



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 15<sup>TH</sup>

## ANNIVERSARY

### SPECIAL EDITION





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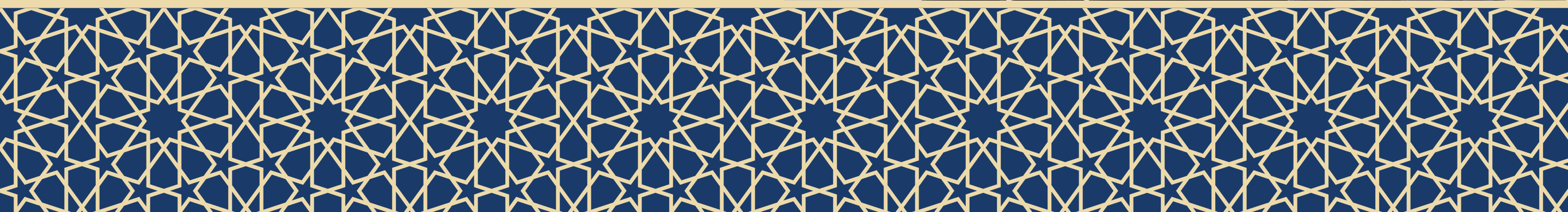
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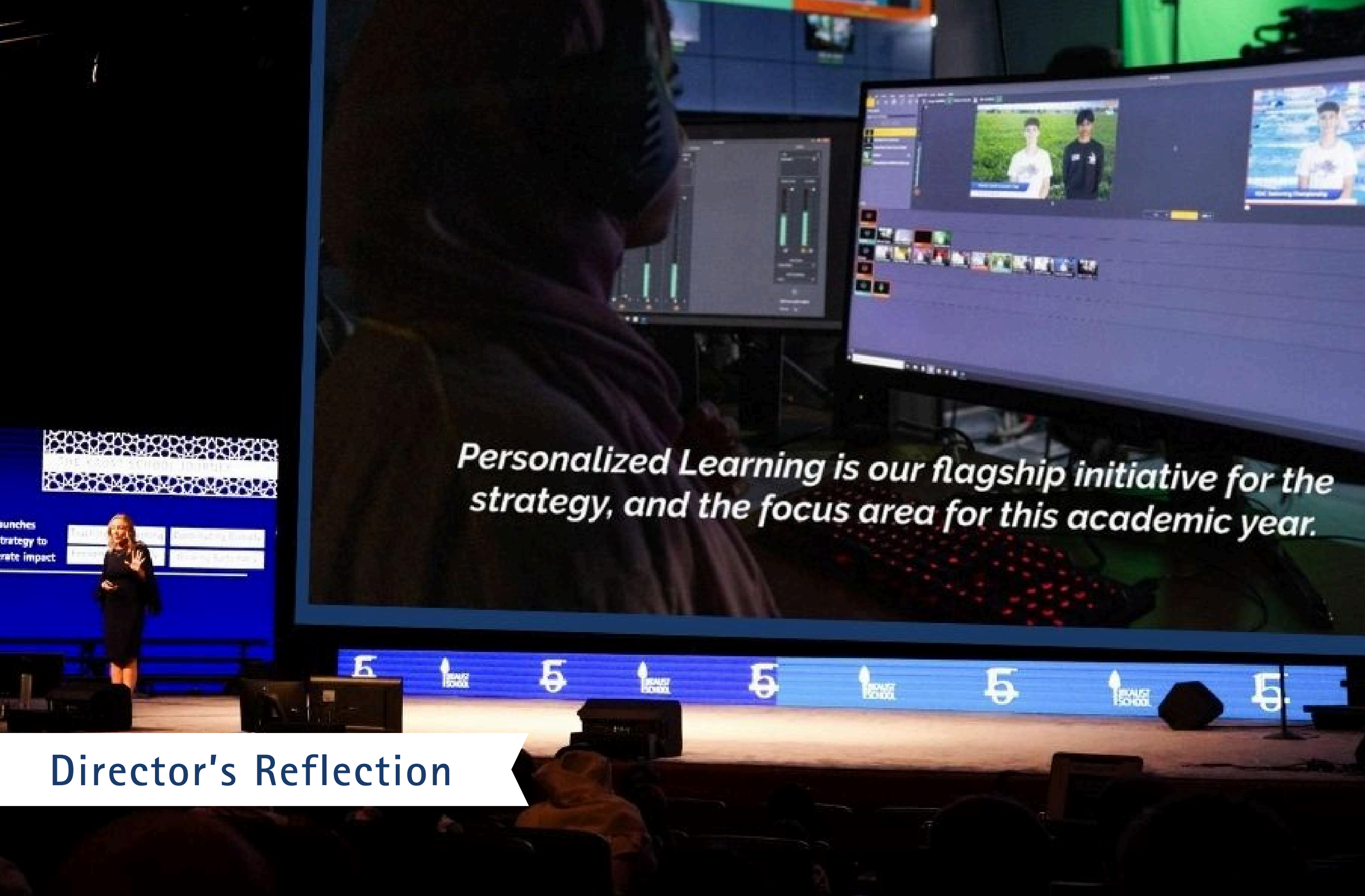
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*Personalized Learning is our flagship initiative for the strategy, and the focus area for this academic year.*



