



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO

Welcome to the Future, Welcome to GISC

Important upcoming events:

February 28 through March 2 –
Term break

Cognia Parent Surveys open

Early March – Term 3 ASAs
announced for parent/student sign
up

March 5 – EEP Cup sports event
opens

March 21 – last day of Term 2 ASAs

March 22 – Ramadan begins with
reduced school hours TBD

March 28 – Parent Master Class on
PYP to MYP transition

Dear GISC families,

GEMS International School Cairo is fully committed to attaining internationally recognized accreditations and we are now on the path to that realization. In December, we completed consultancy visits for both IB programs, PYP and MYP. The final report was recently received, and we are awaiting confirmation of the review visit for late spring or early fall. As well, our Cognia accreditation journey has begun with review dates set for May 21 through 25. We have been introduced to the team of three who will visit GISC and SLT meet online with the team leader this week. Staff began the self-assessment process last week, and staff, student, and parents will soon be requested to complete Cognia surveys as part of our data collection process. In mid-January, GEMS review teams for Health and Safety and Education Provision visited our campus for a developmental review as part of our new school process.

Both the IB consultancy visits and the GEMS review highlighted our strengths and corroborated our areas for development.

Strengths included:

- A strategic vision shared by the leadership team
- Exceptional facilities and resources
- A community wide understanding of the IB philosophy
- Expert SEN leadership

Challenges included:

- Consistency across classes for IB instructional methodologies
- Differentiation in both instruction and assessment to meet the needs of all learners
- Increased staffing for SEN
- Increased library resources in both print and online

I am pleased to say that the areas for improvement are already being tackled for both the short-term and long-term GISC success. Professional development and supervision will continue to focus on learning environment quality and consistency for all teachers. Our staffing for 2023-24 includes additional SEN, EAL, and counseling positions. Our library system is fully operational for student check out and thousands of books are on order awaiting spring arrival.

School reviews are an excellent vehicle for assessing school improvement across all areas and are part of a long-term journey to excellence. Thank you for partnering with us as we seek the highest in international accreditation recognitions.

The November GEMS parent survey indicated a very positive +22 net promoter score for a newly opened school. Our parent participation rate was 53%, and we most definitely want to increase that in the April GEMS survey! You have an important voice and role to play in the improvement process. We thank you!

I know we all look forward to a short break next week and challenging but exciting work to come!

Best regards,

Catherine Spencer
Head of School



Our Students Taking a Look into the Future

Virtual Reality

Virtual Reality helps education by creating immersive lessons that are engaging, memorable and impactful for students. These VR experiences improve learning outcomes and help students build important interpersonal skills such as empathy, collaboration, and social skills needed for the future.



Merge Cubes

Merge Cubes are a platform for Augmented Reality, meaning a mixture of what's real and what's not. The cube itself is just a piece of foam. But it has patterns like QR codes on it. Students with the Merge Cube app on their devices can enjoy 3D images of just about anything and everything you can imagine. As the cube is flipped, kids get different views of, e.g., the human brain or a planet cross-section. Many images have lesson plans that can be accessed for class or home study.





3D Pens

Dr. David Deeds

Think of a 3D pen as a 3D printer you can hold in your hand. The basic principle is the same: Plastic in filament (string) form is fed through an extruder and melted in the process, then formed into a shape or object. GISC is still just experimenting with 3D pens right now in Innovation (Technology) class. Later, they're perfect for Art class, because kids can design and create their own plastic sculptures. This would be an example of technology integration, as Innovation and another subject are combined for one shared lesson.

