



September 2024

KS4 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*

Welcome	4
Meet the Key Stage 4 Team	5
Key Stage 4 Team	5
The Role of a Tutor	7
Key Staff in School	8
Key Stage 4 School Timings	9
Absence	9
DIS Learning Essentials and Equipment	10
Uniform	12
Go4schools	12
DIS Core Values and Social Norms	13
Cross Curricular Activities (CCA)	15
Creativity, Activity and Service	16
Curriculum for Years 10 and 11	18
The Exams and What They Mean:	19
Reporting	20
Intervention – Year 11	21
Independent Learning Platform	
(Found on the school website www.disdubai.ae)	21
Parent Events	22
Key Dates	23
Attendance Policy	25
DIS Vision, Mission and Values	28

*A welcome message
from the Headteacher*

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

Dear Parents

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome both new and returning parents to Key Stage 4 (KS4) at Deira International School (DIS). Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook and hopefully it will give you an insight into Years 10 & 11 at DIS.

We feel extremely privileged to work with you as we embark on the most important educational years for you and your child.

In Key Stage 4, at Deira International School, all students study the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) programme of study. Art, Geography, Psychology and Science are assessed with the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). iGCSEs or GCSEs are traditionally assessed through formal, external examinations in the summer term of Year 11. There may be additional components of assessment taken in some subjects during the two-year course. GCSEs are gold standard globally recognised qualifications and take two years to complete. A recent and exciting development is the inclusion of BTEC qualifications at DIS. These now have equivalency by the KHDA to align with GCSEs providing a more vocational pathway to higher education. Currently we offer BTECs in Business, Media, Sport and Travel and Tourism.

At Deira International School, we also recognise the importance of developing students' social, intellectual, and physical skills through the wider curriculum. Throughout Key Stage 4, students will have the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of CCAs including Model United Nations, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, music and talent concerts, sports competitions, art exhibitions, debating conferences, local and national educational trips and educational



WELCOME TO KS4 D.I.S.

conferences adding to your child's Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) experience. In all areas of school life, students are supported by an outstanding group of specialist teachers. Staff are passionate and dedicated, they will guide and lead through both times of success and uncertainty. Academically, you can expect students to be challenged in all areas of the curriculum both inside the class and out.

Every student's progress is tracked and monitored closely throughout their GCSE courses. A variety of intervention strategies will be used to allow students to succeed in all areas of the curriculum. A calm, purposeful and caring environment is created through mutually respectful relationships between staff and students. On reading this booklet, if you have any queries, please do reach out to us and we will be more than happy to help.

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 continued support.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr Doug Pettitt
Secondary Head Teacher

MEET THE KEY STAGE 4 TEAM

*Year 10 Learning
Coordinator
Miss Crabb*



I am really looking forward to being the Year 10 YLC at DIS next year. With seven years of teaching experience, I have a strong foundation in both classroom instruction and educational leadership. My role as the current Assistant Head of KS4 has equipped me with the knowledge to guide students through this critical stage in their academic journey.

I understand the support pupils need to overcome challenges in Year 10, including completing work experience and starting their IGCSEs. I am committed to fostering both holistic and academic support systems to maximize pupils' outcomes and experiences. My experience has taught me the importance of building strong relationships with students, parents, and staff. I believe in creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every student feels valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

My approach involves regular communication with parents and guardians, providing consistent feedback to students, and collaborating with colleagues to implement best practices. I am passionate about helping students navigate the complexities of adolescence while preparing them for future academic and career endeavors. As the Year 10 YLC, I will maintain a culture of excellence and resilience through promoting the school values and encouraging students to do it 'The DIS Way'.

Miss Crabb (jcrabb@disdubai.ae)

*Year 11 Learning
Coordinator
Miss Phillips*



I am looking forward to being YLC for Year 11 at DIS. Having been with the Year Group since November, I've had the privilege of building strong relationships with all the students. My role is all about providing support and guidance as you navigate through the challenges of the iGCSEs and prepare for the exciting journey towards the International Baccalaureate and beyond.

This year, there will be a focus on the year groups well-being and mastering effective time management skills, ensuring that an environment of excellence and resilience is created to help the year group finish their KS4 journey on a high note.

