

# مـحرســة كــامــبـردج انــتــرنــاشــيــونـال Cambridge International School, Dubai



Cambridge International School, Dubai is a Microsoft Mentor School. Mentor School status is recognition of the school's commitment to innovation and ability to overcome obstacles in preparing students to be 21st century learners as well as providing coaching for other schools in the region. Cambridge International School is the first GEMS School and the only School in the UAE to be awarded this title.

As a mentor school CIS will receive coaching and guidance by world's leading educationists and Microsoft. This will further strengthen our innovative culture and provide opportunities and skills for our students which enables them to be successful in their studies and future careers.





# **GEMS Education** – a long term commitment to quality education

#### Why the 'GEMS' name?

Our name and the GEMS Education logo symbolise our belief that every child is a GEM...precious and unique, ready to shine and achieve his or her hopes and dreams.

We value and cherish our children in school just as they are at home by providing individual care and attention. We re-enforce that each child:

- has special talents
- has limitless potential
- is unique there is no other child exactly the same in the entire world.

We value parents' trust in allowing us to provide the education and care that will enable their children to grow, learn and be ready for a bright future.

#### Why a 'GEMS Education'?

For over 50 years, GEMS Education has approached its educational offering from a unique perspective.

We believe that a quality education is about Ad Vitam Paramus - 'preparing for life'. The GEMS approach to learning is one which focuses not only on academic excellence but also in helping students develop their character, creativity, values, personal leadership and the spirit of enterprise necessary for them to achieve their full potential as global citizens and leaders of the future.

We believe that a high quality education, with an international outlook, is critical in an increasingly competitive global environment. 'Globalisation' maybe the catch-cry of today but we have acknowledged its impact for decades, and prepared our students accordingly.

GEMS Education's multi-faceted approach to learning prepares students for the rigors of higher learning and equips them with the skills and versatility they require for professional employment.

GEMS values-driven education is expressed through our four core values which are woven into every curricula offered by GEMS Schools and are at the core of our DNA. They are not symbolic, we live and breathe them. We encourage independent learning, empowering students to take on responsibility. Through our values our students become confident, tolerant, resilient people of integrity, capable of both leadership and compassion. Through our CSR initiatives, GEMS students also develop a social conscience. They are taught the values and responsibilities needed to become active members of the community, something which the modern world is desperate for.

#### GEMS Core Values include:

**Leading through innovation** - Find the courage to challenge convention

Growing by learning - Strive to develop your potential

Pursuing excellence - Work to continually exceed expectations

**Global citizenship** - Making an active contribution to your local and global community

#### Academics

Over the last four years alone, GEMS students have been accepted into 1050 universities in 53 countries. Graduating GEMS students have been accepted by some of the most prestigious universities and colleges around the world. GEMS students have gone to 66 out of the top 100 universities in the world and past ten years alone, GEMS students have won over 900 international, regional and local awards for Academics, Sports and the Arts. Furthermore, all our schools significantly exceed all national and international benchmarks in student outcomes.



#### Philanthropy - Schools with a conscience

Through GEMS four core values GEMS schools are heavily focused on philanthropy. They are schools with a conscience. Each has their own charitable activities that fall under the Varkey GEMS Foundation. Students are taught the real meaning of compassion.

For every student enrolled at a GEMS School one hundred underprivileged children will be impacted. The Foundations aim is to support 10 million children globally.

We are proud to say that over the past 50 years, GEMS students, teaching staff and corporate staff have raised over US\$ 40 million for charities around the world.

#### **GEMS International Schools**

The sheer diversity of nationalities in GEMS International schools provides students with a unique international understanding through interaction and by studying and experiencing other cultures and belief systems. This global cross cultural experience is extended further through a special initiative where GEMS students are linked, via video-conferences, to students in non-GEMS schools around the globe.

GEMS provides education to students in Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and the Middle East. Many GEMS parents are aspirational, career minded professionals so the GEMS network of schools provides parents with the opportunity to transfer their children from one GEMS school to another as their circumstances change.

Through our global network of award winning schools GEMS Education is providing a high quality holistic education to over 142,000 students from 151 countries. GEMS employs over 11,000 education professionals, specialists and staff from 80 countries.

