



SEPTEMBER 2024

# KS3 Handbook


*“Forever learning, forever achieving”*



مدرسة ديرة الدولية

DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FESTIVAL CITY

 Al-Futtaim Education Foundation

THE



WAY

RESPECT



**At DIS we**  
*Believe in respect for all  
and treat others in the  
way you wish to be  
treated*

INTERGRITY



**At DIS we**  
*Believe in honesty  
and trust. We do  
what is right not  
what is easy.*

COLLABORATION



**At DIS we**  
*Succeed together,  
we face failure  
together*

EXCELLENCE



**At DIS we**  
*Strive to achieve  
the best in all that  
we do*

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A welcome message  
from the Headteacher

.....  
Academic  
Excellence  
.....



# WELCOME TO D.I.S. KS3

Dear Parents

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome both new and returning parents to Key Stage 3 (KS3) at Deira International School (DIS). Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook and hopefully it will give you an insight into KS3 at DIS and what makes it such a special place to learn. As your child moves into a new academic year it will be a huge step in their educational journey. We are extremely excited and proud to join you and your child as we embark on this adventure together.

In KS3 we aim to develop our students holistically by offering them a wide range of experiences both inside and outside the classroom that are equipping them with the skills and knowledge to lead happy and successful lives in the future. We are firm believers that student success is not only measured by results, and the experiences students receive outside of the classroom are just as important as those in it. Our curriculum in KS3 is developed to stretch and challenge all our students and is based on a solid grounding of academic excellence.

***Here at DIS we are relentless in our pursuit of excellence where no student is left behind and where anything is possible. We believe strongly that is no ceiling on student achievement.***

As students return back to school and enter a new academic year, they will be feeling a range of feelings and emotions. At DIS we understand the importance of providing a

smooth and seamless transition from one year to the next. Our outstanding pastoral team are on hand to support students every step of the way to ensure all students can excel and achieve their full potential. We strongly believe that a happy student is a successful student.

***On reading this booklet, if you have any queries, please do reach out to us and we will be more than happy to support.***

Your involvement throughout the year and in your child's, education can make all the difference and I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Yours Sincerely,  
*Mr Doug Pettitt*  
**Secondary Head Teacher**



# MEET THE KEY STAGE 3 TEAM

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*Year 7 Learning  
Coordinator  
Mr Orr*



My name is Robert Orr, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as your child's Year Learning Coordinator. With a background in teaching Physical Education across both schools and Sports Science at the IB level, I bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to this role. As we embark on this exciting journey into secondary school, my primary goal is to ensure that each student experiences a smooth transition and feels comfortable, supported, and ready to thrive. I am particularly excited about developing their Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) opportunities, which are integral to fostering well-rounded individuals. One of the highlights I look forward to is the DIScation at the beginning of Year 7. This event is designed to build camaraderie, confidence, and a sense of community among our new students. I am eager to work closely with you and your children to make this year an enriching and successful one. **Mr Orr** [rorr@disdubai.ae](mailto:rorr@disdubai.ae)

*Year 8 Learning  
Coordinator  
Miss Pointon*

My name is Cherelle Pointon and I am excited to be the Year Learning Coordinator (YLC) for Year 7. I will be teaching Science and Biology alongside my role as YLC. I am from Manchester, U.K and I have been teaching for 9 years and this will be my 3rd year as YLC. This year I am looking forward to supporting students as they transition from primary school into secondary. My key aims this year are to ensure that students feel safe, supported, inspired and are constantly celebrated in their achievements. The importance of strong and positive relationships with both my students and parents and the DIS community is an element I will focus on in both my teaching and my role as YLC. I look forward to the year ahead, guiding students to successfully progress and providing opportunities to grow and challenge themselves.

**Miss Pointon** [cpointon@disdubai.ae](mailto:cpointon@disdubai.ae)



*Year 9 Learning  
Coordinator  
Mr Robson*



My name is Mr. Robson, and I am the Year 8 Year Learning Coordinator. Originally from the North West of England, I have had the privilege of living in Dubai for four years. Throughout my career, I have nurtured a profound concern for the health and wellbeing of our students. It is my firm belief that their overall development extends beyond academics. I am truly passionate about providing students with opportunities beyond the classroom, particularly through our CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) scheme. By embracing creativity, encouraging physical activity, and promoting community service, we empower our students to explore their potential and grow holistically. Together, we can create an environment where students thrive both academically and personally.

**Mr Robson** [jrobson@disdubai.ae](mailto:jrobson@disdubai.ae)

# MEET THE TUTORS

## YEAR 7



Azeema Behreen  
[abehreen@disdubai.ae](mailto:abehreen@disdubai.ae)



Ellie Wake  
[ewake@disdubai.ae](mailto:ewake@disdubai.ae)



Salma Patel  
[spatel@disdubai.ae](mailto:spatel@disdubai.ae)



Maddyson Lynn  
[mlynn@disdubai.ae](mailto:mlynn@disdubai.ae)



Issac Brooks  
[ibrooks@disdubai.ae](mailto:ibrooks@disdubai.ae)



Alexia Bosq  
[Abosq@disdubai.ae](mailto:Abosq@disdubai.ae)



Joe Steede  
[jsteede@disdubai.ae](mailto:jsteede@disdubai.ae)

.....  
Collaborating  
Together  
.....

