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Since opening in August 2022, United School International (USI) has quickly established itself as a major addition to the education landscape in Doha, and a vital part of the thriving community on The Pearl. The school's combination of high-quality teaching, academic excellence and world-class facilities has made it one of Doha's most sought-after schools.

The USI ethos rests on a set of core principles: excellence, respect, responsibility, integrity and compassion. The school is committed to delivering an ambitious, internationally acclaimed education, where students are supported and encouraged on their educational journey, through an enhanced British curriculum, to becoming valued global citizens. This outstanding education is delivered in a campus comprising of outstanding facilities, including two swimming pools, a 500-seat auditorium, full size football pitch, STEAM and Robotics studios, specialist Design & Technology and Food Technology rooms, and a multi-purpose sports hall.



cohesion and respect for Qatari society's values and heritage, and builds a truly international community built on tolerance and understanding.

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At USI, the learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day. Students have access to an extensive after-school activity programme, led by USI's own teachers as well as many of Doha's finest external activity providers. Not only does this help busy parents with the school pick-up, it also allows students to try new activities or enhance their participation in subjects and activities that inspire them.



To find out more about United School International or to book a school tour, contact admissions@unitedschool.qa or visit unitedschool.qa to submit an online enquiry.



USI's teachers are extensively qualified, highly experienced professionals who have been chosen to provide students with the best possible education and pastoral care. The social and emotional development of students, at each stage of their education, is an essential aspect of the school community.

A Pathway to IGCSE and A Level

Education at USI starts at 3 years old in FS1, and for the 2024-25 academic year, will progress to Year 11 where the first cohort of students will sit their IGCSEs. By 2026, the school will be open to Year 13, allowing students to sit their A Levels and progress on to universities around the world. As students progress through the year groups at USI, they gain the critical thinking skills and social attributes that prepare them for the next stage of their education, guided by the school's expert teachers.



The curriculum at USI is well-balanced, providing time for core subjects as well as music, drama, art and sports. The curriculum encourages analytical and critical thinking, as well as creativity and innovation. It promotes social



Every child is good at something

The belief that every child is good at something challenges educators, parents, and society to adopt a more inclusive and supportive approach to education

In the diverse tapestry of humanity, every child brings forth a distinctive set of abilities, talents, and potential waiting to be uncovered. The belief that "Every child is good at something" underscores the importance of acknowledging and nurturing the individual strengths and capabilities that each child possesses. This article explores the profound implications of this belief, emphasizing the need to recognize and celebrate the diversity of talents within the educational landscape.

The notion of inherent potential

Central to the idea that every child is good at something is the recognition of inherent potential. Each child is born with a unique combination of strengths, interests, and abilities that contribute to their individuality. Embracing this diversity is a cornerstone in fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment that allows each child to thrive.

The importance of identification

Identifying a child's strengths and talents requires a holistic approach that goes beyond academic achievements. Teachers, parents, and caregivers play a crucial role in observing and understanding a child's preferences, interests, and activities where they naturally excel. This process involves keen observation, open communication, and a genuine interest in understanding the child's personality and inclinations.

Fostering a growth mindset

Promoting the idea that every child is good at something is closely linked to cultivating a growth mindset. Embracing challenges, viewing failures as opportunities for learning, and fostering a belief in the potential for development can empower children to explore and expand their capabilities. A growth mindset encourages resilience, perseverance, and a positive attitude towards learning.

Diverse manifestations of talent

Talent manifests in various forms, and it is crucial to recognize and appreciate the diverse range of skills that children may possess. While some children excel academically, others may showcase talents in arts, sports, leadership, or interpersonal skills. Creating an environment that values and supports these diverse manifestations of talent is essential for fostering a sense of accomplishment and self-worth in every child.

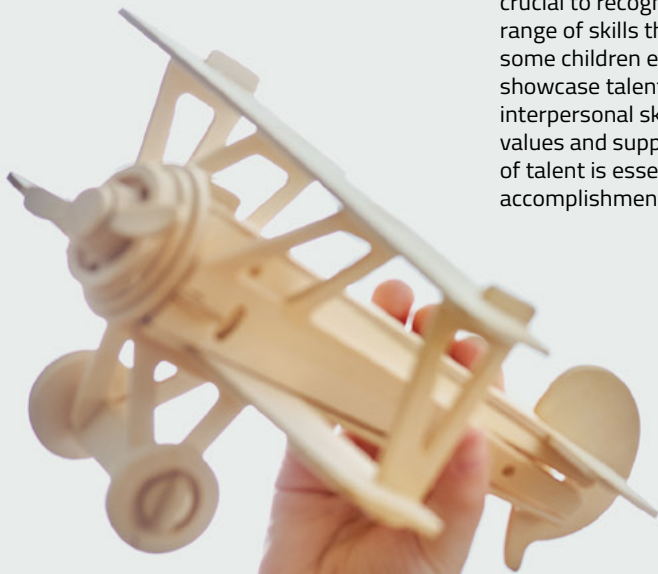
Individualized learning approaches

Acknowledging that every child is good at something necessitates an individualized approach to learning. Tailoring educational experiences to align with a child's strengths and interests can significantly enhance their engagement and motivation. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment, leading to a more fulfilling and effective learning experience.

Encouraging a supportive community

Building a supportive community is essential in nurturing every child's unique talents. Schools, families, and communities must collaborate to create an environment where children feel valued, accepted, and encouraged to explore their interests. Celebrating achievements, both big and small, contributes to a positive and affirming atmosphere that fosters personal growth and development.

The belief that every child is good at something challenges educators, parents, and society to adopt a more inclusive and supportive approach to education. Recognizing and nurturing the diverse talents within each child contributes to a more holistic and empowering educational experience. By embracing this philosophy, we not only honour the uniqueness of each child but also cultivate a generation of individuals who are confident, resilient, and ready to contribute their distinct strengths to the world. It is through this recognition of inherent potential that we lay the foundation for a more compassionate and enriching educational journey for every child.



The Royal Grammar School Guildford Qatar



A Legacy of Excellence

The Royal Grammar School Guildford, Qatar, (RGSGQ) is an independent British international school. Its partnership with The Royal Grammar School UK enables RGSGQ to benefit from their rich tradition of over 500 years of academic success.

RGSGQ is a vibrant, welcoming international school that provides a first-class education, enabling pupils to thrive in a dynamic, 21st century global environment. The school has a strong commitment to internationalism with over sixty

different nationalities that provides its pupils with an appreciation of different cultures and communities. The RGSGQ campus at Um Salal Mohammed features roomy classrooms; modern facilities; spacious, natural playgrounds and an outdoor 25-metre swimming pool.



RGSGQ offers a traditional British curriculum that teaches the English National Curriculum from Early Years to Year 9. In Year 10 and Year 11, the school provides a range of IGCSE subjects to prepare Year 12 pupils



to study AS level subjects to gain access to universities across the globe. The smaller pupil to teacher ratio enables greater teacher contact time to allow children to flourish.

RGSGQ realises that education of children is something that cannot happen without the support of the

parent body and greater community. There is a strong community feel that exists within the school, and to foster it, parents are encouraged to be active participants in the education of their children.

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QATAR'S UNWAVERING FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Qatar marked the International Day of Education last month, emphasizing its dedication to education as a crucial objective outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN. The nation is committed to aligning education with the requirements of the current era, aiming to be a leading country in digital transformation in education. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) launched the e-learning strategy to equip Qatari students with high-level digital skills for a future heavily reliant on these skills.



To mark this global educational event, the MoEHE, for the first time, dedicated a week to celebrate the International Day of Education at the local level under the theme "Education is Everyone's Responsibility."

During the week (January 21-25), the ministry in partnership with the Civil Services and Government Development Bureau organised various activities, including an educational dialogue session involving students, teachers, parents, families, and all schools in the country. The primary objective was to reinforce concepts of social responsibility and highlight the role of education in improving individual lives and advancing society, aligning with the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030).

Qatar consistently celebrates international occasions related to education, such as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, a Qatari proposal unanimously adopted by the UN in 2019. It designates September 9 each year to urge the international community to address the challenges faced by students, institutions, and educational centres affected by armed conflicts.

In a related context, Qatar observes World Teachers Day on October 5 annually, honouring veteran teachers in recognition of the importance of the teaching profession. This aligns with the joint recommendation between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) regarding teacher conditions, rights, duties, and standards for their preparation.

Under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar is dedicated to achieving the highest quality assurance indicators in the educational process. This aligns with the international Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the fourth goal focusing on the quality of education. Qatar envisions the future of education and ensures the right to education as a public good for all, in line with individual needs, abilities, and potentials.

Internationally, Qatar has established broad educational and development partnerships benefiting millions worldwide. The efforts and initiatives of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and Her Highness the Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation (EAA) Sheikha Moza bint Nasser are appreciated for their contributions to education and protecting it from attacks globally.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), MoEHE's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs, Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili, emphasised Qatar's celebration of the 2024 International Day of Education on January 24, affirming the state's belief in education as a force for achieving Qatar's vision and a foundation for building knowledge societies and achieving sustainable development.

Al-Ruwaili highlighted purposeful activities during the celebration, aiming to strengthen the partnership between parents and schools, emphasising educational and pedagogical dimensions. She stressed that community participation in the educational process contributes to putting students on the right path to becoming productive forces in their homeland.

"The state's commitment to quality, equitable education for all has led to global successes and achievements, consolidating Qatar's position in education at the global level," al-Ruwaili added. Achieving ambitions requires ongoing effort and co-operation with state institutions to compete and excel globally, making education a long-term investment with increasing returns for children and society.

QNV aims to transform Qatar into an advanced state capable of achieving sustainable development by 2030. This necessitates establishing an advanced educational system aligning with contemporary global standards. Mandatory, free education with a modern and evolving system ensures no Qatari child of school age is outside the school premises. The education system offers scientific programmes, advanced curricula, and a comprehensive and diverse educational approach, focusing on ethics, Islamic values, and social principles.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education provides special education services through inclusive schools and specialised schools for individuals with special needs. Talented students receive support, and adult education programmes encourage continued learning. The ministry also offers parallel education paths for students unable to complete their studies in the general education system.

To align with modern changes and instill a spirit of innovation from an early age, the ministry dedicates a comprehensive foundational curriculum for early education, including kindergarten and the first and second grades of primary school. Specialised education schools, such as the Qatar Technical Secondary School

for Boys and Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys, prepare students for various options in higher education and the workforce.

Qatar's commitment to education extends internationally, with a focus on promoting and protecting quality education for all. CEO of Education Above All Foundation, Fahad al-Sulaiti, emphasised the Foundation's role in meeting the needs of vulnerable groups outside Qatar through effective international partnerships, with a special focus on Palestine and Sudan for this year's International Day of Education celebration.

Various state institutions celebrate the International Day of Education on January 24 each year, organising interactive events to promote social responsibility and emphasise education's role in improving lives and advancing society. The Civil Services and Government Development Bureau provided facilitations and guidelines for parents to attend celebrations and activities in schools.

Qatari educational efforts at various levels have solidified Qatar's position in the field of education and highlighted its commitment to developing the educational system using the latest methods. Investing in quality education remains a top priority for Qatar, both nationally and internationally.

EDUCATION

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Doha British School (DBS) proudly stands as a beacon of academic excellence in Qatar. Affiliated with Artan Consulting and Educational Services (ACES), DBS has established connections with City University College (CUC) in Qatar through its partnership with Ulster University and the Qatar Skills Training Centre. For over 26 years, DBS has remained dedicated to cultivating the highest academic achievements and enriching educational experiences for young learners.

With three exceptional campuses located in Ain Khaled, Al Wakra, and Rawdat Al Hamama, DBS provides a values-based education from Pre-school to Sixth Form which sparks curiosity, cultivates critical thinking, fuels creativity, and instils a passion for learning. Accredited by prestigious organisations such as the Council of International Schools (CIS), British Schools of the Middle East (BSME), Qatar National Schools Accreditation (QNSA), and British Schools Overseas (BSO), DBS ensures a world-class education for boys and girls aged 3-18.



