

Dubai Scholars Private School uses Mathletics to increase pupil engagement and attainment in maths and improve problem solving and reasoning skills.

About the school

Dubai Scholars Private School is a high-achieving all-through school with approximately 1,700 students on roll from ages 4 – 18. Founded in 1976 under the direction of the Scholars International Group to support the expatriate community in Dubai, the school is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the UAE.

Alongside teaching the English National Curriculum Dubai Scholars prides itself on promoting sports, languages and performing arts to complement its academic core and encourage the development of well-rounded student leaders.



What were the challenges?

Despite performing strongly across the curriculum the school was keen to raise standards by improving engagement in maths, using a multimedia platform which pupils would enjoy. As Head of Primary, Samina Rizvi was tasked with finding a solution that met these objectives. Samina tells us more:

“We faced three main challenges in our hunt for a solution that would suit our school environment and ethos.

“Firstly, we had detected that our upper primary students were weaker in their problem solving and reasoning skills, particularly when compared with their computational abilities. Improving this was a key target.

“Secondly it was essential that the resource be highly interactive and engaging. Like many children today, our pupils love being online and we were keen to harness this enthusiasm. An online tool with a challenge and reward game-based system was ideal for our needs.

“Finally, we also needed to meet the challenge posed by our highly diverse intake to support differentiation for our pupils. We wanted a platform that as well as supporting all learners would be suitable for whole-class and individual learning and could be used at home as well as at school.

“Mathletics from 3P Learning met these needs so we signed up for a site license and began using the resource in 2017 across the primary school.”



How is Mathletics meeting these challenges?

“Since introducing Mathletics we’ve found it supports classroom teaching both for whole-class activities, independent learning, small intervention groups and for homework.

“Students really enjoy using Mathletics and particularly love competing against their classmates and other children around the world in the Live Mathletics game. The immersive Multiverse section of the resource has also proved highly effective for boosting mastery in multiplication, while the downloadable tools such as eBooks have helped our teachers save time on planning and searching for resources.

“Because the software is highly interactive and easy to navigate pupils are engaged; improvement is almost guaranteed as they want to log in and ‘play’. The fact that students are interested even in doing homework tasks set in Mathletics says a lot!

“Because the program is mapped to the English Curriculum, as well as other international curricula, it’s easy for teachers to set tests which help our students improve their attainment.”



What are the overall results?

“Mathletics has boosted the overall confidence of our pupils in their maths learning. The reward-based nature of the platform means children are motivated to become the top scorers in their class and are enthusiastic about gaining their next bronze, silver or gold certificate. Challenging other children around the world is hugely exciting and we have seen this enthusiasm reflected in their multiplication skills.

“Overall the number of pupils progressing from lower to higher ability level tasks has risen since using Mathletics and we’ve also seen increased attainment in our standardised test scores for the 2017/18 academic year. Children’s critical thinking and reasoning skills have improved, meaning they are better prepared for standardised assessments such as the GL Progress Tests and the TIMSS science and mathematics assessments. It also means students develop a strong foundation prior to beginning secondary school.

“On a whole-school level Mathletics has raised the profile of maths. Teachers enjoy using the resource as it saves them time on lesson planning. We’ve also received positive feedback on the efficacy of the Mathletics reporting mechanism which evaluates and reports on pupils’ progress in an easy to analyse format.”

What’s next?

“Following on from last years’ improvement across our standardised test scores we’re hoping for an even greater improvement in 2019 to mark our second year of using the resource.

“I would definitely recommend Mathletics to other schools as a powerful way to increase engagement thanks to the interactive nature of the platform, as well as for the valuable enhancement it’s brought to our pupils’ maths skills.”

Want to know more?

Get in touch with the friendly team of educational specialists at Mathletics. We’d love to speak to you.

- ▶ Explore with a free trial – uk.mathletics.com/freetrial
- ▶ Contact the team – uk.mathletics.com/contact

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