#### **Education Expertise**

GEMS has selected a team of world renowned educators to ensure it delivers global best practice in the field of education. These include leaders who have excelled in education reform, curriculum development and teaching and learning practices. They are unequalled in international experience and include individuals who have established schools all over the world. All GEMS teachers have access to the GEMS Professional Development programme which is one of the largest, most comprehensive in-house programmes of its type in the world. Over 150 senior academics are trained in international accreditation, inspection methodologies and school self evaluation.

#### Advisors

GEMS Education is supported by a network of eminent, international advisors which include world leaders and experts who are "game – changers" and influencers on the global stage.

#### Parent Engagement

GEMS is also leading the world by becoming the first educational organisation of its type to introduce a parent engagement strategy into all its schools. International research is clear. The biggest single reason a child does well in their education is when their parents take a real, active and consistent interest in what they are learning in school at home. Research suggests that a parent who is actively and consistently engaged with their child can add the equivalent of two to three years of extra education to that student over a school career. When parents are engaged children get better grades, have fewer discipline problems and are more likely to be successful in their lives.

#### History

GEMS first school was founded in 1968 by educators and it was run by educators. It was a school that defined our approach to education. It was an approach built around listening to the community and tailoring our schools to the community's needs. 50 years later the company has seen a remarkable expansion from a family run business to a multi-national company with global reach and reputation. GEMS Education is making private education accessible to communities all around the world.



### Welcome to Cambridge International School, Dubai

Cambridge International School is a school that provides a high quality standard of education in a supportive and friendly learning environment. Teaching the National Curriculum for England from Foundation Stage to Year 13 (3-18), we provide opportunities for students to develop their full potential through a rich academic programme combined with a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Our educational programmes place significant emphasis on:

- The attainment of academic excellence
- Development of student confidence, initiative and independence
- Development of the skills needed for lifelong learning
- Individualised student support
- Constructive partnership with parents

Cambridge International School has a proven track record of success in both academic and extracurricular activities. The School prepares students for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) course as well as other GCSE courses, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and A2 Advanced Level Examinations of the University of Cambridge and Edexcel (UK). The School also offers Edexcel BTEC vocational qualifications in a range of subjects. Results are consistently well above the UK national average.



# An Education for Life

The National Curriculum for England provides students with an education that is recognised and held in high esteem around the world. Acknowledged for its academic standards and well-rounded approach to education, the curriculum provides students with transferable skills and the opportunity to gain access to reputable universities, worldwide. Students from Cambridge International School have been accepted to prestigious universities around the world.

### An International Experience

The school offers an international experience for students through a student community of over 65 nationalities. Students learn to appreciate the diversity the world has to offer by participating in a range of educational programmes from Foundation Stage to Year 13.

# Achievement Centre (ACe)

The term 'Special Educational Need' (SEN) has a legal definition, referring to student who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most students of the same age.

Students with determination will learn and achieve in a safe, supportive, engaging and appropriately challenging common learning environment. Within such a setting, their personal, social, emotional and academic needs are fully met.

The concept of inclusive education lies at the heart of effective education. It encompasses the principles of diversity, personalization, equity, respect, acceptance and enrichment. When we improve the quality of inclusion within our schools, we improve education for all. Inclusive education happens when children with varied needs participate and learn together in the same classes with those typically developing.

CIS supports inclusive education and admits students irrespective of their gender, race, disability or special educational needs, provided that we are able to meet their needs without unduly prejudicing the education and the welfare of other pupils.

A provision is mapped in collaboration with subject teachers, Learning Support Assistants and Director of Achievement Centre. Varied provisions are made to accommodate alternative pathways to enhance learning.

# Leadership Opportunities

Underpinning our strong academic programme is our belief in a holistic education. The development of student leadership opportunities and student leaders is a core aspect in the philosophy of the school.

Cambridge International Schools offers a significant number of opportunities for students to be involved in student leadership throughout the school.

### Student Class Leader Structure

The Senior Student Leadership Team (SSLT) led by the Head Boy and Head Girl work closely with the teachers and the Senior Leadership Team. This provides a platform for students to have a voice as well as enabling them to lead on key initiatives within the school.

The Senior Student Leadership team work with Student Leaders (from Year 2 - Year 13) across a range of areas including Student Council, Prefects, Inter-House and Community Service.

Responsibilities include:

- To empower students to be partners in their learning journey
- To be both internal and external ambassadors for the school and to act as role models for all students at CIS.
- To help lead in key school initiatives
- To provide a channel for student voice
- To support students in adhering to the school rules
- To represent the student body at events such as the Open Evening and Awards Ceremony

### Extracurricular Programme

A wide range of extra curricular activities including sports and academic support the development of leadership across the school.