DBS's post-16 learning offers four distinctive pathways with AS/A-Level, BTEC, and the IB Diploma, resulting in outstanding international examination results. In 2023, DBS achieved a 100 percent pass rate for the IB Diploma and A-Level cohorts, with IB students surpassing the global average point score and A-Level students excelling well beyond the UK average. The accolades continue with Pearson International exam board's "Outstanding Learner Awards," showcasing DBS students' excellence in Spanish (highest result in the Middle-East) and Arabic (Highest result in the world).

Founded in 1997, DBS places a special emphasis on local culture and values. A testament to its commitment, DBS Al Wakra is set to unveil its new state-of-the-art campus in September 2024. The design of the campus is geared towards fostering collaborative and interactive learning, featuring expansive open spaces and contemporary facilities. This initiative underscores DBS's dedication to providing an enriching educational environment that aligns with the cultural ethos of the community.



Across all campuses, DBS provides purpose-built Science laboratories, ICT/Computer Science Hubs, dedicated STEAM facilities, Music and Art Interactive studios, specialised libraries, fully equipped Design and Technology workshops, indoor swimming pools, gymnasiums, and contemporary auditoriums. This meticulous attention to detail supports an exceptional student-centered learning experience.

DBS is dedicated to shaping learners' futures, preparing them to realise their dreams.



Their focus extends beyond academics, emphasising the development of skills and attributes essential for students to become global citizens who are engaged, socially aware, and equipped to navigate a dynamic, global environment.

DBS consistently embraces the latest technologies, creating agile learning environments that empower, personalise, and excite learners. In its inclusive learning environment, DBS is devoted to Shaping Futures and Building Dreams for all students.





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Choosing the right PRESCHOOL



The moment has arrived. Your little baby has sprouted wings and is ready to leave the nest – at least for a few hours. Preschool looms on the horizon.

So how important is this? It turns out, very. Those crayons and pipe cleaners may look innocent enough, but how and where they're introduced can have long-reaching ramifications.

Preschool plays a large role in later academic success. Children in high quality preschools display better language, cognitive, and social skills than children who attended low quality programs. They have longer attention spans, stronger social abilities, and better language and math skills well into their elementary school careers. In fact, 20 or 30 odd years after they've put down their wooden blocks and stepped away from the sand table, they're still reaping the benefits – they're more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to hold high paying jobs, even more likely to own their own house.

While most schools offer some amount of circle time and fingerpaint, they are not all the same. Here's how to sort through the preschool mumbo jumbo, and pick the right place for your child.

What to consider

Credentials

Make sure the schools you are considering employ teachers that have earned early childhood education degrees. Ask if the school itself is accredited.

Discipline

We all hope to raise perfect angels, but let's



get real – a major part of young development is testing boundaries. Ask how the school deals with behavior such as hitting or biting. Ask how they deal with conflict – do they believe children should work things out themselves? Do they believe in "time outs"? It's important that you agree with a school's disciplinary approach and trust their judgement – small children have a hard time with mixed messages.

Hours

There's a difference between day care and preschool. Day care often offers more hours for kids of working parents, in a less scheduled environment. Preschool programs tend to be shorter, and more structured. Decide your needs and look for a program that correlates.

Nutrition

One of the great things about preschool is that children are positively influenced by their peers – they may not touch fruit at home, but if everyone else is eating apples, they might be coerced to try them. Of course, they may also be negatively

influenced. Does the school provide lunch and/or snacks or will you pack them from home? If they supply the goods, ask what they serve. Don't choose a school with a teacher who loves to bake if you don't want your kids eating sweets. If your child has food allergies, make sure they can ensure their safety.

Look at the art

A picture is worth a thousand words, so look at what's hanging on the walls. Does everything look the same? Is all the crayon within the lines? Some schools emphasize facts: "Trees are green." Others encourage imagination: "Interesting. I've never seen a baby growing on a tree before!"



Visiting

Does the school have an open door policy? Can parents visit at any time, or are there set days for observation?

Safety

How does the school ensure student safety? How do they keep track of pickups at the end of the day?

How does metacognition help children learn?

Recognizing the significance of metacognition stands as a cornerstone in shaping the future of education as we continue to explore the intricacies of cognitive development

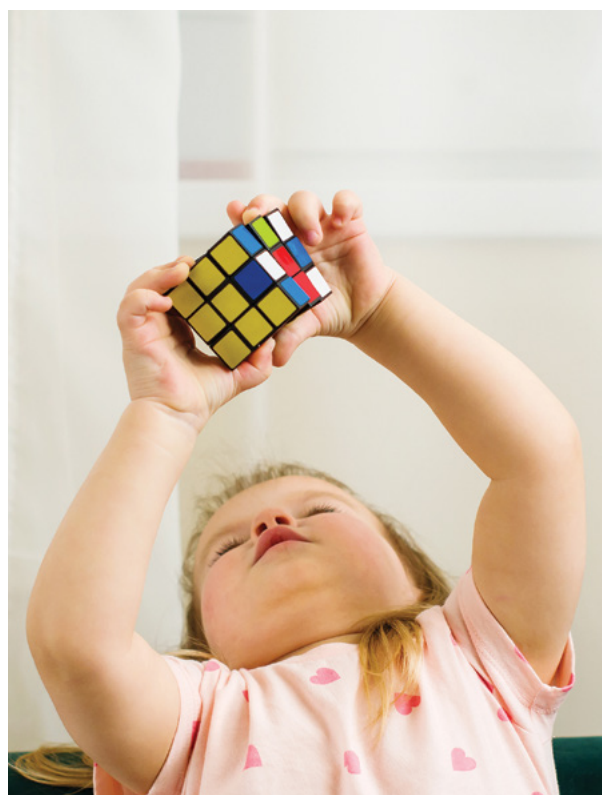
Metacognition, often referred to as “thinking about thinking,” is a cognitive process that plays a pivotal role in shaping children’s learning experiences. It involves the awareness and understanding of one’s own thought processes, encompassing the ability to monitor, control, and regulate cognitive activities. In the realm of education, metacognition is recognized as a key factor influencing how children acquire knowledge and skills, contributing significantly to their overall learning and development.

One essential aspect of metacognition is self-reflection, enabling children to introspectively examine their learning experiences. Through self-reflection, they can identify their strengths and weaknesses, understand their learning preferences, and recognize effective study strategies. Additionally, metacognition facilitates goal setting, empowering children to set realistic and achievable objectives, providing them with a sense of purpose and direction in their educational journey.

Metacognitive skills also enhance problem-solving abilities in children by assisting them in breaking down complex tasks into more manageable components. This involves identifying obstacles, analyzing alternative solutions, and adapting strategies in the face of challenges. Moreover, metacognition increases awareness of various learning strategies, helping children develop a repertoire of effective techniques that align with their individual learning styles.

The impact of metacognition extends to memory retention, as children who engage in metacognitive processes, such as rehearsal, organization, and elaboration, experience improved memory recall. By consciously regulating and monitoring memory processes, children can optimize their learning experiences. Metacognition also fosters critical thinking skills by encouraging children to question, analyze, and evaluate information, leading to a deeper understanding of concepts and the development of independent thinking.

Furthermore, metacognition contributes to self-regulation and emotional well-being. Children with strong metacognitive skills can manage their own learning behaviours, attention, and emotions. This self-regulation not only aids in navigating challenges effectively but also promotes increased confidence and a positive attitude toward learning.



Metacognition’s influence extends to the transfer of learning across different contexts. Children who can reflect on their learning experiences are more likely to apply their knowledge and skills in new and diverse situations. This transferability is crucial for developing lifelong learners capable of adapting to evolving challenges and continuously growing intellectually.

In short, metacognition serves as a fundamental building block for children’s learning and development. By nurturing self-awareness, reflection, and cognitive regulation, metacognition empowers children to become active participants in their own educational journey. Educators and parents play a pivotal role in fostering metacognitive skills, equipping children with the tools they need to thrive academically and beyond.

ACS International School Doha Celebrates Fourth Consecutive Win in American Mathematics Competitions, Emphasizing Holistic Education Approach

In a remarkable achievement, ACS Doha International School has secured first place for Qatar schools in the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) for the fourth consecutive year. The school's mathematical prowess was highlighted by the exceptional performance of 28 students at the recent AMC event, further solidifying its reputation as a beacon of mathematical excellence in the region.

This remarkable accomplishment is underscored by ACS Doha's exclusive hosting of the AMC in Qatar since 2021, emphasizing its unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of academic achievement and intellectual growth.

The top performers in this prestigious competition were:

1st Place: PHUNYAON S.

2nd Place: JIHOON P.

3rd Place: AREK B.

Hamid Hamidoglu, MYP/IBDP Mathematics Teacher & Academic Olympiad Coordinator at ACS International School Doha, expressed his pride in the students' success, stating, "The consistent triumphs in the American Mathematics Competitions reflect the dedication and brilliance of our students. Their accomplishments over the years are a testament to the excellence that defines ACS Doha."



Highlighting the recent success of another student Joud Al I., who participated in the Qatar National Team Selection Exam and was chosen to join the Qatari team for the upcoming Gulf and Arab Mathematics Olympiad training camp,

Hamidoglu added, "Our students continue to excel not only locally but also on the international stage, showcasing their exceptional talents in mathematics."

Furthermore, Hamidoglu emphasized, "Mathematics is not merely about numbers; it is about cultivating problem-solving skills and exercising the brain to develop a broader understanding of how to approach challenges. At ACS Doha International School, we believe in nurturing students who not only excel in math but also possess the critical thinking skills necessary for success in all aspects of life."

In addition to his role as an educator and coordinator, Hamid Hamidoglu has made a significant contribution to the field of mathematics education with the release of his latest book, "Mathematics Stories with Extended Solutions." Published last year on Amazon, the book is designed to inspire students to love mathematics through engaging stories and real-life problems.

The success of ACS Doha International School in the American Mathematics Competitions and the accomplishments of its students in various arenas reflect the institution's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and the holistic development of its student body.



ACS International School Doha Hosts OSAC Meeting with US Ambassador Timmy Davis



ACS International School Doha, a leading educational institution, proudly welcomed distinguished guests to its campus for the recent Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) meeting. The event featured US Ambassador to Qatar Timmy Davis as the keynote speaker, addressing critical regional developments and the risk forecast for 2024.

Ambassador Timmy Davis delivered an insightful address, fostering diplomatic dialogue among attendees at ACS Doha's state-of-the-art campus. The OSAC meeting served as a platform for collaborative discussions on international security, highlighting the importance of cooperation in addressing global challenges.

Dr. Susan Borden, Head of School at ACS Doha, emphasized the school's commitment to being an active community hub. "ACS Doha takes pride in providing not only a world-class education but also serving as a venue for significant events that contribute to the enrichment of our community. Hosting the OSAC meeting is a testament to our dedication to fostering collaboration and dialogue," said Dr. Borden.

In addition to the OSAC meeting, ACS Doha has hosted various other events, including the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) conference and EdTech events. Dr. Borden highlighted the importance of these gatherings, stating, "Events like the ECIS conference and EdTech events further underscore our commitment to being a dynamic space for networking, collaboration, and the exchange of

ideas. ACS Doha continues to be at the forefront of facilitating meaningful connections within the international education community."

The school's commitment to providing a holistic education that extends beyond the classroom is evident in its active participation in events that contribute to the cultural and intellectual growth of its students and the broader community.



Qatar 'prioritises green education in efforts for sustainable development'

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi said that Qatar has prioritised the application of 'Green Education' concept as part of its efforts to achieving sustainable development and supporting national efforts towards the environment, through a package of purposeful policies, programmes, activities and events.



Addressing the Conference of Green Education and Sustainable Development, which was held on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai, he explained that these policies, programmes and activities include the integration of school curricula in addressing environmental education concepts; encouraging research related to environmental challenges and sustainability; supporting digital transformation to protect the environment by reducing the consumption of paper resources; and promoting digital transformation in schools and universities, to name a few.

He also presented the ministry's efforts to promote green education and develop awareness of sustainability and environmental issues through integration between school curricula in addressing environmental education concepts under the slogan "Towards a Generation Familiar with Environmental Issues"; focusing on issues of environmental appreciation, maintaining environmental balance, protecting the environment from pollution; rationalising and investing in environmental resources, promoting cleanliness and public health, promoting green education, developing awareness of sustainability and environmental issues, and other relevant, purposeful activities at various academic levels in accordance with the characteristics of each age stage of students.

