

TOGETHER, WE CAN ACHIEVE

Get a flavour of what has been happening



Message from Principal

As we approach the winter break I am keen to share all the exciting things that have been introduced at BISM this term. **This is a school that refuses to stand still and is determined to reflect, review and improve.** The difficulty is remaining patient as these things take time. This newsletter gives you a flavour of what is on offer at GEMS BISM

We want to give our secondary students every opportunity to achieve their dreams and support them when making decisions that will impact their future. It has been a pleasure for myself and Dr Daisley to work with Mrs Omneya and Mr Magdi creating the best curriculum for Years 9-12. Please see Dr Daisley's article explaining how this works. We have given all students from Year 8 upwards access to Unifrog an online platform that supports their decision making. You can read about it and hear what our students think.

Continued..





Message from Principal

We want to encourage our students to harness their other talents and give them the skills to do that. To promote confidence and debating skills our students have been able to join CIMUN. See Mr O'Brien's overview of this project and what our students think. We have made connections with 6 companies who will offer Y11&12 an internship in the February half term and we are delighted that 10 students have signed up for this. Read more about these companies in our article about internships. We have also joined forces with simply sport who came in this week to work with all our students and will compliment our work with the World Academy of Sport. Mr Mohamed tells us how this is going.

Warm regards,



Janet Brock

Updates from our Secondary School



This term Secondary has seen some exciting and but essential changes to our key stage 4 and 5 programs. Our new management team have been working closely with our education consultant Dr. Omneya Kassabgy to make the correct and necessary changes to our IGCSE system. This will allow us to offer an outstanding high school program to enable our students to achieve the high academic performance they deserve.

Dr. Samantha Daisly

In order to raise standards at our IGCSE level we first needed to address what was being taught in KS3. It was evident that from our first meeting with our consultant, that we needed to make sure all our year 9 students had a firm background in the core subjects. As a result of our reviews and meetings with our consultant, **we have decided that all our year 9 students will be taught the Cambridge PRE-IGCSE course. As the PRE-IGCSE courses are the core content of the actual IGCSE this gives our students a firm background in these essential core subjects.**

Another area we have reviewed is our IGCSE courses. In previous years we have always taught the IGCSE courses over 2 years with the students taking the external examination at the end of the second year. What we noticed with our students is the first year of the 2 years course seemed pointless and they often took a relaxed approach to the year. This left the students in a panic when they realised that almost all of the course had been taught and they had not really studied well during the first year.

Message from Head of Secondary

As a result of these observations we have decided that the current year 9, when they move into year 10, will study their IGCSE subjects over one year not two. When year 9 students move into year 10 next year they will take 5 condensed IGCSE courses. In year 11 they will be able to study the remaining 3 IGCSE's and two or three AS levels.

A very important area that we have addressed this year is our approach to options. We felt that students and parents were not fully informed regarding option choices and the university courses that each course led to. In order to ensure that both parents and students were fully informed we held **our first options evening**, in which students and their parents were given information on our courses and detailed information on the requirements for the different schools of education at the Egyptian universities.



Before students in years 9, 10 and 11 made the final decision on their option choices they were given a one to one counselling session. In these sessions the counsellor spoke to them about their possible university and course as well as their future career aspirations. The students options choices were then check to ensure that they were making the right choice now to enable them to reach their goals.

You can check and download our Options Booklets from below links:

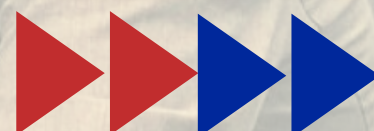


[Year 10 Options Booklet](#)

[Year 11 Options Booklet](#)



GEMS BISM Career Guidance



GEMS Internship Programme

Mai the exams officer, Ms Riham the tutor and myself really enjoyed talking to Y11&12 about the value of doing an internship. We discussed how it **gives you the experience in the career field you want to pursue and also tells you if you don't want to pursue it**. We also discussed how doing something like this can give our students an edge over other students when applying for jobs or university as it is something extra on their CV. We have collaborated with:

- **Pasta Regina**, a leading company in the pasta industry in Egypt and currently exporting to over 30 countries worldwide.
- **EFG Hermes** a leading financial services corporation providing to the entire MENA region
- **Arabeya** an online brokerage company based in Heliopolis
- **Photopia** a photography school that that collaborates with Egypt's top photographers
- **The Kempinski Royal Maxim Palace Hotel**, one of the oldest luxury hotel groups in Europe
- **GEMS** education Egypt

The internship programme is to take place during February Half Term (**Sun 14th Feb 2021 - Sat 20th Feb 2021**) in some of the most popular career fields;

- Finance
- Hotel and Tourism
- Manufacturing, Food Industry



We are thrilled that ten of our students have applied to do an internship in the February half term and I look forward to hearing from them about their experience.



