

مدرسة جيمس فيرست بوينت

GEMS FirstPoint School

THE VILLA



GEMS
EDUCATION

Our Mission

GEMS FirstPoint School is an inspirational centre of enterprising education where staff, parents and students work collaboratively to embrace the opportunities and challenges of learning, continually striving to exceed their personal best and enjoy academic, sporting, creative and technological success.

A "Personal Best" Culture

Our school is located in The Villa community, and offers the National Curriculum for England for children from Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 13.

The school fosters a "personal best" culture, promoting self-confidence, initiative and leadership in all our young people. At GEMS FirstPoint School we encourage debate, participation, and a spirit of inquiry, helping each of our students to discover and maximise their gifts and talents. We create a sense of adventure and our modern learning environments stimulate creativity and innovation.

Our curriculum is designed to offer a full, broad and balanced range of learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom, with an emphasis on enterprise, computing and technology. Uniquely, we offer all students from Year 1 onwards specialist computing and programming lessons. Similarly these children also get access to trained technology teachers and high-quality learning spaces, such as our robotics and electronics laboratory.

When combined with world class qualified teachers and a supportive and caring pastoral system, GEMS FirstPoint School is able to ensure that every child achieves their personal best.



LEADING



School Ethos and Values

The school focuses not only on academic excellence but also on developing creative, confident, values-driven individuals who will achieve their full potential as skilled global citizens, who add value to the world and be leaders of the future.

We believe that a high quality internationally minded education is essential in an increasingly competitive global environment. The school's use of the rigorous English National Curriculum, with its internationally benchmarked assessment procedures and global outlook in its programmes of study, will prepare students for university study anywhere in the world and equip them with the skills and versatility they require for professional employment.

GEMS FirstPoint School combine our core values with cutting edge, innovative teaching, set in well-resourced and vibrant learning environments.

CARING



INQUIRING



“ My daughter comes from class every day smiling and desperate to tell me of what she has learned. The teacher is fun and interacts so well with the children. The teacher keeps us updated on what the kids are doing in class and how we can help enhance their learning. My wife and I are very happy with our decision to come to GEMS FirstPoint School.

Graham McCullough
Father of one child in FS2



CREATING

The Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged three to five.

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables him or her to flourish. The Early Years Foundation Stage is designed precisely with that aim in mind and to ensure every child is "school ready" for Key Stage 1 and beyond.

Each child's progress is closely monitored and assessed against appropriate age performance standards. The key areas of learning and development covered at this stage are:

- Language and communication
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Every encouragement and help is provided for children to attain their full potential. The focus for effective learning is on practical applications, supported by a positive and stimulating learning environment. In addition, at GEMS FirstPoint School, all children enjoy the opportunity to learn Arabic from the age of 3. Other modern languages, such as French and Spanish, also feature in the Foundation Stage curriculum.





Early Years Foundation Stage continued

Children learn best when they actively participate in the learning process. Learning through structured play and a regular programme of visits form an integral part of the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Supported by a well-resourced library and computer facilities, students in Foundation Stage are encouraged to explore and develop their natural abilities and talents.

By the end of the second year, all students will have developed social skills and a love of learning, as well as be able to read and write and use simple Mathematics at a level appropriate for their age or beyond. They will have gained a significantly improved understanding of our world through knowledge of elementary History, Geography and Science.

The overall educational experience is enriched with exposure to Personal, Social and Health Education. Students also develop their creative talents in Art and Music alongside their physical development through Dance, Games and Gymnastic activities.

INNOVATING



LEADING



“ Since starting at GEMS FirstPoint, both of my children love the new opportunities open to them and their confidence has grown. Enterprise was a key factor in our decision to further the children’s education here and one we believe will stand them in good stead for the future.

Mrs Matthews,
Mother of two children in Year 5 and Year 8



THINKING

Bringing Learning Alive

at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (Year 1 to Year 6)

Students in this programme follow Key Stages 1 and 2 of the English National Curriculum, which continues to build on the foundations that are established in Foundation Stage.

Ongoing assessment ensures that each student's progress and development are continuous and meet predetermined standards. We encourage students to think independently, use their initiative and to participate in a meaningful and active manner in the learning process. At the end of Key Stage 2, students will prepare for the University of Cambridge Checkpoint Examinations in English, Mathematics and Science.