*Barry Lomas –  
Assistant Head Teacher  
Pastoral Care*



## YEAR 8



Yasmin Ikhwan  
[Yikhwan@disdubai.ae](mailto:Yikhwan@disdubai.ae)



Shazad Shabir  
[SShabir@disdubai.ae](mailto:SShabir@disdubai.ae)



Suhayl Master  
[smaster@disdubai.ae](mailto:smaster@disdubai.ae)



Ethne Bourn  
[ebourn@disdubai.ae](mailto:ebourn@disdubai.ae)



Emily Hawkins  
[EHawkins@disdubai.ae](mailto:EHawkins@disdubai.ae)



Grace Baker  
[GBaker@disdubai.ae](mailto:GBaker@disdubai.ae)



Fathuma Ali  
[fali@disdubai.ae](mailto:fali@disdubai.ae)



# MEET THE TUTORS

## YEAR 9



Ellie Smith

[Esmith@disdubai.ae](mailto:Esmith@disdubai.ae)



Minal Tailor

[Mtaylor@disdubai.ae](mailto:Mtaylor@disdubai.ae)



Pearl Blankson

[Pblankson@disdubai.ae](mailto:Pblankson@disdubai.ae)



Aisha Sufi

[asufi@disdubai.ae](mailto:asufi@disdubai.ae)



Motiur Rahman

[Mr Rahman@disdubai.ae](mailto:Mr Rahman@disdubai.ae)



Sara Tariq

[Stariq@disdubai.ae](mailto:Stariq@disdubai.ae)



Teresa McGrath

[tmcgrath@disdubai.ae](mailto:tmcgrath@disdubai.ae)

# COVER TUTORS

We have experienced teachers assigned to each year group who, on the rare occasion, will take on form duties when a tutor is absent. The cover tutors work closely with the YLC's to provide consistent support and care for students.



Susan Blomley



Lamis Anjum

## YEAR 7 COVER TUTORS



Farida Al Babbili



Zane Kennedy

## YEAR 8 COVER TUTORS



Najwa Alsheikh



Shaikh Abdulla

## YEAR 9 COVER TUTORS

Learner  
Attributes  
'Risk Taker'

**W**e believe that the role of the Tutor is important in the development of students throughout their school career. A Tutor's role is central in both caring for pupils and, crucially, monitoring their progress both academically and socially; encouraging excellence, respect, collaboration, integrity and the highest possible standards of work and behaviour.

The Tutor should be active in the care, guidance and support of the 'whole child'. Your child's tutor will act as your first point of contact throughout the academic year. If you have any issues or concerns, do email your tutor in the first instance for support.



We expect the following from our Tutors:

- To build strong relationships with students and their families.
- To show a keen interest in all aspects of their school life and beyond.
- To build and establish the DIS Way by supporting students to build positive habits and routines.

# THE ROLE OF A TUTOR

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## Character and Citizenship

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We are keen to establish strong relationships with our parent community. Key to this is good communication and the best way to reach a member of the Secondary team is through email in the first instance. We will always endeavour to respond to all emails within 24 hours.

If it is a pastoral related matter the best person to email is your child's tutor or if you believe it to be a more serious matter, contact Mr Orr (Yr 7), Miss Pointon (Yr 8) or Mr Robson (Yr 9) respectively.

If it is a subject related matter, then please email the Head of subject or Mr Iqbal (Head of Academics) in the case of a matter relating to several subject areas.

We hope that you will enjoy your induction days at Wolsingham School and the rest of your time in the school.

**If you have any queries please contact your child's Y.L.C.**

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# KEY STAFF INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

STAFF MEMBER	ROLE IN SCHOOL	EMAIL ADDRESS
Mr Doug Pettitt	Head Teacher	<a href="mailto:dpettitt@disdubai.ae">dpettitt@disdubai.ae</a>
Mrs Emma Hannon	Deputy Head Teacher	<a href="mailto:ehannon@disdubai.ae">ehannon@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Barry Lomas	Head of Pastoral Care	<a href="mailto:blomas@disdubai.ae">blomas@disdubai.ae</a>
Mrs Helen Wallis	Head of IB	<a href="mailto:hwallis@disdubai.ae">hwallis@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Sheikh Iqbal	Head of Academics	<a href="mailto:siqbal@disdubai.ae">siqbal@disdubai.ae</a>
Mrs Georgia Foster	Head of Student Experience	<a href="mailto:gfooster@disdubai.ae">gfooster@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Nick Bloom	Head of Assessment and Reporting	<a href="mailto:nbloom@disdubai.ae">nbloom@disdubai.ae</a>
Ms Eleanor Hickey	Head of Inclusion	<a href="mailto:ehickey@disdubai.ae">ehickey@disdubai.ae</a>
Miss Kirsty Fairman	Head of Mathematics	<a href="mailto:kfairman@disdubai.ae">kfairman@disdubai.ae</a>
Miss Jade Hodgson	Head of English	<a href="mailto:jhodgson@disdubai.ae">jhodgson@disdubai.ae</a>
Ms Michelle Scott	Head of Science	<a href="mailto:mscott@disdubai.ae">mscott@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Mounir El Hayek	Head of Arabic First language	<a href="mailto:melhayek@disdubai.ae">melhayek@disdubai.ae</a>
Ms Iman Fattoum	Head of Arabic Second Language	<a href="mailto:ifattoum@disdubai.ae">ifattoum@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Mark West	Head of PE and Sport	<a href="mailto:mwest@disduabi.ae">mwest@disduabi.ae</a>
Ms Eleanor Smith	Head of Geography	<a href="mailto:esmith@disdubai.ae">esmith@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Edward Long	Head of History	<a href="mailto:elong@disdubai.ae">elong@disdubai.ae</a>
Ms Zenab Tambawala	Head of Computing	<a href="mailto:ztambawala@disdubai.ae">ztambawala@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Mohammad Ullah	Head of Technology	<a href="mailto:gfooster@disdubai.ae">gfooster@disdubai.ae</a>
Ms Anupa Joshi	Head of Visual Arts	<a href="mailto:ajoshi@disdubai.ae">ajoshi@disdubai.ae</a>
Mrs Chelsie Hemmings	Head of Performing Arts	<a href="mailto:chemmings@disdubai.ae">chemmings@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Darren De Bruyn	Head of Commerce	<a href="mailto:ddebruyn@disdubai.ae">ddebruyn@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Usman Ali	Head of Economics	<a href="mailto:uali@disdubai.ae">uali@disdubai.ae</a>
Ms Asma Oulghazi	Head of MFL (French & Spanish)	<a href="mailto:A0ulghazi@disdubai.ae">A0ulghazi@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Najeeb Shakoor	Head of Psychology	<a href="mailto:NShakoor@disdubai.ae">NShakoor@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Alistair Dale	Student Wellbeing Counsellor	<a href="mailto:adale@disdubai.ae">adale@disdubai.ae</a>
Mr Kevin Dupont	Careers and Guidance Counsellor	<a href="mailto:kdupont@disdubai.ae">kdupont@disdubai.ae</a>

**W**are keen to establish strong relationships with our parents. Key to this is good communication and the best way to reach a member of the Secondary team is through email in the first instance. Our target is to respond to all emails within 24 hours.

