



مدرسة جيمس متروبول  
GEMS Metropole School  
MOTOR CITY



# What Makes Us Unique



OUR SCHOOLS  
FOCUS  
HANDBOOK  
2025 - 2026

Discover  
**LEADERSHIP**



[gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com](http://gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com)



## Introduction

Dear Community,

Welcome to the comprehensive handbook for our four-school focus, an integral part of our commitment to providing a robust and future-ready education. As the Principal of GEMS Metropole School, I am proud to present this guide, which outlines the unique features and core strengths of each of the schools offerings, designed to prepare our students for both academic success and excellence.

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a detailed resource for understanding the diverse opportunities available to our students. It underscores the importance of our educational philosophy for each school that integrates high-quality academic instruction with exceptional expectations, ensuring our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for their future endeavours.

As school leaders, it is imperative that we carefully follow and ensure these focuses are embedded in every aspect of our educational delivery. You are the driving force behind the successful implementation of these principles, and your leadership is crucial in creating an environment where these values thrive. Your dedication and commitment will inspire our students to reach their full potential, both academically and personally.

This handbook is more than a guide; it is a testament to our shared vision for our school community. By working together to uphold and promote these foci, we will continue to provide an outstanding educational experience that prepares our students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our school's mission.

Warm regards,  
Nav Iqbal  
Principal | CEO | CIP lead





## Our Vision

An inspiring and inclusive community hub,  
developing future leaders

## Our Mission

Inspire, lead and exceed our potential

## Our Values

Excellence, Care, One Team, Always Learning and Leadership

Discover  
LEADERSHIP

## The Metropole Curriculum Journey

At GEMS Metropole School, our programme of learning embodies the GEMS Education core values and ensures that students receive a high-quality education in a happy, supportive and nurturing environment, where they are encouraged to explore and take risks. Teachers plan challenging, well-organised and interesting lessons which engage and motivate our students. There are regular opportunities for leadership, enquiry based learning, critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving where students are encouraged to take an active role in the learning opportunities they encounter. All staff have high expectations of both students and each other.

### Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – FS1 and FS2

Children learning in Foundation Stage follow the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) for teaching and development. This stage is very important in a child's life as it helps prepare your child for school 'readiness' as well as for their future learning and successes. Children learn skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. All 7 areas of learning are used to plan children's learning and activities. Teachers make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.

### The National Curriculum of England Years 1-11

From Years 1-11 students follow The National Curriculum of England and are exposed to a wide range of compulsory subjects which includes: Mathematics, English, Science, Computing, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Modern Foreign languages. The national curriculum is a non-textbook curriculum which provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge they require to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said, and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievements.

### Ministry of Education Curriculum

Alongside the Early Years Curriculum and National Curriculum of England, students also study the Ministry of Education Curriculum. Through this, students learn Arabic, Islamic Studies and Moral, Social and Cultural Studies. The UAE leaders along with GEMS Metropole promote the learning and using of Arabic language as it is considered a fundamental pillar of the Emirates national identity, its people's history and its deep-rooted traditions. The Arabic framework supports both native and non-native Arabic speakers. This framework illustrates the levels expected to be achieved by the learner in each of the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Where Arabic is the student's non-native language, the curriculum links the achievement of these levels to the number of years spent in studying Arabic, regardless of the learner's current grade.



*Where we explore and discover*

## THE FOREST SCHOOL (FS1-Y2)

The Forest School offers a distinctive outdoor learning approach to education; providing unique selling points and features that set them apart from traditional educational environments. The Forest School offers an exceptional and enriching educational experience that promotes holistic development, environmental awareness, practical skills, and overall wellbeing. These features make The Forest School a compelling alternative to traditional educational models; appealing to parents and educators seeking a more natural, hands-on approach to learning, where students explore and discover.