Miss Phillips (kphillips@disdubai.ae)

MEET THE TUTORS

YEAR 10



Adriana Cooke
Acooke@disdubai.ae



Raees Mogra
RMogra@disdubai.ae



Najeeb Shakoor
NShakoor@disdubai.ae



Dominic Bourn
dbourn@disdubai.ae



Mari Herron
mherron@disdubai.ae



Ahmad Almhimid
Aalmhimid@disdubai.ae



Joy Yallop
jyallop@disdubai.ae

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

*Barry Lomas –
Assistant Head Teacher
Pastoral Care*



YEAR 11



Noorie Bahadur
nbahadur@disdubai.ae



Breidin Boyle
Bboyle@disdubai.ae



Megan Smith
msmith@disdubai.ae



Ellen Swinney
eswinney@disdubai.ae



Mathusser Iqbal
miqbal@disdubai.ae



Mohammed Ullah
mullah@disdubai.ae



Adrian Waddicor
awaddicor@disduabia.ae

We 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

Character and Citizenship

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 Miss Crabb or Miss Phillips 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 Miss Crabb or Miss Phillips

KEY STAFF INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

Ware 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 Miss Crabb or Ms Phillips 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

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

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

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

.....
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 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

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.


 مدرسة 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 →

← Contact DIS Absences

Contact Information

Website Illness/Appointments

Email Absences@disdubai.ae

Phone 04 232 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 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 24

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 **Cross 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 [Cross Curricular and C.A.S. Policy](#) on page 15*

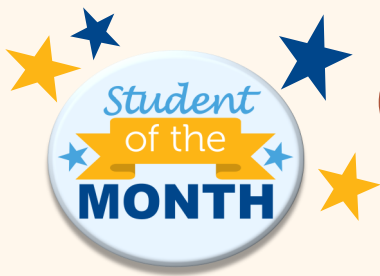
WHAT EQUIPMENT DOES MY CHILD NEED?

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.

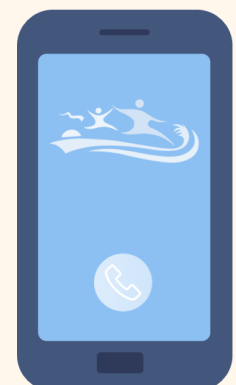
Any missing items can usually be found in the lost property area (under the stairs near Secondary Foyer) Valuable items are kept safe with student reception.

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 KS4 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 KS4 and reviewed on a regular basis using feedback from both parents and students. Home learning will always be set, tracked and graded using Go4schools. We encourage

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

For more information on Home Learning for Year 10 and 11 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.

For more details on assessment date in Year 10 and 11 see page 19



.....
Learner
Attributes
' Communicator '
.....

OUR CORE VALUES - EXPECTATIONS

We 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



CROSS CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



“Forever learning, forever achieving”

CROSS CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND C.A.S.

Learner
Attributes
'Enquirer'

When 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).

WHAT ARE CCAs?

Our Cross 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

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.



CROSS 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

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.

KS4 CURRICULUM HOME LEARNING AND REPORTING

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”



مدرسة ديرة الدولية
DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
FESTIVAL CITY

Al-Futtaim Education Foundation

TAKING ON THE
CHALLENGE OF REVISION
RESILIENT



PERSISTENCE
TO **SUCCEED** SET YOUR GOAL, STAY WITH
IT AND DON'T GIVE UP!



RISK TAKER - We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovation strategies.



THINKER - We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.



KS4 CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM FOR YEARS 10 AND 11

(I)GCSE/GCSE

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) are the principle means of assessing student attainment at the end of Year 11. The GCSE examinations are devised to satisfy United Kingdom nationally agreed criteria and any syllabi followed must be approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

In keeping with UK educational practice, we aim to offer a broad and balanced curriculum for students of compulsory age. Five GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 are often used as a benchmark of reasonable attainment for students of average ability, with many expecting English Language and Mathematics to be included. GCSEs are undertaken over the two years of Key Stage 4, i.e., Years 10 and 11. A limited number of GCSE courses have an element of coursework. Coursework is marked by our teachers then externally moderated by the examination board. Examinations will take place at the end of the two years of study in the final term of Year 11. (The only exception at DIS is English Language which will be sat at the end of Year 10).