He also reviewed the challenges facing the world represented by climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution, epidemics and other challenges, noting that the shift towards a more sustainable future depends largely on developing the minds of emerging generations with an understanding based on belonging, respect and responsibility to effectively preserve and develop

the environment.

HE Dr al-Naimi also participated in a panel discussion on the role of the knowledge based economy in promoting the economic diversification of Qatar, which was held as a side event in the pavilion of the State of Qatar participating in COP28.

He underlined integrating green skills into educational curricula to raise a generation of students ready to contribute to sustainable development, indicating the importance of identifying priority green skills that must be integrated into various academic disciplines, and understanding the green skills required currently and in the future.

He gave example with the model of the European Union and several other countries in identifying green skills that are in high demand to form a vision for the future economy. This proactive approach contributes to reshaping educational curricula to keep pace with evolving needs over time, he said.

HE the Undersecretary also spoke about the requirements for including green skills in

educational curricula through targeted courses and multidisciplinary programmes in a comprehensive manner, pointing out that climate change is characterised by multidisciplinary pluralism, and the focus should not only be on the natural sciences, but rather on the social, financial, and engineering, architecture sciences, and the liberal arts alike.



His Excellency stressed the importance of joint work between educational institutions, companies and the government, and the necessity of companies identifying the green skills they need in the future. Governments must identify the green skills necessary for climate goals in development plans and those required for future goals after 2030, he explained.

He added that understanding the type of skills required to achieve current and future climate goals, enables the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to work together, thus making the education system capable of producing students equipped with the right green skills to help preserve the environment and meet future challenges.

He also highlighted the importance of aligning environmental justice with education so that education programs can address differences and ensure a fair provision of green skills, especially with regard to vulnerable and marginalized communities and groups, stressing the need to promote environmental justice through comprehensive policies and initiatives that include diverse groups of actors in developing and implementing green skills programmes.

Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Qatar University, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and the Education Above All Foundation participated in the discussion panel.



How can teachers support vulnerable children at school?

Vulnerable students may have emotional, social and developmental barriers to learning. So what strategies can teachers use to support them?

In almost every class, there will also be those who find learning a challenge – the children who perhaps cause teachers to wake in the night, or to feel that they are having to manage certain behaviours beyond their usual areas of expertise.

In my role working to improve the educational outcomes of vulnerable children and young people – specifically those in care and looked-after by the local authority – I have become aware that many will not be in a good place, emotionally, socially or developmentally, to learn. Although the children I work with represent the tip of the “vulnerable” iceberg, there are numerous other children who are on protection plans or identified as children in need. There will be those, too, who are not known to any service but come to school every day having faced significant hardships.

Teachers I work with often report that schools’ more general behaviour policies don’t seem to work for these particular students – so what can we do to best support these children? Here are some pointers.

Focus on why

Behaviour is always a communication, even though we may not always realise it. Imagine a really bad day – you go home and within minutes you find yourself arguing with someone in your family. You probably didn’t plan to take out your frustration on those closest to you, but that’s effectively what happened.

Many vulnerable students are likely to have had times when they haven’t felt safe – and end up reacting to all sorts of triggers in order to keep themselves safe or feel safe (which of course may be very different things). Similarly, they’ve often experienced multiple rejections.

Many will have accompanying attachment issues and sometimes will “reject” before they can be rejected. They may push you away because this may be less painful than allowing you to reject them. Or it may be that certain behaviours give them access to a person they are developing an attachment to, so their message is “I need that person”. By acknowledging this, and recognising that what a student needs more than anything is to build relationships that help them feel safe, we may be able to adjust our reactions appropriately.

Consider their age and stage

Social and emotional levels of development and maturity in vulnerable children often won’t match their chronological age. In schools, we’re usually good at supporting children when they have gaps in their academic learning – and many of the vulnerable students will have these – but they will almost all have some gaps in their social and emotional development.

They may not have developed the skills their peers have, and also by virtue of their experiences have developed certain “street-wise” skills that can lead a teacher to think they are much more mature than they are.

Bring nurture into it

All children need boundaries, and some of these students either won’t have had those or will have had a lot of inappropriate, overly severe boundaries. But while consistent, firm boundaries can help a child to feel safe, it’s important to remember that nurture also plays a part.

By nurture I mean the consistent care that we would expect a parent to give a child. If any of your students end up being among the tiny minority of children who are actually taken into



care (approximately half a percent) it seems reasonable to assume that they will not have received the consistent, nurturing parenting that enables physical, mental and emotional wellbeing (it’s also worth noting that the rate of mental disorder among looked-after children is 46.4% as compared to 8.5% in non-disadvantaged children and young people).

Some children may need therapeutic intervention but all children, especially those who are vulnerable, would benefit from schools that promote emotional well-being. As teachers, we shouldn’t underestimate the power of smiles, kind words, acceptance following behavioural incidents and appropriate physical proximity.

Pick your battles carefully

The behaviour of many vulnerable students will be driven by emotions, and their former experiences may impact on how they react to situations. There may also be very few sanctions that will influence them, simply because they may have experienced far worse in their lives to date.

I would always avoid a public showdown in front of the class. If you need to talk to a student, choose the time and environment carefully to lessen the conflict, and give yourself space to go over the issues.

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MATH ANXIETY



7 SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

By Keren Perles

Does your kid freeze under the pressure of math tests? This normal yet frustrating condition is math anxiety. "Math anxiety seems to rob people of the brainpower they could otherwise use to perform well on, say, a math test," says Sian Beilock, professor of psychology at the University of Chicago and author of *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting It Right When You Have To*. Fortunately, you have the power to reduce math anxiety by following these simple tips!



Record the Steps

"Simple things like having students write down intermediate steps on a test can be a good way to help ensure they don't make silly mistakes," she says. This way, she doesn't have to hold all the steps in her mind as she works through the problem—a good thing, because her anxiety may prevent her from remembering as well as she should.

Release Emotions

Older children may benefit from releasing their emotions in writing, especially before a big test. Beilock was part of a 2010 study that found that writing down anxious emotions before an exam can make those negative feelings less likely to interfere during the testing period.



at it, just like building a muscle. "The idea is to communicate that a poor performance is not the result of not being a math person, but that, with more practice and effort, a child can get better at those problems that are difficult for him to tackle," says Beilock.

Provide Role Models

Your child may believe she has nothing in common with "math people." Finding a role model who enjoys math, either in her personal life or through history, can go a long way toward making her feel more comfortable with the subject. That might mean finding a female role model for a girl or a minority role model for a student of a specific ethnicity. History is full of people who used math to affect culture in practical ways.



Prep for the Test

Before a test, remind your student that this is just one test. It won't make or break the rest of her school career. Emphasize the reasons that she should succeed, such as the fact that she studied well, did well on a sample test or demonstrated her knowledge orally already. "Getting kids to think about why they should do well, rather than fail, is one way to boost performance," says Beilock. Courtesy: education.com

Change Your Attitude

First and foremost, make sure you're not communicating negative feelings about math. "If parents communicate that they don't like or are not good at math, children might pick up on this anxiety," Beilock says. If you do feel that math is boring, take some steps to show your kid, and yourself, how it can be fun. We have an abundance of activities and worksheets that put a fun spin on math.

Introduce the Math Muscle

Many view math as an inborn skill, not one that can get better with practice. Teach your child that she can improve her math ability by working

Lower the Pressure

Talk to the teacher about keeping your kid's math experience as unpressured as possible. Ask the teacher whether your struggling student can take untimed tests or demonstrate her skills orally. "Math-anxious students tend to perform the worst when they feel they are under the gun in a high-stakes test," says Beilock. Make sure she has opportunities to perform well when the stakes aren't quite so high.

Nurturing working memory for academic brilliance

Working memory is an unsung hero in the academic arena. Recognizing its intricacies and integrating targeted strategies into the educational landscape can transform challenges into opportunities for growth



In the vast tapestry of cognitive functions, working memory stands as a linchpin, particularly crucial for students navigating the intricate landscape of the classroom. This cognitive mechanism involves the dynamic interplay of the central executive, which orchestrates attention and information processing, and its subsidiary components – the phonological loop and the visuospatial sketchpad, tasked with handling auditory and visual-spatial information, respectively.

The paramount importance of working memory in the realm of learning cannot be overstated. It is the cognitive hub that actively maintains and manipulates information, enabling students to grapple with complex concepts, follow instructions, and engage in dynamic problem-solving. Its influence extends seamlessly into various domains, shaping the nuances of reading, comprehension, and mathematical proficiency.

In the context of information processing, working memory is the silent architect, facilitating the assimilation and manipulation of data during learning endeavors. It becomes the cognitive engine propelling students through the intricacies of instructions, aiding them in organizing thoughts, and enhancing comprehension.

The symbiotic relationship between working memory and problem-solving becomes apparent in the classroom. It serves as the mental canvas where students can dissect problems, explore alternative solutions, and execute chosen approaches. This cognitive prowess is particularly invaluable in the mathematical domain, where multi-step calculations and equation-solving demand the adept manipulation of information.

Reading, the cornerstone of education, is intricately tied to working memory. Proficient

working memory facilitates the decoding of words, retention of sentence structures, and the extraction of overarching meaning from textual content. It acts as the cognitive underpinning that allows students to navigate the complexities of language, ensuring a seamless reading experience.

Active classroom participation, a hallmark of a dynamic learning environment, relies heavily on working memory. From answering questions to engaging in discussions and seamlessly following instructions, students draw upon their working memory in real-time, shaping their ability to actively contribute to the learning process.

However, the narrative is not homogeneous. Students grappling with poor working memory face unique challenges that manifest in various aspects of their academic journey. Difficulty in following multi-step instructions, reading comprehension struggles, and mathematical hurdles are common manifestations of weakened working memory.



To address these challenges and foster an inclusive learning environment, educators can employ a spectrum of strategies. Visual aids, in the form of diagrams, charts, and graphs, provide a tangible scaffold for students to better

Interactive activities and group discussions not only promote active engagement but also stimulate working memory by requiring real-time information processing

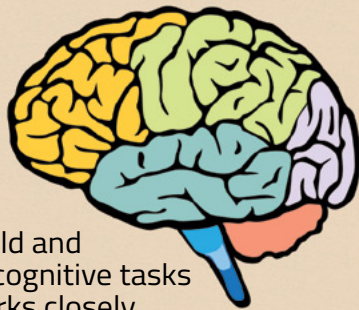
process and internalize information. Breaking down information into smaller, digestible chunks reduces cognitive load, aiding students in navigating complex concepts.

Repetition and regular reviews serve as the scaffolding for memory consolidation, reinforcing key concepts in the working memory. Multisensory learning experiences, integrating visual aids with verbal explanations, offer a holistic approach, engaging various senses in the learning process.

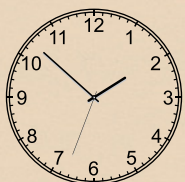
Interactive activities and group discussions not only promote active engagement but also stimulate working memory by requiring real-time information processing. Mindfulness and relaxation techniques, introduced into the classroom, become valuable tools in helping students manage stress, recognizing its detrimental impact on working memory.

In conclusion, working memory is an unsung hero in the academic arena. Recognizing its intricacies and integrating targeted strategies into the educational landscape can transform challenges into opportunities for growth. By acknowledging the diversity of working memory capacities and creating a supportive environment, educators empower students to navigate the labyrinth of learning with resilience and success.

WORKING MEMORY



The ability to temporarily hold and manipulate information for cognitive tasks performed in daily life. It works closely with other executive functioning skills like planning, adaptive thinking, and sustained attention.



Working memory holds information for a few seconds. It is temporary.



Working memory can hold only five to seven items at a time. It has a small capacity.

Working memory holds and manipulates visual and auditory information



Working memory depends on control of attention and mental effort.

How can we improve it?

- 1 Practice effective note-taking. Utilize checklists and work on active reading strategies like underlining, highlighting and annotating.
- 2 Chunk information into more manageable pieces. Break down multi-step math problems step by step and longer reading passages into smaller segments.
- 3 Practice Visualizing or doodling what you read or hear.
- 4 Play memory boosting games like UNO, GoFish, Concentration, or Chess.
- 5 Make meaningful connections with information and try out some mnemonic devices

Durham School for Girls Doha: A Half-Decade of Inspiring Brilliance and Values

Durham School for Girls Doha



Celebrating Achievements, Nurturing Confidence, and Embracing a Vision for the Future



In the National Quran competition, DSGD winners Alanoud Ahmad Alobaidli, Alanood Nasser Al Thani, Hessa Abdulrahman Alkuwari, Shahd Nasser Alemadi, Mariam Omar Alkhatib, Hind Abdulrahman Alemadi, Moza Ahmed Alkuwari, Aljohara Fahad Dahrouj, and Fatima Hassan Alemadi have not only made the school proud but have also embodied the essence of moral integrity and kindness, reflecting the school's dedication to instilling Islamic morals and values.

