

Reimagining genius



GEMS
SCHOOL OF
RESEARCH &
INNOVATION

✦ Reimagining education for tomorrow's genius



Step into the Future of Learning

GEMS School of Research and Innovation is the latest chapter in GEMS Education's 65-year legacy of excellence – embodying a track record of nurturing the genius in every child, to deliver tomorrow's genius.



◆ Reimagining: School Entrance Atrium

A Personal Message

Education has been the cornerstone of my life's work and the foundation of three generations of my family's commitment to building a better future. For over 65 years, we've had the privilege of shaping nearly half a million young lives, empowering them to dream big and achieve even bigger.

GEMS School of Research and Innovation represents the culmination of everything we've learned on this incredible journey. It is a bold new chapter in education that transforms the way students learn, think and lead – setting new global benchmarks in the process.

At the heart of this school is a truly exceptional team of educators, carefully appointed from the UK and across the world to inspire, guide and challenge our students. Combined with cutting-edge AI-driven technology and unmatched facilities, we've created an environment where learning is reimaged, potential is unlocked and every student is empowered to pursue excellence.

Our enhanced English curriculum is designed to nurture both intellect and imagination. We aim to develop students who are ready for the future and ready to actively shape it. We want them to be curious innovators, thoughtful leaders and bold disruptors, driven by a desire to make the world a better place.

Beyond the technology and tools, the school commitment to solid personal values is at the core of our mission. We want every GEMS School of Research and Innovation graduate to embody humility, compassion and integrity – qualities that will make their families, communities and us proud, no matter what paths they choose to follow.

You've entrusted us with your most precious treasure: your children. Together, we'll give them the very best foundation to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Welcome to a school like no other. Welcome to the future of education.

Sunny Varkey
Chairman and Founder, GEMS Education





Excellence Built On Heritage

Our children's futures will look vastly different to what we know today. The world around us is evolving faster than ever and to prepare them for success we need a new approach to education; empowering the next generation to discover their genius and shape the future with confidence.

GEMS School of Research and Innovation is purpose-built to reimagine education. This highly innovative school in Dubai Sports City is established on the English national curriculum, enhanced by specialist subjects, cutting-edge teaching practices and distinguished teachers selected from the best institutes across the world.

At the heart of our school is a team of dedicated educators committed to nurturing critical thinking, problem-solving and research skills. Guided by a purposeful and responsible approach to cutting-edge technology, we ensure every student's learning journey is fully personalised. This dedication prepares our students to thrive in a rapidly changing world while embracing the values needed to build a better, more sustainable future.

Our expertly designed, world-class campus, offers students a bespoke learning environment unlike anything available elsewhere. From AI that personalises their academic development to smart technologies that support their wellbeing, from collaborative spaces to disruption and robotics labs, every student benefits from tailored immersive learning experiences.

For parents, real-time progress tracking and close collaboration with teachers makes being a part of your child's development seamless. And a comprehensive calendar of exclusive networking opportunities means parents can focus on their own personal development in parallel to their children's.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to GEMS School of Research and Innovation

Dino Varkey
Group CEO, GEMS Education

GEMS Academic Experts

Our academic experts include key individuals from across the GEMS group and external experts representing education technology, wellbeing, assessment, curriculum, pedagogy, children's services, as well as every stage of school including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Primary, Secondary and Post-16.



Amanda Spielman
Retired HM Chief Inspector of Education for OFSTED

Amanda is a former HM Chief Inspector of Schools in England and Chair of the UK exam regulator, Ofqual. She brings valuable insight and extensive knowledge of the UK educational system and inspection process. Amanda Spielman is a globally respected education strategist. Her expertise spans all aspects of education and children's services, making her a leader in shaping school standards worldwide.



Dr. Aidan McCarthy
WW Education Industry Architect

A global leader in educational digital transformation, with over 35 years of experience across K-12 schools, universities and worldwide leadership roles at Microsoft and Apple. His innovative approaches to integrating technology, data and AI have reshaped teaching and learning, earning recognition among Australia's Top 50 Technology and Digital Chiefs.