If it is a pastoral matter the best person to email is your child's tutor or if you believe it to be a more serious matter, contact Mr Orr, Miss Pointon or Mr Robson.

If it is a subject related matter, then please email the Head of subject or Mr Iqbal (Head of Academics) in the case of a matter relating to several subject areas.

# GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

MON, WED, THURS	
1	07:50
2	08:45
<b>BREAK (20mins)</b>	<b>09:40</b>
Reg	10:00
3	10:10
4	11:05
<b>LUNCH (50mins)</b>	<b>12:00</b>
5	12:50
6	13:45
7 (50 mins)	14:40
<b>FINISH</b>	<b>15:30</b>

TUESDAY	
1	07:50
2	08:45
<b>BREAK (20mins)</b>	<b>09:40</b>
Reg	10:00
3	10:10
4	11:05
<b>LUNCH (40mins)</b>	<b>12:00</b>
5	12:40
6	13:35
<b>FINISH</b>	<b>14:30</b>

FRIDAY	
1	07:50
2	08:45
<b>BREAK (20mins)</b>	<b>09:40</b>
3	10:00
4	10:55
<b>FINISH</b>	<b>11:50</b>

.....  
**Learner  
 Attributes  
 'Balanced'**  
 .....

## WHAT TIME SHOULD MY CHILD ARRIVE FOR SCHOOL?

To ensure students are in lessons in good time, they should be onsite by 7.40am. After 7.50am, only gate 1 will be open to enter the school site.

## WHAT IF A STUDENT IS LATE FOR SCHOOL?

Students are deemed late if they are not in and sat down in their first lesson by 7.45am. The national anthem starts at 7.48am and first lesson begins at 7.50am.

Please note the National Anthem will play at 7:48am, students should be in class by then to avoid being marked as late.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?

E mail [absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:absences@disdubai.ae) as soon as possible, morning or night, with your child's full name and year group along with the reason for the absence

If a student is absent for more than one day, a medical certificate should be emailed to [absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:absences@disdubai.ae)

As part of our first response procedures, if you have not sent an email to us by the time we have taken registrations, we will text/call you asking where your child is and why they are absent.

**مدسة ديرة الدولية**  
 DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**EMAIL DIS**

**More convenient than calling!**  
 If your son or daughter is going to be absent from school just email our Attendance Team.  
*Here to support your child's education.*

[Absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:Absences@disdubai.ae) →

← Contact DIS Absences

Contact Information  
 Website [Illness/Appointments](#)  
 Email [Absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:Absences@disdubai.ae)  
 Phone 0 4 232 5552  
 Social Before 7.50am for illness

# GENERAL INFORMATION

Learner  
Attributes  
'Caring'

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY?

If your child needs to leave school early you must email [absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:absences@disdubai.ae) one day prior with the reason, and evidence where necessary.

All medical appointments etc should be made outside of school hours.

## WHAT IF A STUDENT IS ILL AT SCHOOL?

**Illness at School** If a student is ill or has an accident in school, form tutors or subject teachers will refer them to the Clinic. The nurses or Dr Rinder will attend to their needs. And determine whether the student should be sent home and parents contacted or give treatment and advice to allow the student to return to lessons.

Parents of students with allergies or asthma need to be aware that they must provide up-to-date prescribed medicines to be kept in school in case of emergencies. This is extremely important, particularly in the case of extreme medical conditions, and we ask parents to regularly replace medicines which go out of date.

**Please see 'Absence and Attendance Policy' in full on page 25**

## WHAT CAN MY CHILD EAT FOR LUNCH?

We have a cafeteria within the school. We offer a wide variety, including sandwiches, salads and hot meals. For example, a typical school meal is available at a cost of approximately 19AED. We operate a cashless payment system. You can add funds to your child's account via Parent Portals or the cashiers accept debit / credit cards. Students are encouraged to eat a healthy balanced diet and we ask parents to promote this habit. Provision is also made for students who prefer to bring a packed lunch.

## ARE THERE ANY EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES MY CHILD TO JOIN?

We offer a wide range of activities outside of our curriculum at lunchtime and after school, from Monday - Thursday. Every term a **Co-Curricular Activity** Booklet that will outline the activities we have on offer during the term. You will be able to sign your child up for a lunch time and/or after-school activity online. **For more information please see the Co-Curricular and C.A.S. Policy on page 15**

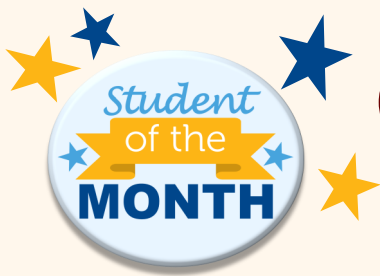
## WHAT EQUIPMENT DOES MY CHILD NEED?

It's important that students are prepared for learning each day, so they work effectively every lesson. Students have the following equipment each day:

- Black pens
- Pencils
- Green Pens
- Highlighter Pen
- Eraser and Sharpener
- Ruler, protractor and compass
- A scientific calculator
- Glue stick and coloured pencils
- A device with charger
- Headphones
- School bag

Every evening students should check their bag to ensure they have their equipment and check Go 4 Schools so they know what lessons they have the following day.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## WHAT DEVICE SHOULD I PURCHASE FOR MY CHILD?

The device needs to run Windows 10 and be fully compatible with Office 365 Apps which is why we recommend a laptop rather than iPad because these devices have a very limited functionality on Class Notebook

All devices must:

- Have a camera
- Have a keyboard (attached or detachable)
- Be fully compatible with Office 365 Apps

***In order to use the device to its full educational potential, it is highly recommended that:***

- A stylus is provided for tablets for writing and drawing (digital inking)
- There is both a front and rear camera for taking photos

## HOW DO STUDENTS LOOK AFTER SCHOOL PROPERTY?

We encourage all our students to respect and look after all school property.

