

Secondary Section Handbook 2025-2026



Contact information



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HEAD OF SECONDARY (KS₃ & 4, YEARS 7,8,9,10,11)

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Head of Secondary

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Special Educational Needs Coordinator

Ms Laura Dean

Heads of Pastoral Care

Ms Aisling Demaison & Ms Coreen Croskery

Class teachers

ENGLISH

Lead English Teacher:

Ms Tao McCarthy Ms Alice Parker Ms Corrie Albert Ms Ana Pulgarin

MATHS

Lead Maths Teacher:

Ms Maria Lavelle-Munt Mr Thibaud Tachet Ms Nevena Stefanova Ms Rosaria Simoniello Dr Laura Aquilante Mr Aquilante

SCIENCE

Lead Science Teacher:

Mr John Smallwood Dr Margaux Rat Ms Rosaria Simoniello Dr Laura Aquilante Mr Havila Saafi Ms Monique Wehrle-Haller

PYSCHOLOGY

Ms Sarah Hills

ART

Lead of Art and Creative Lead:

Ms Grace Holmstock

DRAMA

Ms Laura Dean

MUSIC

Mr Joshua Isaac

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

Mr Afonso Silveria

ICT & IT

Lead ICT Teacher:

Ms Dagmar Severova

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL)

French

Lead MFL and French Teacher:

Ms Laure-Malaquin Feeney Ms Saskia-Bonnet

Mr Louis-Guillaume Deschard

Spanish

Ms Rita Pires Ms Ana Pulgarin

HUMANITIES (GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, ECONOMICS) Lead Humanities Teacher:

Mr Bernard Bruce Ms Rita Pires Ms Shuvai Gunda Mr Patrick Flaherty Mr Fouad Tiriri

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Mrs Hatfield-Giraux

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) & MULTILINGUALISM LEAD:

Mr Miguel Galea

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS COORDINATOR:

Ms Laura Dean

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS:

Ms Nevena Stefanova Ms Shuvai Gunda Ms Irena Dincic Mr Joshua Isaa

Form tutors

KEY STAGE 3

Year 7 Mr Joshua Isaac Year 8.1 Ms Nevena Stefanova

Year 8.2 Ms Irena Dincic Year 9.1 Ms Ana Pulgarin

Year 9.2 Ms Shuvai Gunda

KEY STAGE 4

Year 10.1 Mr Fouad Tiriri Year 10.2 Mr John Smallwood Year 11.1 Mr Afonso Silveria Year Year 11.2 Mr Thibaud Tachet

KEY STAGE 5

Year 12.1 Mr Louis-Guillaume Deschard Year 12.2 Dr Laura Aquilante Year 13.1 Ms Tao McCarthy Year 13.2 Ms Rosie Simoniello

School Calendar 2025-2026

TERM 1 (20th August - 12th December 2025)

Pedagogical week (no classes) 20th - 22nd August - 25th - 26th August

Induction for New student Tuesday 26th August (Y12 students and new students)

Term starts for all Wednesday 27th August

Public holiday Thursday 11th and Friday 12th September
Half-term holiday Monday 20th October - Friday 31st October

Pedagogical day (no classes) Monday 3rd November Classes resume Tuesday 4th November

End of term Friday 12th December (midday)

Winter break Monday 15th December - Friday 2nd January 2026

TERM 2 (5th January – 2nd April 2026)

Pedagogical day (no classes) Monday 5th January 2025

Term starts for all Tuesday 6th January 2025

Half-term holiday Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th February

Pedagogical day (no classes) Monday 2nd March Classes resume Tuesday 3rd March End of term Thursday 2nd April

Friday Spring break Friday 3rd April - Friday 17th April

TERM 3 (20th April - 26th June 2026)

Pedagogical day (no classes) Monday 20th April
Term starts for all Tuesday 21st April

Ascension holiday Thursday 14th and Friday 15th

Whit Monday holiday Monday 25th May

End of the academic year Friday 26th June (midday)

ABSENCES

Unplanned Absences

In all cases, student absences due to illness or medical appointments should be reported by phone or email to school (addressed to admin@britishschoolgeneva.ch,copying in the appropriate Head of Section and the appropriate Form Tutor) before 08:15 on the day of absence.