Julie Young
Celebrated Education Leader

A trailblazer in K-12 online education, celebrated for founding Florida Virtual School (FLVS) and expanding its reach to over 2 million students globally. Her leadership at ASU established her as an authority on educational innovation, pioneering integrated K-12 and college models. Julie's visionary work continues to inspire transformative, technology-driven learning solutions across the world.



Baz Nijjar
Expert - Digital Innovation

Renowned for connecting technology, education and industry to achieve transformative educational outcomes. From pioneering student internships through Dubai's 10X initiative to advancing esports, game design and AI literacy programs, Baz continues to redefine future-ready learning through groundbreaking strategic partnerships and innovative curriculum adaptation.

GEMS School of Research and Innovation Leadership

Welcome to GEMS School of Research and Innovation, where we provide students with innovative, holistic learning opportunities designed to inspire and empower. Our approach integrates carefully monitored and ethical AI technologies, guided by a team of highly skilled educators from around the globe and delivered through an expertly crafted curriculum.

This approach supports every parent's aspirations for their child: well-rounded development, academic excellence, the fulfillment of their unique potential and most importantly, a focus on wellbeing and inner confidence.

What makes our school truly special is that its foundation has been shaped by educators, including myself, from the very beginning. Every detail has been thoughtfully designed with teacher input and collaboration with leading external experts in technology, design and other fields. This in turn results in a school that rivals the standards of top-tier science, sports and performing arts institutions, combined with cutting-edge tech labs often found in world-class universities – all under one roof.

At GEMS School of Research and Innovation, we aim to cultivate students who not only uncover their unique talents but also grow into happy, confident global citizens. With curious mindsets and agile approaches, our students will be equipped to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Our motto 'Reimagining Genius' reflects this vision. Tomorrow's geniuses, affectionately known as TOGs or TOGies, will leave our school ready to make their mark on the world armed with knowledge, confidence and enduring values.

This really is education reimagined and I am privileged and proud to introduce GEMS School of Research and Innovation to you.

Maryssa O'Connor
SVP Education, GEMS Education
CEO/Principal
GEMS Wellington International School



Reimagining Teaching

Empowering our specialist faculty with the most innovative framework and resources.



Exceptional Educators, Extraordinary Students

Our teachers are not only experts in their fields but also passionate mentors who inspire students to think critically and creatively, instilling a love of learning into every pupil.



A Teaching Philosophy That Embraces Change

Each educator is equipped with advanced teaching tools, allowing them to maintain a future-focused and research-oriented mindset throughout the entire curriculum, ensuring that each student embraces an innovative mindset in their own ways.



The Power of Partnerships

Collaborations with industry professionals mean students regularly learn from pioneers in STEM, performing arts and more. Whether it's a visiting engineer or an award-winning artist, these mentors offer unique insights and coaching that shape students' aspirations.



Cutting-Edge Professional Development

We collaborate with educational research organisations and invest in our teachers with ongoing training in emerging educational technologies and methodologies. This ensures they remain at the forefront of global teaching standards and bring the best of modern education into the classroom.

A Selection of our Founding Faculty Members



Alexandra Cooper
Head of Pre-Prep School

With nine years' teaching experience, Alexandra holds a PGCE in primary education from Roehampton University and a professional qualification in senior leadership (NPQSL). For the past five years, she led an outstanding school in Highgate, London, ranked among the top 3% of primary schools in the UK, with students progressing to leading institutions.



Emily Foreman
Early Years Lead and FS1 Teacher

Emily holds a Bachelor of Arts in Primary Education from Manchester Metropolitan University and has worked in two outstanding London schools. She was part of a leading boys' prep school in Kensington, where she supported pupils in gaining admission to prestigious institutions such as Eton College, Harrow School and St Paul's School.



Nick Huntington
Director of Performing Arts

Nick holds an independent PGCE from University of Buckinghamshire and brings over 20 years' experience in UK independent schools. He began his career as an 'Actor in Residence' at a boarding school in Cambridgeshire, where he has spent the past 14 years. He has also served as Director of Drama at prestigious institutions including Wellington College, where he led award-nominated departments and achieved success in National Theatre competitions.