Any losses or damage should be reported immediately to a member of staff.

Textbooks, library books and other equipment are on loan to students and should be looked after carefully. Students will be asked to pay for loss or deliberate damage to school property.

Students should use the bins provided to dispose of all litter.

## WHERE CAN MY CHILD FIND LOST PROPERTY?

In order to help with the retrieval of lost property it is recommended that all personal property, including school uniform, clothing and classroom equipment, should be clearly

marked with the owner's name.

Any missing items can usually be found in the lost property area (under the stairs near Secondary Foyer) Valuable items are kept safe with student reception.

## HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENT?

At Deira International School we encourage every student to develop their talents and we celebrate their success when they do, whether it comes from high rates of attendance, academic success, extra – curricular activities or by displaying excellent character and citizenship of our Learner Attributes. Students receive house points and are recognised through assemblies, being awarded 'student of the week' by their subject teachers or receiving Gold and Platinum tickets for outstanding achievements. At the end of each term Golden Ticket and Platinum ticket holders have the opportunity to win Air pods or ipads

## WHAT IS THE POLICY ON MOBILE PHONES?

Mobile phones are allowed in school, but they must be turned off and in bags throughout the school day. Teachers may allow students to use mobile phones in the lesson for educational purposes if it is appropriate. This will be communicated well in advance. If a student is found to have a mobile phone/headset/earphones out without permission they will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

***Students are not allowed to use their electronic device during lunchtime.***

***Mobile phones are not to be used on the school site.***





# UNIFORM - HOME LEARNING



## WHAT UNIFORM DO STUDENTS NEED?

The school uniform can be purchased by from our supplier *Threads*. You can browse the *Threads* catalogue using this [link](#) or visit <https://www.threadsme.com>. Students need to wear full uniform except on days when they have PE or House Days. Please note that trainers and sports shoes are only to be worn for P.E. and House Days.

## WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION OF HOMEWORK AND HOME LEARNING?

Home learning tasks are appropriate for the age group and are embedded in each Department's scheme of work. Home learning at KS3 is designed to be reasonable, purposeful and challenging. Tasks may be singular and discreet or form part of an on-going project over a period of weeks, such as coursework.

There are three main types of homework:

- **Preparation:** tasks that require students to draft work, to take notes or to deepen and broaden their knowledge of the subject through research and background reading;
- **Extension:** tasks that require problem-solving, the handling of evidence investigation, evaluation or creativity;
- **Practice:** tasks that enable students to consolidate their knowledge, to practice subject- specific skills or to revise.

When setting home learning teachers take into account student wellbeing and the amount of time spent behind a screen. For this reason, due to the current situation, home learning will be kept to the required amount in KS3 and reviewed on a regular basis using feedback from both parents and students. Home learning will always be set using

Go4schools. We encourage parents to monitor their child's home learning through the Go4schools APP.

**For more information on Home Learning for Year 7, 8 and 9 see page 20**

## CAN I VIEW MY CHILD'S PERFORMANCE AND ASSESSMENT DATA?

We use Go4Schools as a method for tracking assessment, behaviour and attendance throughout the year. These will be set through Go4schools and accessible to parents. There is no specific data capture point where staff are required to input current grades, as this takes place throughout the year. Data is live and real-time, ensuring that a current working at grade is automatically updated and generated with the weighting of various assessments. Parents and students are able to access all information via the Go4schools website and App. If you do not have your log in details, then, please contact your child's your Year Learning Coordinator who will be able to support you in logging onto Go4schools.



## ARE PARENTS ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL SITE?

Parents are allowed on the school site only with a parental lanyard for safeguarding and security. Please remember to wear a lanyard at all times while on school premises. If you do not have one yet, you can request a lanyard through the Parent Portal link below.

<https://iparents.disdubai.ae/api/homepage/>



# OUR CORE VALUES - EXPECTATIONS

**W**e have the very highest expectations for everyone, and we will be relentless in challenging every student to meet these expectations. Whilst sometimes this may be challenging, we expect our students to live by our core values and DIS Social Norms 100% of the time, demonstrating the DIS Way. If they do this, their hard work will be acknowledged and celebrated through our core values and learner attributes. Below are our core values and expectations. We want our students to develop positive habits around these key areas which will allow them to thrive both academically and socially.

## RESPECT FOR ALL

- We greet each other in a kind and caring manner with a smile on our faces.
- Students refer to their teachers using Sir and Miss or using their surname.
- We believe in mutual respect – we value each other and their opinions.
- We actively listen when others are speaking. We never talk over another person.
- We communicate in a respectful and polite manner. This includes using please and thank you – good manners go a long way.
- We take pride in our school and our community. We never litter or damage school property.



## EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING WE DO

- We are always on time to school and lessons. We work hard to exceed the DIS attendance target.
- We reflect, challenge and push ourselves each and every day. We strive to give 100% effort to all we do.
- We accept that failure leads to success. We must be resilient and learn from our failures. We never give up.
- We are always well prepared for lessons and learning.



- Our uniform is worn correctly with pride. We are all proud to be a part of the DIS community.

## INTEGRITY EACH AND EVERY DAY

At DIS any form of bullying, intolerance or unacceptable behaviour is not tolerated and challenged by everyone. Positive behaviour should always be celebrated and rewarded.



- We do the right thing each and every day. Not because we have to, but because we want to.
- We take responsibility for our own actions and behaviour. We don't blame others and find excuses.
- We are all ambassadors of the school – this includes when the wider community.
- We demonstrate honesty regardless of the situation. We do this because we are principled people.
- We are true to our word. If you commit to something, you follow through with it to the best of your ability.

## COLLABORATION – WE SUCCEED TOGETHER

- We embrace different cultures, backgrounds and values– we are a community that is inclusive and treats everyone equally.
- We are a community who helps, cares and supports each other – physically, emotionally, socially and academically.
- We show enthusiasm when celebrating the achievements of others. We achieve together and we fail together!
- We contribute to discussions, whilst allowing others to develop our ideas. When collaborating with others we are always respectful of their ideas.
- We all support each other to achieve our goals



# CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*“Forever learning, forever achieving”*

# CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND C.A.S.

Learner  
Attributes  
'Enquirer'

We are determined to ensure our students grow into well rounded, confident life-long learners and responsible global citizens. Therefore, in meeting our vision, it is important students learn (independently of the teacher) through participating in a vast and diverse range of opportunities provided and signposted by the school.