### Our Areas of Focus

#### USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
FOREST SCHOOL	Outdoor Learning Environment	<b>Immersive Nature Experience:</b> Learning takes place in a natural outdoor setting, fostering a direct connection with the environment and the world in which we live in. The farm and hydroponics areas enhance learning and provide real-life experiences. <b>Seasonal Learning:</b> Students learn about the seasons and the impact of change which enhances their understanding of natural cycles and the wider world
	Holistic Development	<b>Physical Development:</b> Activities like climbing, building, and exploring help develop gross and fine motor skills. <b>Emotional and Social Development:</b> The Forest School environment encourages teamwork, resilience, confidence and independence. <b>Cognitive Development:</b> Problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity are enhanced through hands-on activities in the forest school and farm.
	Child-Led Learning	<b>Personalised Learning:</b> Children have the freedom to explore their interests and learn at their own pace in the Forest School and natural classroom setting. <b>Curiosity-Based Approach:</b> Learning is driven by curiosity and discovery, promoting deeper engagement.
	Environmental Stewardship	<b>Sustainability Education:</b> Students learn in the farm about ecology, conservation, and sustainable practices, fostering a sense of responsibility towards the environment. <b>Respect for Nature:</b> Regular interaction with the natural world instils respect and appreciation for the environment through the forest school learning and farm.



*Our Areas of Focus*

USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
FOREST SCHOOL	Practical Skills Development	<b>Survival Skills:</b> Activities may include fire building, shelter construction, and tool use in forest school lessons. <b>Farming and Foraging:</b> Learning about plants, growing food, and foraging teaches practical life skills.
	Health and Wellbeing	<b>Physical Health:</b> Regular physical activity in an outdoor setting promotes overall physical health. <b>Mental Wellbeing:</b> Time spent in nature has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and improve mental health.
	Community and Collaboration	<b>Team Building:</b> Many activities require cooperation; helping to build strong teamwork skills. <b>Community Involvement:</b> Involves the local and international community and fosters a sense of belonging and social responsibility.
	Hands-On Learning	<b>Experiential Learning:</b> Emphasis on learning through doing, which enhances retention of knowledge and understanding. <b>Multi-Sensory Approach:</b> Engaging multiple senses (sight, sound, touch, smell) helps reinforce learning experiences.
	Connection to Curriculum	<b>Integrated Learning:</b> Subjects such as science, geography, art, and physical education are naturally integrated into outdoor learning activities. <b>Real-World Application:</b> Learning is context-based and often directly applicable to real-world situations.

*Where values build character*

**THE VALUES SCHOOL (Y3-Y6)**

The Values School focuses on instilling core values in our students, emphasising character development alongside academic achievement. By integrating core values into every aspect of the school experience, the school prepares students to be confident, articulate, responsible, empathetic, and ethical individuals who can contribute positively to society. This holistic approach to education makes the Values School an attractive option for parents and students seeking a comprehensive and meaningful educational experience, where values build character.



Our Areas of Focus

USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
VALUES SCHOOL	Values	<p><b>Integrated Values Education:</b> Core values such as excellence, care, one team, always learning and leadership are woven into every subject.</p> <p><b>Character development:</b> Helping students recognise, develop, and apply their character strengths such as perseverance, kindness, bravery, and humility in everyday life.</p> <p><b>Positive education:</b> Integrates academic learning with well-being practices, promoting both achievement and happiness.</p> <p><b>Manners, etiquette, kindness:</b> Activities, assemblies and lessons that model manners, social skills, courtesy and everyday kindness.</p> <p><b>Cultural enrichment:</b> Exposure to arts, music, traditions, and perspectives from diverse cultures to foster appreciation and inclusion.</p>
	Voice	<p><b>Presentations:</b> Opportunities for students to research, create and present academic and creative projects.</p> <p><b>Public speaking:</b> Structured programmes to develop confidence, articulation and persuasive communication.</p> <p><b>Debate:</b> Encouraging critical thinking, respectful dialogue and logical reasoning through formal debates.</p> <p><b>Journalism:</b> Writing and reporting through school publications, fostering curiosity, analysis and storytelling.</p> <p><b>Radio and podcasts:</b> Student-led audio programmes developing digital literacy, creativity, and real-world communication skills.</p>

