



**GARDEN CITY  
BRITISH SCHOOL**

## **Welcome to Key Stage 3 (Grades 5-8)**

Dear Parents,

Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both new and returning parents to Key Stage 3 (KS3) at Garden City British School (GCBS).

We have had an absolutely fantastic start to the year in Key Stage 3. We are so impressed with how quickly all of the children have settled in and how enthusiastic they are about learning! There is such a buzz for learning and it is fantastic to see how well the children are able to remember, explain and apply the knowledge they have learned last year as we look forward to getting into some new material in the coming weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this welcome letter and hopefully it will give you an insight into KS3 at GCBS and what makes it such a special place to learn. The transition from primary to secondary school is a big step in a student's educational journey and I'm extremely excited and proud to join you and your child as we embark on this adventure together. Whilst the opportunities ahead are tremendously exciting, there is a considerable amount of apprehension for students and parents alike. Our KS3 team is here to fully support and care for the students as they grow and develop as successful learners and confident individuals within a community that expects and delivers the highest standards.

It is our vision at GCBS to aspire to educate, inspire and nurture compassionate learners who will make a difference in the community as effective global citizens equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. It is our mission to imbue international practices and inspire in our learner's self-confidence, self-esteem, independence of thought and love for lifelong learning within a stimulating environment that strives for excellence.

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.

Regards,

**Samiya Rasheed**  
*Vice-Principal/KS3 Coordinator*

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## Meet our Specialist Team teaching Core Subjects in Grades 5-8

	Class Teacher	English	Maths	Science
Gr 5A Girls	Hazel Labarinto	Chris/Danish	Chris/Danish	Chris/Danish
Gr 5B Boys	Mohammed Daanish	Chris/Danish	Chris/Danish	Chris/Danish
Gr 5C Boys	Christopher Mckenna	Chris/Danish	Chris/Danish	Chris/Danish
Gr 6A Girls	Fenaye Jallahrs	Fenaye	Prayusha	Nayana
Gr 6B Boys	Yahya Khojbalwala	Fenaye	Prayusha	Nayana
Gr 6C Boys	Jody Dillon	Fenaye	Prayusha	Nayana
Gr 7A Girls	Nayana Priji	Lee	Prayusha	Nayana/Taydin
Gr 7B Boys	Taydin Remario	Lee	Prayusha	Nayana/Taydin
Gr 8A Girls	Prayusha Sinu	Lee	Taydin	Nayana/Taydin
Gr 8B Boys	Caleb Uche	Lee	Taydin	Nayana/Taydin

### Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 3 secondary education at GCBS starts in *Year 6/Grade 5* and ends in *Year 9/Grade 8*. The Years/Grades at GCBS are separated into 2 main phases as follows:

#### ➤ Year 6 and 7 (Grades 5-6)

The first two years in Secondary school are regarded as the transition years between the Primary phase and the middle phase of Secondary school.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum comprises the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science \*, Arabic, Islamic (for Muslim students), Moral Education and UAE Social Studies.

Students also study Art, Music, History, Geography, Design & Technology, Computing and participate in Physical Education lessons. Students choose a Modern Foreign Language French.

*\*In Year 6/Grade 5 students are taught General Science but they transition into the separate Sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 7/Grade 6.*

#### ➤ Year 8 and 9 (Grades 7-8)

Students are equipped with skills and knowledge to access the subjects offered in Year 9/Grade 8 as they will make bespoke subject choices which form the foundation for their University studies and career paths. The curriculum in this phase of Key stage 3 is thus split into compulsory subjects and optional subjects.

The compulsory subjects include English, Mathematics, Science \*, Arabic, Islamic (for Muslim students), Moral Education and UAE Social Studies.

Students also study Art, Music, History, Geography, Design & Technology, Computing and participate in Physical Education lessons. Subjects like Business Studies/Entrepreneurship skills, Accounting is also introduced based on student preferences. Students choose a Modern Foreign Language French.

*\* Separate Sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught to students in Year 8/Grade 7 & Year 9/Grade 8. This helps them to determine their relative strengths in each of the Science subjects especially as they will choose subjects for their Key Stage 4 curriculum in Grade 9/Year 10. It is imperative that students consider their subject choices carefully as their choices form the foundation for their University studies.*

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### Textbooks

Although the textbook serves as the primary means of delivering the curriculum, it is only one of the resources or tools that teachers can use to support students learn. Textbooks are designed to be used by both teachers and students, and they serve as tools for instruction or learning that give students opportunities to engage in learning activities. At GCBS, every Friday textbooks will be utilized to consolidate the week's learning.

Please find below the list of text book endorsed by Cambridge that we recommend for English, Maths and Science. We don't follow the entire textbook as it is but every Friday students will be encouraged to complete tasks to consolidate their understanding on the topic done for the week.