Adrienne Takawira
Prep Teacher and Maths Subject Lead

Adrienne holds a PGCE in Primary Education from Anglia Ruskin University and a Diploma in Middle Management Leadership from Buckingham University. She has over 11 years' experience teaching in an outstanding independent prep school in Hertfordshire, where her students have gone on to study at some of the best schools in the UK. Adrienne's teaching philosophy emphasises critical thinking, creativity and collaboration, aiming to foster confident and independent learners, with an emphasis on the importance of curiosity, perseverance and creativity.

A Selection of our Founding Faculty Members



Emma Jane Mraihi
Director of Music

Jane's journey began at the prestigious Purcell School of Music in the UK, where her passion for music was nurtured, leading to her winning an ABRSM Scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in London. Jane has performed worldwide as a cellist, conductor, chamber musician and in ensemble settings, performing on TV and at iconic venues like the Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall, London Palladium, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and Coca-Cola Arena in Dubai. Prior to moving to Dubai, Jane led music across 165 schools in West London as Deputy Head and a Strategic Board member at the Tri-borough Music Hub.



Emily Howard
Pre-Prep Class Teacher

With five years' experience and a Bachelor of Arts in Primary Education with Qualified Teacher Status from Canterbury Christ Church University, Emily is dedicated to helping students achieve their full potential. Her teaching philosophy is centred on fostering meaningful connections, embracing innovative methodologies and cultivating a love for learning that lasts a lifetime. Emily's career in education began at an Outstanding primary school in London, where she also held the position of Physical Education Lead and Music Lead.

Reimagining Belonging

Empowering our specialist faculty with the most innovative learning framework and resources.



School Phase and Values

Children progress through the school in three distinct phases, developing essential characteristics, skills and knowledge on their journey towards graduation. We believe that for children to succeed, both during their time at school and beyond, they need core characteristics to reflect on and apply in their every day challenges.



Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Our focus is to nurture and develop young people who will make a positive impact on their own lives and those around them. We believe that happens when children feel safe, happy and valued. We also resource expert advice and guidance from the field of educational and child psychology, advising our practice to ensure we remain ahead of the challenges facing children and young people today.



Inclusion

As an inclusive school, we foster talent and qualities of every child according to their needs. Our Head of Inclusion and team will guide students with additional learning needs, additional language development and children who demonstrate exceptional gifts and talents.



Gifted and Talented

We nurture exceptional talent across academics, innovation, sports and the performing arts, empowering students to achieve world-class excellence. With Olympic-level facilities, professional-grade spaces, cutting-edge tech and mentorship from top experts, we elevate their abilities, unlocking their full potential and preparing them to shine on the global stage.

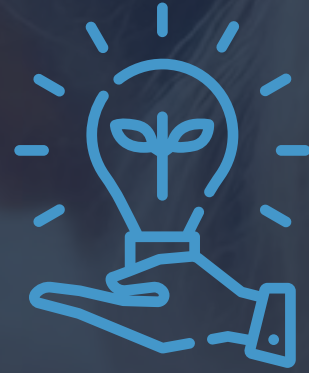
Reimagining Learning

Enhancing the best educational foundations with deep attention to detail, early specialisms and exceptional curriculum.



Our Pioneer Curriculum Founded in Academic Excellence

With its foundations in the National Curriculum for England, our personalised pathways ensure students drive towards mastery in core subjects like Maths, English, Science and languages. However, we go further by integrating advanced topics like AI programming, cybersecurity and robotics right from the early years, supporting them as they reimagine their learning journey.



Extended Day Programmes

For students eager to dive deeper into their interests, our extended-day includes electives in sustainability, entrepreneurship, performing arts and competitive sports. These programmes enrich the students' learning and inspire them to explore new passions.



Expert Teaching and Coaching

Specialist coaches, subject experts and external partnerships are brought into the learning journey much earlier than in traditional schools, ensuring that learning is specialised, practical and expertly nurtured from early years.

Pre-Prep: Igniting Curiosity And Building Foundations

FS1 - YEAR 4 (Age 3 - 7)

◆ Core Curriculum Excellence

Our tailored curriculum builds strong foundations in academics, arts and innovation through expert teaching, personalised pathways and world-class facilities. Skills will focus on early literacy development and exploring the world around them.