For any absence of more than 3 days, a medical certificate is required.

For the benefit of your child's education and progress, absence during term-time is strongly discouraged.

Planned Absences

If a student must take time off for unavoidable reasons, when possible, the school must be advised in advance, in writing, specifying the period of absence and the reason.

Students are expected to maintain at least 90% attendance in order to properly access the curriculum. In the case of the IGCSE programme (Years 10 & 11), students may not be enrolled for their final exams if their attendance falls below this level.

If student absence falls below 90%, parents will be invited in to meet the Heads of Section to discuss how we can support your family in ensuring that the student is able to access the curriculum and reach their full potential.



ASSESSMENT

Assessment Overview

We will continually assess student progress throughout the year through a variety of low stakes assessments (short quizzes, tests) and evaluative end-of-term assessments.

Students will be regularly evaluated against specific learning objectives in line with the British National Curriculum (KS3) and with the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) specifications (KS4). Results of these assessments will be used to compile detailed written reports which will be sent home once per year, with grade reports twice a year. A student's Form Tutor or the Head of Section may contact parents with respect to particular matters during the year, if the need arises. If you have any queries concerning your child, please feel free to contact the Head of Section, or the relevant subject teacher to set up a meeting.

KS4 Students

Students in Year 10 and 11 will sit external examinations in GCSE subjects during the April - June period. Timetables will be published by the examination board (Pearson Edexcel) in January of the examination year and results will be published in late August.

KS3 Assessment Structure (Year 7,8 and 9) Term 1

Half Term 1 - Baseline tests to assess prior knowledge

Half Term 2 - End of Term Assessment Week to assess Knowledge, Skills and Understanding (K,S & U) from Term 1

Grade Report sent before the Winter Break.

Term 2

Half Term 1 - Low Stakes in-class assessment to assess K,S & U in the subject

Half Term 2 - End of Term Assessment Week to assess Knowledge, Skills and Understanding (KSU) from Term 2

Grade Report sent after the Spring Break.

Term 3

Half Term 1 - Low Stakes in-class assessment to assess K,S & U in the subject

Half Term 2 - End of Year Assessment Week to assess Knowledge, Skills and Understanding (KSU) from Term 1,2 and 3

Full Written and Grace Report sent at the beginning of the Summer Break.

KS4 Assessment Structure (Years 10 & 11) Term 1

Half Term 1 - Baseline tests to assess prior knowledge

Half Term 2 - End of Term Assessment Week to assess Knowledge, Skills and Understanding (K,S & U) from Term 1

Grade Report sent before the Winter Break.

Term 2

Half Term 1 - Low Stakes in-class assessment to assess K,S & U in the subject (Year 10)
Off Timetable Mock Examination Week for Year 11, results shared with parents in February (Year 11)

Half Term 2 - End of Term Assessment Week to assess Knowledge, Skills and Understanding (KSU) from Term 2

Grade Report sent before the Spring Break. (Year 10)

Full Written Report and Grades ahead of the GCSE exam series (Year 11)

Year 11s final assessments will be external GCSE examinations in Term 3, results published in August

Term 3

Half Term 1 - Low Stakes in-class assessment to assess K,S & U in the subject - Year 10 only

Half Term 2 - End of Year Assessment Week to assess Knowledge, Skills and Understanding (KSU) from Term 1,2 and 3 - Year 10 only



BEHAVIOUR

We expect our students to model the values of BSG learners so that we can fulfil our mission of creating and fostering an environment for:

Successful Learners, Confident Individuals and Responsible Citizens.

Our school values must be modelled by all members of the BSG Community:

compassion courage fairness hope integrity resilience respect responsibility All Students are must adhere to the School Student Code of Conduct:

Members of the BSG community should treat each other with respect, and students must follow instructions given by those in positions of authority. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

BSG operates a "3 Strikes" policy to manage repeated behavioural issues, such as lateness, failure to submit homework, wear the correct uniform, or other minor incidents.

