

# Reimagining Genius

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◆ 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.





# 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 National Curriculum for England 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



# 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

# 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 Forman**  
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.

# Current Vacancies for August 2025

## Grow fast in our ultra-premium education sector.\*

Already renowned as the largest global educational KG-12 provider, GEMS Education invites you to join our dynamic team at our flagship premium school, GEMS School of Research and Innovation. Located in the UAE, here innovation, technology, world-class facilities and academic excellence converge to create an unparalleled educational experience. As a Gold Standard primary teacher, you will play a pivotal role in a forward-thinking environment that prioritises personalised learning, student well-being, and the nurturing of individual passions.

Our school, renowned for its cutting-edge facilities and high achievement standards, attracts families who value top-tier education and are willing to invest in their children's future. Here, you will not only leverage your extensive qualifications, preferably a Masters degree, but also bring your wealth of experience and personal achievements to deliver outstanding standards.

Your role will encompass creating engaging and enriching learning experiences tailored to each student's unique needs and interests. Supported by state-of-the-art technology and a commitment to holistic development, you'll have the opportunity

to make a profound impact on young minds, fostering a love for learning that extends far beyond the physical classroom.

You will already be demonstrating that educational technology can have a significant impact on children's education and personal growth and be curious to work in a state-of-the-art, unique environment to further push these boundaries and innovate educational practice. You will have worked in high performing schools, in the independent sector; or outstanding schools that have vibrant, forward-thinking cultures. You will be passionate about trends in global education and how technology and advanced pedagogy keep your practice ahead of the cutting-edge in education. This may be reflected in your contributions to publications, conferences and networks.

We are looking for educators who are passionate, dedicated, and eager to contribute to our diverse and international community of learners. An open mind, a growth mind-set, and a keen interest in research are essential, along with a commitment to your own professional development and growth.

Teachers at our school have their own celebratory stories, where they have personally impacted the educational experience within and beyond the classroom. They bring interests and passions that set them apart, enriching the school environment and supporting the holistic development of our students in the physical and virtual world.

\*Limited positions available.



# 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, world-champion athlete 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.



# 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 everyday challenges. Our school values, To be Pioneering, Empathetic and Challenge with Care, ensure all children and students have strong beliefs in their own ability, confidence to strive forwards and know the importance of giving back.



## 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 the 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. The Pioneer Curriculum and Framework brings together a range of challenging, exciting subjects and a focused skills framework delving into learning, research and digital skills across all subjects, phases and experiences.



## 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. In our pre-prep and prep-phases, children will have a final hour of each day attributed to this personalised approach for passion and discovery. Our senior students will be given opportunities to extend their day and participate in leadership and service to extend their opportunities and university applications.



## 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.



# Reimagining Education with the Best in Learning, Technology & Facilities



**47,600 sq m**  
Dubai Sports City Campus



## World-class Sport Facilities



- Olympic-size swimming pool and learner pool
- FIFA-standard football field
- 400m Olympic running track
- NBA-spec basketball court with auditorium
- Professional cricket nets
- Strength and conditioning suite
- Gymnastics arena
- 2 indoor sports halls
- Padel courts
- Martial Arts Dojo

## Pioneer Curriculum Professional Coaching

### 15 Competition Level Sports Programme\*

#### Pioneer Club\*

Offering after-school and Saturday morning sports opportunities

\*Refer to page 15 for full details.

## Arts & Culture Facilities



- 600-seat auditorium
- Black box facility, digital editing suite, live recording studio
- Specialist, industry-level drama, music, and dance workspaces
- Ceramics and pottery spaces
- Educational outdoor ecosystem and outdoor amphitheatre

## 21 Arts Subjects



### Professional coaching for Performing Arts

- Ballet, contemporary dance, street dance
- Music tuition – piano, string, woodwind, percussion
- Music technology
- Voice coaching
- Musical theatre
- Drama and Shakespeare
- Media, film, radio
- Visual arts – fine arts, digital art, photography, ceramics, textiles
- Age specific art studio

## 15 Innovation Spaces



- Esports, game design, virtual sports
- Special craftsmanship studio
- University-level science labs
- Innovation and disruption labs for each phase
- Industry-level robotics and STEM lab
- Design-tech, digital arts, and photography lab
- Food, nutrition and hydroponics

## Research Spaces

- Immersive reading room
- Prep research centre
- Senior research centre
- Sixth Form research centre
- Digital research eco-system
- Disruption hub
- Collaborative breakout spaces in all year groups



Professional-level  
culinary arts kitchen



Inclusion centres  
for each phase



# Excellence in Sports



## **Comprehensive Sports Programme**

Our unrivalled sports programme is delivered in world-class facilities.