launches  
strategy to  
create impact

Education	Strategy	Contributing to
Research	Impact	Research

Director's Reflection



# Celebrating 15 Years

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Dear Friends,

Taking the time to celebrate accomplishments is important in any organization, and our accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of many people over the years at The KAUST School (TKS). 2024 marks the 15th Anniversary of TKS. It is a great opportunity to pause, reflect and share our gratitude for one another and for those who came before us.

Over the last 15 years, students, families, faculty and staff have come and gone, but the commitment of TKS to deliver a high quality education has remained steadfast. What began as a single visionary idea has become a transformative force in education, touching thousands of lives in Saudi Arabia and around the world. TKS was established with a mission that went far beyond traditional academics; it was designed to nurture a new generation prepared to shape a future Saudi Arabia rooted in innovation, diversity, and global influence. Conceived as a space where students from all backgrounds could thrive, TKS has become a beacon of learning and discovery, embodying the spirit of progress at the heart of KAUST University.

Founded to support the mission of KAUST, TKS's vision to be a courageously bold leader in education, aligns with Saudi Arabia's ambition to be a global leader in science, technology, and sustainable development. From the outset, the school has been committed to nurturing leaders,

thinkers, and creators equipped with critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a dedication to positive change.

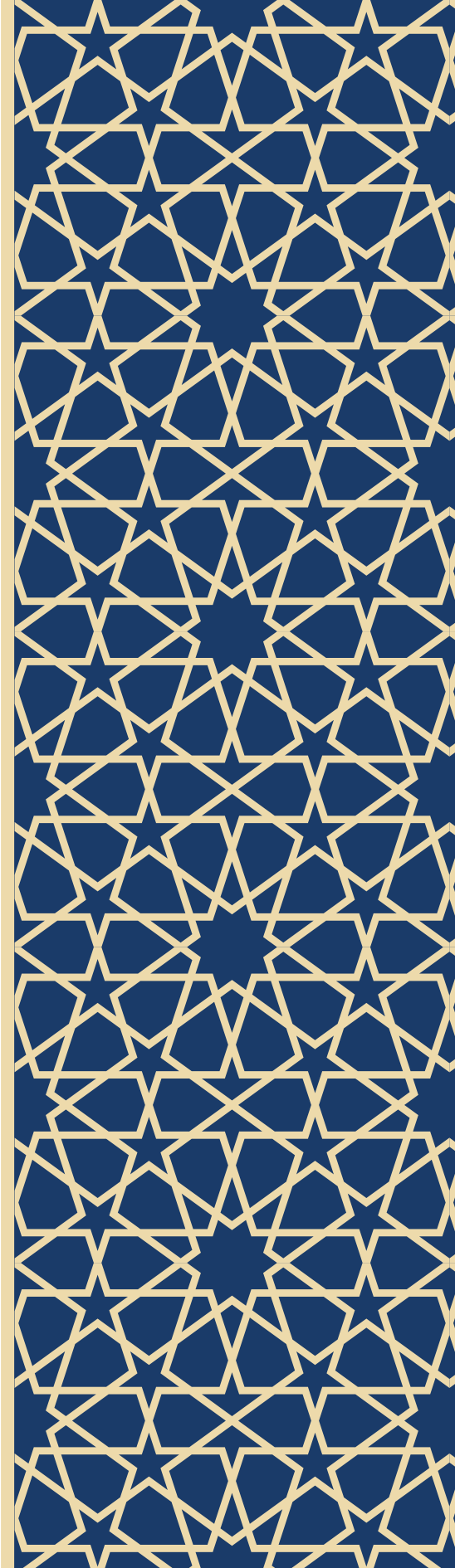
Over the years, TKS has grown in influence, producing graduates who have made a mark worldwide—whether in pioneering new technologies, contributing to communities, or promoting values of empathy, knowledge, and responsibility.

Today, TKS's impact reaches across continents, as its graduates embody the values of global citizenship and innovation. This extraordinary journey—from a single vision to a thriving educational institution—demonstrates the power of education to shape not only individual lives but entire communities, forging connections and fostering growth for generations to come.

This special edition of our Annual Report celebrates the 15-year journey of TKS: its past, present, and future. Let's enjoy this opportunity to honor the legacy, achievements, and bright future of TKS together!