- 1. The first incident committed by a student: The teacher or other member of staff present will deal with the incident immediately, make a record of the issue, and inform the relevant form teacher.
- 2. The second incident committed by a student: The same initial steps will take place as with a first incident, followed by a meeting between the Form Tutor and the student to discuss the unacceptable behaviour and the appropriate remedial action. In certain circumstances, parents may be advised by email or telephone of the incident and sanction.
- 3. The third incident committed by a student: The same initial steps will take place, followed by a meeting between the Form Tutor, the Head of Section and the student to discuss the unacceptable behaviour and the appropriate remedial action (for example, a detention). Parents will be advised by email or telephone of the incident and sanction by either email or telephone.

If this type of behavioural issue persists, a meeting with parents and further sanctions may be required. Please refer to the School Achievement and Behaviour Pollicy on our website for expectations regarding student behaviour in school.

Rewarding good behaviour

A merit system is in place across all year groups in school, through which individual students, classes or Houses may earn rewards for demonstrating excellence through the lenses of being successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. Merits can be accumulated throughout the year, and prizes will be awarded at the end of each term to students who have achieved Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Black Diamond point levels.

We hold half termly Achievement Assemblies throughout the school year to celebrate the successes of our talented student community.

We believe in rewarding high standards of behaviour, learning and supporting students to overcome challenges through reflection, conversation and collaboration.

All students will receive, read and sign the Student Code of Conduct in the first week back

click link to view -> new code of conduct

UNIFORM CODE

All students from Year 7-11 must wear:

- smart black shoes only, avoiding coloured marks or designs on soles (colourful trainers, crocs, or other types of footwear are not allowed);
- grey school trousers or shorts for all;
- BSG hoodies, jumpers, or cardigans only (jumpers without the BSG logo are not allowed);

For PE lessons, you must wear the designated BSG PE kit.

Wear:

- Smart black shoes only, avoiding coloured marks or designs on soles (trainers/sneakers, crocs, or other types of footwear are not allowed).
- Grey school trousers (year 7 to 11).
- · White shirts for boys and purple striped shirts for girls from the school uniform shop.
- BSG hoodies, jumpers, or cardigans only (jumpers without the BSG logo are not allowed), For PE lessons, you must wear the designated BSG PE kit.

Please remember:

- Accessories must be discreet: one ring, one bangle, one chain. Single ear or nose piercings
 with studs are acceptable. Hoops, long earrings or multiple piercings are not allowed. Remove
 necklaces, rings, and bracelets for PE and Science practicals.
- · Keep make-up discreet and age-appropriate.
- Wear appropriate shoes and clothing outdoors, especially in bad weather.
- · Do not wear outdoor coats/jackets, scarves, hats, or caps indoors.
- · Religious head coverings are allowed.
- Visible tattoos are not allowed.

Students are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance at all times while wearing the school uniform (i.e. shirts/blouses tucked in). Repeated breach of the uniform policy will result in an after-school detention.



KEY STAGE 3 2025-26

Year 7, 8 and 9

Parent-Teacher-Student Meetings Dates

TERM 1

Year 7 P-T-S-M 1 Monday 29th September

16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 7 attend an *inperson* parent, teacher and student meeting in the hall at BSG.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Year 8 P-T-S-M 1 Tuesday 11th November

Parents and Students of Year 8 attend an *inperson* parent, teacher and student meeting in the hall at BSG.

16:00 - 19:00

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Year 9 P-T-S-M 1

Monday 17th November 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 9 attend an *inperson* parent, teacher and student meeting in the hall at BSG.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior

TERM 2

Year 7 P-T-S-M 2 Monday 11th May 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 7 attend an *inperson* parent, teacher and student meeting.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Year 8 P-T-S-M 2 Thursday 21st May 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 8 attend an *inperson* parent, teacher and student meeting.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Year 9 P-T-S-M 2

Tuesday 31st March 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 9 attend an *inperson* parent, teacher and student meeting.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Key Stage 3 Student Assessment Weeks

Assessment 1 - Low stakes in-class assessments for an overview of prior knowledge by Wednesday 17th September Assessment 2 - Assessment week: Monday 24th November to Tuesday 2nd December

Assessment 3 - Low stakes in-class assessments an overview of prior knowledge by Tuesday 10th February Assessment 4 - Assessment week: Monday 20th April to Friday 24th April End of Year Assessment 5 Week - students off timetable Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June

