

Empowering learners - it's a Know-Brainer™

Almitas (Latin): n. nurture, kindness; bounty

At Almitas we want to reinvigorate learning with purpose, service and entrepreneurship. By combining a strong foundation in learning sciences research, we design clubs and workshops for children which are meaningful and engaging.

Here at Almitas Education, we're on a mission to spread the good news about our brains. In this exclusive Know-Brainer after-school club, we want to optimise the learning process for our pupils and empower them to take charge of their own education.

Introducing the “Know-Brainer” Thinking Skills Club at Emmanuel School Years 4 and 5

Tuesdays at 3.30pm-4.30pm £9 per session, £108 for 12 sessions

To sign up for the club, please visit <https://emmanuelce.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. You will need to log in with the information that is requested on the front page. The booking facility will be open from **8.00pm on Sunday 3rd March** and will close at **8.00pm on Tuesday 5th March**. Please **do not send in any money at this stage**. If your child is allocated a place, we will notify you and you should make full payment by return on your online Scopay account otherwise we will offer the place to the next child on the waiting list. We do expect children to stick to clubs; therefore, this subscription fee is non-refundable.

If your child is allocated a place, we will notify you and you should make full payment on your online Scopay account. If a club is full, you can ask the office to place them on the waiting list. Please remember, this will not give your child priority for the following term.

We do expect children to stick to clubs, therefore this subscription fee is non-refundable. Clubs are an extra-curricular joyful experience for children. We expect the same exemplary behaviour in clubs that we do in school. We will be working closely with our club leaders to monitor behaviour. **When behaviour is not at the expected standard, following a reminder, children may be asked to leave the club without a refund.**

If all the spaces have been allocated, your child will be put on a waiting list for the term. Please remember, this will not give your child priority for the following term.

What are these workshops?

All our Know-Brainer sessions incorporate a range of strategies, activities and engaging resources to ensure the sessions are fun and interactive and centre around the following content:

- Creative, lateral thinking, logical reasoning and numberplay
- Riddles, puzzles and codebreaking
- Vocabulary, wordplay, phraseology and literary devices
- Facts, knowledges and the world around us
- Using perception and observation to find patterns, commonalities and outliers
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Why are these workshops important?

In traditional educational settings, we are all taught what to learn. The old system is set up to fill up children's brains as if they were an empty vessel, working out how much we can put into their heads.

What if, instead of trying to get things *in*, we are trying to get things *out* of learners?

At Almitas, all our workshops are built on our four pillars:

1. **Research-led teaching**: All our workshop content is entirely evidence-based and powered by our Research Innovation Hub which means we are first in line with teaching approaches, interventions and technologies so you won't find any brain-training, neuro-myth fads or gimmicks here.
2. **Curriculum of Empowerment**: We want to enable our pupils to understand how they can independently acquire skills and knowledge, form positive habits and develop a passion for learning. We do this through presenting evidence around:
 - Physiology (nutrition, sleep, exercise, relaxation, social, emotional and behavioural development, the brain)

- Psychology (motivation, metacognition, feedback)
- Neuroscience (Executive Functions, Attention and Learning)

3. **Assessment Innovation**: Through purposeful application, we design assessment to nurture innovation and autonomy so our pupils are connecting with future life-skills and knowledge bases, forging relationships with industries, sectors and workplaces and progress using our own unique accredited qualifications.

4. **Culture**: Purpose, Entrepreneurship and Service imbue learning with meaning and engagement and our unique brand of learning fuels our after-school clubs and workshops.

Built into the workshop content, children will be taught the knowledge and facts around learning and the brain alongside robust evidence around the mechanisms of learning.

Our mission is to nurture our pupils so they can independently learn the best way they can for the rest of their lives and know how to adapt and change when they need to - and that could be from micro-changes throughout the day to when their learning needs develop throughout their childhood.

By teaching this to our children with real life examples and studies involving people their age, our aim is to instil children with the autonomy and decision-making power to choose how best to learn.

We will answer questions like the following:

How does your mind, brain and body work together to help you learn?

What can we do to keep our brain working how we want?

What's good for my brain?

How can I form a new habit?

What will really help me learn and remember something?

How long can I concentrate for and learn effectively?

When does my attention and focus work best and how can I influence it?

Who runs the workshops?

With a background in Psychology and Educational Neuroscience, Jamie is an outstanding educator and departmental lead who has spent over 15 years working across the state and independent sectors.

Throughout his teaching career and professional development, he has had positions as Head of Key Stage 2, Maths, Reasoning and Director of Studies. During his school experience, he trained and supported new teachers and learning support assistants and consistently improved outcomes for learners by utilising out-of-class specialists and professionals. He also collaborated closely with

Senior Leaders to plan and deliver personalised provisions, interventions, counselling sessions and accelerated learning booster classes for target children.

He has built up a wealth of knowledge around how we learn and now partners with research institutions including the IOE and the Centre for Educational Neuroscience to carefully implement evidence-based practice into the classroom, ensuring planning, teaching and lesson delivery is firmly built on learning sciences research (including Educational Neuroscience, Psychology and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Development).

By fostering independence and autonomy in his pupils, his lessons optimise engagement and empower them to understand and personalise their own learning and be in charge of their progress.

Both in schools and educational workshops, he has developed a unique innovative brand of assessment where children participate in in-depth studies of interdisciplinary, engaging topics where pupils are able to design and create cumulative authentic outcomes which incorporate entrepreneurship, performance and service to the wider community. Alongside this, his lessons incorporate dynamic assessment tools which optimise the role of technology in personalising learning and better support the teacher experience through AI and virtual learning environments.

He is currently working with a team of educators, researchers and investors to open a new school group which will be grounded in learning sciences research and assessment innovation that aims to disrupt standardised schooling.

Prior to teaching, he enjoyed a successful career in television and script writing, performing feature productions at successive Edinburgh festivals and continues to create picture books with a Middle-Grade book series in the pipeline. In between playing football and kickboxing, he is also a proud Dad to his three sons.

