

NISA PETIWALA

EDUCATION

Dubai American Academy,

2021- Present

Dubai, UAE

International Baccalaureate (IBCP): HL English, SL Computer Science, SL Business Management, SL Math AI

Electives: Journalism

2024-2025

Courses:

Dar Research Affiliate of MIT - Internship Program of Artificial Intelligence in Urban Development **15th Oct - 15th March**

Internship Course on Web Development - 6-month course

25th Feb - 28th August

Awards and Honors

Newsletter Lead Award - Awarded for my performance as Newsletter Lead in the Eco-Committee, recognizing strong literacy, communication, and leadership skills. Successfully managed the monthly publication process by coordinating a team of student writers, editing and curating content, and ensuring the timely delivery of newsletters focused on environmental awareness

Best Research Paper: Fake News Detection Award - Dubai Science and Economics Fair 2024 - Awarded for a research study exploring the use of deep learning-based text classification methods to distinguish between real and fake news. The paper evaluated how language patterns and contextual cues can be leveraged to address misinformation.

Youth Journalism Award - Awarded for researching sustainability issues and producing a youth-focused journalism piece that highlighted real community challenges. I spent several weeks gathering information, interviewing sources, and refining my analysis. My submission was reviewed against other entries before being selected.

Best Prototype Award: Dubai Science and Economics Fair 2025 - Awarded for designing Adaptive Multisensory Learning Environment (AMLE), an educational prototype focused on supporting diverse learning needs through interactive, multisensory approaches. The project demonstrated innovation in learning design, accessibility, and practical classroom application.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Founder of readease.co

May 2025-Present

Developed readease.co, an accessible AI-powered learning platform designed to support dyslexic learners in exploring technology and digital literacy.

- Built a website offering audio and video-based explanations to make complex topics in AI and technology easier to understand.
- Designed interactive learning modules where users can engage with lessons at their own pace and take quizzes to track progress.
- Integrated accessibility-first features such as text-to-speech support, simplified navigation, and visual learning aids.
- Fostered inclusive learning by creating a platform that reduces barriers for dyslexic individuals, promoting confidence and practical skill development.

May 2025 - Present

Founder of wellmind.live

- Developed WellMind.live, an AI-driven mental health chatbot providing accessible support through cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) techniques.
- Designed an interactive platform where users can engage in guided conversations that promote self-reflection, emotional regulation, and stress management.
- Integrated evidence-based mental health strategies such as CBT prompts, mood tracking, and personalized coping exercises.
- Built a responsive interface with a focus on accessibility, ensuring ease of use across devices and demographics.
- Fostered mental wellness by offering users a safe, supportive, and confidential space to practice healthier thought patterns and coping strategies.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- **President, High School Newspaper (The Student Voice)** – Established a school editorial paper, bringing together writers, designers, and editors from each grade. The paper encompasses a wide range of topics, from student life to campus events and student perspectives. Reporting all the events happening in the school community.
- **Co-Head of Media, BridgeBot** – Extending skills into the world of STEM advocacy. As Co-Head of Media for the BridgeBot, a robot that helps children with autism. Responsible for managing media outreach, creating promotional content, documenting competitions and events, and building community interest in robotics, and building awareness.
- **Speech Editor, TEDxYouthDAA** – A part of the Executive team for TEDxYouthDAA, worked closely with the president and the speaker team to guide students through the process of creating and delivering their talks. I attended consultations, auditions, and planning meetings, and I helped restructure and edit speeches to make them clear, concise, and powerful.
- **Head of Media and Logistics** - As Head of Logistics and Media, I created content to raise awareness about STEM access for refugee children and managed posts that highlighted our mission. I also coordinated student involvement and organized project logistics, helping the team run workshops smoothly and reach more learners.
- **Teacher Assist Program** - I supported students from grades 1-3 who needed extra academic or special-needs assistance, often working one-on-one to help them understand lessons. I took a leadership role by guiding small groups, supporting learning plans, and becoming the point person that teachers relied on to help struggling students.
- **Co-founder, Operation Smile** - As a co-founder of Operation Smile, I was a part of planning fundraisers for donations of toys for kids. I was involved in engaging 100+ children at Rashid Centre. I organized resources for the event and helped plan visits to the center.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fundraiser, Al Jalia Foundation – Held a Breast Cancer Fundraising Bake Sale in partnership with the Al Jalila Foundation, raising funds for women who cannot afford treatment. This initiative combined organization, promotion, and leadership, resulting in over \$500 raised and more than 30 personalized student notes sent directly to patients.

Member, Rotary Club – Supported a global network of people who care about giving back. Focusing on community service, integrity, leadership, and what it means to make an impact. Through different service events and student-led projects, with initiatives that supported local communities and encouraged ethical leadership among students.

Beach Clean Up - I organized a small beach clean-up group at my school to help protect our local shoreline. We met to collect trash, raise awareness about pollution, and encourage students to care for the environment and our community spaces.

Ambassador, HASSL - Promoted women's safety by supporting campaigns, creating or sharing educational content, engaging with community discussions, and helping raise awareness. Contributed feedback on resources, joined initiatives, and participated in activities that advanced HASSL's mission for systemic change.

Food Drive - I helped plan logistics for a community food drive by organizing packing stations, preparing bags with food and water, and distributing them to underserved workers. I also supported younger volunteers and helped keep the process running smoothly, which taught me teamwork, leadership, and communication.

Rotary Club - Supported a global network of people who care about giving back. Focused on community service, integrity, leadership, and what it means to make an impact. Through different service events and student-led projects, and initiatives that supported local communities, I encouraged ethical leadership among students.

SKILLS

HTML & JAVA, Excel, MS Word, PowerPoint