All assessments in Key Stage 3 will assess the knowledge, skills and understanding of the previous topics. These assessments are used to aid teaching and foster the development of successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

KEY STAGE 4 2025-26

Year 10 and 11

Parent-Teacher-Student Meetings Dates

TERM 1

Year 10 P-T-S-M 1 Monday 13th October 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 10 attend an *in-person* parent, teacher and student meeting in the hall at BSG.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Year 11 P-T-S-M 1

Wednesday 24th September 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 11 attend an *in-person* parent, teacher and student meeting in the hall at BSG.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

TERM 2

Year 10 P-T-S-M 2 Tuesday 26th May 16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 11 attend an i**n-person** parent, teacher and student meeting.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Year 11
P-T-S-M 2
Tuesday 17th February
16:00 - 19:00

Parents and Students of Year 11 attend an i**n-person** parent, teacher and student meeting.

Bookings and time slots will be released two weeks prior.

Key Stage 4 Student Assessment Weeks

Assessment 1 - In - class assessments to assess prior knowledge by Wednesday 17th (Y10) & 11th Oct (Y11) Assessment 2 - Assessment week: Monday 1st December - Monday 8th December Assessment 3 - Assessment week: Monday 2nd February to Friday 6th February (Year 10) Year 11 Mock Week - students off timetable - Monday 2nd February to Friday 6th February (Year 11) Mock Results to parents on Friday 13th February.

Assessment 4 - Assessment week: Monday 33rd March to Friday 27th March
End of Year Assessment 5 - (Year 10 only) students off timetable Monday 8th June to Friday
12th June

All assessments in Key Stage 4 will assess the core knowledge, skills and understanding within the subject areas in preparation for the i/GCSE exams. These assessments are to assess progress and aid teaching in learning to foster the development of **successful learners**, **confident individuals and responsible citizens**, while preparing the students for their i/GCSE exams.

COMMUNICATION

Teachers will use Google Classroom as a confidential forum for communication with students and parents, recording homework, assessments and grades achieved. All information parents receive will be specific to their child and should be used as a means of keeping up to date on his or her work.

The 'Meet the Teacher' event at the start of the new academic year will explain and demonstrate this tool to parents, along with other online resources to help support children's learning.

Parent- Student - Teacher - Meetings will take place twice a year for the parents to meet teachers and discuss their children's progress.

During term time, if there is a concern regarding a student, parents will be contacted to set up a meeting to discuss the issue. Parents are also welcome to contact form teachers or subject teachers at any time.



CURRICULUM

The English National Curriculum is taught at BSG. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 follow the Key Stage 3 programme. For detailed curriculum information, please consult www.education.gov.uk. Students in Years 10 and 11 follow the Key Stage 4 programme and will prepare for (I)GCSE exams. For more information, please consult www.edexcel.com.

All curriculum overviews and Schemes of Learning are available on the student Google Classrooms and school website.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mobile Phones

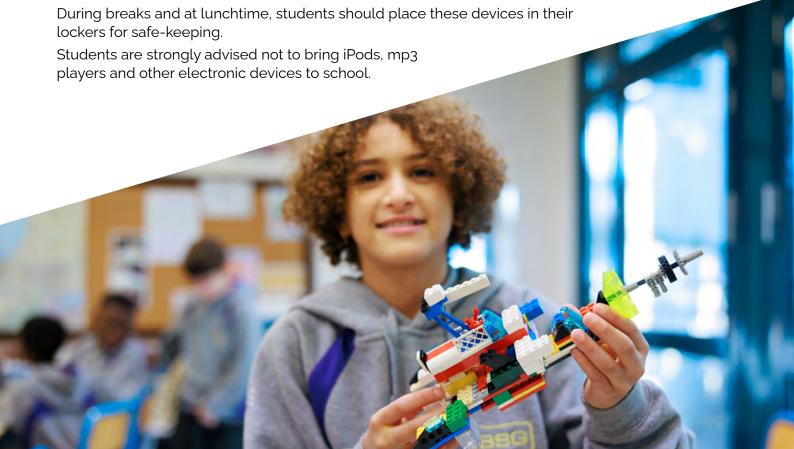
Although we see the benefits of incorporating technology into our school curriculum, we operate a no-mobile-phone policy at school to reduce screen time and distractions to learning. Students who require phones as a form of safety and communication with parents while travelling to and from school may bring their phone to school but these must be switched off and handed into the Form Tutor each morning and collected from the school office and the end of the day. Mobile phones are not to be used on site.

