



Thursday 13 August, 2020

PARENTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

The following are a few of the FAQ's for our CIS community, reviewing the start of the Academic Year and movement to the new CIS campus. However, for more details on the below topics, please visit the [CIS website](#):

- KHDA Re-opening Protocol Academic Year 2020-2021
- GEMS Health and Safety Re-Opening Guidelines July 2020
- School Clinic Re-opening Plan Version 1.1 Academic Year 2020-2021
- STS Transport Protocol Academic Year 2020-2021
- CIS Readiness Action Plan_Project New Horizons V2
- DSIB DL Inspection Report 2019_20
- CIS DLP Policy and Procedure 2020
- Back to School FAQ's



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RELOCATION

Why are you relocating Cambridge International School (CIS) to a new campus?

It has become clear that the current CIS campus no longer meets our expectations or the high standard for health and safety that is required at any GEMS school. Making this change allows us to sustain the Cambridge International School operations in the long term and protect, safeguard and improve the learning of the students in our care – not just now, but well into the future. This has led to our decision to relocate GEMS Cambridge International School effective September 2020.

Moving to this new site offers significantly enhanced facilities, and the move will allow us to continue to enhance the 37-year legacy of CIS and build on the history that our school has developed in terms of learner success.

What does this mean for students?

GEMS Cambridge International School will continue to operate as normal in the new campus. We intend to retain all of our schools' unique characteristics and every effort will be put into maintaining and enhancing the ethos of CIS.

From September 2020, GEMS Cambridge International School will offer a revised provision based on our KHDA approved reopening model.

GEMS Cambridge International School will continue to be led by Lachlan Mackinnon, the current Principal/CEO of CIS who has led that school to significant success in its recent Distance Learning Evaluation and recent A Level results. The current Senior Leadership Team will also be on hand to continue supporting Lachlan, the staff and students.

By relocating the CIS campus, students will benefit from improved facilities and an all-round better educational experience for all.

How will you be safeguarding the wellbeing of our students during this move?

The wellbeing of our students will always be our number one priority. Key actions as part of the transition include:

- Teachers and leaders will work with students and parents in the coming weeks to discuss the changes taking place in September 2020 and ensure that they understand the developments. Further communication, advice and guidance will be provided to students and parents prior to the start of the academic year and can be found in these FAQs
- The development of the physical site and robust arrangements and routines related to movement around the school will ensure that students always feel safe and comfortable.

Is there sufficient space for all students in the new campus, and how will you ensure social distancing is adhered to?

There has been extensive planning of the curriculum and enrolments to ensure the campus is used effectively to give students of all ages the best experience possible. There is capacity for growth in all sections of the school. The Principal will continue to review the organisation and facilities of the school to meet the needs of students and provide enriched learning spaces.

Being part of GEMS Education means we have access to a dedicated central Health and Safety team who will support GEMS Cambridge International School with detailed plans and guidance to ensure



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adherence to the regulator's health and safety directives and support our children's safety alongside their education and wellbeing.

When will the move to a new campus take place?

The new GEMS Cambridge International School campus will be ready to welcome students in time for the start of the new academic year in September 2020. All necessary physical adjustment will be made to the buildings before the academic year starts.

Why are you only informing parents now, so close to the start of the academic year?

This decision has been made after extensive discussion with the regulators. It was crucial that we had their consent to be able to communicate with parents and move forward together. We informed parents as soon as we had the regulators' consent. We have been working over the summer to find an alternative campus that meets the safety and facility requirements and provides the very best that our community deserves.

What will happen to the current GEMS Cambridge International School campus?

The current campus will remain empty and no entry will be permitted at this time.

How does this move affect teachers?

We will retain our current staff who will move to the new campus with us.

Will this move affect uniforms?

No, uniforms will be unchanged during the academic year starting September 2020.

How will you manage parking and congestion around the new school?

We will implement a system that will reduce congestion, allow students to be dropped off close to their dedicated entrance areas.