A diverse range of sports teams provide the opportunity for students to develop their leadership capabilities through formal positions such as Team Captain and Vice Captain.

Leadership is further developed through programs such as the Outward Bound Residential Camp.

The most recent program to be introduced is the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Program.

### **Community Service**

This dynamic pastoral program is an integral and compulsory part of the Post 16 curriculum. Every Post 16 student develops their personal skills and attributes by carrying out a variety of community service activities across the Primary, Middle and Senior schools as well as within the ACe (Achievement Centre), PE department, Administration and outside of school (e.g. Centre for Special Needs, Rashid Pediatric and visits to Old People's Home).

As the program is run for students by students it offers many opportunities for all those wanting to take an active leadership role within the school. The success of the program is due to the cooperation and feedback from the students and staff who are regularly surveyed for ideas on how it can be improved. The Community Service Program is a unique opportunity offered to our Post 16 students that typifies our school vision.

# The Curriculum

# The Early Years Foundation Stage (FS 1 and FS 2) and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2)

The Early Years Foundation programme is for children aged three to five years of age. We create an environment that promotes a happy and confident start to school life. Throughout the year, children experience an exciting curriculum, both indoors and outdoors, designed to meet the needs of young children. Through fun, creative and play based curriculum, children are challenged to reach his/her individual potential. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is designed to prepare and support children to begin the National Curriculum for England, which begins around the age of five in Key Stage 1 and continues through to Key Stage 4. The Early Years Curriculum comprises of seven areas of learning.

#### 3 Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- 4 Specific areas:
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Areas of learning are implemented through planned, purposeful play and a mix of child initiated and teacher led learning. All children work towards achieving Early Learning Goals according to their individual characteristics and abilities; their progress is monitored through assessment that is holistic and ongoing.

The Key Stage 1 (Year & 2) programme is based on the National Curriculum for England. Children are encouraged to become independent; capable and competent learners through strong transition programs with FS2. Children in Year 1 experience a longer day than in FS, providing more opportunities to develop their personalities, natural abilities and talents.

Targets and expectations develop with the children to maintain the high standards and achievements previously accomplished. Learning continues to be a balance of child led and teacher led. Children are encouraged to work in a variety of ways and more fully understand and articulate their learning goals. Children are supported to achieve their potential by continuous assessment and where required we target areas of learning with extra support. Citizenship is deemed important and children are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility. By the end of Year 2 all children will have developed social skills, love of learning, be able to read and write, and use simple Mathematics at a level appropriate for their age or beyond.

Cambridge prides itself on children's involvement, ownership and understanding of the learning community they belong to. Children develop their creative talents through PE, ICT, Arts, Arabic, Music and Social Studies.



# Key Stage 2 Year 3 to Year 6

Students in this programme follow Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum for England, which continues to build on the foundations that are established in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

Ongoing assessment ensures that each student's progress and development are continuous and meet predetermined standards. We encourage students to think independently, use their initiative and to participate in a meaningful and active manner in the learning process.

Our core curriculum includes instruction in English, Mathematics, Science, and Information and Communications Technology. Arabic is taught to all students and caters for native and non-native speakers. The overall education experience is enhanced and supplemented with instructions in Art, Music, Physical Education, Islamic Education, Social Studies and Moral Education.

A selection of extracurricular activities broadens the opportunities for students to enhance their natural abilities and to challenge themselves through development of new interest areas. Extracurricular activities may include Drama, Choir, Computers, Art and Design, a variety of sports activities and a number of school clubs.

Throughout the educational experience at Cambridge International School, students are involved in learning the practical use and application of Information and Communications Technology across all subject areas.

Development of leadership qualities and skills are put into practical application in Key Stage 2 providing each student the opportunity to share class and school responsibilities that nurture organisational skills, co-operation, accountability and team spirit.

By the end of Year 6, all students will have experienced a well-rounded education and have developed a strong character, articulate expression, confidence, and be well-prepared for their secondary education.





# Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 – IGCSE, GCSE, A levels and BTEC

Year 7, 8 and 9 known as Key Stage 3, follow the National Curriculum for England and includes the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, ICT, Arabic and French. Art and Design and Physical Education, Islamic Studies and Social Studies (HSS) are also offered. At the end of Key Stage 3, students complete a CAT-4 assessment which measures cognitive ability to help students, parents and teachers identify applicable pathways.