The core academic curriculum includes instruction in English, Mathematics, Science, UAE Social Studies and Digital Learning. Arabic is taught to all students and caters for native and non-native speakers. In addition, the school offers an Islamic Education programme for Muslim students. The overall education experience is enhanced and supplemented with an enriched visual and performing arts programme that embraces both western and local culture as well as excellent school sports provision.



CREATING





Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (Year 1 to Year 6) continued

A selection of extracurricular activities broadens the opportunities for students to enhance their natural abilities and to challenge themselves through the development of new interest areas. Extracurricular activities at GEMS FirstPoint School include:

- Visual and Performing Arts Clubs (including Choir and Art & Craft)
- Debating Club
- A Variety of Sporting Activities
- Environmental Awareness Club
- Young Enterprise Club

Throughout the educational experience at school, students are involved in learning the practical use and application of traditional technologies as well as the new technologies such as Information and Communications Technology. Through its association with other GEMS schools, the school will establish links with big names such as CISCO and Microsoft offering stimulating and practical courses during these Key Stages.

Development of leadership qualities and skills are put into practical application in Key Stage 2, providing each student the opportunity to share class and school responsibilities that nurture organisational skills, co-operation, accountability and team spirit. Enterprise and Entrepreneurship are key features of our school.

By the end of Year 6, all students will have experienced a well-rounded education and will have developed a strong character, articulate expression, confidence and be well-prepared for their senior school education.

ENTERPRISING



INQUIRING





EXPLORING

Bringing Learning Alive

at Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9 are traditionally known as Key Stage 3 and follow the English National Curriculum and includes subjects such as: English, Mathematics, Citizenship, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Arabic, Spanish, French, Art and Design, Technology, History, Geography and Physical Education. Islamic Education and PSHCEE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) are also offered.

The transition between Year 6 and Year 7 is designed to be "seamless".

As in EYFS and Key Stages 1 and 2 we aim to encourage debate, promote active student participation in learning and develop a spirit of enquiry. The curriculum is designed to be full, broad and balanced, ensuring that each and every student will excel.



INNOVATING





Bringing Learning Alive

at Key Stage 4

We aim to provide students with high quality education that raises aspirations and inspires confidence.

This means:

- Offering a full, broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4
- Offering a range of specialised courses for the Gifted and Talented students
- Participating in deep learning days, educational visits, work placements and university and industry seminar workshops

These initiatives help bring learning alive.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), the IGCSE, GCSE and BTEC Level 2 curriculum is introduced.

A range of subjects, catering for a variety of academic needs and interests, will be offered. These will include the compulsory core subjects of English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Arabic, Physical Education and Islamic Education (for Muslims).

A wide range of Option Subjects to stimulate students interests and talents will include:

- French • Spanish • Mandarin • History • Geography • Economics • Business • Music • Dance
- Drama • Art & Design

And as a specialist technology school a whole range of technologies will also be available:

- Resistant Materials • Food Technology • Graphic Design • Electronics • Textiles
- Music Technology

THINKING



CREATING



“ We have just arrived in Dubai, and as any relocation, the issues are never-ending. FirstPoint has been extremely helpful and friendly, by helping us overcome all the problems connected with any change of school. ”

Marco Liello

Father of two children in Year 7 and Year 8



INNOVATING

Bringing Learning Alive

in Sixth Form

GEMS FirstPoint School will offer an outstanding Sixth Form for Dubai's young people. The Sixth Form environment, dedicated to students who aspire to greatness, will stretch and challenge all.

Learning will be brought alive through:

- Regular lectures and events with celebrated and notable leaders of academia, the Arts, Industry and Education
- Teaching by subject specialists who will encourage students to think, question and argue in a way that genuinely stretches their mind
- A curriculum examined by gold standard international A levels and Cambridge qualifications that prepare students for entry to the best university courses worldwide
- Subject master classes with small group tutorials

Subjects students will choose from include:

- Arabic • Art • Biology • Chemistry • Drama • Economics • English • French • Geography • History • Technology • Mathematics • Physics • Spanish • As well as a range of Level 3 Applied Learning courses

Students will be exposed to an array of international cultural influences which will help to challenge their attitudes and develop their behaviour which is just as important as their academic qualifications in preparation for employment in the 21st century.

Overall, our aim is that our young men and women of tomorrow have the reference points, social skills and competences necessary for happy lives and fulfilling futures.



CARING





Enterprising

beyond the classroom

This new, state-of-the-art school, a community learning resource, will continue to offer a rich selection of extracurricular activities designed to enhance students' all-round development. The school will strive to earn an excellent national and international reputation for its inter-school sports activities and tournaments.