Additionally, DSGD Year 8 student Hissa Abdulla Al Thani received well-deserved recognition from the Ministry of Islamic Affairs for her exemplary participation in the ATHAR Islamic Reading Program. These achievements collectively underscore the multifaceted excellence and dedication to both academic and cultural endeavours that define the ethos of DSGD.

Gratitude to the Ministry: "My School, My Second Home"

Durham School for Girls Doha extends heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for their instrumental support in guiding and supporting the school towards excellent standards. The Ministry's commitment to academic achievement and values-based education aligns seamlessly with Durham's vision. Together, creating an environment where students excel academically and grow into responsible individuals, contributing to the Qatar 2030 vision.

The school's commitment to the "My School, My Second Home" slogan, a cornerstone of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's vision, is evident in every aspect of its functioning. Durham School for Girls Doha is not just an educational institution; it is a nurturing environment where students find a place where values are cultivated, ambitions are nurtured, and confidence for life is instilled.

Looking Ahead: Five Years of Excellence, Countless Opportunities

As Durham School for Girls Doha celebrates its fifth anniversary, it is not just a reflection on the past but a glimpse into a promising future. The school envisions more years of moulding young minds, fostering values, and achieving academic excellence. Amidst the celebrations, they also acknowledge the day-to-day achievements and progress made by their students. As Durham School for Girls Doha looks ahead, it stands tall, confident in its ability to continue nurturing the leaders of tomorrow—individuals with a strong moral compass, ambitious goals, and unwavering confidence for life.

In the heart of Doha, Durham School for Girls stands tall as a beacon of academic brilliance and values-driven education. This year marks a significant milestone as the school celebrates its fifth anniversary, a journey filled with achievements, triumphs, and the unwavering commitment to shaping young minds into confident, responsible, and ambitious individuals.

DSGD Shining Stars: Celebrating the Outstanding Achievements of Zara Rashad Alkilani, Reham Ahmad, Almayasa Nasser Alkhelaifi, and a Stellar Cohort of High Achievers

Durham School for Girls Doha takes immense pride in the stellar achievements of its students, and none shine brighter than Zara Rashad Alkilani. Zara's extraordinary accomplishment in Advanced Subsidiary Arabic, recognized by

Pearson Edexcel International as the best in the world, is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and the school's commitment to academic excellence.

Reham Ahmad and Almayasa Nasser Alkhelaifi further contribute to the school's stellar reputation, with Reham securing the Pearson Award for the highest mark in English First Language IGCSE in Qatar, and Almayasa earning the Pearson's outstanding award for exceptional grades in over 6 subjects.



Furthermore, Aisha Saleh, who triumphed in the 321 Museum Writing Competition, along with the accomplished winners of the QNL Story Writing Competition—Alya Almaadeed, Hind Alhajri, Zakya Alboainain, and Moza Almohannadi—showcases a profound commitment to their literary craft.

In addition to these achievements, Durham School for Girls Doha proudly reflects on outstanding IGCSE results, showcasing a perfect 100% pass rate in English 1st Language, Arabic 2nd Language, Fine Arts, History, English Literature, and French.

Advocating Values: MARKing Success at Every Step, with Emphasis on the Crucial Role of Arabic and Cultural Values.



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TOP 10 APPS TO BOOST YOUR VOCABULARY



These top ten apps offer diverse and interactive ways to enhance your word repertoire, making the journey enjoyable and tailored to your preferences

In the era of smartphones and digital learning, there is a myriad of apps designed to make vocabulary enhancement an engaging and interactive experience. Whether you are a student looking to improve your academic vocabulary or a professional aiming to articulate ideas more effectively, these apps offer an accessible and enjoyable way to expand your lexicon. Here's a comprehensive list of the top 10 apps that can help you elevate your vocabulary skills.



1. Duolingo

Known primarily as a language-learning app, Duolingo also offers a dedicated section for expanding your vocabulary. The app employs gamification principles to make learning enjoyable, offering a range of exercises, quizzes, and challenges to reinforce word retention.



2. Quizlet

Quizlet is a versatile app that allows users to create custom vocabulary sets. With features like flashcards, quizzes, and games, Quizlet provides an interactive platform to master new words and phrases. Additionally, it offers a collaborative element where users can share their sets with peers.



3. Memrise

Memrise takes a unique approach by incorporating mnemonic techniques and engaging visuals to enhance vocabulary retention. The app covers a wide range of topics and languages, making it suitable for learners with diverse interests.



4. Vocabulary.com

As the name suggests, Vocabulary.com is solely dedicated to expanding your word knowledge. The app employs adaptive learning technology, tailoring quizzes and exercises based on your performance to ensure efficient learning and retention.



5. Elevate

While Elevate focuses on overall cognitive skills, it includes a dedicated vocabulary section. The app provides personalized daily challenges to improve not only your word choice but also your grammar, reading comprehension, and writing skills.



6. WordUp Vocabulary

WordUp takes a unique and visually appealing approach to vocabulary building. The app presents words in context through short videos, helping users understand their usage and meaning in real-life scenarios.



7. Merriam-Webster Dictionary

A classic among language enthusiasts, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary app goes beyond definitions. It includes features like Word of the Day, language quizzes, and voice search, making it a comprehensive tool for anyone looking to enhance their vocabulary.



8. WordStacks

WordStacks combines the challenge of a word puzzle game with vocabulary building. Users can solve crossword-style puzzles to uncover new words, providing an entertaining way to learn and reinforce vocabulary.



9. Anki

Anki is a flashcard app that utilizes spaced repetition to optimize learning. Users can create custom flashcard decks, making it an adaptable tool for building and reinforcing vocabulary in a way that suits individual learning preferences.



10. Dictionary.com

Beyond being a reliable dictionary app, Dictionary.com includes features like Word of the Day, audio pronunciations, and language quizzes. It provides a holistic approach to vocabulary improvement, catering to users at various proficiency levels.



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Vision

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CORNERSTONES



1 Academic Excellence



2 Character Development



3 Personal Motivation

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- Valley Forge Military Academy in the USA is a world-famous school with a rich history reaching back almost 100 years and has remarkable alumni.
- VFAQ includes University Dual Enrolment on-campus, enhancing University transition.
- Valley Forge Academy, Qatar does not have a military dimension.

New Vision for Education:

- The Academy will offer the structure and discipline that boys need to realize their full potential as future leaders in their communities, both in Qatar and internationally.
- Valley Forge Academy views this approach as particularly relevant to Qatar as the country seeks to develop a new generation of leaders who will guide its economy and society in line with the ambitions of the government's National Vision.
- Our students will flourish as we work in partnership with families and our community to develop boys who become leaders and positive influencers on the world around them.

American Curriculum:

- The American curriculum helps students discover the subjects where they excel as well as make the most of their talents.
- The curriculum is designed in a way that prepares students for university and beyond by promoting creativity, critical thinking and social skills.
- VFAQ focuses on inquiry-based, hands-on learning personalized to students. Teaching draws upon world-class, proven learning strategies tailored to our unique environment.

”

Citizen Leadership requires action, perseverance, and resilience. See our students embodying VFAQ cornerstones and values within the community.

Joshua E. Garrett - Academy Principal



SECURE YOUR SON'S FUTURE

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Physical Development

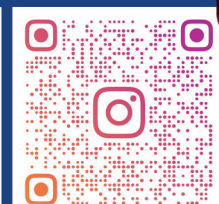
Leadership

- 1 Zabin Al Dosari and Salem Al Marri - 1st place in Poetry Competition
- 2 Hadi Nasser Al Hajri - 1st place in Equestrian Competition
- 3 Khalid Al Muraikhi - Host of School Assembly
- 4 Abdulaziz Al Ghanem - 1st place in Tennis Tournament
- 5 Nawaf Sadeq and Mohamad Al Emadi- Rank handover
Thamer Al Emadi - Color Guard

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TIMELESS RELEVANCE



The importance of reading old, classic books in education

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, where technological advancements and contemporary literature dominate the scene, the significance of reading old, classic books cannot be overstated. While the allure of modern texts is undeniable, looking into the timeless wisdom encapsulated in classic literature provides students with a unique and enriching educational experience. This article explores the

multifaceted importance of incorporating old, classic books into the curriculum and highlights the enduring value they bring to the educational journey.

PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Classic books serve as repositories of cultural heritage, offering readers a glimpse into the thoughts, values, and social dynamics of bygone

eras. Whether it's the philosophical musings of Plato, the poetic eloquence of Shakespeare, or the revolutionary ideas of Jane Austen, these works provide a window into the historical and cultural context in which they were written. By immersing themselves in the classics, students gain a deeper understanding of the roots of contemporary society, fostering a sense of continuity and connection with the past.





DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

The complex narratives, nuanced characters, and thought-provoking themes found in classic literature challenge students to engage in critical thinking. Analyzing the intricacies of characters like Hamlet or exploring the ethical dilemmas posed in works like "Crime and Punishment" by Fyodor Dostoevsky require students to think beyond the surface and grapple with abstract concepts. This process of critical analysis cultivates intellectual rigor, helping students hone their analytical and problem-solving skills – essential competencies for success in academia and beyond.

LANGUAGE MASTERY AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Classic books often showcase exemplary language usage, intricate vocabulary, and diverse writing styles. Exposure to the rich linguistic tapestry found in the classics contributes significantly to language mastery. Reading the works of literary giants such as Dickens, Austen, or Brontë exposes students to a level of linguistic sophistication that is both challenging and enriching. As students grapple with archaic language structures and unfamiliar idioms, they enhance their language skills, ultimately improving their written and verbal communication abilities.

Beyond their historical value, old classic books offer a profound educational experience by cultivating critical thinking, mastering language, and fostering a deep understanding of universal themes

UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSAL THEMES

Despite the temporal and cultural gaps that separate us from the authors of classic literature, the themes explored in these works remain universally relevant. Love, betrayal, power, morality – these timeless concepts transcend the boundaries of time and culture. By engaging with the struggles and triumphs of characters from different eras, students develop a deeper understanding of the human condition. This empathetic connection fosters emotional intelligence and broadens their perspective, encouraging tolerance and open-mindedness.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR LITERARY APPRECIATION

Introducing students to classic literature lays the groundwork for a lifelong appreciation of

the written word. The classics serve as the foundation upon which students can build their literary preferences and tastes. Once equipped with an understanding of the classics, students are better equipped to navigate and appreciate a broader range of literary genres and styles, making them more discerning readers and critical thinkers.

In the dynamic landscape of education, old, classic books stand as pillars of wisdom, offering timeless insights that continue to shape the intellectual and cultural fabric of society. Beyond their historical value, these works provide a profound educational experience by fostering critical thinking, language mastery, and a deep understanding of universal themes. By incorporating classic literature into the curriculum, educators ensure that students are not only prepared for the challenges of the present but also equipped with the enduring wisdom of the past.





UNDERSTANDING ADAPTIVE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Adaptive learning technology has emerged as a transformative force in the realm of education, ushering in a new era of personalized and data-driven learning experiences. This innovative approach harnesses the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics to revolutionize traditional teaching methodologies, catering to the individual needs, learning styles, and pace of each student.

At its core, adaptive learning technology relies on several key components, each contributing to its effectiveness. Robust data analytics is instrumental in collecting and analyzing vast amounts of data related to students' progress and strengths. This analytical prowess empowers the system to make informed decisions, guiding the customization of instructional content and assessments.

The heart of adaptive learning lies in AI algorithms, which dynamically adjust the difficulty levels of content based on real-time feedback. This adaptability ensures that students are presented with challenges and materials tailored to their current understanding, fostering an optimal learning environment. These algorithms not only respond to performance but also identify patterns in students' behaviour, enabling a more nuanced and individualized approach.