Years 9, 10 and 11, known as Key Stage 4, is where GCSE, IGCSE and BTEC curriculums are introduced. A range of academic pathways are offered to cater for a variety of student needs and interests. These include the compulsory subjects of English, Mathematics, Arabic, Physical Education, Islamic Education (for Muslims) and Global Perspectives (for non-Muslims). Optional subjects include ICT, French, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, History, Geography, Business Studies, Accounts, Economics, Art, Drama, Travel and Tourism, Media Studies and Environmental Management. BTEC Level 2 courses are offered in Performing Arts, Sport, Media, IT, Travel and Tourism as well as Engineering. Subjects offered to students may change from year to year as the school responds to societal demands.

In year 12 and 13, the final two years of school, students sit for the AS and A levels. Edexcel BTEC vocational courses have also been introduced. Again, a wide range of subjects are offered which assist in preparing students for higher studies or a multitude of career opportunities. Key leadership qualities are very important in these senior years. Students in these classes will be challenged to accept and develop responsibilities as leaders and citizens of the world.



# Excellence at the IGCSE, GCSE, BTEC and A Level

Cambridge International School, students continue to excel in external examinations including the results in the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), General Certificate of Education (GCSE) AS and A level. For IGCSE. 42.1 % of student entries obtained were A\*/A; 13.61 % of our students gained straight A\*/A; 70 % of our students gained 5 A\*/C. For AS Level 24.2 % of student entries obtained A; 41.4 % of students achieved A – B; The overall pass rate at Cambridge International was 90.7 %, 60.2 % of entries graded A-C. For A Level 25.2 % of student entries obtained A\*-A, as compared to the UK National Average of 26.3 % this year; of the students who have taken three or more A level exams, 12.7 % of these students achieved 3 A\*-A; 45.8 % of students achieved A\* - B, while again 53.1 % of their peers in England achieved the same. The overall pass rate at Cambridge International was 98.8 %, 73.6 % of entries graded A\*-C.

Vocational education at Cambridge continues to excel, with 41% of students who studied the BTEC Subsidiary Diploma achieving Distinctions (Equivalent to an A grade at full A level). The increasing popularity of vocational courses has led to Cambridge expanding the provision across the school, including several shorter 'certificate' courses at Post 16 and an increased focus on students accessing at least one BTEC course in Key Stage 4. The school remains a Cambridge International Fellowship status which is granted only to the best schools.

# **Extracurricular** Activities

Cambridge International School, Dubai, offers a rich selection of extracurricular activities designed to enhance students' all-round development. The school has earned an excellent reputation for its inter-school sports activities and tournaments. Regular sports activities include Swimming, Cricket, Football and more. Photography, Chess, Drama, Arts, Environmental Clubs and Debates are regular features of the after-school programme. Support classes in a variety of subject areas are extremely popular with students who require additional guidance and for those who merely wish to acquire additional expertise. Additionally, there are IT courses in CISCO, Microsoft and Robotics offered at an additional cost.





Executive Senior Leadership Team at CIS, Dubai

# Education Professionals

Our highly qualified and motivated teaching staff have been carefully selected for their teaching excellence and ability to actively engage students in the learning process. We implement an ongoing programme of professional development workshops and seminars provided by both local and international experts. Staff are trained in the Cambridge International Education Teacher Training Certificate. An international senior leadership team head a professional team of teachers from more than 17 countries to meet the needs of our international student population.

# Partnership with Parents

Through a regular communication system - written reports, SMS, email and a programme of consultation meetings - parents are regularly updated on the progress of their children and on activities in the school. Parents are encouraged to be fully engaged in their children's learning journey through regular communication with Learning Managers and teachers. The parent body is supported through the Cambridge International Parent Association (CIPA). CIPA's role is to encourage and maintain involvement of parents in the school, support both new and old parents and facilitate communication between parents and the school.

The school has a dedicated Parent Cafe where parents can meet one another and members of the school staff. Parent Forums including a monthly Lunch with the Principal and Parent Coffee Mornings are conducted on a regular basis. These meetings provide an opportunity to all our parents to voice any concerns, suggestions or ideas they might have.





# School Facilities

### **Resource and Facilities**

Set in an attractive campus and conveniently located in Garhoud, Cambridge International School offers students a stimulating learning environment with a variety of features and facilities.

# Sports and Outdoor Facilities

A shaded swimming pool, cricket nets, full size astro turf pitch, complement a covered sports areas and a multi purpose hall.

