



PARKLANE

International School

PRINCIPAL/HEAD OF SCHOOL

Start Date: July 2027

Park Lane International School

Prague, Czech Republic | parklane-is.cz



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

MISSION STATEMENT

Park Lane International School aims to provide a challenging academic programme and supportive learning environment to cultivate in our learners a reflective, open-minded and inquiring approach to both their education and the wider school community.

We believe that every young person is entitled to lead a happy, safe and productive life and we encourage principled, caring and empathetic practices to achieve this.

We realize that in today's ever-evolving world, the future that our young people are working towards is entirely unpredictable. We understand that when our students reach adulthood, they are likely to be engaged in occupations and tasks that do not currently exist; utilizing technology which has yet to be invented. Moreover, if they are to compete, thrive and survive in the decades to come, they will need to become fully attuned to global issues and develop their intercultural awareness.

At a Glance



2006
established



700 total enrollment
anticipated growth to 900 in five years)



52
nationalities in the student body



144
total faculty



63%
faculty with an advanced degree



18
average class size



\$20M
annual operating budget



Six campus locations
(and a new one under development)



OVERVIEW

Two imaginative educational entrepreneurs had a dream of developing an international school, and in 2006 Jan (Honza) Bébr and Radek Janata opened their first campus for what would become Park Lane International School, an IB PreK-12 international day school enrolling 700 students on five distinct campuses in central Prague. In its short history, the school has been led by two exemplary principals, the second of whom, Paul Ingarfield, will retire at the conclusion of the 2026-27 academic year after 15 years leading the school. Park Lane is seeking a new principal/head of school to continue the school's growth and fulfillment of its mission, and to maintain its strong record of academic success and student development, especially as the school continues to grow in size.

Known for its student-centered approach to instruction and the rich array of co-curricular and cultural opportunities for students, Park Lane's academic focuses on critical thinking as well as the development of individual talents in a learning community dedicated to achieving excellence. Steady and informed team leadership, faculty talent and experience, engaged governance, and well-paced growth has allowed Park Lane to prosper as a school, develop a strong sense of community and identity, and to produce talented alumni well-prepared for leading colleges and universities in Europe and the US.

A strong, pervasive sense of community permeates each campus giving each a supportive, intimate learning environment. Many faculty, expat and Czech alike, stay for many years because Park Lane provides them with independence and professional growth. Parents choose Park Lane for its international diversity, the quality of the instruction, and because they appreciate that their children "learn how to think and how to learn." Within a strong academic program each student can "find their place" in a learning environment where the focus on student (and teacher) well-being, and aspirational, supportive relationships between students and teachers makes teaching and learning deeply personal and rewarding. The faculty culture is decidedly positive with the intent to help each student get to the highest level of their achievement. The administrative team's optimism and energy is infectious – and has been needed over the years of significant growth and development.





All graduates have completed the IB Diploma Programme with average scores significantly higher than the global average. The curriculum follows the National Curriculum of England (followed by the Cambridge IGCSE courses in grades 10 and 11). Faculty are experienced and trained to help children of all language levels to access the curriculum and be confident and successful learners. While English is the language of instruction, Czech students (who represent about half the student body) can select an option that prepares them for annual assessment tests until the end of grade 9 (year 10). Should they wish to attain the Czech Maturita equivalency, they can study Czech Literature as one of their IB diploma courses. The aim of preparing students as global citizens flows alongside the school's desire for students to develop as capable, resourceful, and resilient individuals.

Most Park Lane graduates attend university in the UK or EU countries with some matriculating to good schools in the US and Canada. Teachers recognize that students need to develop skills that go beyond high grade marks, hence the intention to nurture young minds in developing four strands of the Park Lane Scholar: Academic performance; True passion and intellectual curiosity; Effective communication; and Leadership. The school fosters its whole community throughout the school year, holding a wide range of activities and events to engage parents and carers with opportunities to make connections with one another while enriching their children's learning experiences.

While one might imagine that having six campuses for a school may feel a bit disjointed, the progression of students from one campus to another over their years at the school creates a strong sense of community. The intimacy of the spaces relative to the number of students on each site permits students to be known and understood as individual learners and also creates excitement and anticipation as students progress ultimately to the largest of the campuses from which they will then graduate. Each campus has its own personality, energy, and character with well-equipped classrooms and shared spaces; some are within a five-minute walk of each other, or a quick tram ride. It's structure and programming make it unique among area schools.

