



# A CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR YEAR 4

## STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS



The purpose of this curriculum guide is to provide parents and students with an outline of:

1. The Curriculum and key initiatives
2. Assessment and reporting arrangements
3. Communication

We hope this curriculum guide helps to clarify many of the questions and concerns pertaining to Year 4 academic issues at GEMS Cambridge International School, Dubai.

It is strongly recommended that you keep this book for future guidance and information throughout the year.

**GEMS Cambridge International School Dubai.**

<http://www.gemscis-dubai.com/>

### Head of Year 4



**Name: Fatima Tohfafarosh**

**Email: [f.tohfafarosh\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:f.tohfafarosh_cis@gemsedu.com)**

### Head of Primary Welcome Note

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a safe and enjoyable Summer break. To our existing parents, welcome back, we look forward to another successful year working in partnership with you. To our new parents, welcome to CIS! We very much look forward to meeting and working alongside your family joins this fantastic school and journey together.

My name is Phil Yates and it gives me great pleasure to be the Head of Primary at CIS for this forthcoming academic year. I feel privileged to be able to work with such a magnificent team to help our students to excel in both inside and outside of the classroom.

At CIS, we have high behavioural and academic expectations of our children and we take pride in working closely with our families so that our students can reach their full potential. Every child is unique in their own way and our aim is to bring out the best in every one of our students.

Our teachers and teaching assistants in the Primary School are experienced, committed and dedicated. They provide a caring and safe learning environment for all of the children in their care. We are pleased to offer a varied selection of innovative enrichment opportunities for our students who regularly take part in internal and external school competitions and events.

We recognise that parents play a pivotal role in the education of their children, and we welcome your views and suggestions throughout the school year.

Throughout your child's learning journey at CIS, the Primary School aims to promote academic, social and emotional intelligence, ensuring that each and every one of our students is well equipped and able to flourish in the next chapter of their school life.

Yours sincerely,

**Phil Yates**  
**Head of Primary, Cambridge International School, Dubai.**

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# **SECTION 1: SCHOOL INFORMATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cambridge International School (CIS-DXB) offers the internationally recognised National Curriculum for England and prepares students to take the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) courses, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and A Level Examinations of the Universities of Cambridge and London (UK), consistently producing results well above the UK national average, year after year. The school is an approved center for the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and for London University.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) take place during the school day once a week where students have the opportunity to select from a range of clubs in which they wish to join. School teams and clubs are established in basketball, football, cricket, badminton, swimming, athletics, Eco, Arabic, French and ELL (English Language Learners). Clubs include and are not limited to: performing arts, art and craft, public speaking, clay modelling, performing poetry, gardening, jewellery making, debate, henna designing are also offered to engage the interest and enthusiasm of all students. We also offer a range of after-school clubs delivered by additional providers (sometimes at a cost) to further improve the enrichment opportunities for our students. We have recently introduced the 'Junior Duke' initiative into our Primary department and over 120 of our students last year, completed the programme developing skills to last a lifetime. The same programme will be available to students this year.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

At Cambridge International School, we plan and deliver creative, engaging lessons across all areas of the National Curriculum for England. In the Primary School, we do not use textbooks in the large majority of our subjects, including English and Science. Instead, in line with best UK practice, our students access hands-on, innovative, experiential learning experiences to enable the best possible learning outcomes. Research shows that students learn best and retain knowledge best through experiences and opportunities to apply skills and learning. As adults, when we encounter a problem in the 'real-world' we do not pull out our old school text book to find the answer. We use the skills, experiences, intelligence and emotional intelligence to solve them.

## ONLINE PLATFORMS

At CIS we recognise the important role that technology plays in the learning process and in society today. With technology advancing at an incredible rate and pace, it is essential that we provide our students with the digital literacy and skills necessary to thrive in the ever-changing world in which we find ourselves in. We use a number of different online platforms in school and for homework purposes. If you have purchased the 'Tool Kit', your child will soon come home with log-in credentials for the following websites:

- **CENTURY (Maths-English-Science)-** This programme uses artificial intelligence to create a bespoke learning pathway for your child. It identifies gaps in their learning or areas for improvement and uses their strengths to support these areas for development. It provides teachers with detailed feedback on your child's level of attainment and where they need further support. For further information about how CENTURY works, click this [link](#).
- **TimesTablesRockStars (Maths)-** This platform is specifically designed to improve student's times tables and division facts and recall. It aims to improve their 'fluency' in Maths, aiding their mental arithmetic skills and strategies and overall levels of confidence. It is a National Curriculum requirement that all students, by the end of Year 4 are fluent in the 12 times tables and this programme supports and enhances it. Students love the competitive and interactive nature in which they take place in 'Rock Battles' earning coins to spend in the online store. For more information about TTRS click this [link](#).
- **Destiny Discover (Reading)-** When COVID-19 restrictions resulted in schools not being able to send books home, CIS Dubai invested heavily into an online reading platform which ensured that our students are able to access a range of books online. Destiny Discover allows students to read books online, at the same time, free from harm and the possibility of spreading on germs.

## BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

Students in Primary bring their own devices to and from school each day. Devices do not replace pencils, pens or paper but assist with learning in a variety of ways and are used to supplement teaching and learning. Students complete their own research, complete quizzes providing teachers with immediate feedback on their levels of understanding and many more. We strongly recommend that i-pads are your choice of device due to the versatility and high functioning capabilities of the device and also their ability to quickly scan and process QR codes. Please ensure that your child's device has a protective cover and case to ensure that it is not become damaged.

## SCHOOL BUS SERVICE:

At CIS Dubai, STS are the bus company and provider that bring a large number of our students to and from school each day. Students travel under the supervision of bus assistants and teachers in an environment monitored closely by CCTV. For further information about buses, please contact Miss Madhurya, our STS representative who will be able to support you: [madhurya.joe@sts-group.com](mailto:madhurya.joe@sts-group.com)

## UNIFORM:

Information about our uniform can be found on our school website: <https://www.gemscis-dubai.com/For-Parents/Uniforms> It can also be ordered online via this link: <https://www.threadsme.com/cambridge-international-school-dubai.html>

## HOMEWORK:

Research does not actually show a strong positive correlation between homework completion and academic progress. Research does however show that the completion of homework can improve a student's independent learning skills, self-regulation, independence, accountability and organisational skills. At CIS Dubai, in the Primary department, homework is optional. The reason for this is because our students have a very long and intense school

day and we feel that it is important for them to relax and unwind at home, to re-charge ready for school the next day. We do however understand that many parents wish for their children to complete additional learning at home so we do provide weekly homework. We strongly encourage homework completion in Year 5 and Year 6 so that students can best prepare for their transition to Year 7 where homework must be complete.

## EATING ARRANGEMENTS:

Students have 2 eating times during the day at 9:30am and 1:00pm. Most students bring a packed lunch which is eaten in class but students do have the opportunity to visit the school canteen (during the morning break only) to purchase food.

## SCHOOL TIMINGS:

Our school timings are as follows:

Monday-Thursday	Friday	Lesson Number
7:40am-7:50am (10)	7:40am-7:50am (10)	Registration
7:50am-8:40am (50)	7:50am-8:40am (50)	Lesson 1
8:40am-9:30am (50)	8:40am-9:30am (50)	Lesson 2
9:30am-10:00am (30)	9:30am-9:50am (20)	Break 1
10:00am-10:30am (30)	9:50am-10:40am (50)	Well-Being Period   Lesson 3
10:30am-11:20am (50)	10:40am-11:30am (50)	Lesson 3   Assembly
11:20am-12:10pm (50)		Lesson 4
12:10pm-1:00pm (50)		Lesson 5
1:00pm-1:20pm (20)		Break 2
1:20pm-2:10pm (50)		Lesson 6
2:10pm-3:00pm (50)		Lesson 7

# SECTION 2: THE CURRICULUM

## THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR ENGLAND:

The National Curriculum for England (NCfE) is often described as a 'Spiral Curriculum' as concepts are constantly revisited and reinforced throughout a child's school years to scaffold and build upon learning. A full copy of the NCfE can be found by clicking this [link](#). By using the contents page you will be able to explore each subject in greater depth to see the curriculum requirements. We appreciate that this is a lot to absorb but parents are supported at the beginning of each half-term with 'Topic Webs' which identify which curriculum objectives will be taught that half-term.