◆ Wellbeing and Play

Supportive social spaces and dedicated wellbeing counsellors nurture friendships, relaxation and a strong sense of belonging. Children will be introduced to yoga and mindfulness.

◆ Sports and Physical Development

Children excel in physical skills through specialist coaching and access to Olympic-grade sports facilities, fostering health and teamwork. Children will participate in a range of sports including football, swimming, martial arts and gymnastics.

◆ Pioneer Skills Framework

Children master digital and research skills using AI-enhanced tools, balanced with real-world learning for holistic development. Learners will experiment with early robotics, engineering, drones and design projects through their use of the STEM and innovation lab.

◆ Performing and Creative Arts

Creative talents flourish under expert guidance, with immersive facilities inspiring self-expression, confidence and imagination. Children will receive musical instrument tuition and clases in ballet and street dance.

◆ Strong Parent Partnerships

Strong parent collaborations ensure an innovative and supportive environment for every child's success. Parents are immersed in their child's learning experience through an intuitive communication platform, fostering seamless and meaningful dialogue with our team. This enables deeper insights into their child's progress and the opportunity for proactive engagement.

◆ Reimagining: Immersive Reading Lounge - Pre-Prep



◆ Learning Spaces



◆ Creative Zone



◆ Reading Immersive Space



◆ Imagination Zone



◆ Interactive Play

Prep: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Knowledge and Fostering Independence

YEAR 5 - YEAR 8 (Age 8 - 13)

◆ Core Curriculum Excellence

In the Prep phase, students build on core academic strengths, with specialist teachers delivering English, Maths and Science while fostering literacy, numeracy and interdisciplinary skills. Children will study at least two languages from French, Spanish and Mandarin and a wide range of additional subjects including: humanities, moral education, Arabic and Islamic studies.

◆ Wellbeing and Personalised Support

Wellbeing is central to our Pioneer Curriculum, ensuring students develop resilience and confidence. Expert counsellors and mentors guide students throughout their journey. Students are encouraged to make healthy choices for nutrition, exercise and pursuits, while community and philanthropic activities run throughout the year. Students in Prep become role models for younger children.

◆ Innovation and Digital Competencies

Learners acquire digital skills through advanced STEM, robotics and esports projects. As they negotiate the broad Prep curriculum, they encounter new subjects in Innovation, Sustainability, and Entrepreneurship, while financial literacy, computational research, and ethical, sustainable leadership skills pose new challenges.

◆ Strong Parent Partnerships

Expert and specialist teachers work closely with parents, fostering strong partnerships that are essential to student success bringing out the best in every child and preparing them for the next stage of their academic journey.

◆ Creativity, Sports and Physical Development

Artistic expression thrives in world-class Art Labs and children are introduced to media studies in our specialist facilities. Physical education features diverse sports and expert coaching to promote health and teamwork. Children will participate in a range of sports including football, swimming, martial arts, gymnastics, fencing, basketball and athletics. Dance, drama and music will continue as specialist subjects.

◆ Building Our Pioneer Framework

Throughout this phase, students build a strong foundation in research, critical thinking and innovation, engaging with industry experts and partners from across technology, academics, sports and the arts.

◆ Reimagining: Research Centre Prep



◆ Reimagine: Research Centre - Prep



◆ Reimagine: Research Centre - Prep



◆ Reimagine: Prep Dining

Senior: Achieving Global Success

SECONDARY: YEAR 9 - YEAR 11 (Age 14 - 16)

◆ Pivotal Access Focus

Students in Years 9-11 transition into a critical phase, sharpening their academic focus and beginning personalised pathways for GCSEs, Level 2 BTECs and global university readiness.

◆ Language and Curriculum Development

GCSEs in languages build on earlier learning, with a curriculum reviewed rigorously to align with students' evolving needs, interests and achievements.

◆ Innovative Technology Integration

Engaging with 3D printers, drones and robotics, students develop practical skills by designing eco-friendly vehicles, programming smart devices and preparing for future industries.

