



# GEMS CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL.

2021-2022

## Parent Handbook

### A message from the principal

Welcome to the GEMS Cambridge International School. Our vision is to provide an outstanding world class education for all of the students in our care. We know what matters and what makes a difference to learning and staff at all levels promote a culture of inclusion, ambition, challenge, support and achievement for all that is totally student centred. Children are our priority and our expectations and support allow every child to excel. We create amazing opportunities for students and collaborate effectively with parents, who are our most valued partners. This helps us continually build on what we are doing and often takes us into new territory. Every child and member of staff is a current Guinness World Record Holder and we aim to break more records each year.

Getting to really know each child in our care is essential and we assess and use assessment information to improve learning. Our highly effective teachers understand the essential characteristics needed to deliver effective learning and they provide a truly inclusive international community where collaboration results in personal excellence.

We always use the most cutting edge international research to develop our own bespoke professional development programme.

Our strength lies in our many different faces of success – academic, leadership, sporting, creative or innovation – we find it, nurture it and celebrate it. We are a big school that celebrates the little things that can change students' lives forever and we are exceptionally proud of our student ambassadors who have the potential to be world leaders.



Our students lead the school during 'Take over Day', hosts visit from NASA and visit world leading universities such as Harvard. Everything is possible at Cambridge. In Year 6 we deliver the Cambridge Award, focused on student Creativity, Innovation and Enterprise. Our secondary students attended the Model United Nations event at Harvard University, where they debated with students from around the world, and were awarded first prize in the international essay competition. Innovation competition first

prizes include the Idea Factor Competition organised by Abu Dhabi University and the Future Intelligence Programme sponsored by Emirates Islamic Bank. Sporting successes have included 19 winning or second placed teams in Emirate and UAE competitions, 239 medals won by the swim squads, two male athletes being ranked in the top five outstanding performers at the UAE Teen Sports Awards and winners and runners-up at the World Ju Jitsu Championships.

The GEMS Core values of Leading through Innovation, Pursuing Excellence, Growing by Learning and Global Citizenship are embedded in our delivery of the National Curriculum for England, IGCSEs and A Levels. We are respectful and inclusive, celebrating diversity and are committed to the well-being of people and of the environment. We are open-minded, creative, resilient, reflective, and passionate and determined in embracing and driving positive change being ethical in our actions and accountable for them. The GEMS Cambridge International School exceeds international expectations and accelerated progress is the norm in a learning environment that is safe, happy and vibrant. We know this from our Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) Health and Safety and Arabic Audits. We work closely with ADEK and are proud to support their implementation of innovative educational policies, plans and programs that aim to achieve the objectives of national development in accordance with the highest international standards. Being part of the Cambridge and GEMS family is the best investment you will ever make in your child's future.

Kelvin Hornsby

Principal & CEO

The GEMS Cambridge International School – Abu Dhabi

### Important Dates



#### Autumn Term 2021

Sunday 29th August New Student Induction Day

Monday 30th August Start of Autumn Term for all students (FS students begin phased entry)

Sunday 17th – Thursday 21st October Half-term break

Thursday 9th December Last day of Autumn Term

#### Spring Term 2022

Sunday 2nd January First day of Spring Term

Sunday 13th – Thursday 17th Feb Half-term break

Thursday 24th March Last day of Spring Term

#### Summer Term 2022

Sunday 10th April First day of Summer Term

Monday 4th July Last day of Summer Term

**All Islamic holidays will be announced subject to confirmation from the Ministry of education.**

## CIA is A "Premium experience and an investment in personal excellence"

CIA is an international, world class school delivering the highest possible standards of care, teaching and learning and leadership. Students are prepared and are confident to compete globally with their peers and make outstanding progress on their journey to become leaders for the future.



## School Security Identification Badges

Policy 64 of the Private Schools Policy & Guidance Manual 2014-2015 (English Version), the School commits to safeguarding its students and staff through issuing new parents with Temporary Access Identity cards which must be on display for the security team to check when leaving or accessing all entrance points.



The Temporary Access Identity cards carry the family's unique identity number and remain the property of the School. These items are not transferrable and are valid until such time Parent/Guardian access cards have been prepared. It is the Parents/Guardians' responsibility to provide the College with their up to date photographs prior to joining the School. Replacement items are available due to malfunction, however should a Parent/Guardian misplace or lose an access card, substitutes are chargeable. The School will issue two access cards to parents free of charge and will prepare a maximum of two additional access cards for designated guardians at a chargeable rate of 50 dhs each.

