



GEMS

British International School
Madinaty

Key Stage 5 Parent Handbook

2020-2021

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Welcome to the Secondary Section of The British International School Madinaty

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Key Stage 5 Information Booklet. This booklet is designed to be a quick reference for all matters related to study and wider school life in Years 11 & 12 at BISM.

You have chosen The British International School because of our particular model of education, taught through the medium of the English Language. To ensure that you are able to benefit from your time here, we insist that only English is spoken in school. (The obvious exceptions will be when students are speaking to an Arabic teacher or speaking the target language in French.) Students need to develop their subject vocabulary and clear diction by speaking English as much as possible both in school, with their teachers and peers, and at home. We depend upon the partnership between school and home to work towards our shared goal of fluency and accuracy in English. This is a highly desirable life skill which should also lead to easy comprehension of examination questions and the ability to answer in good English as the Examination Boards demand. In this way, students should achieve their true academic potential in the British examinations.

We at The British International School Madinaty regularly review and update our procedures and methods to ensure every child attains the best they can. We believe that education demands a partnership between home and school and we are happy to receive any suggestions from parents or students about what should be included in this booklet.

We look forward to working with you all and wish you every success in your endeavours here at The British International School, Madinaty.

Ms. Janet Brock
Principal

University Entry Requirements

Now that you have completed your IGCSE courses and have received your results, it is time to make decisions about further qualifications to enable you to gain entry to university here in Egypt or abroad.

In this booklet, you will find the current entry requirements for university courses in Egypt, as set by the Ministry of Education. However, **we would strongly advise that you check with individual universities about their own requirements for specific courses.**

Please note that the Ministry of Education in Egypt may change the university entry requirements at their discretion. If this happens, we will endeavour to update you at the earliest opportunity.

The current requirements for entry to university in Egypt, **in addition to 8 IGCSEs**, are outlined below:

- **For Engineering and Medicine based subjects: 1 A Level or 2 AS Levels**
- **For theoretical subjects (e.g. Business, Humanities & Languages): 1 AS Level**

Therefore, students at BISM will be required to study a **minimum of 1 AS Level**.

AS Level subjects are studied over a one year period and A Levels are studied over two years.

The subjects that we currently offer are outlined in the table below.

Option A		Option B		Option C		Option D	
Maths		Physics		Chemistry		Biology	
Business		English Lit		ICT		Computer Sci.	
Art		Accounting		Economics		Geography	
History		French		Sociology		Arabic	

In addition to AS/A Level subjects, Egyptian students will also study the Arabic Ministry subjects in order to prepare them for the compulsory 'Thenewaya Amma' examination, which is also required for admission to university.

If you are considering studying abroad, then please check with your chosen universities to find out their entry requirements. Please note that entry requirements for study abroad are usually higher than the current requirements for study at university in Egypt.

Uniform & Dress Code

For the academic year 2020-2021, Year 11 and year 12 students will be expected to wear normal school uniform as highlighted on our website.

- During cooler weather, students will be permitted to wear a plain V-neck jumper or cardigan and/or a smart tailored jacket.
- Girls are permitted to wear neutral nail paint, though false nails/brightly coloured nails will not be permitted.
- Any jewellery should be discreet and limited to one ring, one bracelet and one pair of earrings.

We hope that our Year 12 students will feel proud to stand out as ambassadors for the school.

Syllabus Links

Below are the links to the syllabus for each subject that we offer at AS & A Level

Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels.html>

Cambridge

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-international-as-and-a-levels/subjects/>

Behaviour Expectations

We expect all of our Key Stage 5 students to lead the way in modeling exemplary conduct and behavior around the school. Below are some guidelines regarding our expectations at BISM.

Pupils will be expected to:

- conduct themselves around the building in a safe, sensible, manner and show regard to others
- arrive on time to lessons, ready to learn with the correct materials and equipment
- follow reasonable instructions given by the teacher
- behave in a reasonable and polite manner to all staff and pupils
- complete all class work and homework in the manner required
- show respect for the working environment
- follow the school rules (e.g. uniform, no chewing)

- speak English only inside the school building (apart from Arabic or French lessons).

Essential School Equipment

Below is a list of required equipment for school.

STUDENT DIARY	4GB flash drive
Scientific calculator (if required)	Pens
Protractor (if taking Maths/Physics)	Pencils
Set Square (if taking Maths/Physics)	Ruler
Compass	Rubber
Pencil Sharpener	Colours
Pencil case	Pair of small, in-ear headphones (if taking ICT)
Glue	Scissors

Attendance and Sign-out Privilege

Full attendance is vitally important so that students may benefit fully from their time at school. It is the student's responsibility to make up for lost time and to catch up with missed work. Parents should avoid making holiday arrangements during term time as this will undoubtedly have a negative effect on their child's progress.

However, during Years 11 & 12, depending on the number of subjects being studied, students may not have a full timetable. When students do not have lessons, they will be expected to be working in the study room. They will not be permitted to be walking around school, unless they have a pre-arranged meeting with a member of staff.

Alternatively, we will be sending a letter out at the start of term whereby parents are able to give consent for their children to be able to sign-out and go off the school site when they do not have a timetabled lesson. If students do wish to sign out, then they must take full responsibility in making sure that they arrive to school on time for all of their lessons.

Please note that it is a Ministry of Education requirement that all students must attend 85% of all lessons in order to be accepted for entry to public examinations.

In our view, if a student misses 15% or more of their education, they will have serious problems catching up with work missed. Lessons cannot be repeated and there is no substitute for being present when the teacher introduces the work. Participating in discussions and contributing to question and answer sessions are an essential part of learning. Clearly, if a child is ill they must stay at home but this is generally a rare occurrence.

We hope that this booklet has given you a quick guide to life in Key Stage 5 at BISM. During the year, we plan to have various speakers coming into school to talk about applying to university both here in Egypt and abroad. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding subjects,

programmes of study, university entry or indeed, anything else, please do not hesitate to speak to any of your teachers or the Assistant Head and Head of Secondary.

We wish you all the very best for a successful year ahead!