Laptops

As our Secondary students follow a curriculum that integrates technology, students must come to school with their own laptop or Chromebook. We do not recommend an iPad (or similar) as these devices do not offer the same educational advantages. Specification guidelines are the following:

 Chromebook - Intel Celeron Processor or equivalent; 2.48 GHz, 11.6" HD touch, 4 GB RAM, 16 GB storage

 Laptop - Intel processor or equivalent; 2 GHz, 11.6" high-resolution screen, capable of supporting 1024x768 resolution, 4 GB RAM, 64 GB storage/hard drive.



EQUIPMENT

Students will be provided with textbooks, a student planner and standard stationery during the first week of class. In addition, please ensure that students have the following supplies with them in school. Equipment checks will take place every Monday morning in Form Time:

- Laptop
- · Pencil case
- · Blue or black pens
- Pack of coloured pencils
- Pack of marker pens (non-permanent)
- Highlighters
- Tissue packs
- · Glue sticks
- A water bottle (all classrooms are equipped with a sink)
- Tipp-Ex/White-out

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school proposes a variety of extra-curricular options each term, such as sport, drama, art, music, cooking, and a homework club. A full timetable of activities will be sent to parents prior to the start of each academic year by our Administration team. In the case of high demand for certain activities, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an integral part of learning and will be given to students regularly throughout the school year. We request parents' assistance in ensuring that assignments are completed on time and to the best of their child's ability.

For more details, please see the Assessment, Reporting and Feedback Policy on the School Website.



HOURS

School opens each day at 08:00. Students will not be allowed to enter the building before that time. The school day begins at 08:15 with a Form Time period, in which students' presence is registered by Form Tutors. We expect all students to be punctual, and repeated lateness will result in sanctions. The school day finishes at 15:45 each day.

Students not participating in an extra-curricular activity are expected to leave the school premises when their lessons are over.

The Secondary School day

School Arrival for Students	8:00 - 8:15
Form Time	8:15 - 8:25
Period 1	8:25 - 9:25
Lesson Transition	9:25 - 9:30
Period 2	9:30 - 10:30
BREAK TIME	10:30 - 10:50
Period 3	10:50 - 11:50
Lesson Transition	10:50 - 10:55
Period 4	11:55 - 12:55
LUNCH	12:55 - 13:40
Period 5	13:40 - 14:40
Lesson Transition	13:40 - 13:45
Period 6	14:45 - 15:45
School Dismissal for Students	15:45

INTERNET USER POLICY

Internet access is available in school. In order to ensure students' safety and to prevent abuse, all students and their parents will be asked to read and sign the BSG Internet User Policy document pledging responsible use of computers and the internet. This document will be distributed to students on their first day of school.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Support is available for students with special educational needs, including English as an additional language. During their first few weeks in school, students will be assessed and, if a concern is raised, parents will be notified. If appropriate, a detailed support plan, along with an indication of cost, will be recommended by our Special Educational Needs Coordinator. If you have reason to believe that your child has learning issues, please advise his or her class teacher, Head of Section, or the Principal.

LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to borrow books from the school library on a regular basis. Books should be returned within 2 weeks and signed in according to the prescribed procedure. Please note that fines will be levied for books returned late, and parents will be asked to pay for books that are lost.

LOCKERS

All Secondary students will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the school year, and will be provided with a key. Students are expected to have their locker keys with them at all times and to use their lockers to store their books and personal items. A deposit of 25.-CHF will be taken for each key at the beginning of the school year to cover its potential loss. The deposit will be returned at the end of the school year, when the key is returned.