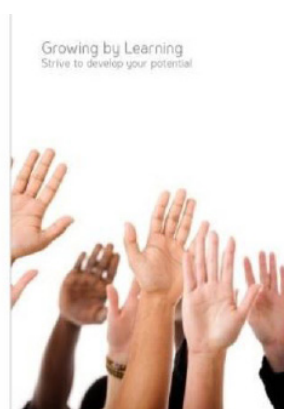
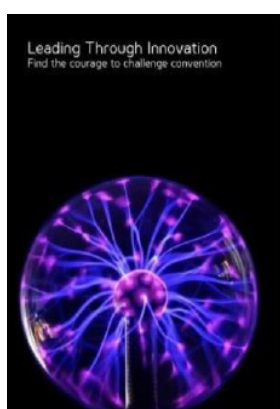
## CIA USPs

1. The student experience at CIA facilitates the development of exemplar attitudes and behaviour as a result of the very positive, happy, and caring relationships within the school.
2. A truly inclusive international community where the student contribution to school life reflects the development of their leadership qualities resulting in high performance for all, contributing to the UAE National Agenda.
3. Extensive local, national and international links enable a range of high quality cultural, sporting, creative and innovative experiences to be offered.
4. The very effective learning environment enables all students to develop a deep understanding of UAE and other world cultures with a focus on community and social responsibility.
5. Highly developed stakeholder relationships result in the optimisation of student potential and high performance in all areas of life.



## Core Values

- Leading through innovation
- Pursuing excellence
- Growing by learning
- Global citizenship
- Care
- One Team
- Always learning



Always Learning



One Team



Excellence



Care



Today's dreamers are tomorrow's geniuses.



Others see kids at play. We see genius at work.



We see genius in every child.



Genius comes in all shapes and sizes.



## Academic Calendar (British - Gems Cambridge International School L.L.C.- 9232) 2021-2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Week								Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Week												
Aug-21	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	W1	Term 1 for Students Starts	Term-2	Jan-22	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	W20	Term 2 for Students Starts
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	W2				9	10	11	12	13	14	15	W21	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	W3				16	17	18	19	20	21	22	W22	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	W4				23	24	25	26	27	28	29	W23	
Sep-21	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	W5	Mid Term Break 1	Feb-22	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	W25	Mid Term Break 2	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	W6			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	W26		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	W7			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	W27		
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	W8			27	28	1	2	3	4	5	W28		
Oct-21	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	W9	Term 2 for Students Ends	Mar-22	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	W29	Spring Vacation for Students 27-Mar to 7-Apr	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	W10			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	W30		
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	W11			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	W31		
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	W12			27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
Nov-21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	W13	Term 3 for Students Starts	Apr-22	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	W14			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	W32		
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	W15			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	W33		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	W16			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	W34		
Dec-21	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	W17	National Holiday	May-22	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	W35	Eid Holiday	
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	W18			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	W36		
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	W19			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	W37		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				22	23	24	25	26	27	28	W38		
								Winter vacation for students 12-Dec to 30-Dec	Term-3	Jun-22	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	W39	Term 3 for Students Ends; Last day of academic year for students	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25					5	6	7	8	9	10	11	W40		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1					12	13	14	15	16	17	18	W41		
											19	20	21	22	23	24	25	W42		
									26	27	28	29	30	1	2	W43				
									3	4	5	6	7	8	9	W44				

Term Start / End date

Mid term break 1 and mid term break 2

Public holidays

- Term Start / End date
- Mid term break 1 and mid term break 2
- Public holidays

## School Timings

Students should be in classroom at 7.30am to 2:15pm. We ask that all parents park their cars at allocated parking zones and follow the school's safeguarding safety policy and the road safety laws on the commercial road outside the school. Common courtesy and consideration of everyone's safety and wellbeing is expected at all drop off and pick up times.