A separate, well equipped play space and Outdoor Learning Area are available for students in Foundation Stage to Year 2.

# Science and ICT

The school features a fully-equipped, science block and five computer (ICT) rooms, with computer access also available in the Learning Resource Centre.

# Learning Resource Centre and Arts

There is a well-resourced Learning Resource Centre. In addition, there are art and drama studios that provide students with a wide array of resources for artistic expression and exploration.





# Medical Care

The school has a well-equipped medical clinic under the control of a full time doctor who works in liaison with three nurses. All cases of injury or illness receive immediate medical attention. Whenever specialised medical aid is required, emergency transport is available to take the student to seek further medical assistance. All students receive regular medical examinations and our clinic works in close conjunction with the Government of Dubai, Department of Health and Medical Services, Primary Health Care Section in offering health care programs.

### Book Store

Textbooks, workbooks and stationery are available at the school store in accordance with prescribed books for each class and subject options.

# School Canteen

A clean and well-stocked canteen sells healthy snacks and drinks during break times. Hygiene and strict quality control of food are regarded as top priorities.

# School Uniform

Cambridge International School believes in the importance of a school uniform. Students are expected to wear their uniforms proudly. Uniforms are available from the school supplier who pays careful attention to details such as fabric quality and colour.

What people say about us: 'Older students actively take on responsibility and leadership roles and act as ambassadors for the school through active participation in initiatives within and outside the school community.'



# Parents' Quotes

"It was an enjoyable experience to give a talk to the students of Cambridge International School. The students were very inquisitive and interactive. I look forward to participating more in the parent engagement activities of the school."

"The reason that I wanted to communicate my praise and appreciation to the Learning Support Assistant, is an almost miraculous improvement which I have witnessed in my son throughout his stay at Cambridge International School, both at the academic forefront as well as in the behavioural aspect. The teacher has not only helped him to stay at par with his peers academically but she has contributed tremendously to restore his self-confidence (which was shattered during his previous schooling experiences)."

"I am writing this letter to let you know about our excellent experience with Cambridge International School. I have been to numerous schools in this country for my child's admission but I have never experienced such professionalism, dedication and compassion which I witnessed at Cambridge International School. I am absolutely ecstatic that my child will be attending GEMS-CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. I strongly believe that my child will flourish and grow and his potential will be fully unleashed in this wonderful school."

# University Acceptance

- Alberta University, Canada
- Aston University, UK
- Berkeley University, USA
- Boston University, USA
- Broklav University, Poland
- Carlton University, Canada
- Case Western Reserve University, USA
- Charles Stuart University, Melbourne, Australia
- City University, UK
- Columbia University, NY, USA
- Concordia University, Quebec, Canada
- Cornell Medical College, Qatar
- Cornell University, USA
- Dalhousie University, Canada
- Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, British Columbia, Canada
- Georgia Tech University, USA
- Humber College, Canada
- Imperial College, London
- Indiana University, USA
- Kingston University, UK
- London School of Economics, UK
- Manchester University, UK
- McGill University, Quebec, Canada
- McMaster University, Canada
- Monash College, UK
- Montana University, USA
- Murdoch University, Australia
- National University for Science and Technology, Pakistan

- New York Film Academy, USA
- New York University, Abu Dhabi
- Newcastle University, UK
- Perdu University, USA
- Queen's University, Canada
- RMIT University, Australia
- Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
- Roehampton University, UK
- Royal College Holloway, London
- Royal College of Surgeons, Bahrain
- Ryerson University, Canada
- Singapore Management University, Singapore
- Surrey University, UK
- Sussex University, UK
- Swansea University, UK
- UCLA, USA
- University College of London, UK
- University of Auckland, New Zealand
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- University of Capetown, South Africa
- University of Massachusettes, USA
- University of Nottingham, Malaysia
- University of Nottingham, UK
- University of Reading, UK
- University of Toronto, Canada
- University of Virginia, USA
- University of Warwick, UK
- University of Waterloo, Canada
- Weil Cornell Medical College, Qatar
- York University, Canada

### Local Universities

- American University of Dubai
- American University of Sharjah
- Dubai Medical University, UAE
- Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, Dubai
- Gulf Medical University, Ajman

- Herriot Watt University, Dubai
- Middlesex University, Dubai
- SAE Institute, Dubai
- University of Sharjah
- University of Wollongong, Dubai



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