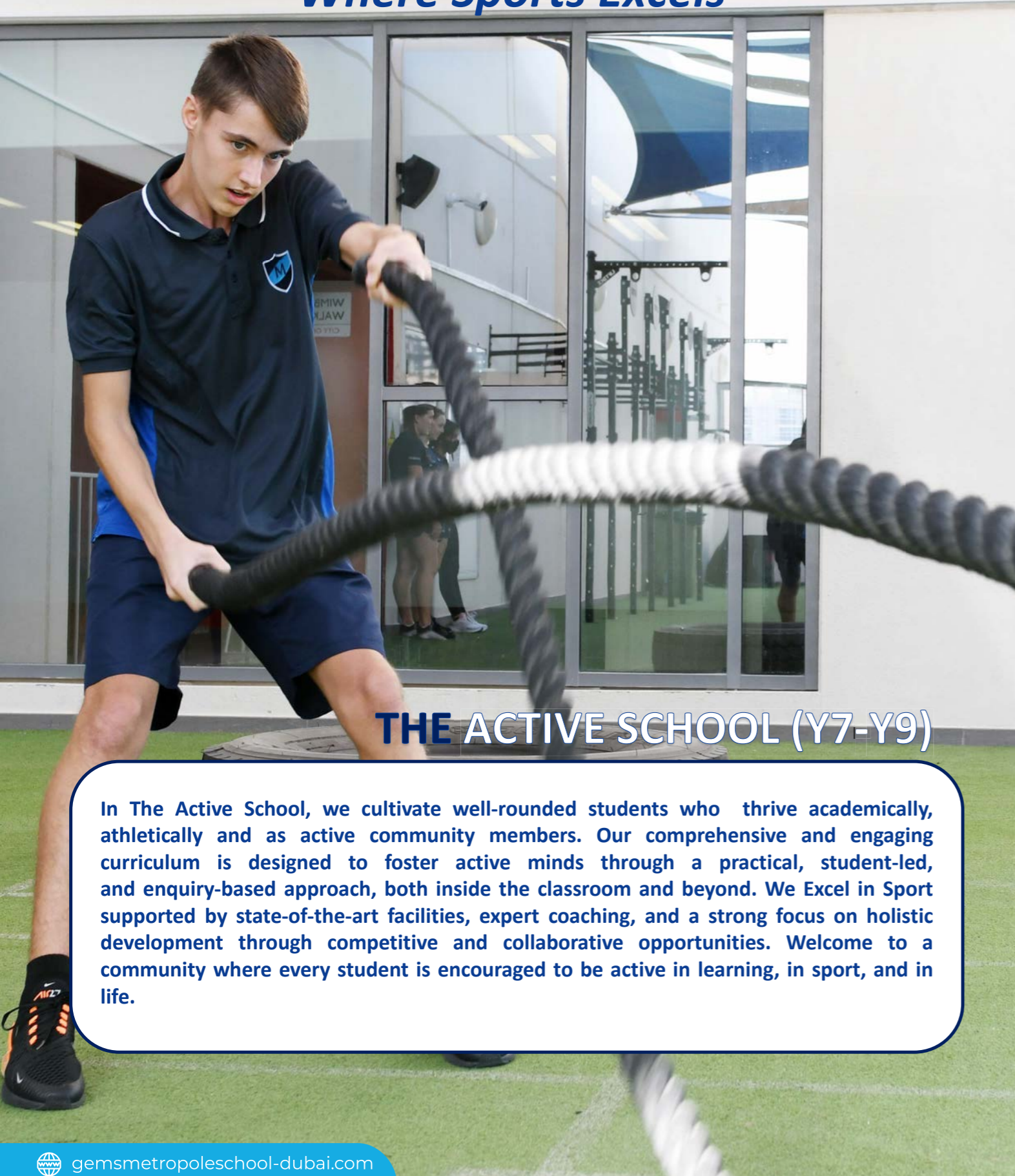
Our Areas of Focus

USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
VALUES SCHOOL	Service	<p><b>In-school Service:</b> Values-based, student leadership roles and initiatives that contribute to the school community, guided by values.</p> <p><b>Family and Wider Community Service :</b> Values in the Community programme promotes collaborative service that involves families and local organisations to reinforce values in action.</p> <p><b>Wider community Service:</b> A charitable programme that supports our community through acts of service, donations, and student-led initiatives that promote compassion, solidarity and social responsibility.</p> <p><b>Global service:</b> International service-learning opportunities promoting empathy, global citizenship and cultural understanding.</p>



## Where Sports Excels



### THE ACTIVE SCHOOL (Y7-Y9)

In The Active School, we cultivate well-rounded students who thrive academically, athletically and as active community members. Our comprehensive and engaging curriculum is designed to foster active minds through a practical, student-led, and enquiry-based approach, both inside the classroom and beyond. We Excel in Sport supported by state-of-the-art facilities, expert coaching, and a strong focus on holistic development through competitive and collaborative opportunities. Welcome to a community where every student is encouraged to be active in learning, in sport, and in life.

