

KAUST School

Thuwal, Saudi Arabia



Set inside a Red Sea research university campus, this IB continuum school pairs inquiry-based learning with a working scientific community.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	85/100
Transparency	72/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

KAUST School occupies a niche that few schools can match: an IB continuum school founded in ****2009**** inside a live research university on the Red Sea. That setting matters. This is not a school that borrows the language of inquiry from the IB and leaves it at that; it sits beside scientists, laboratories and a global academic community, and the intellectual atmosphere shapes the student experience. English is the language of instruction, the school is non-religious, and the accreditations are serious: IB World School, CIS and NEASC. For internationally mobile families who want an education anchored in the IB but not in the churn of a large commercial school group, that is a ***rare advantage***.

What puts KAUST School on a shortlist is the combination of scale, context and coherence. It serves ages 3 to 18, so families can secure a full through-school route without changing systems midway. The university-campus environment gives the school a *distinct academic identity*: students grow up around research, advanced study and adult intellectual work, not just school-branded aspiration. That will appeal to parents who value substance over show. The trade-off is clear too. This is not a legacy British boarding school, not a religious school, and not a vast metropolitan campus with every conceivable social scene. It is a day school in Thuwal, tied to a specific community and place. Families need to want that *contained, high-trust environment*.

The right student for KAUST School is academically curious, comfortable in an international English-speaking setting, and responsive to inquiry rather than rote instruction. Children who like asking difficult questions, making links across subjects and working in a community shaped by science and research will get the most from it. So will families who want a school with a *clear intellectual centre of gravity* rather than one built around status performance or examination theatre. With **67** leavers in the Class of **2024**, this is not a mass-market operation; it is a more focused proposition. For the right family, that is the point. KAUST School offers a *serious, research-adjacent education* in a setting that few schools in the region can replicate.

STRENGTHS

- IB continuum from ages 3 to 18
- English-medium teaching suits many international families
- CIS and NEASC accreditation add external oversight
- Non-religious day school on KAUST research campus

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option
- Located in Thuwal, north of Jeddah
- English-only instruction may not suit all families

ADMISSIONS

KAUST School is a day school for ages 3 to 18, so the natural entry points are likely to be in the early years, primary, lower secondary and sixth-form equivalent stages within its IB continuum. Publicly available information here confirms the broad age range and curriculum, but not a detailed admissions calendar by year group. Nor does the school publish, in the material provided, a fixed annual deadline; families should assume rolling admissions may depend on space, rather than a single cut-off date, but the school does not state this here.

Assessment and selection details are not published in the information supplied, so it would be wrong to imply a standard test, interview sequence or portfolio requirement. In practice, schools of this type usually review prior school records and age-appropriate readiness, but KAUST School does not set out a distinctive selection process in the source material provided. Likewise, no bursary or financial-aid provision is mentioned here. Parents should therefore treat financial support as unconfirmed unless the school states it directly during the admissions process.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_ee546ed175.