GEMS Unifrog Launch

Unifrog brings into one place every apprenticeship, university course and college course in the UK, as well as career opportunities, such as MOOCs and School Leaver Programmes. The platform makes it easy for students to write their CVs and Personal Statements and record their key skills. Teachers can give their students feedback, and write references. Students from Y8 upwards have all been given a personal login for unifrog and can start to build their portfolio and learn what is out there. I believe this is an incredible tool for BISM students. Here is what some of our students think about unifrog.

“

Unifrog helped me in learning about possible colleges and life careers. It also helped create a resume and a college application. It also has online courses that are fun and added to my information library - Yassine Osama, 9A



Unifrog has helped me find universities that satisfy my personality. It also guided me to look differently to my future and gave me more details about potential careers. It also helped to know my strengths and weaknesses- Sofia Del Pazo, Y11

I believe Unifrog is really helpful as it helps us figure our interests as well as it gives us a variety of options for universities and careers that will guide us to plan our future-

Noor Del Pazo, Y11



Unifrog is honestly one of the best websites to use. It provides everything you need, even free classes and also it helps you find the best university depending on your personality which is honestly so useful -

Mohamed Ashour, 9A

”

Try the **Myers-Briggs (MBTI) Personality Quiz** on the Unifrog platform with your children **[FROM HERE](#)** to identify their most suited subjects and careers! As a parent, you can also take the quiz so you can compare your similarities and differences to help your son/daughter grow!

Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN)

SKILLS TO BE ACQUIRED

Debating, teamwork, leadership, contemporary issues, crisis management, etc. Students would also learn ideas on the structure of the United Nations, CIMUN and what a lower-scale Model UN looks like.



CIMUN is led by Mr O'Brien at BISM CIMUN is an educational simulation or academic activity in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations, in general. One of the most famous conferences that's held in Cairo is JCIMUN (Junior Cairo International Model United Nations). CIMUN is an amazing experience for BISM students – putting themselves in the shoes of students from around the world, debating global issues, raising their confidence, and setting them up to succeed in Model UN and beyond International relations United Nations

GEMS BISM Students in CIMUN gain a wide range of skills and information critical to their success in Secondary, college, and beyond. Students learn public speaking skills and deliver their first speech in front of an audience. They hone their research skills and synthesise information from all over the world. They practise how to write policies, and learn about cultures they never even knew existed.

However just as importantly, our students will learn critical social skills that will help them throughout life. Whether it's learning to discuss complex issues and compromise, or learning how to be a leader for the first time, many students will "find their voice" through Model UN, and realise their leadership potential and social ability. Model UN helps students build the confidence to succeed.



Malak Afifi 8B



Salma Sameh 8B

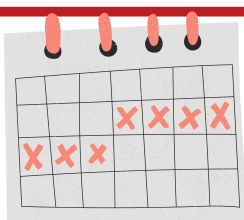
We learn so many new things which are very interesting it's amazing. The Groups leaders are so knowledgeable and great fun

First Student Challenge of GEMS Egypt



We are delighted to announce our first student challenge for GEMS Education Egypt.

Please **click on the photo** for more details and get ready for the challenge! In term 2 your child and their teacher will be doing some great activities that will be carried on at home using research skills, creative skills and out-of-the-box thinking.



Dates for your diary SECONDARY

Thurs 11 Feb

Sports Day

Sun 21 Feb- Thurs 4 Mar

Mock exams Y9 – Y12

Sun 7 Mar- Thurs 11 Mar

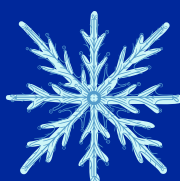
**Assessment weeks years
6,7,8 and 9
(non core subjects)**

Wed 17 Mar

Parents Evening years 10 – 12

Wed 24 Mar

Parents Evening years 6 – 9



ENJOY YOUR BREAK..