LUNCH SERVICE

We are pleased to propose catered, hot lunches for students in all year groups. Our caterer ensures that students are served high-quality, healthy meals, with sufficient variety and plentiful portions, as appropriate for their ages. The hot lunch service is available each day except Wednesdays, and will be served in the school dining room. An enrolment form can be found in the "Downloads" section of the school website or obtained from an Administrator.

Students may, of course, bring their own packed lunches. If you opt for your child to bring his or her lunch, please ensure that meals are low in sugar and do not include fizzy drinks or any products which may contain nuts or shellfish. Students who bring their lunches should bring their own cutlery, as required.

As sugar and caffeine can have detrimental effects on mood and concentration, we strongly recommend that students do not bring sweets, crisps or caffeinated drinks for break times. If students wish to celebrate their birthdays in school, it is recommended that they bring individual treats and ensure that they have enough for all their classmates.

Year 12 and 13 students are permitted to go off school grounds at lunch time.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

It is essential that we have up-to-date medical and emergency contact information on hand for each student, in case of accident or illness. To this end, please ensure that you complete the Emergency and Health Questionnaire which can be found in the "Downloads" section of the school website or obtained from an Administrator, and provide a copy to an Administrator in the school office. If your child has any on-going medical issues, including allergies, please bring them to our attention immediately.

If a child feels unwell at school, he or she should advise their form teacher or someone in the school office. In case of minor illness, the student will be allowed to rest, then asked to return to class. In the case of more serious illness, parents will be asked to pick up their child from school as soon as possible. Should parents or the people named on the emergency card not be reachable, we will take whatever action is necessary in the interest of the child, including consultation with a doctor on call.

PASTORAL CARE

The British School of Geneva provides a caring environment in which all children and young people are valued and encouraged. All our students are supported by their class teachers, Form Tutors and Heads of Sections. If required, additional help in the development of social and emotional well-being is available through our Head of Pastoral Care. If you would like to discuss pastoral support for your child, please contact either his or her Form Tutor, the appropriate Head of Section, or the Head of Pastoral Care.

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

The use or possession of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs on school premises is strictly forbidden and will result in immediate sanctions.



STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Email addresses for BSG teaching and administrative staff follow this standard nomenclature: firstname.lastname@britishschoolgeneva.ch

For example, to contact the Head of Secondary, Ms Alice Parker, by email, please write to: Alice.parker@britishschoolgeneva.ch

TRANSPORT

BSG operates a bus service on the right bank of Geneva and in neighbouring France. The exact route is determined based on demand. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis, however, priority will be given to Primary school students and their siblings, and to those who have used our transport service in the past. A request form can be found in the "Downloads" section of the school website or obtained from an Administrator.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

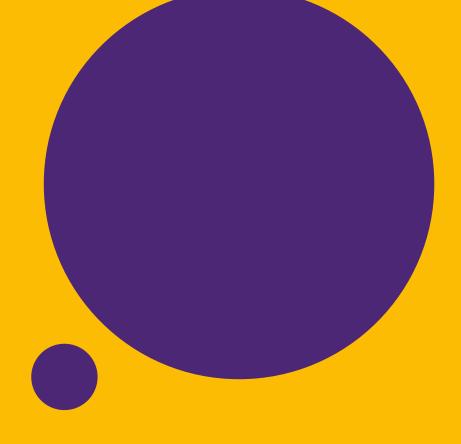
During the school year, students will be given opportunities to enrich their classroom learning through excursions outside school, in Geneva and further afield. Some lessons, including PE, may be held off-site. You will receive, at the start of the year, a permission form requesting your signed consent for such outings. Please note that we cannot allow a student to participate in an outing without a parent's signed consent.

In line with our Health and Safety Policy, risk assessments are undertaken for all trips. Students will be supervised at all times, and an appropriate staff: pupil ratio will be enforced, according to the ages and needs of the students concerned, and the nature of activities undertaken.

In order to ease the organisational aspects of outings throughout the year, a one-time payment will be requested at the start of the first term to cover the cost of transport and entrance fees for all local visits and activities. However, this will not cover the cost of any residential trips in which your child may participate.

Any visa required for a school trip must be sought directly from the appropriate consulate or mission. We are unable to apply for a visa on behalf of a student, and obtaining travel documents in time for a school trip is solely parents' responsibility.

confidence Where







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