◆ Customised Subject Options

Students select four additional GCSEs or Level 2 BTECs, choosing from subjects like Business, Sport, Media, Creative Arts, 3D Design, Engineering and Entrepreneurship.

◆ Core Curriculum and Physical Wellbeing

All students study GCSE Mathematics, Science and English Language and Literature, with Physical Education promoting mental and physical health through two weekly sessions.

◆ Vocational and Technical Excellence

Students develop industry-relevant skills through hands-on courses, including Level 2 and Level 3 BTECs and IBCP preparing them for careers in tomorrow's industries.

Bespoke Curriculum booklets will be made available in future

◆ Reimagining: Research Centre - Senior



Senior: Academic and Professional Growth

SIXTH FORM: YEAR 12 - YEAR 13

◆ Qualification Pathways

In Years 12 and 13, students choose from A-levels, Level 3 BTECs, IBDP and IBCP, personalising their educational journey to align with their passions and career goals.

◆ Subject Specialisation and Independent Learning

This phase emphasises subject specialisation and independent learning, preparing students for higher education or professional careers with a focus on developing expertise in chosen fields.

◆ Digital Portfolios

Every achievement is securely documented, creating a digital portfolio that gives students a competitive edge for higher education and beyond.

◆ Diverse Course Options

Students select from a wide range of subjects, including A-levels in Law, Economics and Government & Politics, Level 3 BTECs in Hospitality, Sport and Creative Media and globally recognised IBDP courses.

◆ Career-Focused Pathways

The IBCP offers a combination of BTEC courses and IB Diploma subjects, while complementary programmes like GEMS 4 Life help students strengthen personal statements and connect with top universities and industry leaders.

◆ Wellbeing and Leadership Development

Wellbeing is at the heart of the Senior School, with mindfulness, yoga, peer mentoring and leadership roles building resilience, confidence and character.

Bespoke Sixth Form Curriculum booklets will be made available in future ◆

◆ Senior Lounge



◆ Reimagine: Esports - Game Design and Disruption Hub



◆ Reimagine: Senior Lounge



◆ Reimagine: Research Centre - Senior

Excellence in Sports



Comprehensive Sports Programme

Our sports programme, delivered in world-class facilities, spans football, rugby, cricket, swimming, martial arts, (add the rest of sports)

Adventure Opportunities

The Pioneer Club extends the adventure with activities like rowing, sailing, skiing and horse riding, inspiring lifelong physical activity and personal achievement.

Three steps for high performing sport

Supported by performance technology and world class, specialist, professional coaches, all students can strive to represent their sport at the highest levels:

1. Comprehensive Physical Education Curriculum

Our curriculum encompasses Physical Education, sports, games and fitness, ensuring all students develop essential skills and actively participate.

2. Expert Coaching and Competitive Performance

Specialist coaches provide expert training in various sports, enabling students to compete with peers regionally and internationally.

3. Ambassador Sports Programme

Professional and elite international athletes visit our school, enhancing coaching, mentoring and enriching student experiences

Sports Programme

Competition level with full coaching program in our world-class facilities:

Rugby

Cricket

Football

Swimming

Water polo

Athletics

Basketball

Netball

Padel

Badminton

Gymnastics

Martial Arts

Fencing

Esports and Gaming

Further off-site coaching:

Sailing

Rowing

Skiing

Snowboarding

Equestrian

Golf

Tennis

Skateboarding

Karting



Excellence in Creative And Performing Arts

Our Pioneer Curriculum emphasizes Performing and Creative Arts to inspire imagination, nurture talent and instill a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Spanning all age groups, it offers students opportunities to explore, create and express themselves in state-of-the-art facilities under the guidance of expert educators and visiting professionals.

The curriculum includes art and digital art, dance, music, drama and media studies. Children engage in creative experiences and specialist tuition in music and dance from an early age, progressing to more advanced opportunities as they grow.

Our state-of-the-art facilities, such as fully equipped art labs, immersive dance studios, professional recording studios and a 600-seat auditorium, support their artistic development. Specialist teachers and visiting professionals guide students, fostering creativity, confidence and a passion for the arts.