Regular sports activities will include Swimming, Cricket, Football and more.

Photography, Chess, Drama, Arts, Environmental Club and Debating Club are regular features of the after-school programme. Support classes in a variety of subject areas will also be a key feature of after school activities to ensure that any student who requires additional guidance will be able to obtain it.

A full range of other accredited skills-based courses designed to develop Enterprise and Entrepreneurship will be available including: Microsoft, Sports Leadership, Child Care, CISCO (IT), ACCA (Accountancy & Finance).

Applying learning and developing professional skills are key to our young people's successful futures.

ENTERPRISING



LEADING



“ FirstPoint School is an inspiring and challenging learning environment which develops children with confident creativity and intellect! So happy to be part of the GEMS FirstPoint family. ”

Fiorella Maldonado
Mother of one child Year 5



CARING

Partnership with Parents

Through a regular communication system - written and data reports, SMS, email and a programme of consultation evenings - parents are regularly updated on the progress of their children and on activities in the school. Parents are welcome to discuss their children's individual progress with the concerned teacher or school Principal or any member of the Senior Leadership Team at a mutually convenient time.

Parent Voice including a monthly forum with the Principal are conducted on a regular basis. These meetings provide an opportunity to all our parents to voice any concerns, suggestions or ideas they may have.

Education Professionals

Our highly qualified and motivated teachers have been carefully selected for their teaching excellence and ability to actively engage students in the learning process. We implement an ongoing programme of workshops and professional development sessions, often conducted by noted educationalists from the United Kingdom, to ensure that our teachers are up to date with the latest developments in educational techniques and methods.

The Senior Leadership Team and a team of Subject Leaders from the United Kingdom are complemented by professional teachers from other parts of the world to meet the needs of our international student population.



INQUIRING





Facilities at FirstPoint School

- Science Laboratories – Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Electronics and Robotics Laboratory
- ICT Discovery Spaces
- Full Primary and Secondary Libraries
- Art & Design Studios
- Food Technology Catering Suite
- Electronics Workshop
- Resistant Materials Workshop
- Graphics Studio
- Textiles Studio
- 500 Seater Auditorium
- 25m Swimming Pool
- Learners Pool
- Six Court Sports Halls
- Specialist Drama Space & Black Box Theatre Space
- Music Technology Suite
- Ensemble Room
- Recording Studio

EXPLORING

“ I witnessed the energy and passion that the teachers had for their subjects when I first visited the school with my children. The reception staff and parent liaison representative were ever so warm, friendly, enthusiastic and efficient. From there onwards, my children and I knew that we wanted to secure a place at GEMS FirstPoint School.

The school is bright, welcoming and the management are evidently highly efficient. I happen to be on the premises on the very first fire drill - it was conducted exceptionally well. Everyone came out in an orderly fashion, very promptly. This gave me confidence in the school - that my children were in a safe and secure environment.

Both my children absolutely love the school and look forward to going each day despite a daily travel of 40 minutes each way. My daughter talks with real enthusiasm of her teachers who bring the classes alive through practical examples making subjects thoroughly enjoyable. Our children are flourishing - going from confidence to confidence. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend GEMS FirstPoint School to other parents.

Samina Mushtaq

Mother of two children in Year 6 and Year 8



ENTERPRISING





THINKING



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GEMS schools have been the trusted choice for families in the UAE for over 55 years. At GEMS FirstPoint School located in The Villa community, we offer a "state of the art" centre of inspirational learning through the National Curriculum for England for children from Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 12, (expanding to Year 13).

The school fosters a "can do" ethos, promoting self-confidence, initiative and leadership in all our young people. Our curriculum offers a full, broad and balanced range of learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom, with an emphasis on Enterprise and Technology.

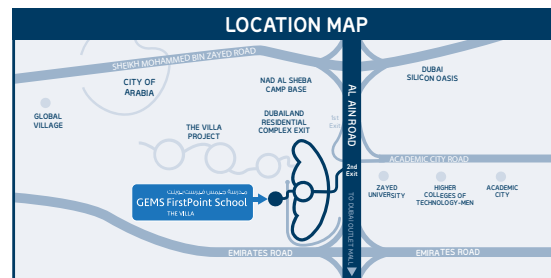
Facilities at GEMS FirstPoint School

Science Laboratories • ICT Discovery Spaces • Full Primary and Secondary Libraries • Art & Design Studios • Food Technology Catering Suite • Electronics Workshop • Resistant Materials Workshop • Graphics Studio • Textiles Studio • 500 Seater Auditorium • 25m Swimming Pool • Learners Pool • Six Court Sports Halls • Specialist Drama Space & Black Box Theatre Space • Music Technology Suite • Ensemble Room • Recording Studio