## OBJECTIVES

In securing our vision, we have set three key objectives:

- To provide a range of further home study opportunities through our Independent Learning Platform. This is in addition to the structured and weekly set home learning.
- To provide an extensive Creative, Activity and Service (CAS) opportunities through lessons and Co-Curricular activities.
- Explicitly teach students how to study and learn effectively (and independently of the teacher) through our 5 Approaches to Learning (ATLs).

Our Co-Curricular Activities support our approach to holistic education and embody the CAS philosophy that aligns with our IB programme and school values.

We offer a wide range of activities outside of our curriculum at lunchtime and after school, from Monday - Thursday to support the growth of every child and their specific talents and interests. Our activities come under the CAS umbrella and will fall into one of the following categories: Creativity, Activity and/or Service.

## HOW DO THEY OPERATE?

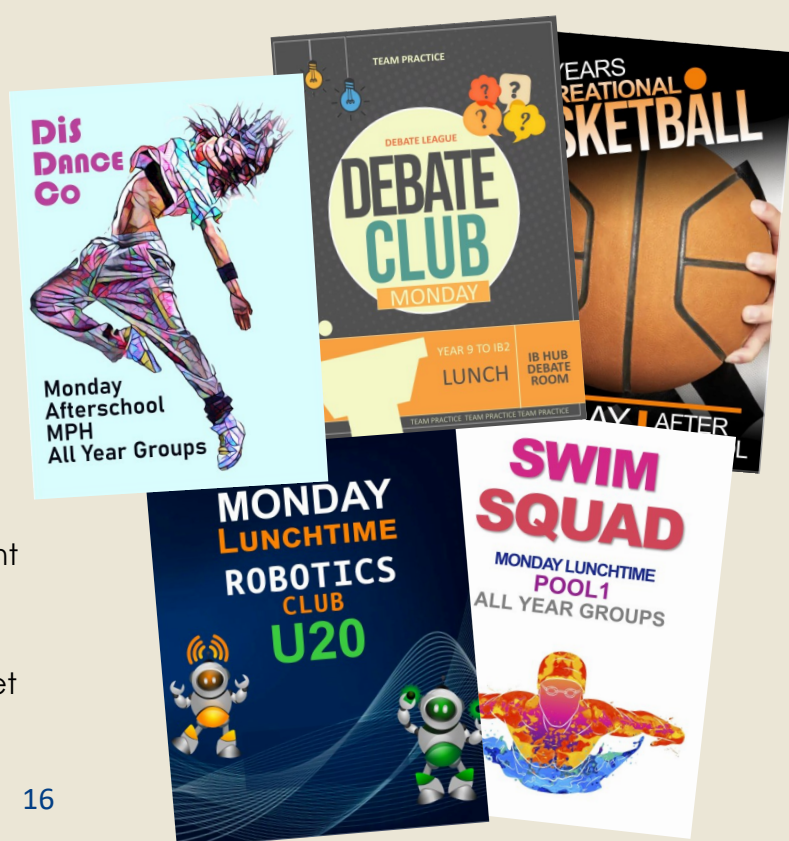
Before each term commences you as a parent will receive a CCA Booklet that will outline the activities we have on offer during the term. You will have opportunity to review the booklet

with your child one week before signing up starts and discuss what activity they would like to join.

**To sign your child up for a lunch time and/or after-school activity you will need to have access to the School Cloud and know your iSAMS Parent Portal login details. If you do not have your login details or have access problems, please reach out to – [itsupport@disdubai.ae](mailto:itsupport@disdubai.ae)**

Login time and dates will be sent to you with the CCA Booklet at least one week before. Please note, there can be a high demand for sign ups and to avoid panic, please ensure you log on early enough and are prepared for your child to be on a waiting list, if required.

**Please do consider family logistics, travel arrangements and the development of your child's talent, interest and/or new skills. If your child misses the activity three times consecutively, please note your child may be removed from the register and a place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.**





# CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND C.A.S.

## CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY AND SERVICE

At DIS during lessons and across a range of co-curricular opportunities after school or at lunch, we encourage students to develop holistically by contributing fully to our CAS programme. Every student will have a CASport that is a web-based record and accumulation of experiences across the three domains shown below. A child's CASport will stay with them through their time at DIS.

## REFLECTION AND REVIEW

An important aspect of C.A.S. is a student's reflection of their participation in our CAS programme. It is not just what a student has done but more importantly the process they have gone through and the impact the CAS activities have made on themselves and others around them. The student's form tutor will comment explicitly on the contribution made to CAS in their end of year written report.

## APPROACHES TO LEARNING (ATLS)

We are fully aware that all students will need to improve and develop their study skills and their ability to learn effectively both in and out of school. This will not happen just by chance and so teachers will carefully structure opportunities to explicitly teach approaches to learning (ATL). At DIS we focus on the development of the following five ATL.

- Thinking skills
- Communication skills
- Research skills
- Self-management skills
- Social skills

The development and nurturing of these skills will start during Key Stage 3 but continue well into year 11 especially as we teach our students how to revise effectively for examinations.



We believe the following five elements will make a well-rounded, confident and successful DIS student:

- *They will challenge themselves to be the best they can be in every lesson by striving to achieve the very highest standards.*
- *They will pursue their interests in subjects they enjoy or want to do better at through the engagement in our Independent Learning Platform.*
- *They will actively seek out opportunities to add to their CASport through a range of activities and co-curricular activities in school and out of school.*
- *They will actively seek out ways to improve their study skills and approaches to learning both in and out of school.*

## What does C.A.S. stand for?

### **CREATIVITY**

Experiences that encompass original thinking, including artistic activities and other learning and teaching experiences.