Excellence in the Digital Ecosystem

A Unified Digital Experience

The digital ecosystem sets a new benchmark, powered by AI, to personalise learning, enhance collaboration and connect the entire school community.

AI-Driven Personalisation

AI tailors learning pathways for every student, providing real-time insights and adaptive platforms to support their unique needs. Teachers use advanced analytics to deliver personalised lessons with greater impact.

Dynamic Learning Spaces

Immersive classrooms, robotics hubs, AI-powered research labs and XR software provide students with hands-on, future-focused learning environments that inspire creativity and innovation.

Innovation and Disruption Labs

Students explore entrepreneurship by designing real-world solutions, from apps to AI-powered prototypes, in dedicated labs that nurture creativity and problem-solving skills.

Global partnerships for local impact

Our partnerships with leaders like Microsoft, HP, Apple, EONXR, Plug and Play ensure students don't just learn about innovation – they experience it. Workshops, internships and masterclasses bring industry expertise directly into the classroom.

About GEMS Education

GEMS Education is one of the world's oldest and largest K-12 private education providers, founded in the UAE in 1959. It offers a diverse range of curricula and educational choices across socio-economic backgrounds in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Starting with a single school in Dubai, GEMS remains a family-run business, educating over 170,000 students from 176 countries across its global network.

Each year, GEMS students graduate and progress to prestigious universities worldwide. In the past five years alone, they have been accepted to over 1,050 universities, including all eight Ivy League institutions in the US and all 24 Russell Group universities in the UK. GEMS' nearly 500,000 alumni lead successful careers across various sectors, contributing to positive global change.

Varkey Foundation, the philanthropic arm of GEMS Education, works to improve education standards for underprivileged children worldwide. It focuses on building teacher capacity, advocating for teaching excellence and supporting innovative solutions through grants. The Foundation runs the **Global Teacher Prize**, a US\$1 million award honoring exceptional teachers.

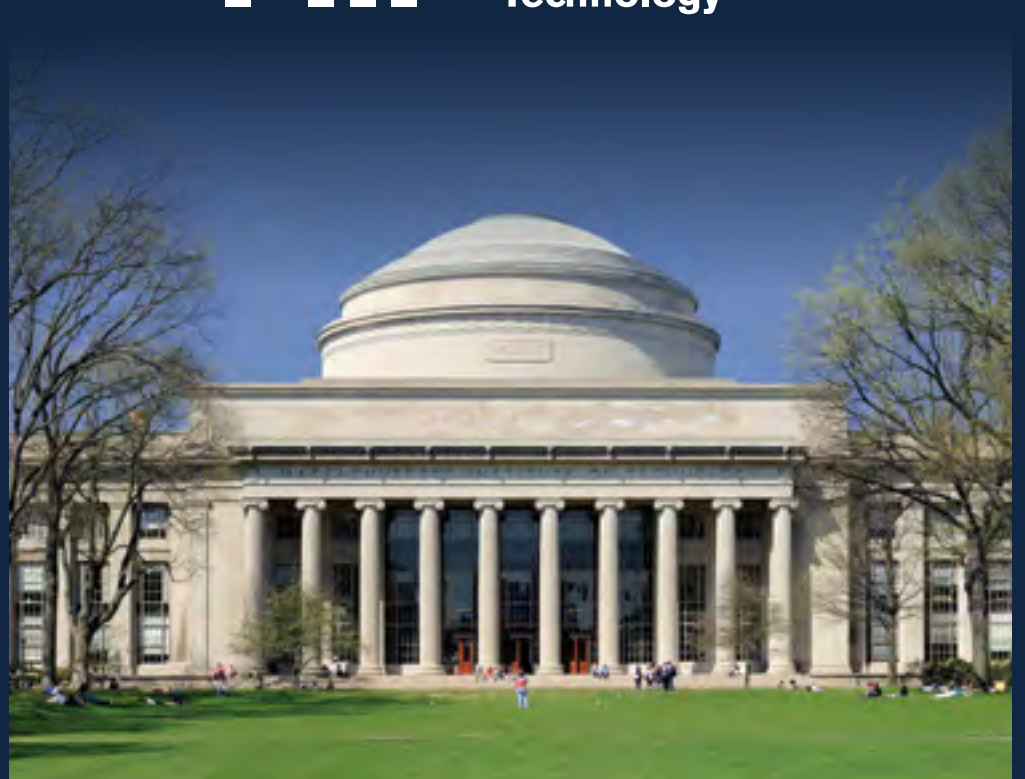
In 2024, GEMS launched **Family First**, a global movement grounded in the belief that family is the foundation of learning and a peaceful, prosperous society. This initiative continues GEMS' 65-year legacy of championing family values and promoting positive societal change.