## Bus information

If your child travels by bus, please contact Mr. Yousuf if you have any questions or queries about pick up/drop off points or times. the contact email for the Bus Manager is: [yousuf@bbt.ae](mailto:yousuf@bbt.ae)

## Uniform

Please make sure all students are wearing the correct uniform, school shoes (not trainers) and also the correct PE kit. If your child has a valid reason for not having the correct uniform e.g. the store being out of stock, please send a note in to school or contact your child's class teacher via email. [Please press here for more details.](#)

## Medical information

Please make sure all students are wearing the correct uniform, school shoes (not trainers) and also the correct PE kit. If your child has a valid reason for not having the correct uniform e.g. the store being out of stock, please send a note in to school or contact your child's class teacher via email.

Should your child need to take some medicine during the school day, this should be handed to the school nurse first thing in the morning and collected from her at the end of the day. The nurse will administer the correct dosage at the appropriate time. The medicine should be in a plastic bag clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

## COVID Policy

You can visit your children's school if you adhere to requirements. You must be vaccinated and show proof of a negative PCR test (valid for 96 hours). You must have proper documentation if you visit the school, accompanied by other children.

- Show proof of vaccination and negative PCR test (valid for 96 hours) prior to entering the school if they are aged 12 and above.
- Show proof of a negative PCR test only (valid for 96 hours) if they are below the age of 12.
- The vaccination status must be verified on the ALHOSN app.
- If your child turns 12 during the academic year, they are required to take the first dose of the vaccine within 4 weeks of turning 12 and they must complete their second dose on time.

## Attendance

Parents are now have the option to choose face to face or distance learning, if your child is absent any day, please make sure that you have e-mailed the class teacher with a reason as to why they are not in school.

## Snack & Lunch

At GEMS, we have a strict healthy eating policy which we must follow to ensure we do what is best for our children.

## Special Needs Department

CIA is one of the best schools in Abu Dhabi that earned status "Unified Champion Schools".



### **GEMS Cambridge International School Abu Dhabi**

For earning the title of "Unified Champion Schools"  
by the Special Olympics United Arab Emirates

ADEK recognizes and appreciates the dedication and commitment of the school in achieving Unified Champion Schools status for promoting inclusive opportunities to students of determination in the school community, through inclusive events and activities celebrating our diversity and empowering education, empowering minds towards a socially cohesive community.

Kind Regards,

Rubi Mahmood

Director of Office of Students of Determination





## School Curriculum

### Foundation Stage Curriculum

The EYFS is structured into 7 areas of learning and development, which helps to guide our teachers in planning and assessment. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through these 7 areas. These 7 fields are categorised into prime areas and specific areas.

The 3 prime areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning; they underpin all that we do in FS1 and FS2.

The 4 specific areas:

- Literacy (phonics, reading and writing)
- Mathematics (number, calculating and shape, space and measure)
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



Our Key Stage 1 and 2 Curriculum is based on the National Curriculum for England and Wales (NCfE).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-primary-curriculum>

Our school the National Curriculum for England, GCSEs and A Levels and our learning is broken into stages below:

Foundation Stage (FS)	Primary (Key Stage 1)	Primary (Key Stage 2)	Secondary (Key Stage 3)	Secondary (Key Stage 4)	6th Form (Key Stage 5)
FS1 & FS2	Year 1 Year 2	Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	Year 7 Year 8 Year 9	Year 10 Year 11	Year 12 Year 13

Subjects taught in Key Stage 1 and 2 (Years 1-6) are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computing- (ICT) / Digital Learning
- Design and Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Personal, Social and Health education
- UAE Social Studies and Moral Education
- Music - Specialist teacher
- Physical Education (PE) - Specialist teacher
- Arabic Language - Specialist teacher
- Islamic Studies - Muslim students only - Specialist teacher



The following subjects are taught in Secondary Year 7 - Year 11:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences: Biology, Physics, Chemistry Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- UAE Social Studies
- Art Design
- History
- Computing
- ICT
- Business Studies
- Arabic A and B
- Moral Education



## Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 – Years 12 & 13

Our key aim at the GEMS Cambridge International School is to provide each and every one of our students with a broad and balanced Key Stage 4 and 5 curriculum that is tailored to their needs which will include a range of opportunities beyond their Sixth Form education.

The Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) recognises the following list of subjects which can be considered for promotion / equivalency for Years 12 and 13 (A Level programme). ADEK will add further subjects to this list which will be communicated to the students, teachers and parents when this information becomes available.