**Dr. Michelle Remington**  
Director, The KAUST School





# OUR PAST: 15 YEARS OF IMPACT



2009

- The KAUST Schools open
- Secondary is girls-only and co-ed
- IB Curriculum adopted

2011

- IB accreditation & NEASC accreditation is achieved
- One school is created: The KAUST School

2014

- TKS accredited by the Council of International Schools

Enrollment

383

620

1277





2020

- TKS receives accreditation from Middle States Association
- New Mission, Vision, Values adopted

2021

- TKS is the only school in Kingdom delivering in-person learning

2024

- 36 Saudi teachers trained by TKS in Elevate training program
- New strategic plan is launched

1584

1687

1965



# Alumni Spotlight: Leesa Tulley

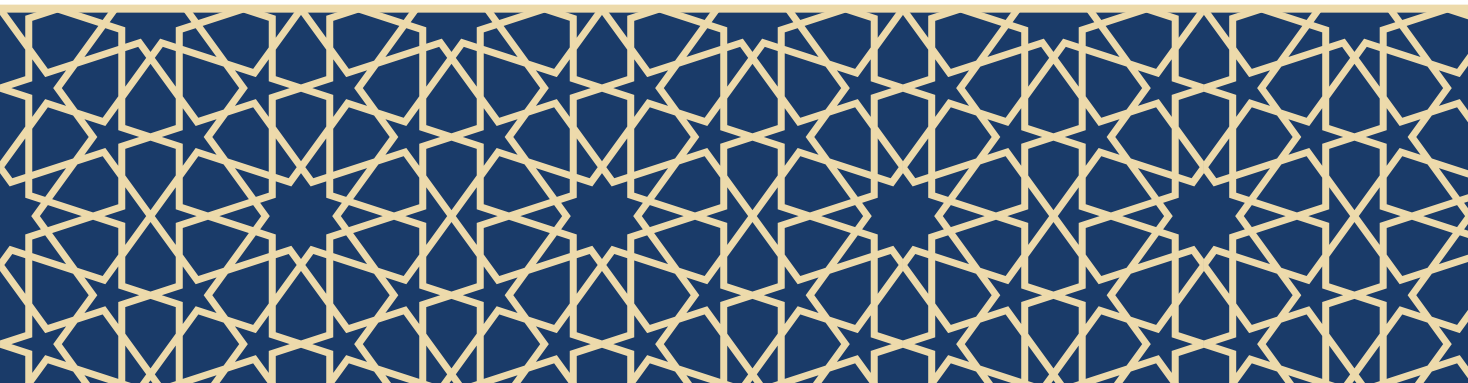
## From the TKS Auditorium to the West End

Leesa Tulley, who graduated The KAUST School in 2017, recently made her debut on the West End in London, England as a performer in the cast of *Six: The Musical*.

During her time at KAUST, Leesa was a force of nature in TKS performing arts scene, starring in productions such as *The Music Man* and *Dr. Doolittle Jr.*, and lending her rich soprano voice to musical showcases at TKS and in the community. Leesa always demonstrated a passion for singing, dancing, and acting, and attended Emil Dale Academy in Hitchin, England upon graduating from TKS to pursue further training.

Leesa joined the cast of *Six: The Musical* in 2022. Having performed in cities across the UK as part of the National Tour, her favorite song in the show to sing is "I Don't Need Your Love". She was recently nominated for the Best Performance by an Understudy/Alternate in Any Play or Musical award at the BroadwayWorld UK/West End Awards for her role in *Six*.

Courtesy of James Tulley





# Making Their Mark Worldwide

## Class of '23 + '24: Where They Are Now



Class of  
2024

**\$10M**  
scholarship  
offers  
received

**86%**  
Directly  
matriculated  
to University

**18**  
Acceptances  
received  
from a  
Top 100  
University



# OUR PRESENT: 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

\*NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING  
AUTHOR, ROSALIND WISEMAN



