



**GEMS**

American Academy

QATAR

A GREAT PLACE  
TO LEARN



The A-Z of GEMS American Academy  
Qatar



# OUTSTANDING and BEYOND

With humble roots as a single school with a vision, GEMS Education has developed over the past 60 years to become a global company with a simple, yet empowering, mission: to put a quality education within the reach of every child. Regardless of age or academic level, location, type of curriculum or price point, we are proud to run award-winning international schools that set a benchmark for high-quality education today, while shaping the future of learning for the next generation.

Our students excel across multiple disciplines, garnering global recognition with more than 1,550 international, regional, and national

awards. GEMS Education alumni have been accepted into over 1,050 universities in 53+ countries. We're proud to say this includes 66 of the world's top 100 universities, including, but not limited to, Harvard University, Stanford University, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of California, Berkeley.

This booklet takes an A-to-Z approach to everything that makes GEMS Education and GEMS American Academy Qatar unique.



# is for ACHIEVEMENT

Each child has different goals within their physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development. This means that achievement looks different to every student.

At GEMS American Academy Qatar (GAAQ), we personalize learning and assist our students in honing their natural abilities to accommodate varying needs, which allows each student to reach their highest potential whether it be in science or sports.



# is for BELIEF

We make sure our students always know that we believe in them, but we also understand the importance of them believing in themselves, that a student's perception of their abilities is often more important than their actual abilities.

Thus, we intentionally create the right environment to nurture self-confidence. We show our students how to succeed, give them the tools to manage stress and emotions and help them to make room for the right learning mindset. We also constantly reinforce positive behaviors to build self-confidence in our day-to-day instruction.

A young girl with long dark hair and glasses is smiling while playing a violin. She is wearing a dark blue jacket over a light blue shirt. The background is a blurred classroom with other students and desks. A large white archway is superimposed over the image, framing the girl and the text.

# is for CREATIVITY

Nurturing creative energy and self-expression can translate to inner confidence and success later in life.

Our students have access to a wide range of top-quality dance, theatre, performance, art and music activities, so when our pupils walk on stage, they beam assurance and enjoyment.



# is for DOHA

GEMS American Academy Qatar is based in the up-and-coming city of Doha. Since our inception into the capital city in 2014, we are fully accredited, offer a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and have earned some of the highest parent satisfaction ratings among all K – 12 schools in the entire GEMS network.

Doha is recognized for being future-focused, sports-oriented and at the cutting edge of new developments so GEMS Education's forward thinking aligns perfectly with the priorities of this city.



# is for ECO-SUSTAINABILITY

Since 2018, our purpose-led Eco-Club set the foundation to transform the ethos of our school by incorporating eco-sustainable education and activities and for parents, students, and staff.

In a short period of time, we have become recipients of the Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) “Qatar Sustainability Award” in the category of *University/College School Sustainability* as well as earning the prestigious Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

GAAQ is the 3rd school in Qatar to receive this honor and the first school in the country with a NAAAS greenhouse.



# is for FUN

One great benefit of our school includes the purposeful cultivation of a fun learning environment, this includes hosting monthly school spirit days and numerous student-based activities throughout the year.

Annually, we provide 60+ afterschool activities starting at KG2, including a range of competitive sports teams that participate in the Qatar School Olympic Program (QSOP) as well as QUESS and QPPSSA leagues and create the space for students to lead initiatives that enrich their scholastic experience.