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BACK TO SCHOOL

What will Week 1 look like?

As we are all new to this school, week one will be orientation for all students and staff! During the first four days of school, year groups will be at school on different days if you have opted for the face-to-face model, in order to orientate themselves to the new school and keep Social Distancing and large groups to a minimum. Students will be directed to different areas on these first days so that teachers can then orientate students around the school at allocated times.

FS1 - Every third day in their allocated bubbles (additional information will be sent directly to you)

FS2 – Every other day in their allocated bubbles (additional information will be sent directly to you)

Year 1 & Year 2 – In school on Wednesday 2nd September. Distance Learning students on Thursday 3rd September

Year 3 - Year 6 – In School on Sunday 30th August. Distance Learning on Monday 31st, Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 1st September

Year 7 - Year 9 – In School on Monday 31st August. Distance Learning on Sunday 30th, Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 1st September

Year 10 – Year 13 – In School on Tuesday 1st September. Distance Learning on Sunday 30th August, Monday 31st & Wednesday 1st September

All students who opted for Face-to-Face learning will return to school on Thursday, 3 September 2020.

What time will I drop my child off and pick them up?

FS1 & FS2 - 7.30am Arrival, 7.45am Registration, 12.20pm Dismissal

Year 1 – Year 13 - 7.30am Arrival, 7.45am Registration, 2.30pm Dismissal

Will there be separate entrances for students?

During COVID, there will be separate entrances for students that will be clearly marked and there will be many CIS staff on duty to help direct. Each entrance is covered by a Thermal Scanner.

Can parents or guardians enter the school?

Currently, no parent is allowed onto the school campus except for explicitly going to the school's reception area. However, FS1, FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 students can be dropped off at the allocated entrance and collected by one parent/guardian. Please click on https://gmsedu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/p/p_singh_cis/EcJQXDEMSt9NlgAq9b8uJsoBQo54sJuu6tuiv6vYkOdWZA?e=iOYV6R

that indicates the classrooms in the building and designated entrance points.

Will school buses operate?

Bus routes will be revised based on the demand of parents wishing to continue to use bus transportation. All temperatures will be taken at pick-up points and any cases will be documented and notified to the relevant parties.

- Daily records will be maintained
- Buses will be disinfected before and after each use



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- Adequate signage will be placed inside the bus
- Procedures are in place should a child display signs of COVID 19 while in the bus
- Marking will be on the seats for guidance

What will it look like if my child opts for 100% remote learning?

If your child opts for 100% remote learning, provision will predominantly be the same as last term. More detail of this will be sent directly to you from each section of the school. As we receive final numbers of families wanting to stay at home, this may influence the nature of the Educational Plan. Classrooms are being set up for live streaming of lessons and students at home will have the same access to the teacher as students in the classroom.

Will there be after school Extra Curricular Activities?

At this present time, no ECA's will be provided due to health and safety restrictions. However, as we appreciate the new term, the new school, the new normal, this may be revised and parents will be informed. However, paid booster classes will run online through Microsoft Teams.

Are there changes to the school fees?

At present school fees will remain the same. There are no discounts at this present time. If anything changes, parents will be informed directly from GEMS Corporate Office.

How will I collect my child's Books and Uniforms?

As already sent out in earlier correspondence, all school uniforms are to be collected directly from Threads. Alternatively, you can order uniform on Threads online shop. All school books are to be purchased online and will be delivered directly to your home.

Will the canteen be open?

Yes, Slices will be operating on a limited capacity, with only packaged products. We do however encourage you to provide snacks and food from home.

If we choose face to face classroom learning, will it be all five days or alternative days?

This will be dependent on how many students decide to continue with distance learning. If the majority of students opt to continue with DL, then there is a possibility that face to face to learners can attend school on a daily basis. This will only become clear when we have all parent responses.

Those who select face to face class learning, if it is alternative days, when they are home would they also follow the same online lessons which distance learning students follow?