TKS HOSTS THRIVE CONFERENCE  
\*KEYNOTE BY ROSALIND WISEMAN



NEW HS BUILDING "THE REEF"  
OPENS FOR STUDENTS



F1 IN SCHOOLS:  
OSCAR PIASTRI VISITS TKS



RESTRUCTURING & LAUNCH OF THE  
TKS PARENT CONNECTION







15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



TIDAL WAVE COMMUNITY EVENTS

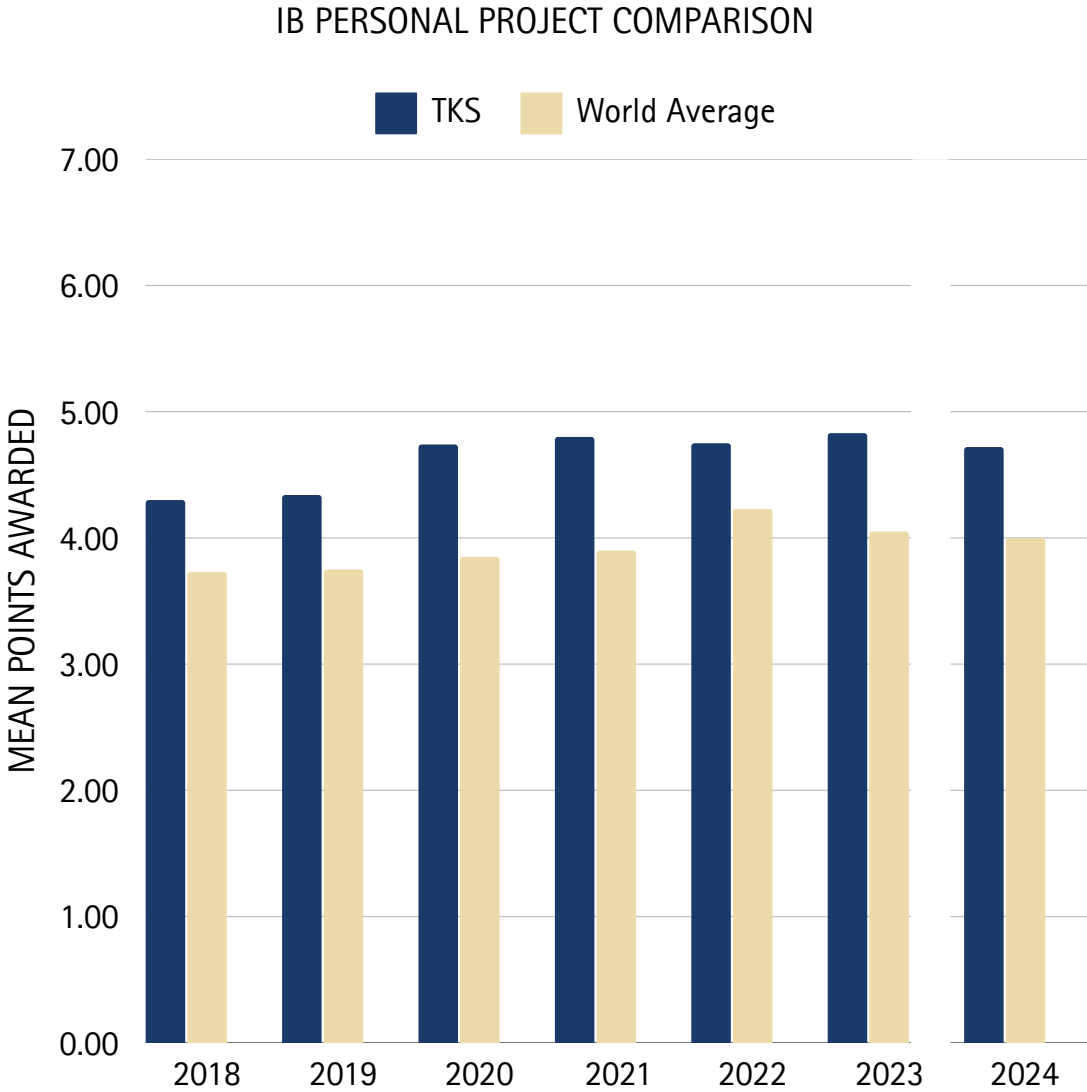


TKS STUDENTS PRESENT AT COP16

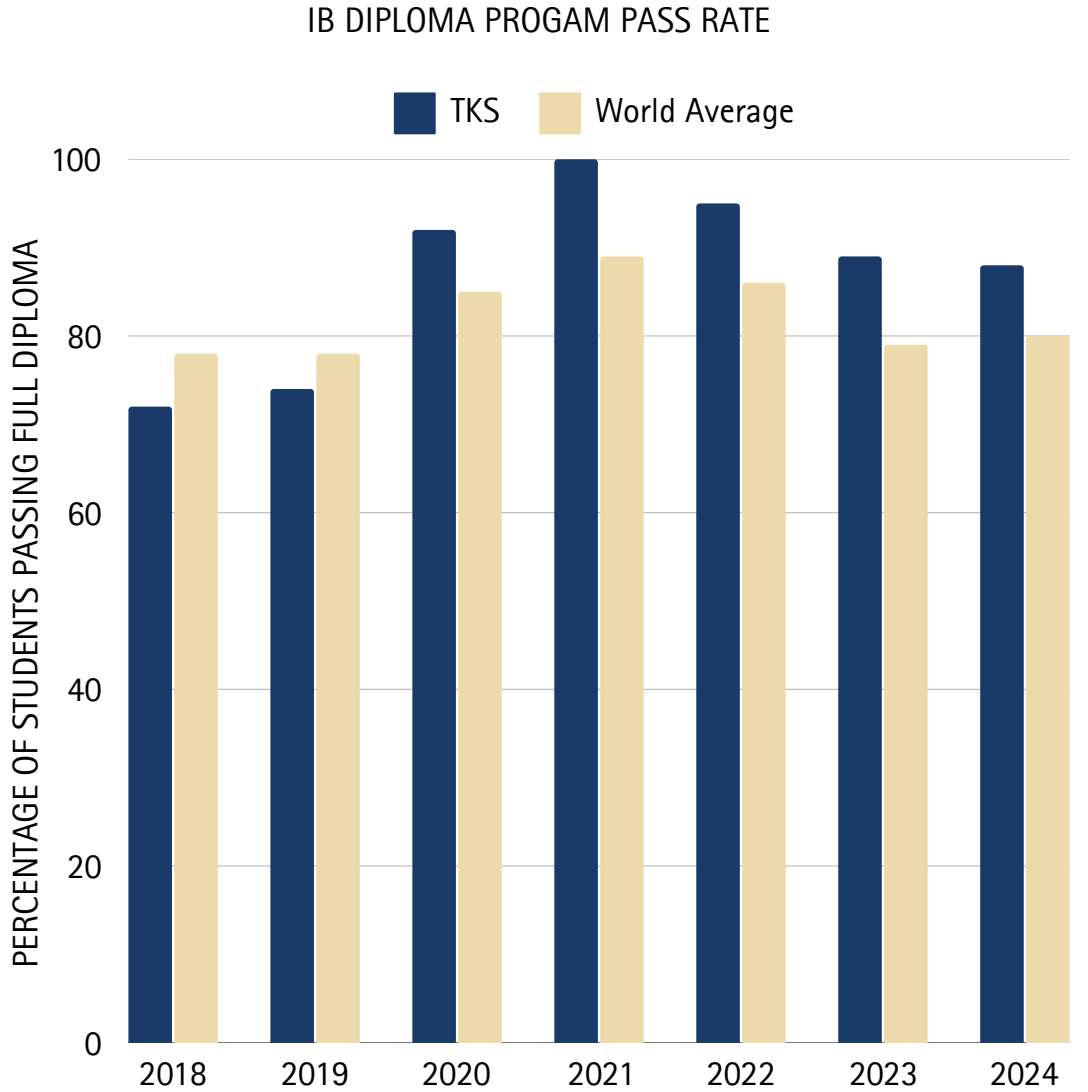




# OUR PRESENT: ACHIEVEMENTS

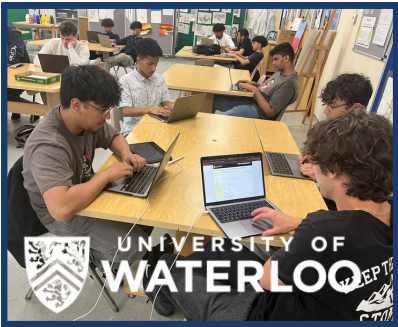


# Academics + Performance



9

Distinction honors received at the Canadian Computing Competition



114

Unique Courses Offered



New courses offered in 2024:

- Sustainable Food Design
- Entrepreneurship
- Advanced Robotics Systems
- IB Computer Science
- IB Business Management
- Product Design + Fabrication



# TKS Students Earn Top Math Rankings

## AMC Math Competition Results

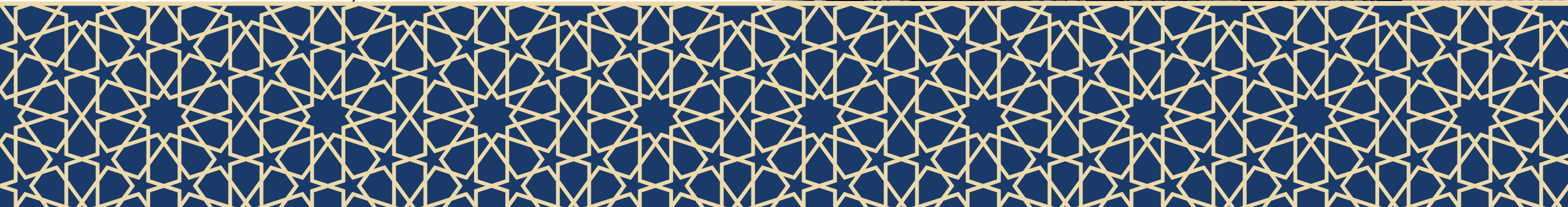
In 2023–2024 and for the second year in a row, Elva Gao was ranked as the top-performing math student in Saudia Arabia in the American Math Competition (AMC) and received an honor roll certificate for ranking in the top 5% globally.

Hundreds of thousands of students across the globe participated in the American Math Competition. In 2023 & 2024, TKS had strong participation in both middle school and high school with many students placing in the top 20 in Saudi Arabia, including Murari Gubba, Dean Todorov, Brayden Remington, Isabela Rivera, Meryem Abulikemu, and Aidan Liu.

The AMC is a competition that consists of multiple-choice questions designed to assess problem-solving skills and mathematical knowledge, encouraging a love for learning and mathematical thinking.

The test provides an opportunity for students to push themselves in analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and mathematics– all areas that can assist in future careers. This self-selected challenge highlights these students' extraordinary initiative and dedication to mathematics.