The concept of personalized learning paths is central to the success of adaptive learning. As students engage with the content, the system adapts, crafting unique learning journeys that align with their specific strengths, weaknesses, and learning preferences. This personalized approach not only facilitates better

understanding but also promotes a sense of ownership and engagement among students.

Continuous assessments, such as quizzes, simulations, and interactive activities, play a crucial role in the adaptive learning landscape. These assessments provide ongoing feedback, allowing the system to gauge students' understanding and adapt accordingly. The real-time nature of these assessments ensures that interventions can be timely, addressing areas where students may be struggling and reinforcing concepts that need further emphasis.

The benefits of adaptive learning technology are far-reaching. By providing individualized instruction, it addresses the diverse learning needs within a classroom, allowing each student to progress at their own pace. The interactive

and tailored nature of adaptive learning captures and sustains students' interest, fostering higher levels of engagement. This increased engagement, in turn, leads to higher retention rates and a more positive attitude toward the learning process.

Furthermore, the efficiency of adaptive learning is notable. By focusing on areas where students require the most support, the technology streamlines the learning process, maximizing time spent on challenging topics and minimizing time on concepts already mastered. This targeted approach not only enhances the learning experience but also optimizes the use of instructional time.

Educators stand to benefit significantly from the wealth of data generated by adaptive learning systems. This data-driven approach empowers teachers with valuable insights into student performance, allowing for informed decision-making regarding instructional strategies and interventions. It enhances the role of educators as facilitators of personalized learning journeys, tailoring their approach to meet the specific needs of each student.

Adaptive learning technology represents a significant paradigm shift in education, offering a nuanced and personalized approach to learning.

However, the integration of adaptive learning technology into educational frameworks is not without its challenges. Successful implementation requires careful consideration of factors such as infrastructure, teacher training, and technical support. Additionally, concerns related to data privacy and security must be addressed to safeguard sensitive information and comply with regulatory requirements.

Teacher training emerges as a pivotal aspect of overcoming challenges associated with adaptive learning. Educators need to be equipped with the necessary skills to effectively utilize and interpret the data provided by these systems. This training ensures that teachers can play a proactive role in guiding students through their personalized learning experiences.

Equity and access are critical considerations in the adoption of adaptive learning technology. While the potential benefits are vast, ensuring that all students, regardless of their socio-economic background or geographical location, have equal opportunities to access these advanced learning tools is paramount. Addressing issues of equity safeguards against the potential exacerbation of educational disparities.

Adaptive learning technology represents a significant paradigm shift in education, offering a nuanced and personalized approach to learning. As educational institutions increasingly embrace digital transformation, the integration of adaptive learning systems holds the promise of creating more effective, engaging, and inclusive educational experiences. Navigating the challenges related to implementation, privacy, and equity is essential to fully realize the potential of adaptive learning in shaping the future of education. The ongoing refinement and integration of adaptive learning technologies into educational ecosystems stand as a testament to the continuous evolution of pedagogical approaches in the pursuit of enhancing learning outcomes for every student.



AIA's STEAM Approach: Nurturing Critical Thinkers and Innovators for a Dynamic Future



The Arab International Academy aims to nurture knowledgeable and skilled generations of learners who possess a strong sense of their own identity, approach other cultures with an open mind, and are able to adapt to an ever-changing world.

AIA provides a rich and rigorous academic program centred around inquiry-based learning and teaching with a focus on creativity and critical thinking. One of AIA's many ways to achieve this, is adopting the STEAM approach.

Why STEAM approach?

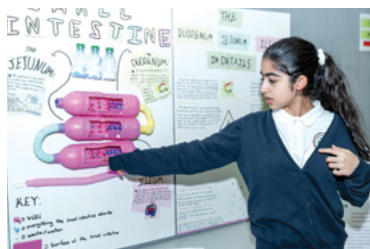
AIA adopts the STEAM approach (integrating science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) so that students integrate and apply scientific and mathematical knowledge in creative ways to find solutions to real-world problems using engineering and design thinking and methods. This approach is consistent with the belief that students should be the centre of the learning and teaching process, and that learning happens best when the student is engaged in the implementation of meaningful activities. With STEAM, students conduct projects and practical activities, which help them to develop inquiry skills and to link scientific knowledge to practical reality.

How is the STEAM approach used in school?

By incorporating STEAM elements into MYP science, students are



not only challenged to go into depth in research but to also engage in comprehensive learning experiences. This interdisciplinary approach encourages scientific and critical thinking, and leads to a holistic understanding of scientific concepts and their application.



What do students develop?

In Science: They question, design experiments, carry out their experiments, consider the variables, collect data, and analyze it to reach conclusions.

In Technology: They learn to use various technological and scientific tools from applications to sensors, and use these to present their findings.

In Engineering (Design): They follow the design cycle and engage in design thinking to sketch, consider

materials, build a prototype, and try it out. They focus on sustainability and innovation.

In Arts: Perspective and aesthetics play a large role in STEAM as does the visual presentation of work. Through using art skills and considering visual components of their projects, students utilize what they gain from art across all subjects.



In Mathematics: Students use various mathematical concepts and skills to measure, gather, analyse and interpret data. They then present the data and their analysis using graphs and charts to make the presentation more compelling and easier to understand. Visual representation makes it easier to see trends and patterns.

Integrating STEAM elements ensures a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to learning and allows students to see the interconnectedness of different disciplines.

In various science activities held by the school, the students are challenged to use critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, as these are essential skills for the future.

STEAM Day

To reinforce this approach, members from the science, design and art team at AIA collaborate to set STEAM challenges for MYP students in grades 6-10 for the annual STEAM Day. Each grade level is given one challenge stemming from real life and linked to one of the sustainable development goals and then learners in each grade are divided into teams for a friendly competition.

Learners are asked to address the challenge using their knowledge of scientific and design concepts learnt during the year, following the design cycle, and using scientific knowledge and design thinking to design and create a working model that solves their challenge. The models are then put to the test, a judging panel assesses the work of the qualifying groups against set criteria, and the winning team members from each grade are crowned STEAM champions. Projects ranged from designing resilient bridges and skyscrapers, model planes, to sustainable toys and reusable water filters.

AIA is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Diploma Programme (DP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the Primary Years Programme (PYP). It was founded in Doha with the goal of establishing a high-level private international school that provides a challenging and well-rounded international educational experience.



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WHY LEARNING THROUGH PLAY IS BENEFICIAL AT ALL AGES?



Play is often associated with childhood, but its benefits extend far beyond the playground. Whether you are a child, teenager, or an adult, incorporating elements of play into learning can have profound effects on cognitive, emotional, and social development. This article explores the reasons why learning through play is beneficial at all ages.



Engagement and motivation

Play naturally captivates our attention and stimulates curiosity. Whether it's a child exploring with building blocks or an adult engaged in a strategy game, the element of play makes learning enjoyable and encourages active participation. This engagement helps in retaining information and fostering a positive attitude towards learning.



Stress reduction

Play has been proven to reduce stress and anxiety levels. In adults, activities such as playing games, solving puzzles, or engaging in creative endeavors act as effective stress relievers. This reduction in stress contributes to a conducive learning environment, allowing individuals to focus better and absorb information more effectively.

Creativity and innovation

Play encourages imagination and creativity. In a playful environment, individuals are more likely to think outside the box, explore unconventional solutions, and embrace innovation. This is true for all ages, as play provides a platform for problem-solving, critical thinking, and the development of a creative mindset.

Social skills development

Play involves interaction, collaboration, and communication, fostering the development of essential social skills. For children, it helps in learning how to share, negotiate, and resolve conflicts. In adulthood, group activities and team-based games enhance interpersonal skills, teamwork, and leadership qualities.



Continuous learning

The idea that learning is confined to a classroom setting is outdated. Play offers a continuous and informal learning experience that complements formal education. From educational board games to interactive simulations, individuals of all ages can acquire new knowledge and skills through play, making learning a lifelong and enjoyable journey.

Improved memory retention

Playful learning engages multiple senses, making it easier for individuals to remember information. Whether it's through hands-on activities, role-playing, or immersive experiences, the combination of sensory input enhances memory retention. This is particularly beneficial for both short-term and long-term learning goals.

Physical and mental well-being



Physical play, such as sports or outdoor activities, contributes to overall well-being by promoting physical fitness. Additionally, play has been linked to improved mental health, reducing the risk of depression and anxiety disorders. Regular engagement in playful activities supports a holistic approach to health, positively impacting both the body and mind.

Learning through play is a dynamic and versatile approach that transcends age boundaries. From childhood to adulthood, the benefits of play on cognitive, emotional, and social aspects of development are evident. Incorporating play into educational and professional settings not only enhances the learning experience but also promotes a positive and well-rounded approach to personal growth. Embracing the power of play can revolutionize how we perceive education and lifelong learning, making the journey more enjoyable, engaging, and rewarding for individuals of all ages.



10 SUPERFOODS TO IMPROVE A CHILD'S EYESIGHT



Good eyesight is crucial for a child's overall development, from academic performance to physical activities. While genetics plays a role in eye health, a nutritious diet can significantly contribute to maintaining and improving eyesight. Incorporating superfoods rich in essential nutrients can be a proactive approach to support your child's eye health.

In this article, we will explore 10 superfoods that can positively impact a child's eyesight.



► Carrots

Carrots are rich in beta-carotene, a precursor to vitamin A, which is essential for maintaining healthy eyes. Vitamin A plays a crucial role in the functioning of the retina and can help prevent night blindness. Including raw or cooked carrots in your child's diet can contribute to their overall eye health.



► Nuts and Seeds

Almonds, walnuts, chia seeds, and flaxseeds are rich in vitamin E and omega-3 fatty acids, promoting overall eye health. Vitamin E acts as an antioxidant, protecting the eyes from oxidative damage, while omega-3 fatty acids contribute to the development and maintenance of the retina.



► Spinach

Spinach is packed with lutein and zeaxanthin, antioxidants that are beneficial for eye health. These compounds help protect the eyes from harmful high-energy light waves like ultraviolet rays. Including spinach in salads, smoothies, or cooked dishes can provide a significant boost to your child's eye health.



► Oranges

Oranges and other citrus fruits are excellent sources of vitamin C, which plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of blood vessels in the eyes. Consuming citrus fruits regularly can help reduce the risk of developing cataracts and slow down the progression of age-related macular degeneration.



► Eggs

Eggs are a good source of nutrients like lutein, zeaxanthin, vitamin E, and zinc, all of which are essential for maintaining healthy eyes. The combination of these nutrients helps protect the eyes from age-related macular degeneration and cataracts.



► Broccoli

Broccoli is a nutrient-dense vegetable that provides vitamin C, beta-carotene, and lutein. These compounds work together to promote eye health by protecting against oxidative stress and supporting the overall well-being of the eyes.



► Blueberries

Blueberries are rich in antioxidants, particularly anthocyanins, which have been linked to improved vision and reduced risk of eye diseases. Including a handful of blueberries in your child's diet as a snack or in breakfast can be a delicious way to support their eye health.



► Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potatoes are rich in beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. Vitamin A is essential for maintaining good vision, and a deficiency can lead to night blindness. Including sweet potatoes in various dishes can be a flavorful way to enhance your child's eye health.



► Salmon

Salmon is a fatty fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids, particularly DHA (docosahexaenoic acid). DHA is a major structural component of the retina, and its consumption has been associated with a lower risk of macular degeneration and dry eyes. Grilled or baked salmon can be a tasty addition to your child's diet.



► Bell Peppers

Bell peppers, especially the colourful ones, are packed with vitamin C, beta-carotene, and lutein. These antioxidants contribute to reducing the risk of cataracts and macular degeneration. Incorporating bell peppers into salads, stir-fries, or as a crunchy snack can be an enjoyable way to support your child's eye health.

Ensuring your child's eyesight remains healthy involves a combination of factors, with nutrition playing a crucial role. Including a variety of superfoods rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants can provide the necessary nutrients to support and improve a child's eyesight. However, it's important to remember that maintaining a balanced diet and overall healthy lifestyle practices, including regular eye check-ups, are essential for optimal eye health throughout childhood and beyond.

PARENTING

Fostering cultural awareness at home

In our rapidly evolving world, the importance of cultural awareness cannot be overstated. As societies become more interconnected, understanding and appreciating diverse cultures have become essential life skills. While schools play a crucial role in imparting cultural education, parents also play a significant part in fostering cultural awareness at home. This article explores the significance of cultural awareness and offers practical strategies for families to integrate it into their daily lives.