## **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 programme in our world-class facilities:

Rugby

Cricket

Football

Volleyball

Swimming

Water polo

Athletics

Basketball

Netball

Padel

Badminton

Gymnastics

Martial Arts

Fencing

Esports and Gaming

## Pioneer Club

Offering after-school and Saturday morning sports opportunities

Sailing

Rowing

Skiing

Snowboarding

Equestrian

Golf

Tennis

Skateboarding

Karting





# Reimagining the School Environment

All aspects of our purpose-built school, from the outdoor grounds to the multifaceted indoor learning spaces, have been carefully shaped to enhance the experience of students and teachers.

“GEMS School of Research and Innovation will set a new global standard in how a school's physical experience can contribute to fostering belonging and wellbeing. The ambition of this project has allowed us to engage in deep conversations about global best practices, the future of educational environment design, and how technology can enable a better school experience.

**David Judge**  
Executive Creative Director, Kampus International

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◆ Reimagine: Research Centre - Prep

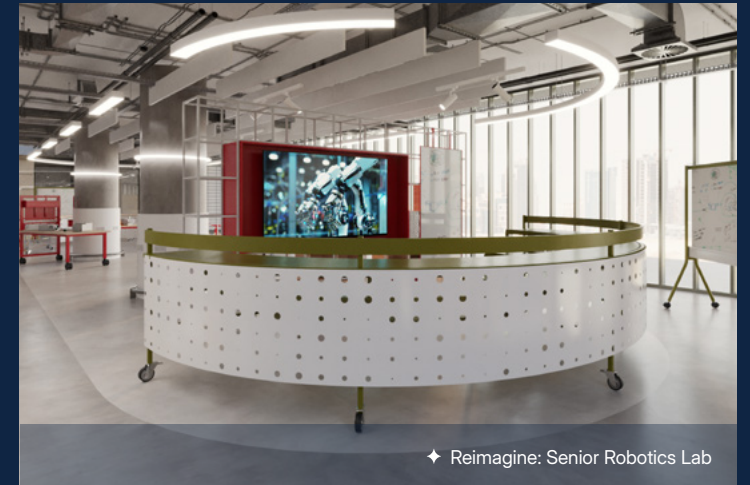


◆ Reimagine: Research Centre - Prep



◆ Reimagine: Prep Dining









◆ Reimagine: Esports - Game Design and Disruption



◆ Reimagine: Senior Lounge



◆ Reimagine: Research Centre - Senior



# Grow with GEMS

Joining our schools presents a unique and enriching opportunity for educators seeking to excel in their careers and make a meaningful impact in education. Our commitment to evidence-based practice, research-based pedagogy, and extensive partnerships with renowned institutions not only empowers teachers with the latest insights and methodologies, but also reinforces our commitment to a culture of continuous growth and development.

At GEMS Education our mission is to put a quality education within the reach of every learner, providing children with the best possible learning experience and opportunities so they can achieve their full potential. To achieve this, we prioritise the development of our teachers and staff by creating a teaching and learning environment that facilitates growth and excellence.

As a teacher at GEMS, you'll have access to a wealth of resources, including courses, podcasts, articles, and research materials, all designed to enhance your teaching practices. Through our partnerships with institutions like Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and Evidence Based Education in the UK, you'll be at the forefront of educational research and innovation, enabling you to deliver high-yield, high-impact strategies in the classroom in order to get the very best from each and every child, no matter their starting point.

We firmly believe in investing in our teachers' professional learning and development. Through our collaboration with enterprises like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and our role as the Middle East Lead Practitioner Training Centre for the Schools, Students and Teachers network (SSAT), we actively engage in shaping educational policy through a culture of evidence-informed teaching and learning.

With us, you'll be part of a dynamic community of educators who prioritise growth, innovation, and excellence, creating a supportive and collaborative environment where you can thrive as an educator and contribute significantly to varied fields of study.

Our teachers have the exciting opportunity to engage in a wide range of impactful projects that contribute to their professional growth and the enhancement of educational practices. These projects are designed to encourage collaboration, innovation, and the application of evidence-based pedagogy. Teachers can be part of action research initiatives that focus on addressing specific classroom challenges, experimenting with new teaching methods, or evaluating the effectiveness of various educational strategies. They can also participate in curriculum development projects aimed at creating dynamic and research-based learning materials that align with the latest educational trends and standards.