BTEC

Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) is an alternative and equivalent means of assessing student attainment at the end of Year 11. Each qualification is graded Distinction* to Pass. Each qualification is built on the completion of assignments over two years that are assessed by the school, moderated, and then verified externally by the exam board Pearson.

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

CORE REQUIREMENTS

All students must take the following subjects to the end of Year 11:

English, Mathematics, Science, *PE, **Moral, Cultural and Social Studies, **Arabic (for Arabic passport holders) and **Islamic Education (for Muslim students) are the core components of the KS 4 curriculum.

*Non-GCSE

** Ministry of Education (Non-GCSE)

FURTHER NOTES ON CORE SUBJECTS

English: Students will study both English Language and English Literature in a single course leading to two GCSE subject certificates.

Mathematics: This is the only iGCSE subject to group by attainment.

Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied separately leading to the double or Triple Award qualification.

PE: Students will continue to study core Physical Education where they participate in activities ranging from competitive sports to those promoting and developing health and fitness. This is separate to the IGCSE PE option.

Arabic (for Arabic passport holders): Arabic passport holders are required to study the Ministry of Education Arabic course and this forms one of their option choices (leading to three option choices rather than four).

Islamic Education: Muslim students attend two lessons of Islamic Education per week and follow the Ministry of Education curriculum.

INTERVENTION – YEAR 11

During students IGCSE's at Deira International School, staff will regularly provide a range of intervention strategies to help improve student performance. These strategies often include after school sessions, breakfast clubs and break/ lunch time sessions/after school sessions. These sessions are compulsory to attend these activities on a regular basis, especially in the run up to exam periods. As a result of monitoring, students may be requested to attend intervention sessions by the Key Stage leader. Intervention will play a key part in closing gaps and making sure students achieve fantastic grades.

EXAM GRADING INFORMATION

The Exams and What They Mean:

We use three different Examination Boards – Edexcel (now known as Pearson), Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and Assessment and Qualification Alliance (AQA). The Head of each subject Department will decide which Exam Board their students sit at the end of Year 11. IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education). These are the international versions of the GCSE and are highly regarded academically inside and out of Education.

GCSEs are graded by a numerical scale of 9 to 0. Grade 9/8 is equivalent to A, grades 5 or 4 are equivalent to a C, grade 5 will be classed as a 'strong pass' and 4 will be classed as a 'standard pass'. Grade 0 is equivalent to the old U grade. A grade 9 is only awarded to the top 2% of students globally. Most students will therefore receive a combination of numbers and letters as grades on their GCSE or iGCSE certificates.*

NEW grading structure	U	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Old grading structure	U	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	

Some exams have tiered papers. The terms "Core" and "Foundation" tiers are used to describe exams in which the highest grade that can be gained is a C or 5. "Extended" and "Higher" indicate that grades A* to E or 9 to 3 can be achieved.

At the end of Year 11, all students will undertake their final (I)GCSE examinations. These examinations dates are set by the UK based examination boards and are out of the control of Deira International School. Most exams are usually sat during May and June but be aware, that there may be exceptions. It is advised that students should not arrange travel plans around this time.

All results will be issued via email in August. Detailed information upon this will be provided prior to students completing Year 11.

Please note that the current Year 10 will sit their iGCSE English Language early at the end of Year 10. This allows students to focus on iGCSE English Literature in Year 11. Our accelerated Maths class will also sit their iGCSE Maths exam early at the end of Year 100 too.

HOW WE REPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

Throughout the year we will measure student achievement through attainment, attitude to learning and attendance and punctuality.

Attainment is measure of a child's achievement in school which compares every child to a standardised expectation for their age level, regardless of individual starting points.

REPORTING PERIOD

We understand the importance of regular monitoring of student progress. We use an 'on track for' reporting grade for attainment, therefore the report grade received by students is a reflection of the grade they expect students to achieve in the May (I) GCSE examination in Year 11. Every student will receive an Effort and Achievement grade at three periods each academic year. In addition to this, students will sit an end of year examination at the end of Year 10 and a mock examination half-way through Year 11.