Cultural awareness is more than just a trendy phrase; it is a vital skill for individuals striving to be responsible global citizens. In an era of globalization, where borders seem to fade away, having a deep understanding and respect for diverse cultures becomes paramount. This understanding promotes tolerance, empathy, and open-mindedness, essential qualities for navigating the complexities of our interconnected world.

Teaching cultural awareness at home is a proactive step toward reducing stereotypes and prejudices. By instilling an appreciation for different cultures, families can contribute to breaking down barriers and fostering a more inclusive society. The value of cultural awareness extends beyond the individual; it positively influences communities and contributes to a more harmonious and understanding global landscape.

So, how can families integrate cultural awareness into their daily lives? Leading by example is a powerful starting point. Parents can demonstrate openness and curiosity about different cultures, sharing their own experiences of cultural exchange and learning. This authenticity creates an environment where cultural awareness becomes a natural part of family life.

Exploring cultural diversity together is another effective strategy. Reading books, watching movies, and exploring online resources that showcase various cultures can be a family activity. Attend cultural events, festivals, and exhibitions as a unit, exposing everyone to the richness of global diversity. Incorporating diversity into daily life is simpler than it sounds. Families can include diverse foods in their meals, exploring recipes from different cultures. Celebrating holidays and traditions from various cultures, not just one's own, adds a layer of richness to family life and instills a sense of respect for global customs.

Engaging in cultural conversations is a practice that encourages open discussions about cultural differences and similarities. Discussing news and current events from a global perspective, taking into account cultural contexts, broadens family members' understanding of the world around them.

Language learning is a practical way to enhance cultural awareness. Introduce basic phrases from different languages and use language-learning apps or resources to explore new languages together. This not only facilitates communication

but also provides insights into the cultural nuances embedded in language.

Simultaneously, creating a cultural learning space within the home is a tangible way to reinforce cultural awareness. Decorate the home with items representing various cultures and build a library with books on different cultures, histories, and traditions. This creates a visual and intellectual environment that encourages cultural exploration.

Connecting with diverse communities is an experiential approach to cultural awareness. Attend cultural events and connect with people from different backgrounds. Foster friendships with families from various cultural heritages, providing children with firsthand experiences of diverse perspectives.

Embracing diversity in media consumption is a subtle yet influential way to promote cultural awareness. Encourage watching TV shows, movies, and documentaries that feature diverse characters and perspectives. Discuss the portrayals of different cultures in media, fostering critical thinking and media literacy.

In conclusion, teaching cultural awareness at home is an investment in cultivating a global perspective in children and fostering a more inclusive society. By embracing diversity within the family, parents empower their children to navigate a multicultural world with respect, understanding, and empathy. The lessons learned at home contribute to shaping individuals who appreciate the richness of human diversity and are equipped to thrive in an interconnected global community.



Empower, Unleash & Transform The SISQ Experience



SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
QATAR

Swiss International School Qatar (SISQ) embodies its vision and mission: to inspire and equip students for a purposeful and impactful future. The school's vision transcends words, shaping every student's journey with inspiration and readiness for the challenges ahead.



The mission extends beyond the classroom, providing an education that nurtures not only knowledge but also the skills and values essential for navigating an ever-changing world. Through a holistic approach, SISQ fosters intellectual curiosity, emotional intelligence, and social responsibility, empowering students to effect positive change locally and globally.

Central to their approach is the belief in each student's agency and potential. They empower them to take ownership of their learning, pursue excellence, and celebrate their diverse talents and contributions. Whether through academic pursuits, creative endeavors, or community service, every student's journey is honored and encouraged.

An exemplary initiative showcasing their dedication is the Model United Nations (MUN) program. Initiated by students, with the guidance of faculty members Ms. Roweida Bawab and Mr. Anthony Suplice, SISQ hosted its inaugural MUN conference at the beginning of February, uniting over 140 participants from across Qatar. This event honed leadership skills, deepened understanding of global issues, and fostered meaningful dialogue.

Complementing MUN is their Global Social Leaders (GSL) program, led by Ms. Claire Olivier. Rooted in empathy and collaboration, GSL empowers students to tackle pressing social

and environmental challenges. From advocating for animal rights to innovating solutions through coding, these projects instill a sense of agency and global citizenship.

SISQ proudly leads GSL in the Middle East, with projects garnering national and international acclaim,



including prestigious scholarships and representation at global events. The accomplishments of SISQ's students, recognized by esteemed figures like HE Sheikha Mayassa, showcase the impact of the school's initiatives on a global scale.

As the school reflects on its students' achievements and the transformative impact of its programs, SISQ sees its vision and mission fully realized. Graduates leave inspired and equipped to embody integrity, resilience, and empathy, ready to contribute meaningfully to society. Together, the school and its graduates continue to inspire and prepare the leaders, innovators, and change-makers of tomorrow, ensuring a brighter future for all.

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The role of empathy education in combatting bullying

By integrating empathy education into the fabric of the school experience, educators can contribute to the creation of a positive and inclusive learning environment where students thrive emotionally, socially, and academically

Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, stands as a cornerstone for fostering positive social interactions. In the context of education, the question arises: Can teaching children empathy be a potent tool in mitigating the prevalence of bullying in schools? This article looks into the multifaceted relationship between empathy education and bullying reduction, exploring the potential benefits and strategies for implementation.





Inspire Kindness

Kindness is contagious. Even a simple smile can brighten someone's day and get passed to the next person. Imagine a world where good deeds and smiles get passed to each person.... from mile to mile!

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING EMPATHY EDUCATION

Incorporate empathy into the curriculum

Integrate empathy lessons into various subjects, fostering discussions, role-playing, and activities that encourage students to consider different perspectives and emotions.

Promote positive role models

Highlight and celebrate positive role models who embody empathy, both within and outside the school community. This can provide students with tangible examples of empathetic behaviour.

Create a safe and inclusive environment

Establish a safe and inclusive school environment where students feel comfortable expressing their emotions. Emphasize the importance of respecting diversity and valuing individual differences.

Implement restorative practices

Introduce restorative practices that focus on repairing harm and building empathy among students. Restorative circles and conflict resolution techniques can be valuable tools in this regard.

Encourage perspective-taking exercises

Engage students in activities that promote perspective-taking, such as storytelling, literature discussions, and collaborative projects. These exercises help students understand different viewpoints and foster empathy.

Teaching children empathy holds the promise of not only reducing bullying but also cultivating a generation of individuals who are compassionate, understanding, and socially adept. By integrating empathy education into the fabric of the school experience, educators can contribute to the creation of a positive and inclusive learning environment where students thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. Empathy becomes a catalyst for positive change, fostering a community of individuals who are not only aware of their own feelings but also attuned to the well-being of others.

Understanding empathy

Empathy is a complex emotional and cognitive skill that involves recognizing, understanding, and responding to the emotions of others. It encompasses both affective empathy, which involves feeling the emotions of others, and cognitive empathy, which involves understanding the perspective of others without necessarily sharing their emotions.



Improved social skills

Empathy is closely tied to effective communication and social skills. Teaching children empathy equips them with the tools to navigate social interactions, resolve conflicts, and build positive relationships with their peers.

Enhanced emotional regulation

Empathetic individuals are better equipped to regulate their own emotions and respond constructively to the emotions of others. This emotional intelligence can contribute to a healthier school environment.

Increased prosocial behaviour

Empathy is linked to prosocial behaviour, where individuals actively seek to help and support others. By cultivating empathy, schools can promote a culture of kindness, cooperation, and collective well-being.

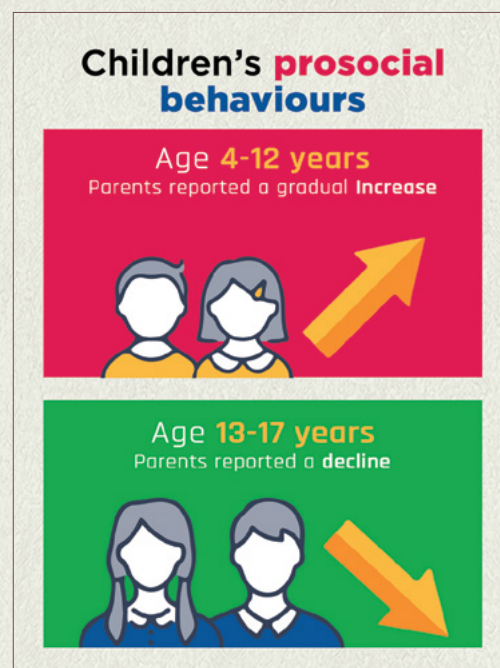
The link between empathy and bullying

Bullying is a pervasive issue in schools, with detrimental effects on both victims and perpetrators. Research suggests a strong correlation between a lack of empathy and engagement in bullying behaviors. By fostering empathy, educators aim to address the root causes of bullying, promoting a culture of understanding, kindness, and respect.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF TEACHING EMPATHY

Reduced Aggressive Behaviours

Empathy education has the potential to decrease aggressive behaviours by fostering an understanding of the impact of one's actions on others. Empathetic individuals are more likely to consider the feelings of their peers, leading to a decrease in bullying incidents.





TNG
The Next Generation
School
Quality Education

Bloom's Taxonomy at the Heart of Teaching and Learning at TNG School

The pursuit of effective teaching and learning methodologies is perpetual in the field of education. As educators, we strive to create meaningful learning experiences for our students. Our goal remains the same in today's modern classroom: to foster deep understanding, critical thinking, and skills development.

At The Next Generation School, the core philosophy revolves around embracing Bloom's Taxonomy as a guiding principle for shaping young minds. Through this approach, deeply ingrained in TNG's ethos, students can achieve academic excellence and develop holistically.

The Power of Bloom's Taxonomy

Bloom's Taxonomy developed by Benjamin Bloom and his team of educational psychologists during the 1950s is a framework that has been widely implemented and respected for many years. The framework consists of three domains that offer a structured approach to categorize learning objectives and enable educationists to comprehend the intricacy of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor processes involved in learning.



1. Cognitive Domain focuses on intellectual skills, ranging from Remembering to higher-order thinking skills like evaluating and creating.



2. Affective Domain explores emotional responses, values, and attitudes. It is about shaping students' feelings and beliefs.



3. Psychomotor Domain deals with physical skills and coordination. It is relevant for activities and physical actions such as hands-on assignments or arts.

Bloom's Taxonomy in Practice at TNG

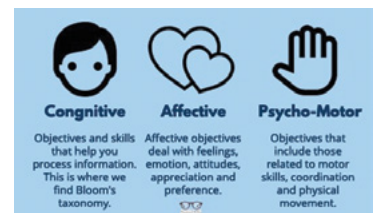
At TNG, we have embraced and integrated Bloom's Taxonomy practices as the beating heart into our teaching and learning philosophy in several key ways.

- Curriculum Design:** Our lesson plans align with Bloom's levels. We scaffold learning experiences, gradually moving students from remembering to creating.
- Assessment:** We design assessments that mirror Bloom's Taxonomy. Multiple-choice questions test remembering, while essays and projects assess higher levels of thinking.
- Classroom Strategies:** Our teachers use a variety of strategies. They ask open-ended questions, encourage discussions, and provide opportunities for hands-on exploration.
- Student Engagement:** By tapping into the affective and psychomotor domains, we nurture well-rounded learners. Emotional intelligence, teamwork, physical skills and creativity.

Holistic Development at TNG

Beyond academics, Bloom's Taxonomy also nurtures affective and psychomotor growth, Emotional intelligence, teamwork, and physical skills. We recognize that education extends beyond textbooks—

Character, resilience, and empathy are all aspects of education that go beyond textbooks with the framework of Bloom's.



In Conclusion, Bloom's Taxonomy is a practical guide and a useful tool for effective teaching and learning. As educators at TNG, we have experienced and appreciate its importance in developing curious minds, encouraging analytical thinking, fostering critical thinking and equipping students for a constantly changing world. The application of Bloom's Taxonomy at the core of our teaching and learning process has improved Quality education.



The Next Generation School

Quality Education

TNG School promotes the skills of analysis, problem-solving, critical reasoning, creativity and encourages deeper thinking in its learners.