*Below: Elva Gao, #1 ranked AMC math student in Saudi Arabia (2023–24), shares her knowledge by tutoring Elementary Math Olympiad students after school.*





# Our People: Faculty & Staff

7.5

Average Years of Service

63%

Faculty with over 15 years experience

151

Faculty with Master's Degrees or higher





# Our People: Executive Committee



First Row: Professor Sir Edward Byrne, Omar Knio, Samer Saman, Amr Atiah

Second Row: Raquel Piexoto, Mohamed Abdel Aal, Thomas Finkbeiner, Richard Sobieray



# OUR PRESENT: KAUST PARTNERSHIP



PLANT SCIENCE FAMILY NIGHT  
SECOND EDITION



SOAPBOX DERBY SPONSORED BY  
KAUST LABS + DEPARTMENTS



MATE ROV REGIONAL (KSA)  
+ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (USA)







## 2024 Highlights

87

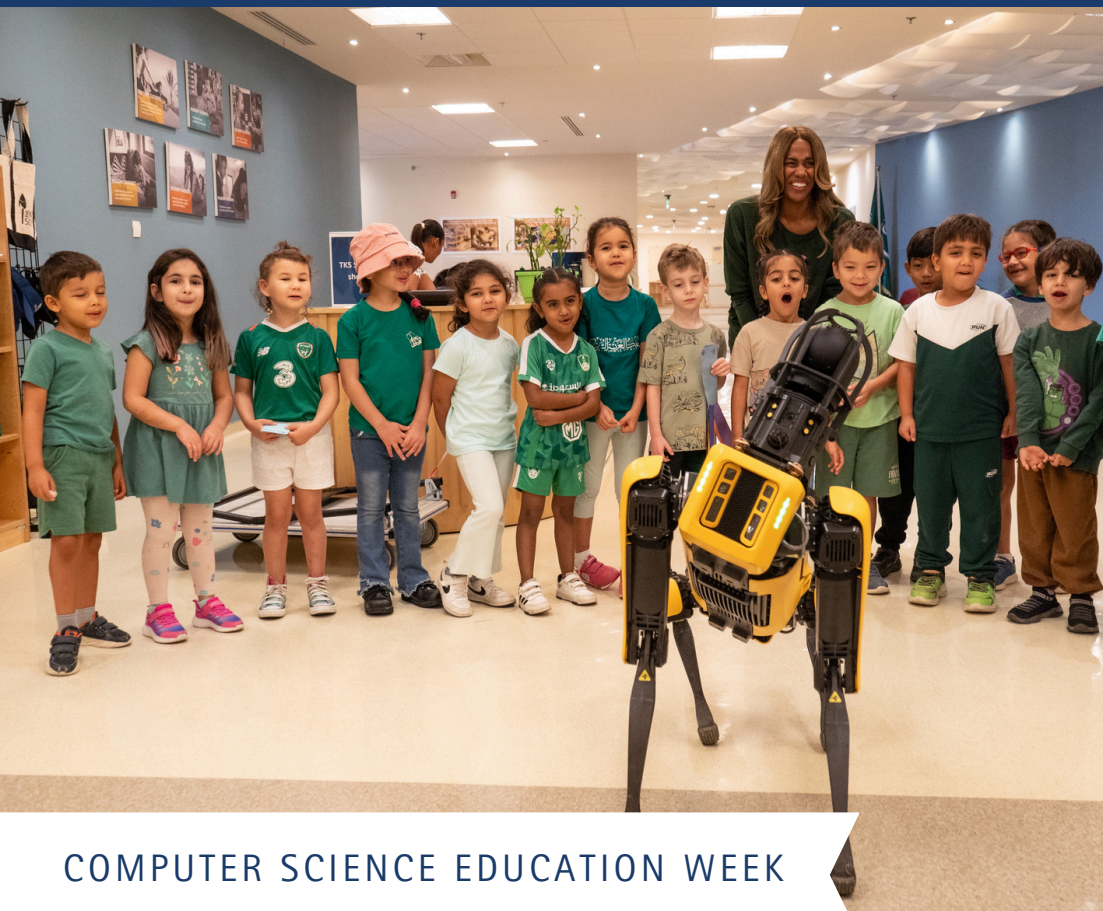
WISER  
Interns from  
TKS

11

Papers  
published,  
reviewed by  
TKS students

450

Students  
involved in  
Creativity &  
Innovation  
Week



COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK



FFYM LIVE PAPER REVIEW AT COP16



CREATIVITY + INNOVATION WEEK



# International Partnerships



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

## Wilkes University



COUNCIL OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of  
**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**





# Kingdom Impact

## 161

Thrive Conference  
Attendees

## 26

Teacher Trainees in  
the Elevate Program

## 85

Participants in  
Thrive offerings



### TKS Launches Thrive to Meet Demand for the School's Expertise

In 2024, TKS launched Thrive, the premiere professional development institute dedicated to fostering educational excellence and empowering educators in Kingdom and from around the world.

Thrive Learning Institute offers workshops, study tours, classroom immersion visits, and discovery tours all hosted and led by TKS faculty and staff.