Yes, in Year 3-Year 13, whenever at home, students will access online learning at the same time as in the physical classroom. In FS1 to Year 2, a reduced timetable will be in place to ensure that work at home is manageable. We understand that our youngest learners need the most support, therefore our timetable will reflect this.

If we choose distance learning, will lessons be live or offline? Will they follow the same class timetable with six subjects each day?

Although subject to change, currently Distance Learning lessons will be a combination of synchronous



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and asynchronous lessons. Distance Learning students will follow the same timetable as those students who are in school.

If we want to change our chosen option in the middle of the term, will it be possible or can it only be done for Term 2?

Parents will only have the opportunity to change their choice from Distance Learning to attending school at the end of Term 1, ready for the start of Term 2.

Will this choice only be applied to Term 1 or for the whole academic year 2020-2021?

Your initial choice is for Term 1.

How are you going to ensure that my FS child follows social distancing when at school?

Both you at home, and us at school will be talking to the children about keeping their distance and this will be reinforced as much as possible throughout the day. The classroom will be set up in a way to help children keep a safe distance and all children will wash their hands before and after each activity. Toys will be sanitised once used and others will not be able to use it until this is complete. It is vital that if your child is unwell that they stay at home. Our smaller groupings in FS1 will also help minimise contact.

Where will my Early Years child eat their snack?

Your child will eat their snack in the classroom. Their table will be sanitised and they will wash their hands before and after they eat.

How does the school intend to address subjects like Drama, Art and Design, Performing Arts and Creative Media and AS/A Level Science practical lessons?

Students taking IGCSE Drama, IGCSE / AS/A Level Art and Design, BTEC Performing Arts and BTEC Creative Media are recommended to come to school physically as per their timetable. For the AS Science subjects, it is recommended that students cover the required apparatus and techniques through observations of demonstrations or simulations of practical activities. Therefore, students with these optional subjects are recommended to select the face to face option.

How will the October/November examination sessions be conducted?

Registration for the October/November session is ongoing and will be open until the first week of September. Examinations will be held maintaining social distancing protocol and the expectations from the board. However, should there be any change from the examining boards, parents will be notified.

Is the school conducting Science practical sessions for the students taking the October/November examinations?

Yes, these will be held after school. A schedule will be shared once registration is complete.

Will the school be conducting a Mock Examination for students writing the October/November sessions?

Yes, these will be held at school during normal school time, following a schedule that will be shared with parents.

How will assessments in the Secondary School be held?

All assessments in Year 7 -10 will be held online through Phoenix Classroom.



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Assessments in Year 11- 13 such as Midline, Pre- Mock and Mock will be held physically on campus following an exam schedule and ensuring social distancing. All students are expected to physically attend these assessments in school.

What would PE lessons look like in school?

As per the protocol, no contact games will be permitted. Students will be catered to non-contact games and activities such as badminton, aerobics and various fitness programs during PE lessons.

What provision has school made for students during the break time?

Throughout the school day, break times will be staggered for different sections of the school. Students will be provided with designated areas within the school premises that would be accessible for them to use during their break. Students are recommended not to indulge in any sort of contact games during this period. Students should also bring their own packed lunch/snacks from home. There will be no water dispensers available for re-filling water bottles, however, students will be able to purchase water at the school canteen.



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HEALTH AND SAFETY

What protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our learning community during this pandemic?

Any student with a temperature of 37.5 or higher will not be allowed entry to the school. These students will be taken to a dedicated medical room within the school, where further temperature and medical checks will be made, and families subsequently notified. Temperature checks will also be taken before entering the school bus.

FS1, FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 families (one adult) are to drop off and pick up at the classroom door ensuring they adhere to correct social distancing. If your child is confident enough to enter on their own, this would be preferable but we understand that young children sometimes need this comfort to allow them to start their day right. Year 3 to Year 13 families are to drop off and pick up from the designated areas with no interaction inside the school. There will be no access to the rest of the school facility by family members or visitors.