Year 10	
September	Tutor Report
December	End of Term 1 Report Grade
March	End of Term 2 Report Grade
June	End of Term 3 Report Grade and EOY Examination Grade

Year 11	
December	End of Term 1 Report Grade
January Mock Examinations (Achievement only)	End of January Examination Grade
March	End of Term 2 Report Grade and Written Report

HOME LEARNING PLATFORM

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 five Approaches to Learning (ATLs).

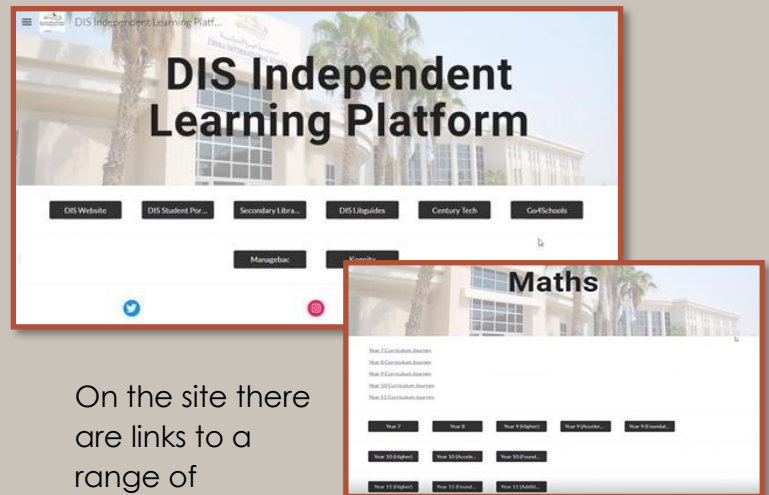
Independent Learning Platform (Found on the school website www.disdubai.ae)

HOME LEARNING PLATFORM

At Key Stage 4 the nature and depth of the GCSE study means that there is a need for additional but personalised home learning which depending on the subject will be set regularly. 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 some 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 created 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. This will help students to go deeper into a subject of their choice.



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

.....
Learner
Attributes
'Open Minded'
.....

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.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

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?

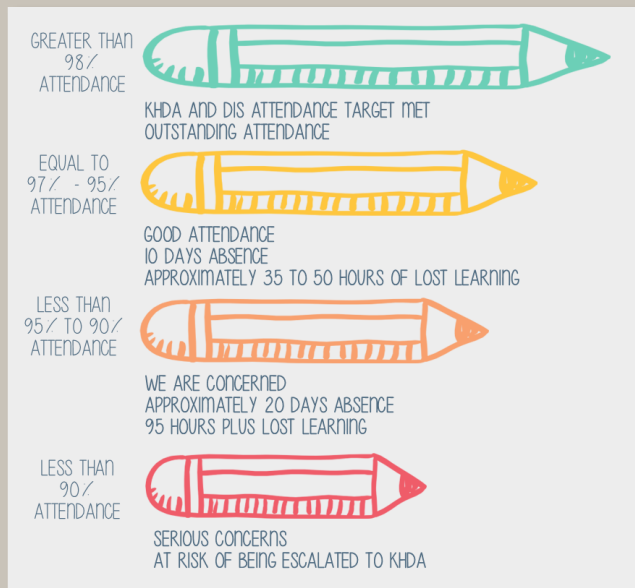
We understand that there may be infrequent situations when you are unavoidably delayed if this is the case, please email absence@disdubai.ae before 7.30am or

Learner
Attributes
'Reflective'

ABSENCE AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

WHAT DOES GOOD ATTENDANCE LOOK LIKE?

At DIS 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 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. 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 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.

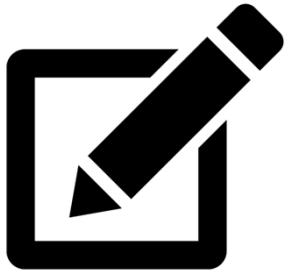
WHAT IF YOU TAKE YOUR CHILD ON UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE/ LEAVE?

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”