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9 BENEFITS OF CYCLING

Cycling is a versatile and enjoyable form of physical activity that provides numerous health benefits for individuals of all ages. Here are some key health benefits associated with cycling:

Cardiovascular Fitness:

- It is an excellent aerobic exercise that increases heart rate and improves cardiovascular health.
- Regular cycling strengthens the heart and lungs, enhancing the overall efficiency of the cardiovascular system.

Weight Management:

- Cycling is an effective way to burn calories, aiding in weight management and the prevention of obesity.
- It helps increase metabolism, contributing to the maintenance of a healthy body weight.

Muscle Strength and Tone:

- Riding a bike engages various muscle groups, including the quadriceps, hamstrings, calves, and glutes.
- Continuous pedaling helps build muscle strength and tone, particularly in the lower body.

Joint Health:

- Cycling is a low-impact exercise, placing less stress on joints compared to activities like running.

- It is gentler on the knees, making it suitable for individuals with joint issues or arthritis.

Improved Balance and Coordination:

- Cycling requires balance and coordination, promoting the development of these motor skills.
- It is particularly beneficial for children as they develop their physical abilities.

Mental Well-being:

- Regular cycling has positive effects on mental health by reducing stress, anxiety, and depression.
- It promotes the release of endorphins, the body's natural mood enhancers, contributing to a sense of well-being.

Bone Health:

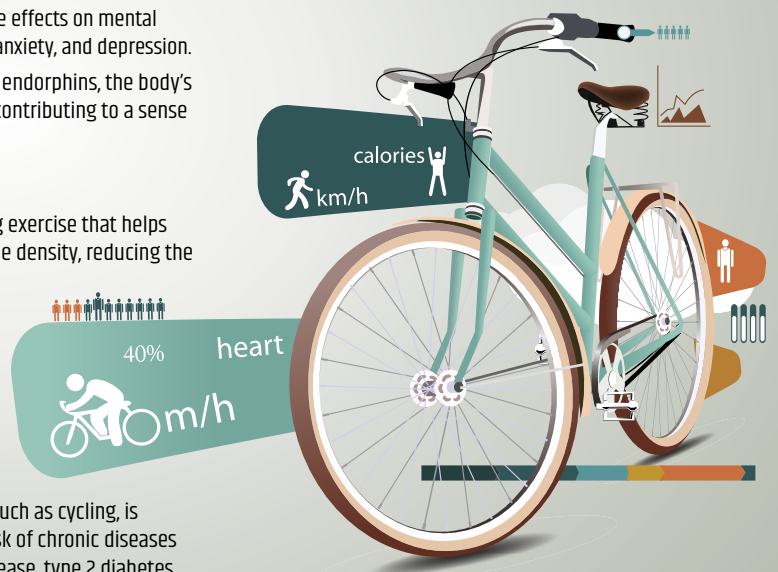
- Cycling is a weight-bearing exercise that helps maintain and improve bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis.
- It is especially beneficial for children and adolescents during their growth and development.

Reduced Risk of Chronic Diseases:

- Regular physical activity, such as cycling, is associated with a lower risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers.

Increased Longevity:

- Engaging in regular physical activity, including cycling, has been linked to increased life expectancy.
- It contributes to an overall healthier lifestyle, reducing the risk of premature mortality.







The impact of social media on a student's life

pros, cons, and responsibilities

In the modern digital age, social media has become an integral part of the lives of students. It has transformed the way they communicate, learn, and interact with the world around them. While social media offers numerous benefits, it also presents certain challenges and responsibilities that students must navigate. This article explores the role of social media in a student's life, examining both its positive and negative aspects and highlighting the importance of responsible usage.

The positive impact

Communication and connectivity: Social media platforms provide students with an efficient and convenient means of staying in touch with friends, family, and peers, regardless of geographical distances. It fosters connectivity and allows them to build and maintain relationships.

Information and learning: Social media platforms offer a wealth of educational resources, including articles, videos, and tutorials. Students can follow academic pages, join study groups, and access a wide range of educational content, enhancing their learning experience.

Networking opportunities: Social media is a powerful tool for networking. Students can connect with professionals, alumni, and experts in their field of interest, creating opportunities for internships, mentorships, and future career prospects.

Personal development: Expressing thoughts and opinions on social media encourages self-expression and can help students develop critical thinking, communication, and debating skills. It can also boost their confidence in articulating their ideas.

The negative impact

Distraction and time management: Social media can be a major distraction, leading to decreased productivity and poor time management. Students often find themselves spending excessive amounts of time scrolling through their feeds, impacting their study routines.

Mental health concerns: Excessive use of social media has been linked to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and loneliness. The constant comparison to others' seemingly perfect lives can lead to feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem.

Privacy and cybersecurity: Students may inadvertently share personal information online, making them vulnerable to cyberbullying, identity theft, or online harassment. Privacy concerns are a significant issue associated with social media usage.

Fake news and misinformation: Social media is often a breeding ground for the spread of fake news and misinformation. Students, like the general public, can be easily influenced by inaccurate information, affecting their worldview and decision-making.

Responsibilities of students

Time management: It's essential for students to set boundaries and allocate specific times for social media use to avoid distractions and maintain a healthy balance between online and offline activities.

Privacy settings: Students should be diligent in configuring their privacy settings to protect their personal information and minimize exposure to potential risks.

Critical thinking: Encourage students to critically evaluate the information they encounter online. They should be aware of the possibility of misinformation and fact-check before accepting any information as truth.

Online etiquette: Students should practice good online etiquette, treating others with respect and kindness, and avoiding engaging in cyberbullying or offensive behaviour.

Digital footprint: Students should be aware that their online activities leave a digital footprint that can impact their future. They should think before they post and consider the potential consequences of their online actions.

In short, social media plays a significant role in the lives of students, offering both advantages and disadvantages. To harness the benefits and minimize the negative impact, students must use social media responsibly. By practicing time management, protecting their privacy, and being critical thinkers, students can make the most of the digital world while safeguarding their well-being and future prospects. Social media can be a valuable tool for students, but it is essential to approach it with awareness and responsibility.

‘Wise Prize For Education’

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has announced a new approach to its WISE Prize for Education with the laureate winning \$1mn from WISE Summit in 2025. The WISE Prize for Education laureate used to be awarded \$500,000 each until the last summit held in 2023 along with a gold medal.

WISE is Qatar Foundation’s global initiative for creative thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. The new approach to WISE Prize for Education aims to empower visionary innovators to develop groundbreaking solutions to perennial education challenges.

The next generation of the WISE Prize for Education shifts its focus from recognising exemplary work in the field of education to facilitating the development of breakthrough programmes or products with potential to transform global education systems.

Under this goal, the biennial cycle features a broader scope by inviting global innovators, leaders, and organisations - with a demonstrable track record in successful education-focused initiatives - to propose solutions to one of the three education challenges, to compete for the WISE Prize for Education.

Applications will be evaluated by an international committee of education experts against a set of criteria assessing applicants’ past achievements that showcase their ability to solve the challenge, their use of evidence-based innovation, and their proposal of a coherent minimum viable product timeline with resource allocation and manpower planning.

The submissions will also be evaluated for their potential to adapt and scale across different contexts, in particular the Mena region.

After a rigorous screening process, a group of finalists will embark on their innovation journeys, benefitting from monetary support and tailored mentorship from WISE, to convert their proposed ideas into tangible solutions. The 12-month programme will culminate at the next edition of the WISE Summit in 2025, which will showcase the pioneering solutions. The finalists will compete for a \$1mn prize to further advance their solutions and the selection will be made live at the summit.

The challenges include:

Improve the teaching of Arabic language:

Develop a solution to improve the effectiveness of teaching, acquisition and use of the Arabic language.

Accelerate foundational literacies: Create a personalised learning tool to accelerate basic literacy and numeracy skills, particularly in under-resourced areas.

Address challenges in AI: Design a tech-based intervention to equip youth with skills to navigate challenges of increasing presence in an AI-driven market and society, such as biases and disinformation.

Aurelio Amaral, programmes manager at WISE, commented: “The 2025 WISE Prize for Education fosters actionable solutions and champions the cause of a more inclusive,



sustainable and equitable future of education. WISE is pleased to take on a more active role in educational innovation by offering valuable guidance and vital resources to forward-looking individuals and organisations to design and deliver impactful solutions that can revolutionise education systems.”

The new WISE Prize for Education is committed to driving impact and excellence in the global education landscape. Under this new iteration, the WISE Prize will maintain a strong focus on capacity building and professional development. Selected teams will gain access to WISE’s growing network of global innovators, changemakers, and key education stakeholders, and participate in community events. Applications for the WISE Prize for Education are now open until March 15, 2024, 17 GMT.

CUC Ulster University unveils state-of-the-art campus in Lusail and plans robust expansion of degree programmes

CUC Ulster University, one of Qatar's fastest-growing educational institutions, is opening its new campus in Lusail in September 2024, welcoming a student population of up to 6,000 students. The move to the new campus, marks a significant milestone in the university's commitment to providing high-quality education and fostering academic excellence.



The expansion comes in response to the overwhelming demand for CUC Ulster's programmes, making it necessary to establish a larger and more advanced facility. The smart city of Lusail was chosen due to its convenient location, right next door to the Lusail Stadium (home to Qatar's most historic football matches).

The campus will feature large open spaces, highlighted by a temperature-controlled atrium which will be the perfect place for students to congregate and enjoy major university events. Equipped with a gymnasium, fitness gym, pool, and running track, students will enjoy all the comforts of a large university campus without the need to travel far between facilities.

"We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new campus in Lusail, as it reflects the tremendous growth and success that CUC Ulster University has experienced in Qatar," said Dr. Faris Gorashi, Executive Dean of CUC Ulster University. "This expansion aligns with our mission to provide accessible and top-tier UK education to an increasing number of students in Qatar and abroad whilst maintaining our commitment to excellence."

To meet the evolving demands of the dynamic Qatar market, in line with the country's 2030 National Vision, CUC Ulster University has ambitious plans to introduce new programmes this September, pending ministerial approval. The programmes include:

- ▶ PhD Business Administration
- ▶ PhD Education
- ▶ MSc Artificial Intelligence
- ▶ LLM - Master in Laws
- ▶ LLB - Bachelor in Laws
- ▶ BA (Hons.) Architecture
- ▶ BEng (Hons.) Electronic Engineering
- ▶ BEng (Hons.) Biomedical Engineering
- ▶ BSc Cybersecurity
- ▶ BSc (Hons.) Psychology

The above programmes will complement CUC Ulster's existing degree programmes, which include:

BTEC Higher National Diploma in Business (taught in English and Arabic)

- ▶ BTEC Higher National Diploma in Computing with Cybersecurity (EN & AR)
- ▶ BEng (Hons.) Artificial Intelligence
- ▶ BSc (Hons.) Business Studies
- ▶ BSc (Hons.) Global Business with Data Analytics
- ▶ BSc (Hons.) Global Business with Computing
- ▶ BSc (Hons.) Computer Science

"We are excited to introduce these new programmes as they align with industry demands and provide students with cutting-edge education in a diverse set of fields," stated Dr. Gorashi. "Pending ministerial approval, these programmes will further contribute to CUC Ulster's commitment to academic excellence and innovation."

Michael Stellwag, MBA, Head of Marketing & Recruitment, expressed his enthusiasm for the expansion, stating, "The new campus next to the iconic Lusail Stadium signifies our dedication to providing a conducive and modern learning environment for our students. The new campus will provide an unparalleled student experience among UK universities in Qatar, which is expected to draw a large number of international students, as well as students within Qatar."