# is for GOALS

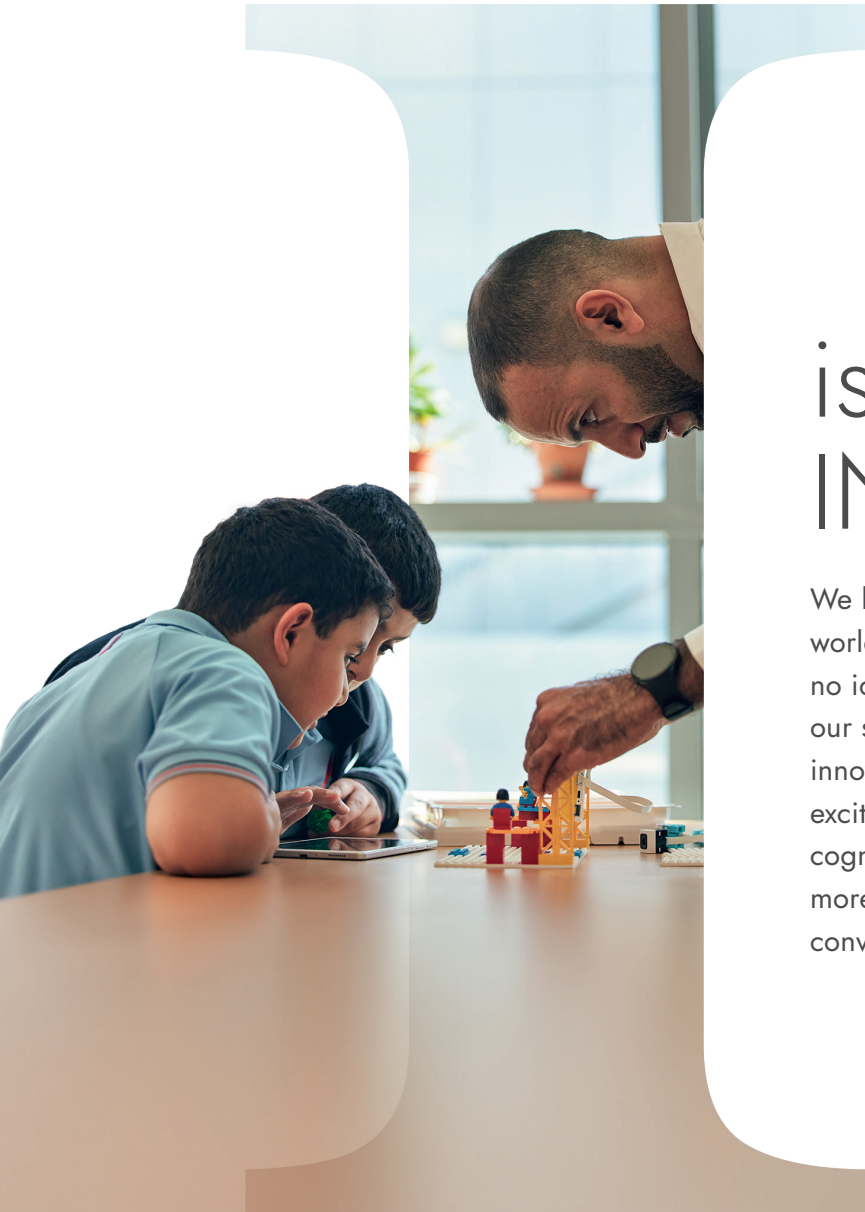
Every parent wants their child to succeed and so do we!

For parents to witness their children attain their goals, a meaningful, coordinated relationship between teachers, students and parents must occur. In this structure, all parties have a role in helping each child become successful on their learning journey. At GAAQ, no child gets left behind.



# is for HAPPINESS

We believe the happiness of our students is the best route to academic success, and that exceptional test scores, brilliant job candidates and competitive college applicants should be by-products of a great education, not the sole purpose of it.



# is for INNOVATION

We live in an innovation-led, technology-led world, and at GAAQ, we strongly believe that no idea is too ambitious if it makes life better for our students, our parents, and our staff. Because innovation is one of our core values, we are excited at how we integrate technology, enhance cognitive thinking, and help students think with more agility to find the courage to challenge convention.



# is for JUBILANT

Students at GEMS American Academy Qatar love to come to school. As they attend every day, our pupils are excited and engaged in the classroom to review yesterday's content, discover today's learning, and have the opportunity to extend the lesson within a classroom activity.

Discovering new aspects of the world and mastering a new skill always puts a smile on the faces of our students.



is for  
KNOWLEDGE

Our students have a thirst for knowledge and so does everyone at GAAQ.

Our teachers are some of the most experienced and qualified in the industry and are excited about the development and greater understanding of their individual fields – an enthusiasm which we all absorb.

# T

## is for LEADERSHIP

With over 90 years of combined diverse experience on our Leadership Team, they are adept at building relationships within teams and the community. This fosters both a positive and motivating culture for staff and a deliverance of high-quality education for pupils.

Overall, experienced educational leaders transform a school community for the better and ensure success for students, parents, and educators.





# is for MINDFULNESS

Wellbeing is high on our priority list. New research has found that mindfulness – a mental state achieved by focusing awareness on the present moment – produces great results by reducing anxiety and lowering stress in schoolchildren.

We use mindfulness and other approved relaxation methods to ensure emotional wellbeing.





# is for NURTURING

Research shows there is substantial evidence of benefits for students learning in a nurturing environment. At GAAQ, we understand that student learning is most effective when our pupils have a strong sense of emotional wellbeing, and feel belonging and purpose within a school community. As our leadership, educators and staff continue to provide support and care to our scholars, they will develop strengthened maturity and resilience as they progress toward graduation.



Throughout the history of GEMS American Academy Qatar, our teachers, students, and parents have regularly worked together to produce outstanding results.

We have come together for a number of accomplishments including, but not limited to, earning the highest accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), achieving the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, attaining 1st and 2nd place each time our band participates in the National Battle of the Bands competition and receiving the Ministry of Education Higher Education (MOEHE) Qatar Culture & Identity Accreditation.