## THEMATIC CURRICULUM APPROACH:

The students in the Primary department at CIS Dubai access a thematic curriculum with NCfE objectives and the HPL and Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum objectives intertwined within subjects. This means that each half-term, students are immersed in a topic for a period of approximately 6 weeks with all learning linked to this topic as much as possible. This allows for students to become more engaged and it helps them to transfer their learning to other subject areas within the curriculum. The half-term begins with a 'Sensational Start' and ends with a 'Fabulous Finish' to engage students as much as possible and to help to celebrate their learning at the end of the topic.

## **TOPIC WEBS & KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS:**

These two documents are sent to parents at the start of each half-term to inform them about the curriculum objectives that will be covered over the course of the up and coming weeks. Topic webs provide information about which curriculum objectives will be covered along with key and important dates. Knowledge Organisers provide parents and students with visuals and information about key concepts to support and reinforce learning.

## **TRIPS/THEME DAYS:**

Trips and educational visits are planned throughout the school year to improve the enrichment opportunities available for our students and to provide students with the opportunity to apply their learning beyond the classroom. Trips are communicated well in advance and for paid trips, parents will need to complete payment using the online parent portal. It is vital that parents complete the consent form and payment form to prevent students from not being able to access any trips/visits. Theme days are also planned to the school calendar to celebrate learning and to further promote enrichment within our curriculum.

## **HIGH PERFORMANCE LEARNING:**

### **High Performance Learning:**



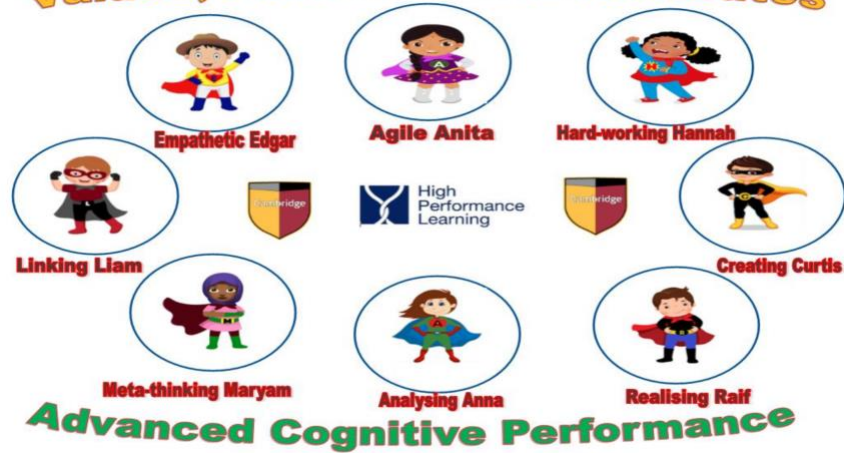
Cambridge International School is a fully accredited High Performance Learning World Class school.

High Performance Learning is a research-based, pedagogy-led philosophy that responds to our growing understanding of human capability. It normalises high performance for all students and uses a unique teaching and learning framework to systematically develop the cognitive skills, values, attitudes and attributes needed for lifetime success.

It is very evident when you are in the school that a High Performance culture is truly embedded into everything we do; from the children articulating their learning in the classroom, to children working collaboratively and engaging in creative and critical thinking tasks across all areas of learning. Pastorally, students are also given the opportunity to develop their skills within Values, Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs), supporting every student to overcome barriers and build numerous strategies to help them overcome challenges along their learning journey. We continue to embed High Performance Learning through carefully planned lessons which incorporate the 5 Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics (ACPs) and are identified as the following skills: Meta-cognition, Linking, Realising, Creating and Analysing.

To make these VAAs and ACPs easier for our Primary students to remember and link learning to, we have introduced HPL characters to create those connections, in a child-friendly environment, they include:

## Values, Attitudes and Attributes



## POSITIVE EDUCATION ENHANCED CURRICULUM (PEEC):

Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC) is a curriculum adopted by the school to promote wellbeing, student's social and emotional development and efficacy. At CIS Dubai students access a number of wellbeing lessons a week including assemblies based around PEEC. PEEC is linked to 6 underpinning principles:

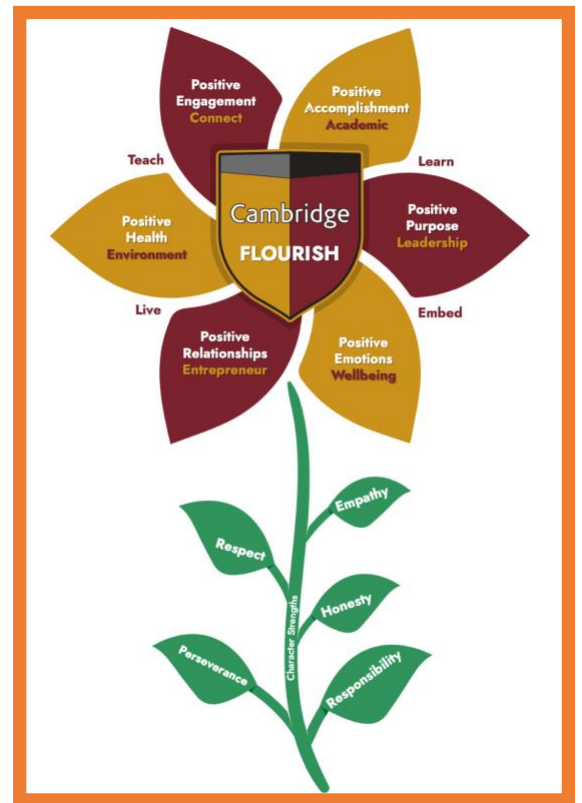
- Positive Purpose
- Positive Relationships
- Positive Health
- Positive Engagement
- Positive Accomplishment
- Positive Emotions

The 6 principles link to our 6 CIS pillars and are upheld by the 5 PEEC character strengths of:

- Respect
- Empathy
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Perseverance

In school, our students are reminded about PEEC with the following visual:

For more information about PEEC, click the following [link](#).



## CURRICULUM STRUCTURE:

In Primary from Y3-Y6 the lesson allocations are as follows:

Arabic	200 minutes per week (4 Lessons)
Islamic / Philosophy for Children	100 minutes per week (2 Lessons)
Social Moral Cultural Studies	100 minutes per week (2 Lessons)
English	250 minutes per week (5 Lessons)
Mathematics	250 minutes per week (5 Lessons)
Science	150 minutes per week (3 Lessons)

In addition to these compulsory courses, students also to study National Curriculum courses in:

Art	50 minutes per lesson (1 Lesson)
Humanities/Topic (History and Geography)	150 minutes per week (3 Lessons)
French	50 minutes per class (1 Lesson)
Music	50 minutes per week (1 lesson)
Physical Educational	100 minutes per week (2 Lessons)

## SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT

### Assessment Background

Assessment is an integral part of Teaching and Learning and is required to optimise all students' learning by providing teachers with a picture of their progress and achievements and to identify the next steps to success.

At CIS we continually assess the students learning on a daily basis through: observations, informal progress checks, in class quizzes, end of term assessments and more formal examinations such as the GL Progress Tests. All students at the start of each year have baseline assessments so that teachers are provided with information of each student's starting points to enable them to plan lessons and activities specific to their individual needs and to monitor progress throughout the year.

For the informal assessments, we do not inform parents about these dates as we do not wish to place stress or pressure on our students. Instead, we aim to attain an accurate picture of each child's level of understanding at any given moment in time. Not what they have managed to learn for a test only to forget it the next day.

For formal assessments such as the GL Progress Tests we will provide you with the dates of these exams and with revision notes to support your child at home. In school we will start to prepare for these examinations too by introducing the students to the types and styles of questions that they will encounter.

**Please note: We do not provide test materials to revise for in advance of an assessment nor do we provide parents with their child's test paper after the assessment.**

## Assessment Calendar

At the end of each term, reviews of topic and concepts that have been taught and in class assessments take place to monitor and track each child's progress.

Standardised assessments take place at the following times of year, in school only:

Year Group	CAT4	NGRT	GL Progress Tests (Maths, English, Science)
	October	October, January and May	June
Year 3		✓	✓
Year 4	✓	✓	✓
Year 5		✓	✓
Year 6	✓	✓	✓

The above assessments are international benchmark assessments and can only be sat in school.

**CAT4- Cognitive Abilities Test-** Is similar to an IQ test and provides the school with information about your child's preferred learning styles to that we can provide stimulating lessons, catered to their specific, individual needs. For more information about CAT4 tests, click this [link](#).