GOVERNANCE

The Co-owners of the school, Jan (Honza) and Radek, are Czech citizens who founded the school to educate their own children. They are delightful. Both remain closely involved in the school's finances, development strategy, and direction. Major decisions rest with them and the Governing Board which includes the owners, the Principal/Head of School, and the Head and Deputy Head of Secondary, Head and Deputy Head of Primary, and the Director of Operations (and Admissions). It is a collaborative, highly functional group in part, reflected in the sound decisions they have made and the success the school has enjoyed since it began. The owners are engaged, accessible, and forward-looking. Their structure works. More than one teacher expressed appreciation that Park Lane "is the most stable school of everywhere I have worked."



PRAGUE

Long admired for its breathtaking beauty, exceptionally preserved diverse and exquisite architecture, and its rich history as a political and cultural center, Prague continues to compel visitors from around the world. The city feels almost too beautiful to be real, yet it functions as a fully dynamic, forward-thinking European capital; Prague consistently ranks among Europe's most livable, combining excellent public transport, low crime, and a healthcare system that serves residents well. Home to artistic icons like Kafka, Smetana, and Dvořák, the city served as a capital for the Kingdom of Bohemia, a residence for Holy Roman Emperors, and a key city during the Bohemian Reformation and Habsburg rule. Prague is more affordable than some other popular European cities and yet doesn't lack great food, landmark sites, or a vibrant social scene. The city has a way of feeling both deeply rooted and endlessly alive. Extensive public transit within Prague makes getting around the city a breeze. Most middle and upper school Park Lane students arrive on campuses that way. Trees abound in the city which is filled with parks and waterways; it's also very clean, and very walkable. The city is home to a notable orchestra, opera, and national theater as well as to multiple world-class museums. Literally hundreds of concert halls, galleries, cinemas, and music clubs dot the city, which hosts musical and other artistic festivals in great number. Prague has grown into a genuine hub for international business, tech, and creative industries. Multinational companies have long established regional headquarters there, and a buzzing startup ecosystem has taken root alongside them. The talent pool is educated and multilingual, and the city's central position in Europe makes it an ideal European location.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The new Principal will take Park Lane International School into its next chapter, providing visionary and strategic leadership building on a legacy of strong management and sustained success. The role requires a visionary yet grounded leader who can balance continuity with thoughtful innovation, maintaining excellence while guiding strategic growth — including the development and launch of a new purpose-built campus for 1–14-year-olds within five years (project is already underway) and the smart use of existing campus space and resources. S/he will oversee a committed, seasoned administrative team, work closely with the Governing Board and its Chair, and represent the school locally and globally. The Principal will see that Park Lane upholds the highest standards of pastoral care, safeguarding, and behavior management, ensure compliance and excellence in all school inspections and re-accreditations, and champion responsible and innovative use of technology and AI in teaching and learning.



QUALIFICATIONS & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES



Professional Qualifications The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Visionary leadership with the wisdom to know when and where change is necessary or can be positively impactful.
- Strategic foresight, balancing innovation with respect for the school's established strengths.
- Resilience and adaptability, thriving in a complex, multi-site school environment.
- Collaborative and reflective leadership style, valuing teamwork, consultation and collaboration.
- Integrity, empathy, and emotional intelligence, fostering trust and confidence among all stakeholders.
- Cultural fluency and international outlook, aligned with the school's global ethos.
- Commitment to inclusion, well-being, and student voice.
- Enthusiasm for holistic education, including the school's integrated Czech and CAL programme, arts, sports, Model UN, and others.
- Exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail.



Will ideally have:

- A proven record of successful senior leadership within a large or multi-site international school setting.
- Demonstrable experience of leading academic and pastoral excellence across Early Years, Primary, and Secondary phases.
- Sound knowledge of the EYFS, English National Curriculum, Cambridge IGCSE and the IB Diploma Programme.
- Experience of school inspection and accreditation processes, ideally with ISI/BSO, CIS, COBIS, or IB frameworks.
- Evidence of strategic planning and implementation in areas such as curriculum development, staffing, and campus growth.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, capable of inspiring and commanding the respect of staff, students, and parents alike.

LEARN MORE

- [School Website](#)
- [IB Diploma Programme](#)
- [Czech Programme](#)
- [College Matriculation](#)
- [About Prague, Czech Republic](#)





TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current and thorough résumé with full work chronology not to exceed four pages;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

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