In addition, our teachers can join interdisciplinary projects that encourage cross-subject collaboration, through a more interconnected approach to education. For example, they may work on projects related to student wellbeing, educational technology integration, or community engagement programmes that extend beyond the classroom. Furthermore, they can engage in projects with external partners, leveraging our global network to exchange ideas, insights, and best practices with other educators and institutions worldwide. These projects not only allow teachers to apply their knowledge and skills, but also empower them to be active contributors to the ongoing advancement of education best practice.

# Inclusion

Building an inclusive and caring community for all.

Our schools provide unparalleled resources for students that require additional educational support, helping them to succeed to the very best of their abilities. The highly experienced specialist Inclusion Team ensures a personalised approach to supporting each student, facilitated by spaces that can be modified to create optimal learning for those with specific needs, such as sensory play areas, outdoor learning, and interactive surfaces. At all times, the school works closely with parents to ensure perfect alignment when it comes to supporting each child.

GEMS Education is fully inclusive, welcoming students with a variety of learning preferences, including students of determination. This includes students with cognitive and learning challenges, communications and interaction challenges, and students who have physical, sensory, medical, emotional, social, cultural, or language challenges, alongside students who are more able, gifted, and talented.





# Wellbeing at the Core

- Small Classroom Sizes: Students get more teacher attention and learn in large, spacious classrooms for optimum learning
- Personalised Learning: Prioritised by schools and obtained through expert teachers and clever technology
- Student Counsellors: Actively support students with any challenges that may arise in their educational journey
- Senior Vice President of Child Services: Expert leader dedicated to the wellbeing and safety of students
- Expert networks within GEMS and beyond
- Pastoral Care: Traditional focus on pastoral care through form tutors and the house system
- Student culture and experience through form groups and house structure

# Happy Learners, Successful Learners

Students at the heart of everything, with their wellbeing the number one priority.

At GEMS Education, the safety and happiness of the children under our care will always be our top priority. We know that happy learners are successful learners and from the day a child enrolls in any of our schools, we ensure that their wellbeing and personal growth are prioritised.

The safety, health, and wellbeing of our students are overriding priorities at the school, and we have a hand-picked team of specialists to oversee these critical areas of support for our community. Unique to GEMS, is an expert Children's Services team based at its Dubai-based School Support Centre (SSC) that offers world class guidance and counselling that our schools can draw upon as necessary at any time.



# 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 200,000 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 honouring 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





# Life in the UAE

## What is the official working week in the UAE?

The UAE's official working week is Monday to Friday, with a duration of four and a half days in many parts of the country for private and public sector entities. GEMS students typically finish around midday on a Friday in all emirates except for Sharjah, where schools operate Monday to Thursday, with a three-day weekend.

## What benefits can employees expect in the UAE?

Benefits typically offered to employees in the UAE include health insurance, annual leave, gratuity (or end-of-service) pay, and an airfare allowance (dependent on grade and role).

## Can expats work in the UAE?

Yes, expats can work in the UAE provided they have a valid work visa and residency permit.

## How do I apply for a work visa in the UAE?

You need to have a job offer from an employer in the UAE to apply for a work visa. Your employer will typically facilitate the visa application process.

## Can I change jobs while working in the UAE?

Yes, you can change jobs while working in the UAE, but as in many other parts of the world, you need to work the contractually agreed notice period or contract length before doing so.

## What is the official language of the UAE?

The official language of the UAE is Arabic, but English is widely spoken and used in business.

## Do you pay tax in the UAE?

In 2018, the UAE Government introduced VAT for the first time on most goods and services, at the low rate of 5 per cent – but that's it. No income tax. Everything you make is yours to keep.

## Can unmarried couples live in the UAE?

The UAE Government recently announced changes in the country's Islamic personal laws. As per new legislation, unmarried couples in UAE are permitted to live together.

## What documents do I need to rent a property in Dubai?

You will need your passport, a valid UAE Residence Visa, and an Emirates ID card.

## What is the main mode of transportation in the UAE?

You'll find taxis, buses, and private cars in all parts of the UAE. In Dubai, there is also a modern, efficient, and safe metro system.

# Reimagining Genius

[gems-sri.com](https://gems-sri.com)

Visit the GEMS careers site to find out more:

**GEMS**  
EDUCATION