### **ACTIVITY**

Experiences that contribute to a healthy lifestyle through participation in individual/team sports as well as any other activity which focuses on physical exertion

### **SERVICE**

Experiences that involve interactions with individuals or groups, which provide benefits to the community. These experiences should not only involve contributions to others, but also with others, while developing a deep commitment.

# KS3 CURRICULUM HOME LEARNING

## OUR VISION

We are determined to ensure our students grow into well rounded, confident life-long learners and responsible global citizens. Therefore, in meeting our vision, it is important students learn (often independently of the teacher) through participating in a vast and diverse range of opportunities provided and signposted by the school.

*“Forever learning, forever achieving”*

# KS3 CURRICULUM

## CURRICULUM FOR YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3, which includes Year 7, 8 and 9 offers a broad, balanced and inclusive educational experience.

**We provide the *National Curriculum for England (NCfE)* adapted to match both the local requirements of the UAE and to prepare students for a rapidly changing world that we live in.**

The NCfE provides students with a core curriculum offer of English, Mathematics, Science and PE and a range of other foundation subjects across disciplines such as the arts, technology, language and humanities. In accordance with the UAE's Ministry of Education, we provide Arabic A and B Language, UAE Social Studies and, for Muslim students, Islamic Studies. All these subjects that are taught in Key stage 3 lead on to Key Stage 4 where students complete GCSE/ IGCSE and IBTEC qualifications. As students move through to Sixth Form, they will complete the International Baccalaureate.

To ensure students have a smooth and seamless transition as they move through each phase, we share a consistent philosophy from Foundation Stage through to Sixth Form.

The aim of our Key Stage 3 Curriculum is to develop the whole child, whilst also equipping them with a breadth of knowledge and a wide variety of skills which will allow them to excel in the classroom and beyond. We provide our students with extensive opportunities which allows for their talents and aspirations to be nurtured. Through our blended learning approach students will have the opportunity to become more independent and digital literate, whilst developing them into responsible global citizens of the future.

.....  
**Learner  
 Attributes  
 ' knowledgeable '**  
 .....

## OUR KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM STRIVES TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Provide a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum allowing ALL students to achieve academic excellence.
- Provide the breadth and depth of experience so that students are ready and fully prepared to thrive at GCSE/BTEC and IB qualifications as senior students
- Provide opportunities for our students to explore, debate and solve real life problems and in doing so become confident global citizens of the future who are prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. They will be competent digital users, developing a variety of transferable skills in preparation for Further Education and employment.
- Provide explicit opportunities to develop the core 'We are DIS' values and attributes, building students' learner attributes as a means to become well rounded individuals.
- Ensuring subject areas develop confident and resilient individuals, who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

## KEY STAGE 3 WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS

CORE	SPECIALIST	CREATIVE	EMIRATE
English	History	Music	Social Studies
Maths	Geography	Drama	Islamic
Science	French	Art	Arabic
Physical Education	Spanish	Design Technology	Moral Education
	Computer Science		

# HOME LEARNING

## WIDER CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES OUR VISION

**W**e are determined to ensure our students grow into well rounded, confident life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

Therefore, in meeting our vision, it is important students learn (often independently of the teacher) through participating in a vast and diverse range of opportunities provided and signposted by the school.

### WE HAVE SET 3 KEY OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a range of home study opportunities through our Independent Learning Platform.
- To provide an extensive Creative, Activity and Service (CAS) opportunities through lessons and Co-Curricular activities.
- Explicitly teach students how to study and learn effectively (and independently of the teacher) through our five Approaches to Learning (ATLs).

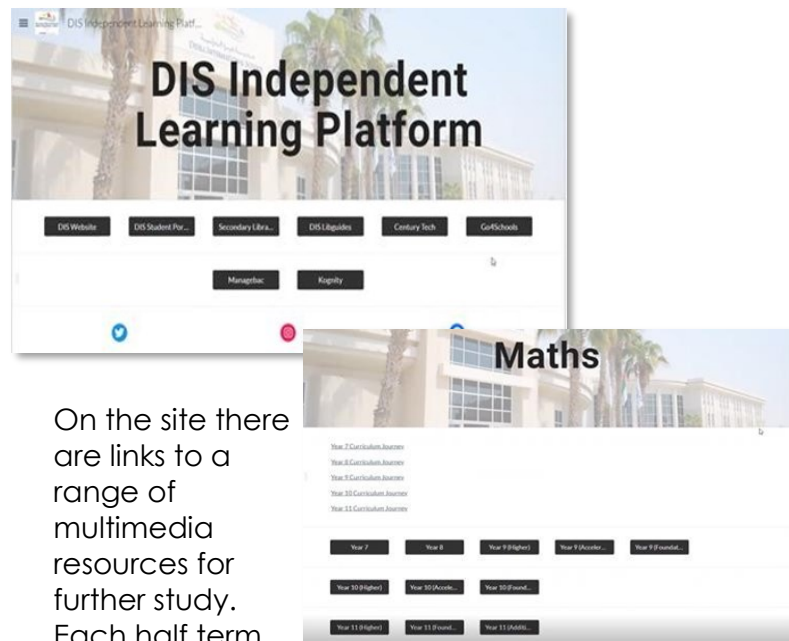
### INDEPENDENT LEARNING PLATFORM

(found on school website [www.disdubai.ae](http://www.disdubai.ae))

Research shows us that the number of hours students are engaged in lessons and learning throughout the normal school day in Years 7, 8 and 9 is sufficient to cover the content of the curriculum and attain well in end of year assessments.

**However, we also know that some students will want to go further and deeper in to subjects that they enjoy or subject they want to perform better in.**

We also know that the teacher will want certain students to spend more time on certain topics if they have fallen behind, need more practice or prepare in advance for a lesson. We have assembled an Independent Learning Platform for students to use throughout each term to supplement their studies. The site illustrates what students are learning in class to help parents guide and direct their child to learning they can do at home.



On the site there are links to a range of multimedia resources for further study. Each half term there is a 'Golden Ticket' task set. Students will receive a 'Golden Ticket' (worth 10 House Points) if they are successful in completing the task.

We expect all students to use the Independent Learning Platform extensively throughout the year, but its use is facilitated through student choice and parent and teacher guidance/intervention.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT FALLS BEHIND OR IS NOT MEETING THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS WE EXPECT?