For more information about CUC Ulster University and its programmes, parents and students are encouraged to visit the official website: www.cuc-ulster.edu.qa

CUC ULSTER UNIVERSITY QATAR

PROGRAMMES

Postgraduate Programmes

- PhD Business Administration*
- PhD Education*
- MBA
- MBA (Women in Leadership)
- MEd Education Management
- MSc Marketing
- MSc Artificial Intelligence*
- LLM Master in Laws*

BTEC Higher National Diplomas

- BTEC HND in Business (English)
- BTEC HND in Computing with Cybersecurity (English)
- BTEC HND in Business (Arabic)
- BTEC HND in Computing with Cybersecurity (Arabic)

Undergraduate Programmes

- BA (Hons) Architecture*
- BEng (Hons) Artificial Intelligence
- BEng (Hons) Biomedical Engineering*
- BEng (Hons) Electronic Engineering*
- BSc (Hons) Business Studies
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science
- BSc Cybersecurity*
- BSc (Hons) Psychology*
- BSc (Hons) Global Business with Computing
- BSc (Hons) Global Business with Data Analytics
- LLB (Hons) Bachelor in Laws*

* Upon the approval of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Qatar

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UDST announces the graduation of its first cohort of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Specialists

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University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) is set to graduate its inaugural cohort of specialists in the cutting-edge fields of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence this year. This milestone underscores UDST's pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of tech leaders and innovators, aligning with Qatar's strategic vision for a knowledge-based economy. Furthermore, UDST has announced that admissions for the Fall 2024 semester are now

Among these are the Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering, focusing on LNG shipping; the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering – Smart Manufacturing, designed to equip students with advanced design process management skills; Postgraduate Diploma in STEM/TVET Education; Midwifery, Practical Nursing and Primary Care Paramedicine; Digital Communication and Media Production, Banking and Financial Technology and much more.



UDST's curriculum spans across five colleges – Engineering and Technology, Business, Computing and Information Technology, Health Sciences, and General Education –The University's approach to education emphasizes immersive learning, critical thinking, and practical experience, ensuring students are well-prepared to contribute to the economy and thrive in a competitive job market. Academic entry criteria differ according to programs, nevertheless students need to present a high school graduation certificate, with an overall average of minimum 60% or an equivalent required score or higher on the UDST English Placement Test, or an equivalent; and completion of the Math Placement Test. Applicants who do not meet the entrance requirements may be considered for the Foundation Program designed to help them acquire the needed skills

to enter their program of choice. Centering students in the learning journey, UDST provides a wide range of practical learning experiences to bridge classroom knowledge and workplace application, helping students to add value to the economy as early as possible. Curriculums are delivered by skilled instructors in technologically advanced classrooms, workshops, laboratories, and simulated environments.

Tuition Fees Exemptions

UDST stands out not only for its academic excellence but also for its commitment to making education accessible. Qatari citizens and children of Qatari women are exempt from tuition fees for undergraduate programs, a policy that has opened doors for thousands of students to benefit from high-quality education.

open until 20 June 2024, inviting prospective students to join its dynamic and forward-thinking community.

Programs tailored to meet the needs of local and global markets

UDST, renowned for its commitment to applied education and practical learning, has more than 60 Master's, Bachelor's and Diploma programs tailored to meet the evolving needs of the local and global markets.

Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST, expressed his enthusiasm about the growing interest in the university's offerings, stating, "Each semester, we witness a surge in applications, a testament to the value of applied education and our role in equipping students for the workforce of tomorrow. Our commitment extends beyond academics; we aim to provide a holistic educational experience, enriched with extracurricular and sporting activities, to foster professional success throughout our students' careers."





A Hybrid Track in Arabic for the Students

UDST has recently developed, in collaboration with Qatar Media Corporation, a hybrid track in Arabic and English within the University's Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication and Media Production (DCMP) program, housed at the College of Computing and Information Technology. This track will be available to students in the Fall semester of this year and is



designed to attract more Qatari students and to equip graduates with the necessary skills to deploy the latest digital technologies in media production and to lead A/V technical teams, excel in all media production professions on stage or behind the scenes, and contribute effectively to use of technology and the communication departments of both public and private organizations.



Life at UDST

Campus life at UDST is vibrant and inclusive. The University is committed to enriching the student experience through a diverse array of services and initiatives. Students can join clubs, immerse themselves in campus-wide events, shape university policies through the Student Council, or get involved on campus in any other way. UDST is dedicated to facilitating the students' personal growth, building meaningful connections, and ensuring their success throughout their university journey.

Sport and Wellness

University of Doha for Science and Technology was granted the Healthy Campus Platinum Label by the International University Sports Federation. It is the only Campus in the MENA region to

achieve this distinction. The University has a strong culture of sport and wellness. The men's and women's varsity teams for multiple sports compete in both intercollegiate and community leagues, and tournaments across Qatar. A testament to the culture of sport at UDST, the University FITClub program is the biggest club on campus offering one-on-one consultations,



nutrition advice and exercise programming. Students and staff can take advantage of state-of-the-art sport and wellness facilities including swimming pools, sports halls, turf and natural grass football pitches, a cricket ground, cricket batting cages, indoor and outdoor Padel and tennis courts, and a beach volleyball court. Two additional facilities that will soon be opened to the University and public community include a much-anticipated E-Gaming Room and Spin Studio. All of these facilities are available to the public as the University strives to make opportunities for health and well-being more accessible to the wider community, helping establish daily sports practice as healthy, habitual behaviour.



Facilitating knowledge exchange in higher education

Higher education plays a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual landscape of societies, serving as a breeding ground for innovation, critical thinking, and knowledge creation. One of the key elements that propels the dynamism of higher education institutions is knowledge exchange. This process involves the flow of ideas, expertise, and research outputs between academia, industry, and the broader community.

The essence of knowledge exchange

Knowledge exchange in higher education refers to the reciprocal interaction between academia and external stakeholders such as industry, government, and the community. It transcends the traditional model of education, extending

beyond the classroom to foster a culture of collaboration and interdisciplinary engagement. This exchange can take various forms, including research partnerships, internships, collaborative projects, and the dissemination of academic knowledge to the wider public.

Benefits of knowledge exchange

- **Innovation and Research Advancement:** Knowledge exchange acts as a catalyst for innovation by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications. Collaborative research projects between academia and industry can lead to groundbreaking discoveries, technological advancements, and novel solutions to real-world problems.
- **Enhanced Learning Experience:** Students benefit from knowledge exchange by gaining exposure to real-world challenges and industry practices. Internships, cooperative education programs, and collaborative projects provide students with hands-on experience, enriching their learning and preparing them for the complexities of the professional world.
- **Economic Impact:** By fostering collaboration between academia and industry, knowledge exchange contributes to economic development. It facilitates the transfer of intellectual property, the commercialization of research outcomes, and the creation of spin-off companies, driving economic growth and job creation.



QATAR SKILLS: Developing Human Potential



With a legacy of over 13 years, Qatar Skills (QS) focuses on lifelong learning, offering a diverse range of training programmes to individuals and organizations seeking continuous improvement and growth. During this time, QS has been dedicated to co-creating transformational learning experiences and delivering high quality, sought-after training exclusively within the realm of Qatar Skills.



Committed to delivering exceptional results in Qatar and the MENA region, Qatar Skills offers over a thousand programmes divided into two categories: customised programmes designed for specific organisational needs, and public programmes, available in face-to-face, live virtual, or blended formats.

Extending its services across various industries—oil and gas, industrial companies,



telecommunications, automotive, banking, financial authorities, and medical corporations— QS caters to both medium to large-scale companies, offering personalised high-level training programmes fully customisable, ensuring alignment with the unique needs and objectives of each client.

From the largest training facility in MENA region, QS annually trains thousands of participants, offering a diverse array of tailored programmes. Renowned for expertise in technical, functional, and management domains, QS grants certifications from prestigious institutes such as CMI, ILM, IOSH, Highfield, IoSCM, CII, IREM, ICF, Professional Academy, ISM, CIM, SHRM, ACCA, among others.



Positioned at the forefront of excellence and guided by the Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar Skills serves as a key enabler in human capital development. It actively facilitates adaptation and success in an era where continuous learning is crucial, underscoring its commitment to bridging the skills gap, fostering corporate excellence, and enhancing individual skills. This commitment plays a vital role in supporting long-term economic growth and social stability.

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- **Interdisciplinary Research Centers:** Many higher education institutions are establishing interdisciplinary research centers that bring together experts from various fields to address complex challenges. These centers serve as hubs for knowledge exchange, encouraging collaboration between academia, industry, and other stakeholders.

Engaging with the community through outreach programs, workshops, and knowledge dissemination events helps address societal challenges and promotes a sense of social responsibility among students and faculty

- **Global Partnerships:** The globalization of education has led to an increase in international collaborations. Universities are forging partnerships with institutions around the world, providing students and faculty with opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and diverse perspectives.

Knowledge exchange in higher education is a dynamic force that propels innovation, enriches learning experiences, and contributes to societal development. Despite the challenges, the evolving landscape of collaborative learning is creating new opportunities for academia, industry, and the broader community to come together in pursuit of shared goals. As higher education institutions continue to adapt to the changing demands of the 21st century, fostering a culture of knowledge exchange remains essential for preparing students to navigate the complexities of an interconnected and rapidly evolving world.

- **Community Engagement:** Knowledge exchange extends the impact of higher education beyond the campus walls. Engaging with the community through outreach programs, workshops, and knowledge dissemination events helps address societal challenges and promotes a sense of social responsibility among students and faculty.

Challenges in implementing knowledge exchange

While the benefits of knowledge exchange are evident, implementing effective collaboration between academia and external stakeholders comes with its own set of challenges.

- **Cultural Barriers:** Academia and industry often operate with different cultures, priorities, and timelines. Bridging these gaps requires a concerted effort to build mutual understanding and respect for each other's goals and constraints.
- **Intellectual Property Concerns:** The issue of intellectual property ownership can be a significant hurdle in collaborative ventures. Clear agreements and frameworks are needed to address the rights and responsibilities of each party, ensuring that the contributions of both academia and industry are appropriately acknowledged.
- **Resource Allocation:** Collaborative projects demand time, resources, and funding. Higher education institutions and external partners must navigate the complexities of resource allocation to ensure that the collaboration is sustainable and mutually beneficial.
- **Communication and Coordination:** Effective communication is crucial in any collaborative effort. Ensuring that information flows seamlessly between academia and external partners, and that all stakeholders are on the same page, requires robust communication channels and coordination mechanisms.

The evolving landscape of collaborative learning

In recent years, the landscape of knowledge exchange in higher education has witnessed notable transformations, driven by technological advancements, globalization, and the changing expectations of stakeholders.

- **Digital Platforms and Virtual Collaboration:** Technology has facilitated virtual collaboration, allowing researchers and students to connect with industry professionals and peers globally. Online platforms, webinars, and virtual conferences have become integral tools for knowledge exchange, breaking down geographical barriers and fostering cross-disciplinary interactions.



Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q)

CREATING GLOBAL LEADERS

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) awards the same internationally recognized Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) degree as Georgetown University, established in Washington, DC, in 1789. The liberal arts curriculum and experiential learning programs engage students in discovering critical and innovative solutions to global issues.

Programs Offered

GU-Q offers an internationally recognized Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree in a unique learning environment located in a dynamic and diverse region of the world, allowing students and faculty to study, conduct research, and be a part of an educational enterprise that is uniquely positioned to shape international affairs in the century ahead.

GU-Q and the Education City Campus

GU-Q is located in Education City, a beautiful 12 square kilometer campus

housing top-tier American universities such as Carnegie Mellon University, Northwestern University, Texas A&M University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Weill Cornell Medicine, along with a homegrown research university, start-up incubators, technology parks, heritage sites, cultural institutions, and so much more.

The proximity to these institutions provides opportunities to create student connections across Education City and to cross-register at partner universities in a variety of courses, including classes in business, design, language, communication, medicine, and the natural sciences.



Majors

- Culture and Politics
- International Economics
- International History
- International Politics

Minors

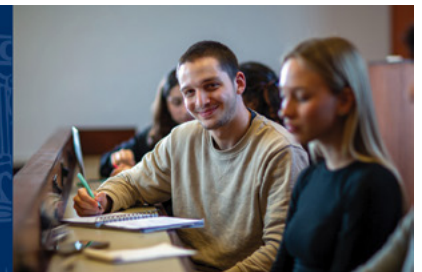
- Africana Studies offered jointly with Northwestern Qatar
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- Indian Ocean World Studies

Certificates

- American Studies
- Arab and Regional Studies
- Energy Studies
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A GLOBAL EDUCATION

Georgetown University in Qatar is a diverse community of outstanding students, faculty, and staff, dedicated to scholarship, learning, and service. The holistic learning environment extends beyond the classroom, offering leadership development, sports activities, community service initiatives, and research programs. Graduates have applied their degree in international affairs to successful careers in a wide range of industries, including banking, business, consulting, government, communications, and more.

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