Curriculum

National Curriculum for England - Early Years, Primary, GCSE and A-Levels

PROGRAMME	TUITION FEES
FS 1 - FS 2	38,000
Year 1 - Year 3	45,000
Year 4 - Year 6	50,000
Year 7 - Year 9	55,000
Year 10 - Year 11	60,000
Year 12	65,000



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gemsfirstpointschool-dubai.com

Registration Fee: 1,000 AED (non-refundable, non-adjustable and one time fee)

Admission Fee: 2,500 AED (non-refundable, non-adjustable and one time fee)

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Dear Parents,

It is my privilege to welcome you to GEMS FirstPoint School and to share with you our vision, aims and approaches to learning.

We consider ourselves to be a local school in a global setting and aim to provide every child with the quality education and learning experiences that they deserve, whilst playing a full and active role in our local, national and international communities.

At FirstPoint we strive to educate the whole child and to give every student the environment to express their creative talents and academic abilities in innovative and enterprising ways. We understand that young people will need much more than a suite of excellent qualifications - important though these are - to succeed.

The globalized nature of our world and the ever-changing demands of industry and commerce mean that young people must have a wide range of personal skills and qualities to achieve their dreams. At FirstPoint we aim to encourage: international-mindedness; strong interpersonal skills; confidence and cooperation; leadership and social responsibility; enterprise and innovation. Underpinning these will be a quality academic provision based on a rigorous UK National Curriculum with an

outstanding Early Years Programme. We will, of course, focus on the core subjects (English, Arabic, Islamic and Social Studies, Maths and Science) and supplement these with exciting programmes in humanities, languages, the arts, sports and technology.

Our world-class facilities allow young people to work with the latest technology, play in safe and exciting environments, explore their own ideas and problem solving capacity, using a wide range of resources and materials, and of course, have fun in doing so.

At the centre of all that we do is a constant focus on enterprise, innovation and technology. It is, of course, important that children develop a strong and confident command of core subjects. Equally, they need to feel comfortable thinking of new ways to meet the needs of our world, nurture extraordinary ideas and learn how to make them a reality. Applying knowledge to real world situations - that is the FirstPoint way!

It is my aim to make FirstPoint the 'First Choice' school for parents, children and our community. I look forward to welcoming you in person to our wonderful school.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Sharples BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
CEO & Principal

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THE VILLA



2015 - 2016 Academic Calendar GEMS FirstPoint School, The Villa

August 2015					
S	30	2	9	16	23
M	31	3	10	17	24
T		4	11	18	25
W		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
F		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29

Days of Teaching **2**

September 2015					
S		6	13	20	27
M		7	14	21	28
T	1	8	15	22	29
W	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	
F	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

Days of Teaching **19**

October 2015					
S		4	11	18	25
M		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
W		7	14	21	28
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	31

Days of Teaching **20**

November 2015					
S	1	8	15	22	29
M	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	
W	4	11	18	25	
T	5	12	19	26	
F	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

Days of Teaching **22**

December 2015					
S		6	13	20	27
M		7	14	21	28
T	1	8	15	22	29
W	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	31
F	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

Days of Teaching **11**

January 2016					
S	31	3	10	17	24
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

Days of Teaching **21**

February 2016					
S		7	14	21	28
M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	
W	3	10	17	24	
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	

Days of Teaching **16**

March 2016					
S		6	13	20	27
M		7	14	21	28
T	1	8	15	22	29
W	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	31
F	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

Days of Teaching **18**

April 2016					
S		3	10	17	24
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

Days of Teaching **15**

May 2016					
S	1	8	15	22	29
M	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	31
W	4	11	18	25	
T	5	12	19	26	
F	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

Days of Teaching **22**

June 2016					
S		5	12	19	26
M		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
W	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	
S	4	11	18	25	

Days of Teaching **22**

July 2016					
S	31	3	10	17	24
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

Days of Teaching **0**

- School Holidays
- New Staff Induction
- All Teacher Training
- National Holidays (Subject to Final Approval)
- First Day of Term
- Half Term
- Last Day of year

Total Teaching Days **188**

System/s: British Curriculum

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