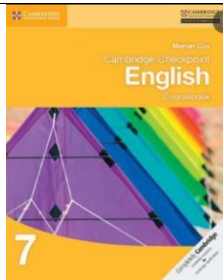
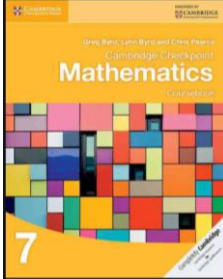
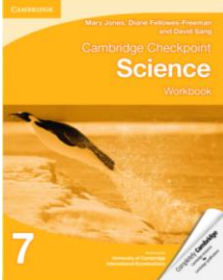
For English, we do discuss various leveled texts. This is so that the children can gain a depth and breadth of the curriculum and begin to really understand and apply concepts in their work. However the scanned copies of the stories/story chapters/links would be uploaded for you to access from time to time.

Purchases can be made at Magrudy's in Bawadi Mall. You may have to wait for the books to come in if there is no stock.

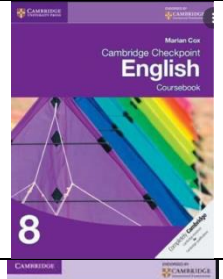
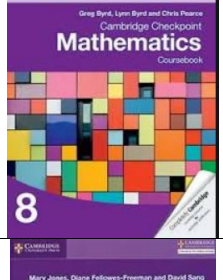
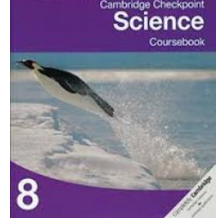
#### **GRADE 5**

9781107628663	Cambridge Primary English 6: Learners Book	GR-5	English
9781107676381	Cambridge Primary English 6: Activity Book	GR-5	English
9781107618596	Cambridge Primary Mathematics 6: Learners Book.	GR-5	Math
9781316509258	Cambridge Primary Mathematics 6 Challenge	GR-5	Math
9781107699809	Cambridge Primary Science 6: Learners Book	GR-5	Science
9781107643758	Cambridge Primary Science 6: Activity Book	GR-5	Science

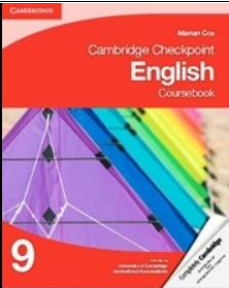
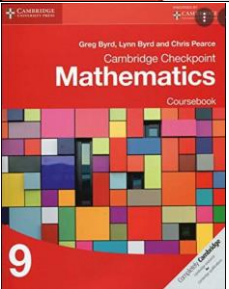
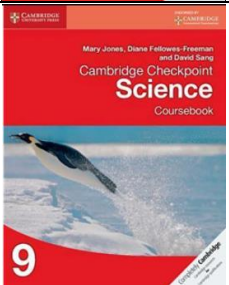
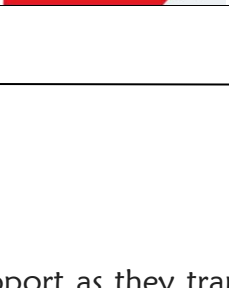
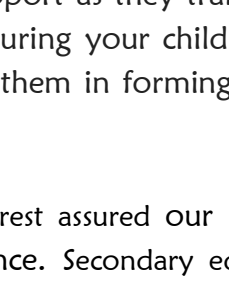
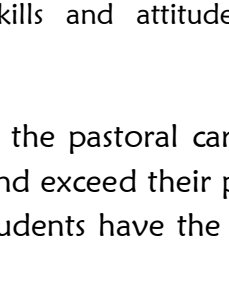
**GRADE 6**

9781107670235	Cambridge Checkpoint English Coursebook 7	GR-6		English
9781107647817	Cambridge Checkpoint English Workbook Book 7	GR-6		English
9781107641112	Cambridge Checkpoint Mathematics Coursebook 7	GR-6		Math
9781107695405	Cambridge Checkpoint Mathematics Practice Book 7	GR-6		Math
9781107613331	Cambridge Checkpoint Science Coursebook 7	GR-6		Science
9781107622852	Cambridge Checkpoint Science Workbook Book 7	GR-6		Science

**GRADE 7**

9781107690998	Cambridge Checkpoint English Coursebook 8	GR-7		English
9781107663152	Cambridge Checkpoint English Workbook Book 8	GR-7		English
9781107697874	Cambridge Checkpoint Mathematics Coursebook 8	GR-7		Math
9781107665996	Cambridge Checkpoint Mathematics Practice Book 8	GR-7		Math
9781107659353	Cambridge Checkpoint Science Coursebook 8	GR-7		Science
9781107679610	Cambridge Checkpoint Science Workbook Book 8	GR-7		Science

**GRADE 8**

9781107667488	Cambridge Checkpoint English Coursebook 9	GR-8		English
9781107657304	Cambridge Checkpoint English Workbook Book 9	GR-8		English
9781107668010	Cambridge Checkpoint Mathematics Coursebook 9	GR-8		Math
9781107698994	Cambridge Checkpoint Mathematics Practice Book 9	GR-8		Math
978-1107626065	Cambridge Checkpoint Science Coursebook 9	GR-8		Science
978-1107695740	Cambridge Checkpoint Science Workbook Book 9	GR-8		Science

**'Back to School'**

*What to expect in the coming weeks:*

In your child's first two weeks of school we provided the support as they transitioned into their new learning environment. Whilst establishing routine, we are ensuring your child is familiarized with the safety of themselves and others. Our support is extended to them in forming new relationships with their classmates and teachers.