### These subjects are:

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. English          | 12. English Literature     |
| 2. Physics          | 13. History                |
| 3. Biology          | 14. Psychology             |
| 4. General Science  | 15. Art & Design           |
| 5. French Language  | 16. Computer Science       |
| 6. Mathematics      | 17. Dietetics & Health     |
| 7. Chemistry        | 18. Genetics               |
| 8. Economics        | 19. Geography              |
| 9. Business Studies | 20. Information Technology |
| 10. Accounting      |                            |
| 11. Sociology       |                            |



## Consistently outstanding A-Level and GCSE results year after year

Here are the latest Academic Results 2020-21

### A-Level:

		A*		A*-A		A*-B		A*
Total A-level Candidates	Total A-level Entries	No. Entries	%-age	No. Entries	%-age	No. Entries	%-age	Students
75	191	31	16.2%	81	42.4%	148	77.5%	23

### GCSE

Total GCSE Candidates	Total GCSE Entries	No. Entries	%-age	No. Entries	%-age	No. Entries	%-age	No. Entries	%-age	No. Entries	%-age	Grade 9	Grade 9-8 (A*)
197	1450	159	-	433	29.9%	730	50.3%	1121	77.3%	1295	89.3%	67	86 43.7%

**Sports Awards:**

- U12 Boys Cricket ADISSA League and Tournament Winners
- U19 Boys Football ADISSA Tournament Plate Winners
- U16 Girls Football GEMS Cup Silver
- U16 Girls Football Valeria - GEMS Cup MVP
- U12 Girls Football ADISSA League Runners-Up
- U9 Girls Netball 3rd Place Abu Dhabi League
- U11 Girls Netball 2nd Place Abu Dhabi League
- U16 Girls Netball GEMS Cup Bronze
- Boys Badminton GEMS Cup Bronze
- Boys Badminton Inter-School Badminton Tournament Bronze
- U12 Badminton Boys & Girls ADISSA Winners

**Academic Awards:**

- Spelling Bee Winners – Abu Dhabi – Primary and Secondary students
- KENKEN National Finalists
- GL Assessment – Full Marks
- PISA Tests
- TIMMS
- GCSE Results
- AS Results
- A Level Results
- MOE Arabic/Islamic – 100% pass rate – consecutive years

**Creativity and Innovation Awards:**

- Middle East Youth Expo Ambassador for Creativity and the Arts
- Global NYU Artificial Intelligence Hackathon – Third Place Globally
- Business Challenge Cup Artificial Intelligence – Curtin University – Finalists
- Brain SiM – Annual Business School Simulation Contest – Harvard – Runner up
- CIS Leadership Student Conference
- Gulf Debate
- Humans in Space – International Astronautics Academy – students chosen to meet Hazzaa Ali Mansouri and Sultan Al Neyadi
- SP Jain Hackathon

- U14 Badminton Boys ADISSA Runners-Up
- U14 Badminton Girls ADISSA Third Place
- U17 Badminton Girls ADISSA Runners-Up
- U14 Girls Athletics ADISSA 3rd Place
- U17 Girls Volleyball ADISSA Runners-Up
- Primary Swim Gala 3rd Place Term 1 and Term 2
- Swimming 236 Medals (Gold - 58, Silver 89, Bronze 89)
- Year 6 FIFA World Club Cup Journalists (Al Ain FC)
- Year 6 AFC Asian Cup Player Escorts
- Special Olympic Ambassadors
- Staff Football – Finalists
- Staff Netball – Abu Dhabi League Winners
- Staff Badminton – 3rd place in the GEMS Staff Competition

**Philanthropic Awards:**

- Red Crescent – top 5 schools in Abu Dhabi for fund raising
- Dubai Cares – Philanthropic Special Recognition Award – Year 6 & Year 9
- Operation Smile – over 10000 AED was raised during Ramadan
- Over 1000 Acts of Kindness during Ramadan

**International Trips:**

- Cambodia Community Service Expedition
- Switzerland Ski Trip
- Seattle Space Camp





## Sports

- U11 Boys Cricket League Winners
- U13 Boys Cricket League Winners
- U15 Boys Cricket League and Cup Winners
- U19 Boys Cricket League and Cup Winners
- U15 Girls Netball League Winners and Cup Runners-up
- U16 Girls Netball GEMS Cup Bronze
- U19 Girls Netball Runners-up
- U14 Boys Football GEMS Cup Winners
- U16 Girls Football GEMS Cup Runners-up
- U9 Cross-Country 2 x Best Team
- U11 Cross-Country 2 x Best Team
- Primary Swim Team 4 x Gala Winners
- Primary Swim Teams – 193 medals (95 Gold, 76 Silver, 22 Bronze)
- Secondary Swim Teams – 76 medals (19 Gold, 29 Silver, 28 Bronze)
- 181 Sports Academy sessions over 8 Sports
- CIA Winter Sports Camp
- CIA Summer Sports Camp

