



Top of the class

Help your children reach their full potential by selecting a school that plays to their strengths

WORDS: FAYE ROWE

BEST FOR: TECHNOLOGY BUFFS

Emirates International School - Jumeirah
Think you may have the next Mark Zuckerberg on your hands? Home to four impressive Information Technology (IT) laboratories with more than 200 computers, Emirates International School Jumeirah is the place to go for a hi-tech education. IT is an essential part of the curriculum: a broad International Baccalaureate education, delivered in English and designed especially for local and expat students. The campus also features a state-of-the-art innovation lab while all rooms benefit from interactive whiteboard technology and Wi-Fi access.

Admissions: The academic year runs from September to June, although there is an on-going admissions policy, subject to availability.

Details: Jumeirah. (04) 3489804 eischools.ae

BEST FOR: SPORTS STARS

Collegiate American School

Those raising a future gold medalist will appreciate how sport is integrated into the curriculum of this stand out school. The emphasis is on participation, cooperation and good sportsmanship, with a top team of coaches as teachers and role models for the pool of young talent. Elementary level children can be selected for a range of sports including basketball, cross country, seven-a-side soccer, swimming, track and field, badminton and tennis, and are expected to honour the commitment for the full season. Practice sessions take place early in the morning or after school. Off the sports field, children learn through a technology driven STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education, which is based on enquiry, research and integrated experiences.

Admissions: The main admissions intake is at the start of the academic year in September, however, there is an on-going admissions policy with students joining throughout the year (depending on availability).

Details: Umm Suqeim 2. (04) 4271400 casdubai.com

BEST FOR: POSITIVE THINKERS

Regent International School

Research has shown that happiness is the key to learning and success and, in a school setting, this is being supported thanks to a shift to Positive Education (PosEd). The movement teams outstanding teaching with the science of positive psychology, happiness and wellbeing. At Regent International School, a leader for PosEd in the emirate, it is felt across every aspect of the student experience. As such, children are encouraged to flourish academically when it comes to critical thinking, literacy and numeracy, while developing their character and self-esteem. As a result, they will emerge as resilient, confident, happy, kind and grateful individuals with a strong work ethic.

Admissions: There is a rolling programme of receiving and processing applications throughout the summer and into the school year.

Details: The Greens. (04) 3608830 risdubai.com

BEST FOR: MUSICAL GENIUSES

GEMS Education

It's no secret that music can enhance the ability to learn, but the benefits of a musical education extend far beyond the classroom. According to

the experts at GEMS, it's also good for raising self-esteem.

Whether your little one is interested in the piano, cello, saxophone, drums or even the accordion, students from Year 1/ Grade 2 and above can learn to play a variety of instruments at the dedicated GEMS Music Academy. Lessons take place during the school day and one-to-one lessons are also available upon request. There's the option to prep for ABRSM and Guildhall Trinity music examinations and proud parents can enjoy performances at school assemblies and concerts.

Admissions: GEMS operates a number of schools in the UAE offering a variety of curriculums. Visit the website to see which schools are open for enrollment.

Details: Entry to GEMS Music Academy is priced per term or full academic year. (04) 3477770 gemseducation.com

BEST FOR: LITTLE LINGUISTS

Repton School

If your child dreams of travelling the world, or working aboard in future, speaking multiple languages is sure to come in useful. As an International Baccalaureate School, languages are an intrinsic part of the educational experience at Repton – and they start them young!

At nursery stage, the EYFS curriculum programme is enriched with specialist teaching in Arabic while reception students can add French to their list of subjects. As children progress through the years, they can learn modern languages thanks to the expert team of linguists. When pupils enter Year 7 they choose from French, Spanish, German or Mandarin as their main language of study. Plus, those who aren't required to follow Islamic Studies can pick a second one to master. Students will carry on studying at least one language throughout Years 8 and 9.

Admissions: Students can apply as day pupils from age 3 to 18, and as boarders from age 11 (Year 7 in the Senior School). Check the website for updates on availability of places.

Details: Nad Al Sheba 3. (04) 4269393 reptondubai.org

BEST FOR: NATURAL PERFORMERS

Kings' Schools Dubai (Al Barsha and Umm Suqeim)

For those who see themselves on the stage, a grounding in performing arts is sure to help them shine. Getting involved is about so much more than showcasing talent, however. The educators at Kings' School champion it was a way to inspire children to think creatively, take on risks and responsibility and to collaborate – all key skills needed to shape their future. Children have lots of opportunities to hone their craft, with specialist music teachers in the classrooms offering everything from song and dance to music theory and learning the ukulele. More highlights include dance taught as part of the PE curriculum at Kings' Al Barsha. Ultimately, an impressive 40 per cent of students opt for GCSE Drama, while A Level Drama and Theatre is currently the most popular non-core option at Sixth Form – on a par with the take-up for Mathematics. Keep an eye out for the awesome new Acting Space launching at Kings' School Al Barsha in September.

Admissions: Kings' Schools welcome applications throughout the year. Admissions are open for 2018-19 on 17 September.

Details: (04) 3566900 kings-edu.com