

David McKeown
Head of Boarding
Swiss International
Scientific School Dubai

Boarding *life* in the *new* normal

Swiss International Scientific School Dubai (SISD) offers international and bilingual programmes for boys and girls ages 3-18, alongside international boarding school options for boys and girls ages 11-18. As the education sector slowly returns to normal, we are certainly seeing what's being widely called the 'new normal', and this is certainly impacting how parents prioritise and plan their children's education.

Parents seem less keen than they were, pre-pandemic, to send their children 'long-haul', from Europe and the UK, for example. The trend appears to be for a greater focus on safety, and more importantly, accessibility to their children. Travel has become more complex, and fraught with worry – so to send children to a short-haul destination, or to countries that have been seen to handle the pandemic well is becoming more of a priority.

Here in Dubai, there has been an enormous, concerted effort to deal with the pandemic, with great success to date. Education has continued pretty much as normal (with no lengthy lockdowns) and has resolutely returned to in-school every day again this academic year, for the second year in succession.

There also appears to be no imminent threats of a new lockdown currently in the UAE, unlike Europe and the UK, where there is a prevalent sense of nervousness regarding looming lockdowns, with figures rising in certain nations. This of course, amplifies parental concerns about sending their children overseas.





>>> High vaccination rates (especially among teenagers) mean that UAE schools have been able to focus on learning and educational goals, rather than 'fighting' COVID-19. Within the boarding school environment this is more important than ever, and all the boarding students at SISD have been vaccinated.

Education came to the fore during the pandemic as a major issue, with many of us having to adapt to having our children at home. Of course, a positive side effect of that was not only greater parent involvement in day-to-day

teaching, but also inherently increased the respect for teachers.

Since the pandemic, parents have undoubtedly re-evaluated the importance of education, but also the importance of skill sets, life skills and giving their children an education that is future-proof.

The SISD International Baccalaureate Programme prepares students for global universities, with bilingual instruction in English and French or German. The school features state-of-the-art facilities to rival those of

boarding schools in Switzerland, with top-tier innovation labs in programming, 3D printing, robotics, and more. SISD offers a compelling case for parents who want nothing but the best international education for their children.

SISD pays close heed to what's happening across the world, not only because of our international student cohort, but because IB is a global qualification. We ensure our pupils aren't learning in a vacuum; contextual learning means, today, we view our skills-based teaching as a way to

ensure our pupils are armed with the skills they'll need to become truly global citizens – and that means full factual awareness of the effects of the pandemic.

What became apparent during the pandemic was the vital, urgent need for global cooperation – not only in tackling the pervasive virus, but in creating a vaccine. We are proudly creating future globalists – via the gold standard of international education, the IB programme.

But with awareness of the ongoing, unfolding situation, children boarding with us can experience heightened anxiety. We have a team of wellness experts in place, and we certainly see this a growing trend in education. Boarders are offered outstanding levels of pastoral care, reflecting our commitment to creating a genuine 'home away from home'. Parents can rest assured pupils are in safe hands, with each house adopting a comforting family atmosphere, where boarders are actively encouraged to be themselves, to share their problems and feel like they are living in a home-

from-home. And at SISD, every pupil's 'new normal' is the chance to become an active member of our growing campus community, where we foster a willingness to take risks and explore new interests.

Those new interests include a wide array of extra-curricular activities, while screen time is minimised. SISD has already honed a reputation for sporting excellence, with pupils given the chance to try a wide range of sports to see which they might enjoy or excel in most. A daily routine ensures pupils are active, and encouraged to



>>> manage their leisure time as well as their homework and duties. Our boarders are never bored!

And in terms of the wider community, Dubai has always been one of the safest cities in the world. It's a fantastic place to bring up children, with plenty of safe, wide, sandy beaches, and all-year round great weather. There are water parks, theme parks, vast acres of desert to explore, museums, art galleries and of course, malls. And the

UAE is centrally situated for global travel, with Dubai serviced by one of the world's busiest, most futuristic airports.

With global staff and students, we believe we have created a truly unique multicultural environment that fosters development on a variety of levels. SISD provides an incredible campus experience, with playing fields, sports halls, gyms, and even an Olympic-sized swimming pool for students to use

both during school and afterwards, even on weekends. SISD isn't just a place to study – it's a place for students to call home, too.

IMOGEN CARRINGTON

"EDUCATION IS WHAT REMAINS AFTER ONE HAS FORGOTTEN WHAT ONE HAS LEARNED IN SCHOOL"
- Albert Einstein

 <p>Car Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What to do in an accident - Tyre changing, checking tyre pressure and tread - Checking oil and water levels - MOT and servicing: an insight - Car tax, licensing and insurance - Breakdown covering 	 <p>Basic Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mortgages and mortgage brokering - Different types of loan - Debt and credit - Tax - Bank accounts - Investments and ISAs - Budgeting 	 <p>Basic Cooking</p> <p>Learn to conquer the Sunday roast by preparing your own! Followed by being taught to make a sticky toffee pudding before sitting down to tuck in. An introduction to knife skills is also included.</p>
 <p>Human and Animal First Aid</p> <p>How to assist a pet in situations including choking, overheating, bandaging, minor cuts, CPR. First aid for human casualties to include minor injuries, shock, external bleeding, seizures, use of CPR and defibrillator.</p>	 <p>Wine Education and Cocktail Making</p> <p>One of our personal favourites; an education and appreciation of wine. Learning which wines go well with which foods, followed by a lesson in cocktail or mocktail making, before creating and sampling your own.</p>	 <p>Household Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paying water, gas, electricity, broadband bills - White good usage and maintenance - Using water/ electricity meters - Bleeding radiators, changing fuses, defrosting freezers, clearing plugholes - Basic home hacks



*Imogen Carrington
Course 22-25th
August 2022.
A 3 day residential
course for students
preparing to leave
school, gap students
and Uni
undergraduates.
Giving you the
confidence to fly the
nest and stop ringing
mum and dad for
advice.*

Visit imogencarrington.com For More Information

GET IN CONTACT

<p>CALL US</p> <p>07713623289</p> <p>07712205265</p>	<p>EMAIL US</p> <p>imogen_carrington@yahoo.com</p>	<p>OPENING HOURS</p> <p>Mon – Fri: 9am–5pm</p>
---	--	---