



# GEMS Wellington International School

## Blended Learning Plan: Guidance for Parents



## Ethos & Vision of Blended Learning

Blended Learning uses both Face-to-Face and Remote Learning to facilitate teaching and learning. Throughout the Blended Learning period, learning will continue 100% of the time allowing students to maximise the opportunities available to them at home and at school so that we can continue to ensure that our students make outstanding progress.

This document outlines what Blended Learning and models of delivery will look like in all phases of the school, giving you an idea of what to expect upon your child returning. Please ensure that you have carefully read the 'Parent Contract Addendum' and 'Return to School Guide' alongside this document.

At GEMS Wellington International School, we are committed to offering an outstanding educational experience for our students 100% of the time. We are a consistently outstanding school and we are proud of the opportunities which we offer our students and our families; therefore, we will continue to work with parents as partners to provide the best education and support for our students and families whilst adhering to the KHDA guidelines.

## Blended Learning Overview

For our Term 1 return to school, learning groups of students will be present in the building at different times. We have ensured that all age groups are following the most suitable model of learning for them with health and safety remaining the top priority. Regardless of the model that your child is following, it's important to emphasise that learning will continue for 100% of the time, either in school or a combination of both in school and Remote Learning. We will continue to ensure that students make outstanding progress with the quality and the opportunities being the same throughout.

FS1, FS2 & Year 1	AM/PM Model	<b>AM (7:45 -10:45) - Diamond &amp; Emerald House</b> <b>PM - (12:00-15:00) - Onyx &amp; Ruby House</b>
Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4	Face to face teaching with all students present in school 100% of the time	
Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10	Alternate Day Model	<b>Diamond &amp; Emerald House - first day Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b> <b>Onyx &amp; Ruby House - first day Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug.</b>
Year 11 ,Year 12 & Year13	Alternate Day Model but with the <i>option</i> of students being present in school 100% of the time for supervised study sessions. Any student not 100% engaged in Remote Learning will be required to attend school on their alternate days.	

EYFS and Year 1 will follow the AM/PM Model to ensure that we adhere to the KHDA mandatory guidance of no more than 10 students within a group. Within our model, students will have daily and highly personalised contact with their teacher allowing them to make accelerated progress within their significantly smaller group size.

At WIS, we recognise that our younger students sometimes lack the independence skills required to learn effectively at home without support and therefore as a school, we are able to facilitate 100% face to face teaching for Years 2, 3 and 4 whilst still successfully maintaining social distancing within the classroom.

Middle and Upper School students (Year 5-13) will work on the Alternate Day Model of blended learning over a two week period.

As Year 11, 12 and Year 13 are IB or exam cohort groups, we wish to offer them the greatest support possible. These groups will follow the Alternate Day Model; however, they may choose to be in school 100% of the time where they will have a study space in school where they will be able to access streamed lessons, supervised by staff. This will give them the opportunity to seek assistance and support when needed. Any student who is not 100% engaged in their Remote Learning at home will be required to attend school on their alternate days.

For students in school, there are a range of advantages which will benefit learning.

**Advantages of students being at school:**

- return to routine and school life ethos
- instant feedback from teachers to further accelerate progress
- students will take part in debate, discussion, drama, dialogue face to face to enhance learning
- new and existing friendships develop and thrive
- highly personalised & focused support to accelerate progress and identify any learning gaps

**Advantages of learning continuing remotely:**

- learning continues when students are not in the building
- use of newly developed technology skills continues
- all students will be involved in the lesson and will continue to make progress
- students will follow their timetable as normal
- a continuation of the success around 'Learning Menus' in EYFS
- questions can be asked using the microphone and/or the chat function
- gives further opportunities for independent work if appropriate

**What will Blended Learning look like?**

Across the school, blended learning will take different forms dependent on the phase and subject of the school your child is in. Regardless of this, the safety of students and learning takes priority. Our aim is to enhance this blended learning model so that every lesson and learning opportunity is maximised, allowing your child to exceed their potential.

Lower School

In EYFS, in response to parent feedback, we will be continuing with the use of 'Learning Menus' for the at home learning activity. This will focus on one strand/element from the EYFS Curriculum that can easily be supported by childcare. Year 1 students will receive a focused and supported learning activity for their at home learning. All specialist lessons across Lower School will be streamed to minimise risks and reduce teacher contact.

### Middle School - Year 5 & Year 6

Your child's timetable will be split amongst two teachers. They will have English and Maths with their specialist teachers. All other lessons will be split equally between these two staff members. On the days which your child is at home, students will be streamed live into most lessons, ensuring that learning continues 100% of the time. All specialist lessons across Year 5 and Year 6 will be streamed to minimise risks and reduce teacher contact.

### Year 7 and Above

English, Maths and Science lessons will be taught face to face by specialist teachers when students are in school whilst being streamed live to the students who are at home. Some lessons will continue to be streamed to students in school and those at home in order to minimise risks and reduce teacher contact.

### Utilising technology for learning

Following our highly successful remote learning period, students and teachers are adept at using a wide range of educational applications and technology in order to support learning. Students and teachers have used Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, Nearpod, Padlet, Seesaw, Peardeck to name a few. Your child's teachers will be in contact as the term begins to let you know if there are any specific applications you may need to download for your child depending on which year group they are in.

In addition to this, some subject areas will be using exercise books in school to record learning; therefore, students should ensure they have a supply of stationery which they may need to use in school and at home. Over the coming weeks, further information will be shared around any additional equipment or resources that we recommend students have to support their learning in particular subjects and phases of the school.

### Safeguarding

We frequently review our remote learning protocols to ensure student and staff safety. With this in mind, please ensure you are familiar with the Remote Learning guidelines around the use of cameras and microphones and engagement whilst online. Teachers will encourage students at home to put their cameras on but will not make this mandatory.

### How can I support my child?

At WIS, our students have shown an incredible amount of resilience and we recognise that they are going to be faced with another transition and period of change. How we support them during this time is incredibly important: ensuring our students feel safe and secure; ensuring they understand the logistics of the school day and discussing any worries or concerns will allow them to come to school feeling confident and ready to learn. You can support by:

- providing your child with a quiet working environment at home so that they can continue with their learning
- making sure equipment is available that is needed for learning both at home and when coming to school
- providing rest-breaks throughout the day
- talking to your child around what Blended Learning means and the expectations
- letting teachers know what's going well and what can be done to improve
- being flexible and promoting independence where possible

## **Outstanding provision for our students**

GEMS Wellington International School is an outstanding school due to the incredible academic results we achieve with our students, but also because of the breadth of opportunities which are available to them. We will ensure that during this Blended Learning period, students are able to avail themselves of these.

We aim to provide the following: (either face to face or virtually)

- Carefully tailored curriculum considering the transition needs of students between year groups
- EEE activities/projects
- Sport
- Virtual trips and visits
- Continuation of the successful wellbeing conferences
- Student leadership roles and student opportunities for all ages
- House system for groupings and for providing a system of pastoral welfare
- Gems Jewels of Kindness and Respect
- #BeAmazingatWIS programme
- Rewards and recognition of student achievements.
- Guest speakers on a variety of topics pertinent to the UAE
- Guest speakers of career and higher education opportunities
- Oxford, Cambridge, Ivy League university application guidance and support
- WISdom project of support for examination classes
- Careers Information