The GEMS health and safety department has established a robust set of health, safety and operational procedures and protocols in order to support the safe reopening of schools. Quality assurance checks will also be conducted to monitor the effectiveness.

Desks will be set at a safe distance apart of 1.5 meters, and physical markings will be used in classrooms to ensure desks remain in the correct locations. Teachers will be positioned at the front of the classroom area, at a distance of 1.5 meters from the front row desks.

Safety markings will be set up throughout corridors and these markings will dictate safe distances of two meters. Students will be monitored to ensure adherence. One-way pedestrian flows will be required and will be marked out accordingly.

Will students and staff wear masks?

Teachers and students above the age of six are required to wear face masks, not face shields. Face masks can be removed during strenuous physical activity. Face shields can be worn for those employees who are in direct contact with students. It is suggested that students bring two disposable masks to school per day or one re-usable option. It will be the responsibility of the students to ensure that they bring the required number of masks each day and ensure any re-usable masks are washed in line with the manufacturer's guidelines.

What training will the staff have before school opens?

All staff will undergo specific COVID-19 training prior to the start of the new academic year. In addition, teachers will regularly communicate and provide information to students on the associated risks, safe practices and controls. All students will be briefed on this plan during the start of the academic year.

What are the cleaning and hygiene procedures?

Our school has conducted a review of all potential frequent touch points, including door handles, light switches, handrails, taps and washbasins. Increased cleaning and sanitisation will be conducted across these areas throughout the duration of the day. A thorough cleaning of the school will be



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conducted each day by an approved vendor, using approved Municipality chemicals. A thorough deep clean and sanitisation of the school will be conducted at the end of each week. Cleaning staff will wear the required PPE for all cleaning activities.

In the event there is a potential or confirmed COVID-19 case, how will it be handled? Managing a potential Covid-19 case in school.

If a student is suspected of being a positive Covid-19 case, they will be immediately removed to the school isolation room. Only the school medical and emergency services team are permitted to enter the isolation room and full PPE must be worn when entering the room. The students' parents will be contacted immediately by the School Doctor and the required authorities will be notified. The school will strictly adhere to the health authority requirements for managing and transferring any suspected cases of Covid-19. All areas which may have been accessed will be thoroughly deep cleaned and sanitised following any suspected cases. These areas will be closed immediately until the deep clean is completed. Tracing will be conducted to identify those who may have come into contact with the student or staff member. Health authority requirements will be strictly adhered to. This may include additional testing and isolation of persons who have come into contact with a positive case. Each school will have a detailed medical procedure plan in place, which will detail the emergency procedures for each school. This will be developed in consultation with the GEMS Senior Medical Supervisor and school medical teams.

Managing a confirmed case

A confirmed case could be in the form of a student, staff member or contractor. In such cases the person will be in isolation for a period of time, this may be at home or in a medical facility. Upon receiving notification of a confirmed case, a tracing exercise will be conducted by the school. This will identify all other persons who may have come into contact with the positive case.

Any persons who have come into close contact with the confirmed positive case will be sent home from school immediately, with a potential isolation period of 14 days. Further advice from the authorities, including the health authority and education authority, will be required on this aspect. No persons who have tested positive will be permitted to return to school without first providing evidence of a negative test result, in line with authority requirements. All relevant areas will undergo a thorough deep clean and sanitisation exercise.

Communication of a confirmed case

It is important that parents are provided with suitable information regarding confirmed cases within the school. It is also vital that people's individual privacy is maintained. Parents will be notified when there is a positive case to a class member or class teacher. The required procedures will be followed for notifying the authorities. A detailed GEMS medical manual has been developed and the manual complies with UAE health authority requirements.



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CONTACT

If I no longer wish to stay at the school, what are my options?

We will fully support any families who wish to explore other school options. Please call 04 282 4646 to speak to a member of our parent relations team or email our Registrar, Ms. Elizabeth Varghese at Elizabeth.V_CIS@gemsedu.com. Any families who choose to transfer will be eligible for a refund as per KHDA guidance.



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