Preserving heritage brings logic to our manners and repetition. To do so out of assumption can be dangerous, especially as we teach it to others.

“The young Emirati can take the current lifestyle they are growing up in as their own, but they



need to know what makes them unique and defines their Emirati identity. He can eat sushi and she can prefer the Spanish language, but the people they interact with deserve to know what makes them Emirati – and their open-mindedness, welcoming of others and readiness for the future is not new, it is rooted in their past.”

The Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding is a non-profit organisation dedicated to educating expatriates and visitors to Dubai in the traditions and customs of the UAE. It brings cultures together to promote mutual understanding and respect under the banner of ‘Open doors. Open minds’.

THE LEADERS OF LUXURY



باريس غاليري
Paris Gallery

800-744

www.parisgallery.com | www.luxuryclub.com





Why Choose Hartland International School?



Strong Education Pedigree

Mrs Fiona Cottam, Principal of Hartland and our Senior Leadership Team, bring a recognised education pedigree with a combined average of over 20 years of leading great schools, here in Dubai and in the UK.



Exposure to Specialist Subjects

Hartland is one of the few schools which opens pathways that enables specialist subject teachers to work in the Primary section of the School. Children have the chance to experience first-hand the expertise of these specialists in subjects such as Art, Design Technology, Computing, Drama and an array of languages.



An Enriched Curriculum

Hartland's philosophy represents a progressive education style, focused on intellectually stimulating inquiry, collaborative and research-based learning for our students.



Encouraging Innovation

We are expanding our educational programme to meet the needs of the evolving and rapidly changing world. Some of the specialist rooms that are accessible to our students include: Multi-Gym, Innovation Room, specialist dance and drama studios and a wide range of dedicated learning spaces.

ADMISSIONS OPEN

Foundation Stage to Year 9