Together, we reach and surpass greater heights to provide improved learning and extracurricular outcomes for our community.

is for  
OUTSTANDING



## is for PARENTS

We know that parents can make enormous contributions to their children's education and individual development. Through the Parent Association, and working collaboratively with student groups like National Honor Society and Student Council, they help organize school programs and events.

At GAAQ, we actively encourage them to engage in learning, to share feedback and ideas and to participate within the greater function of the school as we all work towards a shared goal.



# is for QUALITY

Our high-quality teachers dream big, push boundaries, and make a difference. Our teachers are primarily from the United States and Canada, but we are proud of the 10+ nationalities within our faculty. Their expertise, experience, knowledge, and skills make our community a little better each day.

Our educators strive to be the best. They take ownership of their work, proactively leading and shaping ideas. Remembering that progress needs actions, they do not sit still. They take calculated risks and push their own boundaries, knowing that this is how we all grow. Succeed or fail, we learn from our experiences and move toward the next challenge. We know what they do is incredible.



# is for RESPECT

Demonstrating respect is basic human decency. We must show respect for people, places and things in our environment. Our parents, students and staff accept people for who they are, regardless of how different a person appears to us.

By leveraging respect as a positive and a strength, meaningful relationships can be gradually built upon communication, trust, safety, and wellbeing – the foundation of a growing and thriving school community.

# S is for STUDENTS

Our students are central to everything we do.

Our goal is to provide vibrant and stimulating learning environments and opportunities. GAAQ students are national team athletes, gymnasts and scholastic champions that represent Qatar and their respective countries in various national and international events.

But what truly matters to us – above all – is the confidence our students feel when they walk out of our doors and into the world to build a better future.





# is for TRUSTED

We are proud of our burgeoning heritage as educators. Since 2018, we have been consistent as a top 3 school in parent satisfaction rating for the entire GEMS network.

For over ten years, GAAQ has been the trusted choice for families, and it is a responsibility we don't take lightly. Our parents are our greatest ambassadors and continue to spread the word to other families about how their students have developed and grown while in our care.

# U

is for  
UNIVERSITIES

GEMS has enjoyed some of the best university acceptance rates of any international school network. GEMS students have been accepted into an impressive 1,050 universities in 53 countries, including all 8 Ivy League universities in the US and 24 Russell Group universities and colleges in the UK.

At GAAQ, we have achieved a 100% acceptance rate into various universities and colleges in 5 out of the 7 continents, including 8+ Russell Group schools in the UK and various Top 100 American colleges and universities. We are immensely proud of our GAAQ alumni and all they go on to achieve.





is for



**VARKEY  
FOUNDATION**

*Changing lives through education*

GEMS Education is proud to partner with the Varkey Foundation.

The Varkey Foundation aims to provide every child with a learning environment that awakens and supports their full potential.

They believe nothing is more important to achieving this than the passion and quality of teachers. They support global teaching capacity and seed excellence and innovation in the next generation of educators. They have founded the Global Teacher Prize to shine a spotlight on the incredible work teachers do all over the world.



# is for the World

The 71+ student nationalities in our school gives our students the unique opportunity to study and experience other cultures, languages and belief systems through social interactions and classroom initiatives. This cultural richness instills a compelling blend of international understanding, tolerance, and acceptance in our scholars, which we believe is just what they need to succeed in an increasingly globalized world.



# is for X-Factor

At GAAQ, we truly believe that each student is distinctive, important and in possession of special abilities. Our approach to learning is to identify what makes a student shine, while also encouraging them to understand that in groups, “difference” is a strength.

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a light blue school shirt and a dark blue and red striped neckerchief, is smiling broadly while drawing on a chalkboard. She is holding a piece of white chalk in her right hand and has her left hand pressed against the board. A large, dark blue letter 'Y' is superimposed over the left side of the image, partially overlapping the chalkboard and the girl's head.

# Y

# is for YOUTH

We never forget the importance of allowing children to live life in the present.

Academic achievement can bring many benefits later in life, but so can enjoying life, learning from trial and error, and simply embracing their youth.

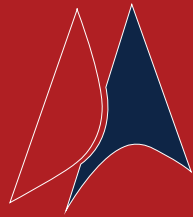


# Z is for Zeal

And finally, at GAAQ, we motivate students to have tremendous zeal for their academic and extracurricular causes that they pursue. Our school has a proven track record in students leading activities they believe in under the guidance of a supervising teacher.

We understand the challenges and opportunities that come with living in a fast-paced, interconnected global society. We work alongside and facilitate learning when necessary to help students navigate the ever-changing world that they live in.





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**GEMS**  
EDUCATION