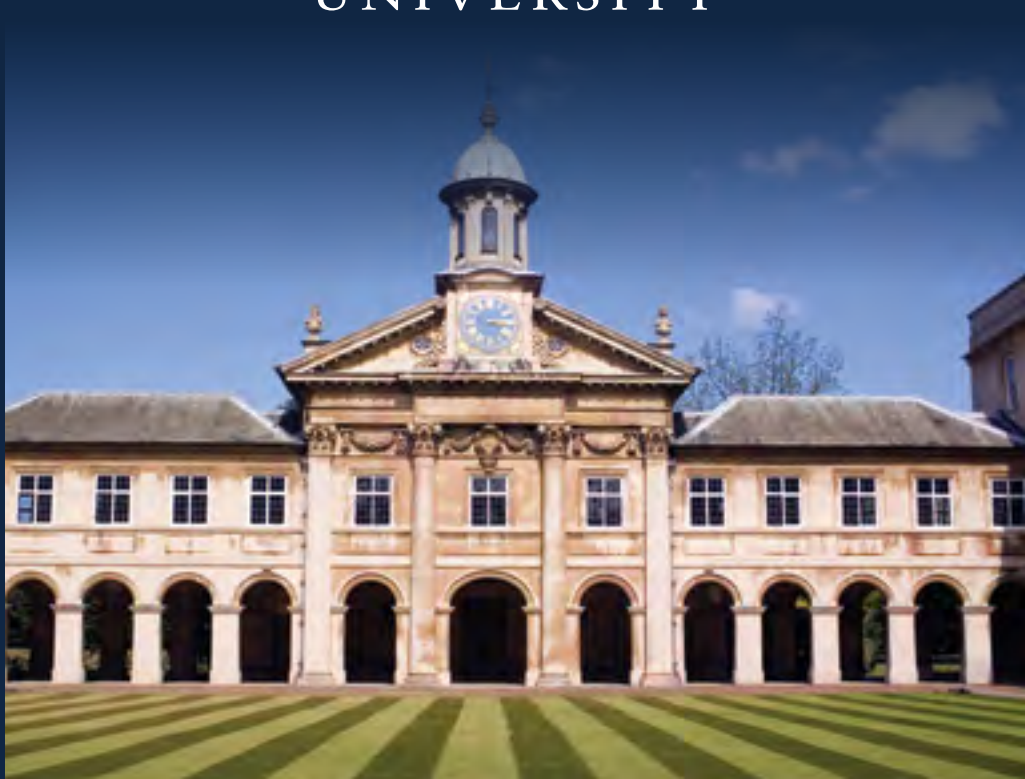


GEMS students have been admitted to over 1,050 universities across 53 countries, including **all 8 Ivy League universities** and **all 24 Russell Group universities** in the UK.

Yale University



STANFORD
UNIVERSITY



Welcome to GEMS School of Research and Innovation

Deciding whether GEMS School of Research and Innovation is the right fit for your child lies at the heart of our admissions process.

Our dedicated admissions and parent liaison team are committed to providing a seamless and tailored experience for you and your family.

Our application process is designed to be straightforward and we are here to assist you at every stage. To start your child's journey with us, please share your details and a member of the admissions team will reach out to guide you through the next steps.



Victoria Lumby

Senior Vice President - Sales & Enrolments



+971564452186



victoria.lumby@gemseducation.com



Eleanor Morse

Admissions and Relationship Director



+971507154955



eleanor.morse@gemseducation.com