## Academic Awards:

- KENKEN National Finalists
- Primary Sports Journalists

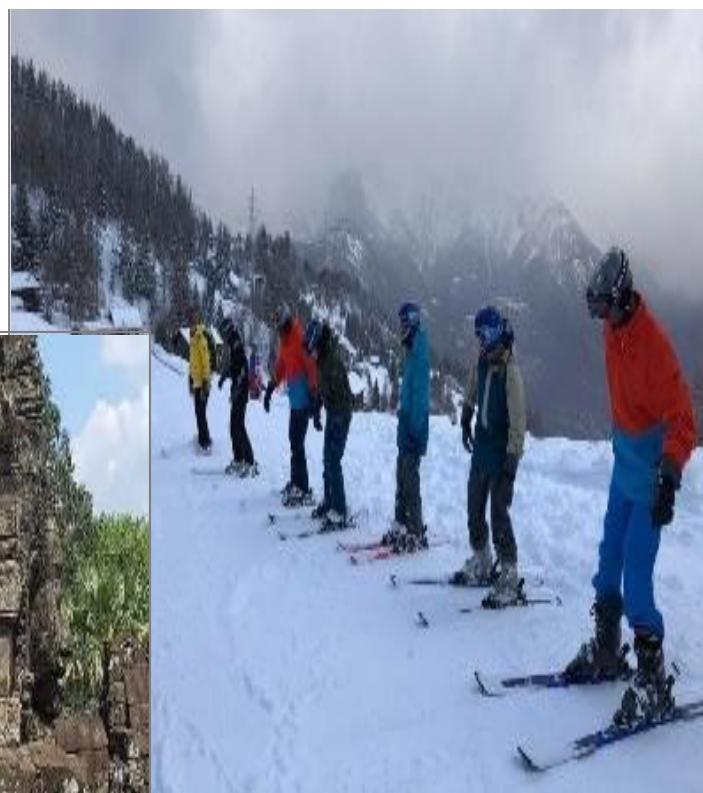
## Philanthropic Awards:

- Red Crescent – award for SEWA Day fund raising
- Operation Smile – over 10000 AED raised during first half term
- Jewels of Kindness International Volunteering – Year 6
- Tolerance Award



## International Trips:

- NASA Trip
- Harvard MUN
- Oxford and Cambridge Universities Innovation Trips



## Staff Contacts

Adminstration Team		
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a.fraij_cia@gemsedu.com	Parent Relations Executive	Aya Fraij
clinic_cia@gemsedu.com	School Nurses	Ann, Vandana and Binoy
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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1- When did the school open?

CIA welcomed students and their families in September 2013.

### 2- Where is the school located?

Located in Abu Dhabi , Bani Yas , near to Bawabt Al Sharq Mall.



### 3- Which curriculum do you offer at CIA?

GEMS Cambridge International - Abu Dhabi follows the National Curriculum England. In Foundation Stage we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. In Key Stage 1-3 (Year 1 - 9) our Curriculum is National Curriculum England with adaptations to contextualise learning within our international setting. At Key Stage 4 (Year 10 & Year 11) a wide range of GCSE & IGCSE courses are being delivered. CIA delivers the Ministry of Education's curriculum for Islamic Education and Arabic Studies and Social Studies.



### 4- What are the school timings?

All age groups will begin at 7:45am and finish at 2:15pm.

### 5- How many foreign languages do you offer?

English is the main language of instruction. In addition, the school offers Arabic and French. (Additional house languages that catered for)



### 6- Where do your teachers and students come from?

We are an International school that has more than 88 nationalities.

### 7- Do you have transport to and from the school?

Yes. We provide bus transport to and from the school via BBT.

### 8- Do you have full-time medical care for the students?

Yes. Our school has full-time nurses on site at all times.



### 9- Do you accommodate students that require extra learning support?

Yes we are a fully inclusive school. Please consult with our team as early as possible for further guidance regarding our learning support provision.