**NGRT- New Group Reading Test-** Provides the school with information relating to your child's reading ability.

**GL Progress Tests for Maths, English and Science-** Provides the school with information relating to your child's levels of attainment linked to English National Curriculum Standards. For more information about GL Progress Tests click this [link](#).

All of the above formal, informal, formative and summative assessments, along with teacher judgement feeds into the formation of end of term reports.

## SECTION 4: REPORTING

### Reporting Overview

At CIS Dubai, formal reports to parents are sent at 3 times during the year. Parents are also invited to 3 formal Parent Teacher Meetings during which you can meet with your child's teachers, be informed about their levels of progress and attainment and learn more about how you can support your child with their next-steps linked to learning.

Parents are able to contact their child's class teacher at any time for a short informal overview of their child's progress but more detailed and formal reporting is saved for the reports and meetings so that teacher's time is best managed planning exciting and engaging lessons for your children.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, we changed our report templates to make the reports more concise and to ensure that all subjects are one document. Parents are also informed about their child's NGRT results and reading ages on these reports that can be downloaded from the parent portal.



# SECTION 5: COMMUNICATION

At Cambridge International School Dubai, we pride ourselves on having outstanding working relationships with all of our stakeholders. We aim to provide open forms of communication with our parents and would like to advise you of the following people that you should direct any questions towards, should you require support for any queries you may have.

## Learning Managers:

Year 4-1: Ms. Fatima Tohfafarosh [f.tohfafarosh\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:f.tohfafarosh_cis@gemsedu.com)

Year 4-2: Ms. Arsala Mahar [a.mahar\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:a.mahar_cis@gemsedu.com)

Year 4-3: Ms. Raghi Rajesh [r.rajesh\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:r.rajesh_cis@gemsedu.com)

Year 4-4: Ms. Sonia Singh [s.singh\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:s.singh_cis@gemsedu.com)

Year 4-5: Ms. Namitha Sujish [n.sujish\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:n.sujish_cis@gemsedu.com)

**Head of Year:** [f.tohfafarosh\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:f.tohfafarosh_cis@gemsedu.com)

## Communication Flow Chart:

For purposes of efficiency, please follow the following communication flow-chart so that any issues or queries that you have, can be addressed as soon as possible:

- **Academic or Pastoral queries:** Your child's class teacher
  - If not satisfied with the outcome, please revert to your child's Year Group Leader
  - If you are still not satisfied with the outcome, please revert to the Head of Primary [p.yates\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:p.yates_cis@gemsedu.com)
  - If you are still not satisfied with the outcome, you are welcome to make an appointment with the Principal by contacting his PA: [principal\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:principal_cis@gemsedu.com)
- **Safeguarding queries:** Our Vice Principal Miss Lourdina Franco: [l.franco\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:l.franco_cis@gemsedu.com) or our Deputy Head of Primary Miss Sabrina: [s.grange\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:s.grange_cis@gemsedu.com)
- **General queries:** Our Parent Relations Executive, Miss Pooja Singh: [p.singh\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:p.singh_cis@gemsedu.com)
- **Financial queries:** Our Finance Department: [Prakash.v\\_cis@gemsedu.com](mailto:Prakash.v_cis@gemsedu.com)

## Newsletters:

You will receive weekly newsletters from your child's Head of Year informing you about what your child has been learning in school that week and what they will learn during the forthcoming week. In addition to this, a Primary newsletter is sent once a month to celebrate and recognise all of the achievements during that month and to disseminate important information.

## Class DoJo:

This platform is used to communicate messages and provide parents with updates on what students have been learning in class. Please do not use the 'Message' function on this platform as it will not be responded to. Please send an e-mail to your child's class teacher instead.

## Topic Webs and Knowledge Organisers:

Topic Webs and Knowledge Organisers are sent to parents at the start of each half-term. The topic web informs parents about what curriculum objectives will be covered that half-term and the knowledge organisers support parents and students with revision types content to review key concepts that will be taught that half-term.

**Parent Coffee Mornings** (see school calendar for dates) – Parents are invited to come into school to meet senior leaders and discuss any areas of learning regarding their child's progress.

# SECTION 6: SCHOOL POLICIES

A number of important school policies and documents can be found on our website by clicking the following [link](#).



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