### Our Areas of Focus

#### USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
ACTIVE SCHOOL	High-Quality Sports Facilities	<p><b>World Class Infrastructure:</b> Our cutting-edge facilities have been thoughtfully designed to maximise students' athletic potential while supporting their physical and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Specialised Equipment:</b> Students benefit from access to state of the art equipment, services, and resources tailored to specific disciplines, driving high performance and excellence in sport.</p>
	Expert Coaching	<p><b>Professional Coaches:</b> A team of highly qualified and experienced coaches bring specialist expertise in their respective sports. All students benefit from access to a dedicated Strength and Conditioning Coach, Combat Coach and a Nutritionist, supporting their journey toward peak performance and overall wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Personalised Training Programmes:</b> Each Mustang athlete receives a tailored training plan designed to meet their individual needs, goals, and sport-specific demands. These bespoke programmes help unlock potential and drive success—developing the next generation of Mustang champions.</p>
	Sport For All	<p><b>Integrated Curriculum:</b> Our curriculum is designed to promote academic excellence alongside high-quality sports provision, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive both in the classroom and on the sports field.</p> <p><b>Physical Education:</b> All students benefit from three PE lessons each week, providing regular opportunities to develop physical literacy, improve fitness, and build essential teamwork and leadership skills. Whether students are competing at an elite level or discovering a new passion, they are supported to grow, achieve, and enjoy being active.</p>
	Competitive Opportunities	<p><b>High-Level Competition Access:</b> Students have the opportunity to compete at regional, national, and international levels, fostering a strong competitive spirit, building resilience, and providing valuable exposure to high-level performance environments.</p> <p><b>Talent Identification and Development:</b> Our dedicated programmes are designed to identify and nurture sporting talent, providing structured pathways for growth and excellence. As a proud partner of the UAE Wrestling Association and a hub for combat sports, we offer specialised training and development opportunities in these disciplines.</p>



Our Areas of Focus

USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
ACTIVE SCHOOL	Active Baccalaureate	<b>Active Participation:</b> Our in-house certification programme encourages and recognises students' active involvement at school, at home, and in the wider community. Through completing tasks and challenges across three progressive levels students build responsibility, demonstrate leadership, and deepen their sense of community engagement.
	Holistic Development	<b>Student Wellbeing:</b> We link physical activity with mental health, using movement and mindfulness to boost focus and self-esteem for all students. <b>Embedding Life Skills:</b> The values learned through sport are embedded across the wider curriculum and pastoral programmes. This ensures that all students develop essential life skills that prepare them for future success.
	Academic Support	<b>Flexible Scheduling:</b> Academic timetables that accommodate training and competition needs, ensuring students do not compromise on their studies. <b>Tutoring and Mentoring:</b> Academic support, including tutoring and mentoring, to help high level athletes balance their academic and sports commitments.
	Activate Your Future	<b>Scholarship Opportunities:</b> Students receive expert guidance and support in pursuing sports scholarships—both within school and at leading higher education institutions—opening doors to academic and athletic advancement. <b>Career Counselling:</b> Professional career advice is offered to help students explore future pathways.
	International Exposure	<b>Trips and Visits:</b> Students have access to enriching international trips and training camps in partnership with renowned sports academies around the world. <b>Global Competitions:</b> As a DASSA-affiliated school, our athletes regularly compete in both regional and international tournaments, gaining valuable experience on the global stage.
	Performance Tracking	<b>Performance Monitoring:</b> Athletic development is continuously tracked through regular assessments, using standardised testing and performance metrics to measure progress and inform training. <b>Personalised Progress Reports:</b> Mustang athletes receive detailed, individualised reports that highlight strengths, identify areas for improvement, and support goal setting—ensuring every athlete stays on track toward their full potential.

Where futures are experienced



THE FUTURE SCHOOL (Y10-Y13)

At the heart of The Future School is a commitment to holistic and future-focused education. By blending academic rigour with hands-on learning, students gain the knowledge and confidence to thrive in higher education, the workplace and beyond. This comprehensive approach ensures that learners are not only academically prepared, but also technically skilled, industry-aware and personally driven.

In a rapidly evolving global landscape, The Future School stands out as a place where adaptability, innovation and ambition are nurtured. With personalised learning pathways, strong university and industry connections and expert teaching staff, we empower students to define their own futures with clarity and purpose.