- The teacher will inform the respective parents by email or phone that they are seeing underperformance and why this is the case.
- They will sign post them to the relevant section of the independent learning site to work on areas of weakness but also invite them to a subject intervention session either at lunch or after school so that additional guidance can be given to narrow gaps in this under performance.



Learner  
Attributes  
'knowledgeable'



# SUCCESS AT KS3

## WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL KEY STAGE 3 STUDENT?

There are lots of ideas about how to succeed at KS3 and how best to prepare for the rigor of KS4. Everybody will tell you that it is important to work hard, to keep up to date, to be punctual to your lessons and to attend school regularly. It is also important to get enough sleep, to have a breakfast in the morning and to drink plenty of water.



There are also other ways in which you can improve your chances of success which some people don't discover until it is too late. Speak to any KS4 student and they will tell you how quickly their KS3 years went.

**We offer excellent pastoral care for all our students. Our experienced pastoral team will be on hand to support students in all areas of school life and beyond. In addition, this year we will have full time counsellor on hand for students who may need any extra support or someone to talk too.**

## HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR YOU DURING KS3:

- Keep an open mind and explore all subjects and activities offered. You may end up enjoying a subject you had never thought of.
- Be open to meeting new people and making new friends.
- Involve yourself in as many activities outside of the classroom as possible.
- Develop good routines and habits.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help. This may come in the form of teachers and your peers.
- Don't be afraid to take risks and come out of your comfort zone.
- It's ok to fail. Don't expect a smooth journey through KS3. There will be ups and downs, stay positive, reflect and be resilient.
- Use your outlook calendar to help plan your week, including homework.
- Fully embrace school life and its core values.

## WELLBEING TIPS

- ✓ 8 hours sleep per night.
- ✗ Don't spend too much time behind a screen (*This includes phones, TVs and game consoles*).
- ✓ Take regular breaks and keep hydrated.
- ✓ Stay active and lead a healthy lifestyle.
- ✗ Try to stay away from sugary drinks and food, especially in the morning.
- ✓ Remember, there is always someone to help. If you need support reach out to someone. This may come in the form of peers, family or the amazing teachers you have.
- ✓ Make time for friends and family. School is important but you must find a healthy balance.

.....  
Learner  
Attributes  
'Caring'  
.....

# USEFUL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## COMMUNICATION

Throughout the year there will be various parent events which will allow you to interact with the school and your child's teachers. These include:

## PARENT EVENTS

- **Meet the Tutor** - At the start of the year you will have the opportunity to meet your child's tutor.
- **Parent Teacher Conference** – This will be online via the school cloud. Further details on how to access these will be sent out prior to the event.
- **Invitational Parent Meetings** – At certain points in the year you may be required to come into school to meet with certain teachers to discuss your child's progress and attainment.
- **End of Year Showcase** – This will be an opportunity for parents to come into school and celebrate the amazing work that your child has produced. *(Y10 only)*
- **Information Evenings** - Throughout the year there will be information evenings. Some of these will be year group specific and some whole school.

## COFFEE MORNINGS

Over the course of the year various coffee mornings will be held. Each term your Year Learning Coordinator will host a coffee morning to keep you up to date on any year group specific information. This will also act as an opportunity for parents to give feedback.

*“Forever learning, forever achieving”*

# SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

.....  
Learner  
Attributes  
'Enquirer'  
.....

TERM ONE	
Monday – Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	<b>New</b> Students Induction
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	First day of Academic Year for <b>all</b> students
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Staff PD 1 ( <i>Students in school</i> )
Monday – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Half Term Break ( <i>School closed for students</i> )
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	*Commemoration Day ( <i>Government holiday</i> )
Monday – Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	*National Day ( <i>Government holiday</i> )
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Last Day of Term
TERM TWO	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Start of Term 2
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Staff PD 2 ( <i>Students in school</i> )
Monday – Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Half Term Break ( <i>School closed for students</i> )
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	*Ramadan Begins
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	Last day of Term
TERM THREE	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Start of Term 3
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Staff PD 3 ( <i>Students in school</i> )
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Staff PD 4 ( <i>Students in school</i> )
Thursday – Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	*Eid al Adha ( <i>Government holiday</i> )
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Staff PD 5 ( <i>Students in school</i> )
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	*Islamic New Year ( <i>Government holiday</i> )
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Last day of the Academic Year

\* to be confirmed

# **ABSENCE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

*“Forever learning, forever achieving”*



# ABSENCE AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

**PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE.** Students are deemed late if they are not in and sat down in their first lesson by 7.45am. The national anthem starts at 7.48am and first lesson begins at **7.50am**.

telephone our reception team inform our reception team of your child's lateness. To ensure students are in lessons in good time, they should be onsite by 7.40am. After 7.50am, only gate 1 will be open to enter the school site.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STUDENT ARRIVES LATE FOR SCHOOL?

If your child arrives after 7.50am he/she must go to the Secondary Reception desk to collect a 'late slip' before going to join his/her class. This ensures that the Reception Team marks the child as 'present' in the Register so that we always know how many students are on site in case of an emergency. If the child arrives at class and does not have this 'Late Slip' from Reception, the teacher will ask him or her to return to Reception to collect one; this ensures all students are accounted for.

*Any arrivals after 8.30am* will have to enter the school via the main Secondary School reception. A student who is late will be issued with a behaviour point and will complete a 10 - minute reflection at break time on the same day.

## WHY IS ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY IMPORTANT?

Over the course of the year missed learning time due to poor attendance can have a significant impact on your child's education and therefore may reduce their life chances. Setting good attendance and punctuality habits will help students later in life. Students with a poor attendance and punctuality record may have less chance in gaining a university place or securing a job as an adult. Being in school helps students to build confidence, resilience and self-esteem giving students the best chance in life to succeed.

**GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS BEING IN SCHOOL 96% OF THE TIME OR NOT HAVING MORE THAN 7 DAYS OFF IN THE YEAR.**

**GOOD ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER AND LIFE CHOICES.**

**GOOD ATTENDANCE HELPS YOU LEARN, DEVELOP AND GROW AS A PERSON.**

**YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE ATTENDANCE MATTERS DAYS OFF COSTS GRADES**

**DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**BE RELIABLE BE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL & LESSONS**

**INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF SUCCESS**

**BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

**BOOK DOCTORS AND DENTIST APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS**

**STAY ON TARGET!**

**ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

**BE READY TO LEARN, GAIN NEW SKILLS AND SUCCEED**

## HOW IS PUNCTUALITY RECORDED?

*Punctuality and lateness* are recorded and monitored every lesson. It is essential that students are on time for school and each lesson to ensure they are safe and get the most from learning time. Arriving on time for school/lessons is rewarded regularly by the school and reported to parents annually.

*We expect students* to arrive punctually at school and we place great importance on developing punctuality as a sign of respect towards others in the community. Persistent lateness will be followed up by the senior leadership team and where needed, the school Head Teacher.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS AN ISSUE THAT MAY AFFECT MY CHILD'S ARRIVAL TIME?

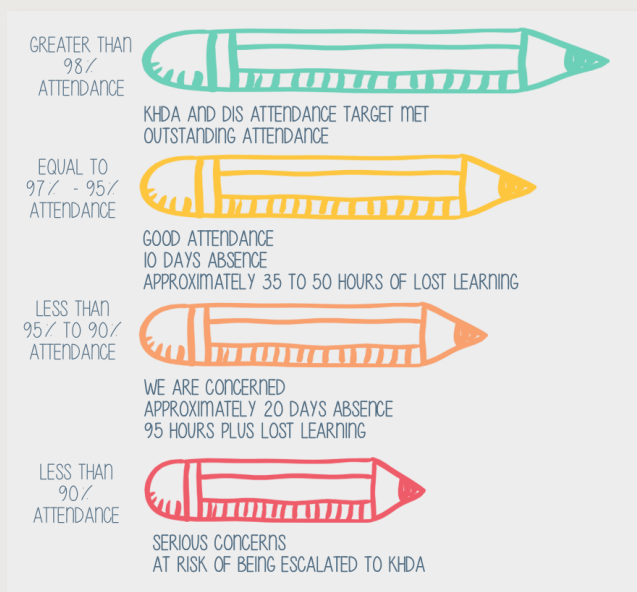
We understand that there may be infrequent situations when you are unavoidably delayed if this is the case, please email [absence@disdubai.ae](mailto:absence@disdubai.ae) before 7.30am or

Learner  
Attributes  
'Reflective'

# ABSENCE AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

## WHAT DOES GOOD ATTENDANCE LOOK LIKE?

We are compassionate and understanding in our approach to attendance, but we remain ambitious, showing our support for students to attend school and be successful. Please familiarise yourself with the attendance thresholds.



## WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?

Email [absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:absences@disdubai.ae) immediately with your child's name and year group along with the reason.

If a student is absent for more than one day, a medical certificate should be emailed to [absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:absences@disdubai.ae). As part of our first response procedures, should you not have emailed us by the time we have taken registrations, we will text/call you asking where your child is and why they are absent. Any long-term absences contact your Year Learning Coordinator, so they are able to support you and your child further. Please email a scanned copy of the medical certificate provided by the doctor/clinic. This applies if the student will be absent for 3 days or more.

If your child needs to leave school early you must email [absences@disdubai.ae](mailto:absences@disdubai.ae) one day prior with the reason, and evidence where necessary.

*All medical appointments etc should be made outside of school hours.*

## IS THE SCHOOL LIKELY TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR YOUR CHILD TO BE ABSENT?

The Assistant Headteacher will consider each absence request individually and decide: Whether to grant the absence – each case will be considered separately.

***How many days your child can be away from school for (if the absence is granted). Absence requests will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. It's up to the school to decide which circumstances are 'exceptional'.***

If absence is granted it will be recorded as authorised absence.

Examples of circumstances that are not exceptional include:

- Cheaper flights home and back to the UAE around term breaks.
- Absence that coincides with important school events such as the start of term or exams.

As a general guideline, exceptional absence circumstances usually only apply to immediate family. Requests for leave related to extended family and friends are likely to be refused.

Any planned absence from the school is actively discouraged.

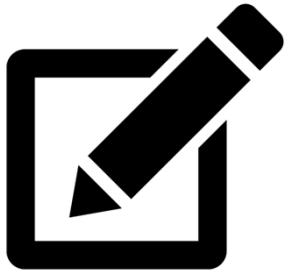
## WHAT IF YOU TAKE YOUR CHILD ON UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE/ LEAVE?

If you take your child out of school without advance permission (except where they're unwell), the following may happen:

- Possible referral to the KHDA.
- Official Warning letter from the school.

A number of unauthorised absences will be escalated to KHDA and Community Development Team.

Possible non re enrolment or demotion of a year group as per KHDA approval.



# HOW WILL MY WORK BE MARKED?



## **PUNCTUATION MISTAKE**

Punctuation error, missing or wrong type of punctuation mark.



## **NEW PARAGRAPH**

New paragraph/Mark in where the paragraphs should be.



## **SPELLING MISTAKE**

Try this spelling again.



## **CAPITAL LETTER**

Find the missing or misplaced capital letters .



## **UNCLEAR**

Not clear. Rewrite this short section again to improve the expression.



## **SOMETHING IS MISSING**

There is a missing word or words.

# DIS MISSION AND VALUES

## DIS VISION

To create an outstanding, multi-cultural learning community which empowers students to achieve their potential, become life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

## DIS MISSION

We believe all students fulfil their potential in an inclusive, forward thinking, and safe environment, in which each child's individuality is valued and encouraged. Our committed team of educators provide opportunities for creativity and global awareness through a holistic and nurturing curriculum. They hold high expectations, use innovative learning and teaching approaches, and encourage the celebration of cultural diversity. We foster partnerships where students, parents, staff and the wider community actively support and contribute to the achievement of the DIS Vision.

## DIS VALUES

At DIS, **Respect, Excellence, Collaboration and Integrity** are the values we live by, that help us action our Vision and Mission. These are also the values of Al-Futtaim Group.

*“Forever learning, forever achieving”*