Secondary school is different for parents as well as children but rest assured our main focus is to ensure smooth transition, learning continuity and academic excellence. Secondary education will provide the student with opportunities to: acquire necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for development and improvement of academic results.

As well as being able to support every student academically, the pastoral care and wellbeing of our students is of highest priority; we believe that students meet and exceed their potential only through a focus on the whole child. In KS3 we ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to become the best versions of themselves.

The aim of our curriculum is to challenge and inspire all learners to develop their skills and nurture values through a love of learning so that they can responsibly embrace the diverse challenges of tomorrow. It is our intention that students achieve a place at their first choice of university.

Our assessment philosophy aims to focus on what is important: students are able to view assessments as opportunities to learn and develop, not as opportunities to be judged. Or, put simply, students take responsibility for their own learning – they know what they need to be able to do, what they can currently do, and what they need to improve on. The impact of developing engagement with their own assessment capability at an early age will be two-fold:

- **Academic success:** maximising of potential in high stake public exams (Cambridge checkpoint, GCSEs and A-Levels)
- **Learning skills success:** developing a wide range of learning skills in our students which supports their application to learning

Parents will receive termly reports at appropriate times in the school year and will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers. We actively encourage all students and parents to attend Student-led Conferences which enable students to take responsibility for their own learning as they grow in 'assessment capability'.

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### Uniform and Appearance

Students are expected to take pride in their uniform and appearance, creating a positive impression of themselves and the school. The wearing of school uniform is mandatory and all uniform must be purchased through our official store in school.

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### Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are a pre-requisite for student progress and a vital preparation for adult life. Our expectation is that a secondary school student remains in school all day and where possible does not leave early.

*Late Arrival:* Registration of students will begin at 7:50 a.m., students arriving after the National Anthem will be marked as late by their homeroom teacher.

*Absence:* On those rare occasions a student is unwell or unable to attend school, please contact the school reception or the class teacher before 8:15 a.m. alternatively you may email the school on [reception@gardencityschool.ae](mailto:reception@gardencityschool.ae)

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## Communication

**Class Dojo** is our means of communication from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on weekdays. The teacher will try their best to respond to messages sent after this time, however we ask you to be patient and understanding. Here you will receive key information, Weekly Overviews and regular updates of what is taking place within the class in the form of photographs.

1. You can download the Application on your phone or laptop
2. You will receive an email from the class teacher. Please click the link and sign in as a parent.

*Due to safeguarding and ADEK regulations teachers are not allowed to give personal numbers. Feel free to contact school reception on 03 780 5775 for any queries or concerns or Ms Dureen (Parent Relationship Manager) on 0544701889.*

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## Food to Pack

Please send healthy snacks for your child and enough water for them throughout the day. Where possible please prepare lunches with ease of access in mind (peeled/cut fruit, personal cutlery etc.) for safety and hygiene reasons.

*It would be appreciated if you could avoid sending food high in sugar i.e. juice pack, cookies, sweets, chocolates, cakes, chips and/or fizzy drinks.*

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## School Bags

*Schoolbag contents:*

- *Stationery pack*
  - *Books (as per the timetable)*
  - *Small sanitizing pack*
  - *Lunchbox/water*
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## Health and Safety

We would appreciate it if you have a conversation with your child regarding keeping safe during these trying times (Incl. hand washing, sanitizing, keeping hands to themselves, not sharing food etc.).

When your child is sick or absent, please inform the teacher via Class Dojo. We urge you not to send your child to school if they have a temperature. Similarly, if your child's temperature is above 37 degrees Celsius you will be contacted and asked to collect your child from school.

Face masks are mandatory indoors; however, removal of masks indoors is allowed only for students playing sports or participating in performing arts (e.g. singing, playing an instrument, theatre, dance)

We invite you to send a small hygiene kit in your child's backpack for their personal use (a small pack of sanitizing wipes, a small hand sanitizer, a small hand wash and a small pack of tissues). To ensure safety, classrooms will be regularly ventilated and sanitized.

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### **Drop off and Dispersal**

#### **Morning:**

Students should arrive at school before 7:45 a.m. Registration will be taken between 7:50am-8:00am. Grade 5-8 girls will enter via the KG entrance only. Grade 5-8 boys will enter via the grade 3 entrance only.

#### **Afternoon:**

Students who will be picked up by a parent or career should be collected promptly at 2:30 p.m. Aftercare provision will be available until 3:00 p.m.

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### **Birthday Policy/Class Parties**

We ask that you refrain from sending sweets and treats. The teacher will ensure your child's birthday or other event is acknowledged within the class.

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