The first-ever Thrive Educators Conference, which was hosted, managed, and run by TKS, brought more than 150 educators from across Saudi Arabia and the region to connect, learn, and grow together. The majority of the conference sessions were led by TKS faculty and staff.

## PARTNERSHIPS



وزارة الرياضة  
Ministry of Sport



SBSF  
الاتحاد السعودي لكرة القاعدة  
Saudi Baseball and Softball Federation



AGS  
ADVANCED GENERATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS  
مدارس الأجيال المتطورة العالمية



الاتحاد السعودي لكرة  
القاعدة والكرة الناعمة  
SAUDI BASEBALL AND  
SOFTBALL FEDERATION



الاتحاد السعودي للتنس  
SAUDI TENNIS  
FEDERATION



NEOM



وزارة التعليم  
Ministry of Education



أكاديمية نون  
NUN ACADEMY  
Kunskapsskolan, Jeddah

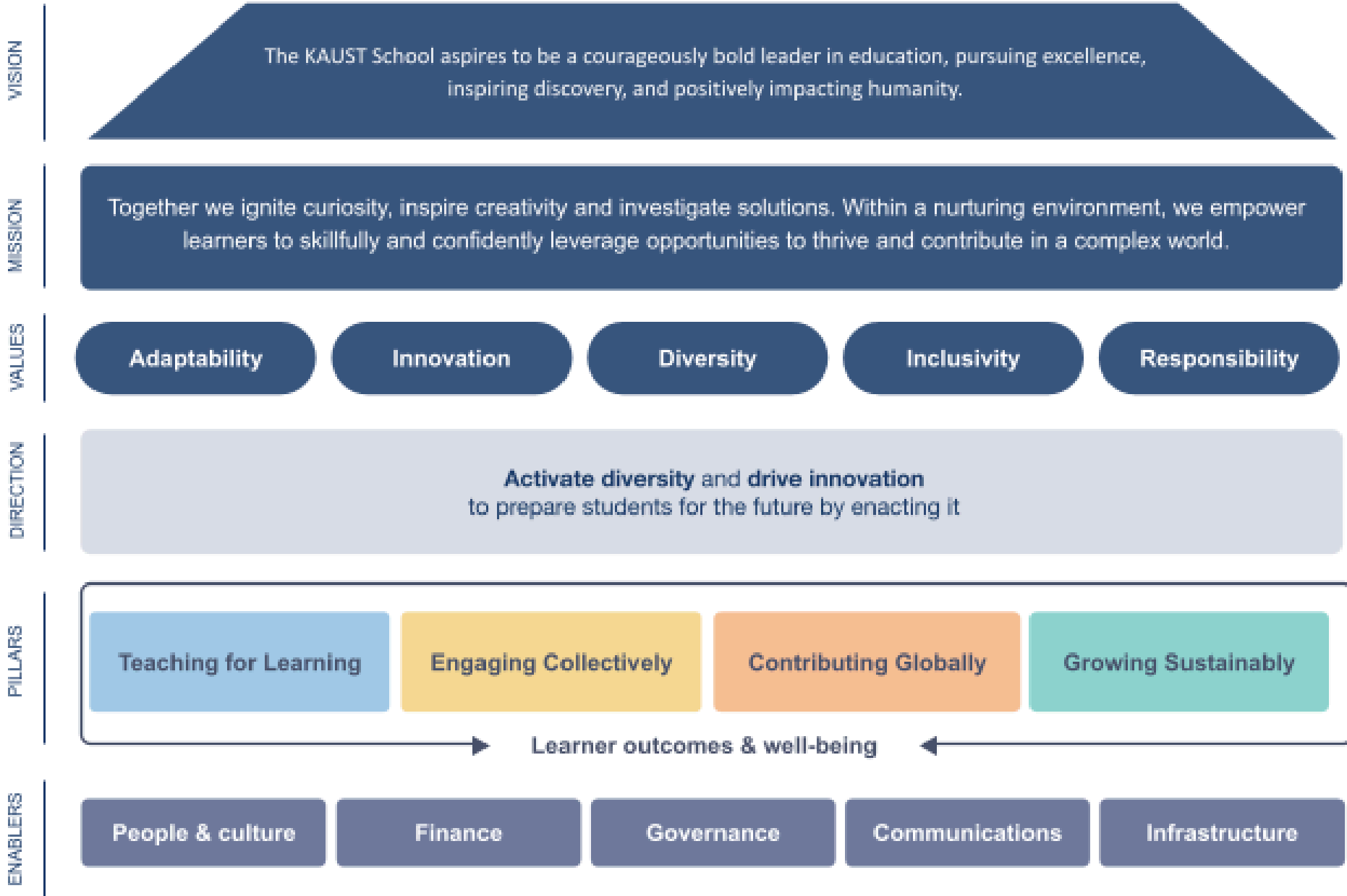


OUR FUTURE: 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



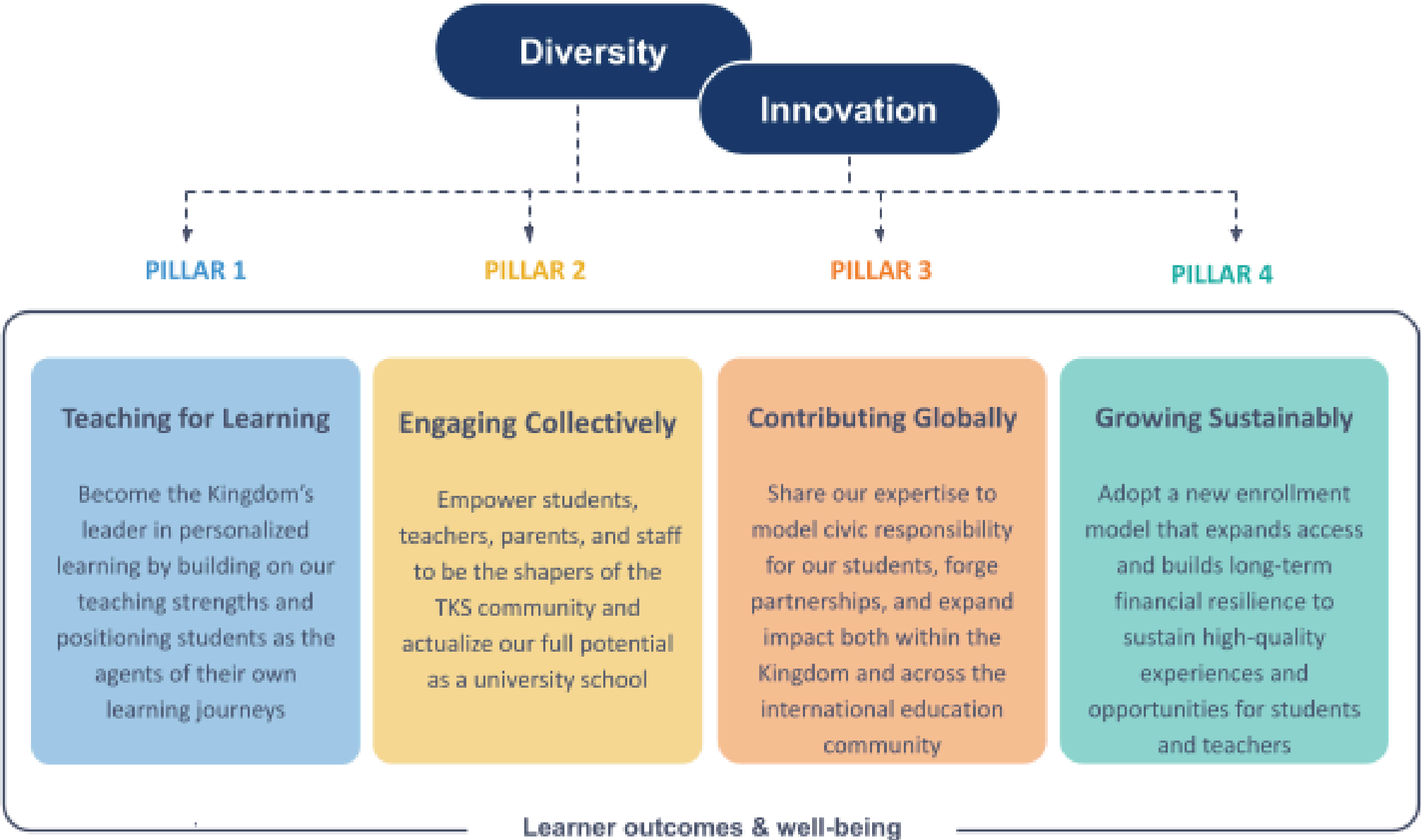


The new TKS Strategy maintains the school's Mission, Vision, and Values, elevating two of its values to form a fresh strategic direction for the next 5 years.





The pillars of our strategy bring to life two of the school's core values and together they articulate a bold ambition.





Progress along key areas of the new TKS strategy will be tracked over time.



OVERARCHING GOAL

Learner Outcomes & Well-being

Central to the strategy, TKS will monitor both learner outcomes and the development of well-being skills

PILLAR- LEVEL GOALS

Teaching for Learning

TKS will track the implementation of personalized learning and students’ self-efficacy in setting and achieving their personal learning goals as active agents of their own learning

Engaging Collectively

TKS will measure community engagement and will create, and track participation in, KAUST enrichment programs to harness the best of what the University can offer to TKS students

Contributing Globally

Growing Sustainably

ENABLER LEVEL GOALS

Recruitment & Retention

TKS will track teacher recruitment and retention as core drivers of teaching and learning quality

Efficient Processes

TKS will track the efficiency of our systems and structures to save and optimize our staff’s time

Effective Communication

Quality Learning Environments



# IGNITE CURIOSITY • INSPIRE CREATIVITY • INVESTIGATE SOLUTIONS







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tk.s.kaust.edu.sa |



@tkssharks