Our Areas of Focus

USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
FUTURE SCHOOL	Future Focused Curriculum	<p><b>STEM Emphasis:</b> Strong focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects to prepare students for future careers in high-demand fields.</p> <p><b>Entrepreneurship Education:</b> Our entrepreneurship programs foster creative thinking, leadership, and real-world business acumen. Through 'Think Business' courses and hands-on learning, students gain the tools to launch their own ventures or contribute innovatively within established organisations.</p> <p><b>1Hub Collaboration:</b> In partnership with 1Hub, our business incubator and co-working space, students benefit from direct access to mentorship, internships and entrepreneurial opportunities.</p>
	University and Career Readiness	<p><b>Career and University Preparation:</b> Comprehensive support including career counseling, CV and interview workshops, and guidance for job and university applications to help students confidently plan their future pathways.</p> <p><b>University Access and Exposure:</b> Strong partnerships with leading universities, access to scholarships and early admissions through GEMS4LIFE, along with opportunities to attend university fairs and campus visits.</p>
	Technical and Academic Excellence	<p><b>Strong Academic Track Record:</b> Consistent success in technical and academic performance, with high percentages of students achieving top grades in IGCSE, A Levels, and IBTEC courses.</p> <p><b>Hands-On Learning:</b> Vocational IBTEC courses offer practical training, workshops, and real-world projects, preparing students with applicable, career-ready skills.</p>
	Unique learning pathways	<p><b>Individualised Support:</b> Personalised academic guidance and support plans tailored to each student's unique needs, strengths, and aspirations.</p> <p><b>Academic Allies:</b> Access to dedicated student mentors who offer support in both academic planning and career decision-making.</p>
	Real-World Connections	<p><b>Local and Global Partnerships:</b> Collaborations with local businesses, industries, and international organisations provide students with valuable networks and real-world learning opportunities.</p> <p><b>Guest Speakers and Industry Experts:</b> Regular talks and lectures from professionals across various sectors inspire students and expose them to diverse career paths.</p>
	Expert staff	<p><b>Qualified Educators:</b> Our teachers bring extensive academic and vocational experience, ensuring high-quality instruction across all subjects.</p> <p><b>Industry Professionals:</b> Vocational courses are often led by professionals from the field, bringing real-world expertise and industry connections directly into the classroom.</p>


Our Areas of Focus


USP OVERVIEW

	WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE	DESCRIPTION
FUTURE SCHOOL	Learning that lasts	<p><b>Year 10 – Future Foundations:</b> Building core subject knowledge, study habits, and confidence at the start of GCSEs or BTEC Level 2.</p> <p><b>Year 11 – Future Focus:</b> Preparing for exams and making informed decisions about post-16 pathways.</p> <p><b>Year 12 – Future Rise:</b> Developing advanced academic skills, exploring careers, and growing personally.</p> <p><b>Year 13 – Future Ready:</b> Emphasising leadership, independence, and transition to life beyond school.</p> <p><b>Future X – Future Legacy:</b> Alumni stay connected through mentorship, internships, and community involvement.</p>
	FUTURE Hour	<p><b>Weekly Dedicated Session:</b> A 60-minute session held every week for all Year 12 and Year 13 students, focused on their growth beyond academics.</p> <p><b>Confidence for the Future:</b> Equips students with the skills, mindset, and clarity needed to succeed in university, work, and life.</p>
	FUTURE Link services	<p><b>Student-Led Societies:</b> Opportunities for students to create and lead clubs based on shared interests, promoting leadership, collaboration and passion-driven learning.</p> <p><b>Student Services Hub:</b> A centralised support center providing guidance on academics, wellbeing, and student life.</p> <p><b>Student Mentors:</b> Peer-to-peer mentorship programs that build confidence, foster community, and support academic and personal development.</p> <p><b>Student Voice Capture:</b> Structured platforms for collecting student feedback to inform decision-making and improve school experience.</p> <p><b>Future Prefect Team:</b> A leadership team of student ambassadors representing the school, leading initiatives, and serving as role models within the community.</p>
	Metropole Week Without Walls	<p><b>Work experience:</b> A unique programme that takes learning beyond traditional settings through career-focused trips and guaranteed work experience for Year 12 students.</p> <p><b>Learning beyond the classroom:</b> Students engage with real-world industries, build key employability skills, and gain valuable insight into future career paths. This immersive week helps boost confidence, clarify goals and often leads to further opportunities like internships or scholarships.</p>





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