



**COLOMBO
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**





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Colombo International School

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Introducing Colombo International School



Colombo International School was founded in 1982, in response to the growing demand for a quality co-educational, English-medium education within Colombo. Over the succeeding thirty years the school has developed a reputation for academic excellence, that has seen it establish itself as one of the leading performers in South Asia for the UK-based Pearson Edexcel Examination Board.

The school has three sections, Infant, Junior and Senior, providing a structured, progressive education from the age of 2 ½ to 18.

The school is situated on a purpose built campus in Colombo 7 (formerly known as Cinnamon Gardens). The site has been the focus of constant development. It features specialist ICT and Science laboratories, multimedia suites and classrooms, and one of the finest libraries in Sri Lanka. The modern auditorium block houses a theatre and two swimming pools - one an indoor training pool and the other a 25 metre outdoor pool. There are also three multimedia classrooms equipped with up-to-date ICT teaching aids. In addition, Interactive Whiteboards are being introduced into the school, and are used for teaching and staff development purposes. Each section also has its own purpose built classroom block and playground.

As a non-denominational foundation with no specific religious affiliation, CIS has always welcomed children from all ethnic and religious backgrounds. CIS is proud of its inclusive atmosphere, where every child is accepted and valued by the community. The ability to bring out the best in children and to cater to those with different needs, talents and abilities has always been a feature of the school.

CIS is justifiably proud of its academic record, with alumni currently studying at an array of the world's most prestigious universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College, London School of Economics, Harvard, Monash, Princeton, Stanford, and the University of Melbourne. Our students go on to study a range of subjects with Medicine, Engineering, Economics, Business Management and Law proving perennially popular. Often students ultimately return to live and work in Sri Lanka, choosing to give back to their country.

CIS offers generous scholarships, rewarding the top-performing students at the school. Scholarship criteria include more than just academic progress, reflecting the holistic contributions to school life made by our top performing students.





Throughout its history, CIS has remained consistent in the style and philosophy of its educational programme. It has always delivered a UK-style curriculum, which is closely based on that found in the best British independent schools. This is the case from Nursery right through to the Sixth Form. Indeed, it is through links with British Independent Schools that CIS remains current in its practice and up to date with its resources.

CIS teachers are a stimulating blend of highly-qualified Sri Lankans and expatriates, some of whom remain at the school for many years. Departing teachers often go on to teach at top international and UK public schools. Furthermore, a number of former students teach, or have taught, at CIS and a large number of former students and teachers choose to send their own children to the school - a clear indication of the value placed on a CIS education.

Although CIS is extremely proud of its long standing history of outstanding academic results, we also pride ourselves on the care taken to ensure that the academic and pastoral needs of all students at the school are met, so that each child achieves his or her potential. From the day children join the school they are nurtured and encouraged to spread their wings.



A good education is an all-round, holistic process, and although best-known for our exceptional academic results, CIS is about so much more than academic study. In this prospectus, you will see evidence of the huge variety of academic, artistic, sporting, cultural, technological, intellectual and social activities on offer throughout the school, for children of all ages. Students are actively encouraged to complement their academic studies by taking part in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, because children whose school lives are full and varied are often the most successful.

CIS is more than just a school; it is a close knit community of learners. Many children spend their entire school lives at CIS, beginning their education in the Infant Section. This provides CIS with a sense of continuity and tradition - a 'soul', which can often be lacking in schools that have a rapid turnover of students and staff. Students and parents alike are proud to be a part of the nurturing environment which is CIS.



Ultimately, CIS has achieved an excellent local and international reputation as an institution “where ambition is translated into achievement.”



Ethos and Mission Statement

We believe that by educating the child in a structured, disciplined and balanced manner, we will ultimately mould a well-rounded, fulfilled and resourceful individual who also obtains excellent academic results.

To achieve this, we believe that education must be challenging, inspiring, stimulating, technologically innovative and a holistic process.



Challenging... as we need to challenge students in order to stretch their understanding of academic subjects, and to develop their abilities in a wide range of activities, all the time promoting leadership, self-discipline and service to others.

Inspiring... because we must inspire children to develop a love of learning itself. We offer them the widest possible range of academic and enrichment opportunities to support the achievement of success and self-fulfilment.

Stimulating... because stimulation is the spark that ignites the flame of progress and innovation for all young people and keeps it shining brightly.



Our Mission Statement: “A CIS education is challenging, inspiring, stimulating and holistic enabling all our students to become responsible, resourceful citizens and to achieve excellence, both in their studies and in their wider lives.”

The Infant Section

(Age 2 ½ - 7)



The Infant Section is a stimulating environment designed to provide our children with a balanced and well rounded education that enables them to develop to their full potential.

CIS is aware that the foundation laid in these early years is the bedrock on which all future academic success is based. Children learn most effectively through a well planned and challenging curriculum. Moreover, young children possess a natural curiosity and eagerness to learn through planned, structured activity-based programmes. Therefore, the Infant School curriculum, which incorporates a blend of oral, practical and written work, is one that aims to fulfil the individual needs of each child.

At foundation level, Nursery, Pre-Reception and Reception, students are given the opportunity to engage in independent learning experiences as well as to relate and collaborate positively and constructively with others.



The Nursery class offers a quality development programme in a nurturing environment. It consists of children as young as 2 ½ years and encourages them to explore, discover and create. They are introduced to sensory activities, exercises of practical life, Mathematics and Language with the use of apparatus. They also participate in extra-curricular activities such as Music, Dancing, Drama, Art, PE and Swimming. IT forms an integral part of

the teaching and learning experience at CIS with students being provided with a strong foundation and detailed understanding during their formative years in the infant section.

Year 1 and 2 students closely follow the Key Stage 1 components of the National Curriculum of England and Wales. Carefully prepared cross-curricular activities promote areas of learning such as social, personal and emotional development as well as communication, literacy and mathematics.

In addition, all year groups are provided with a healthy balance of extra-curricular activities, sport and physical education to ensure development in leadership and teamwork, while music, dance and drama encourage the growth of self confidence.

The Infant section consists of highly qualified and experienced members of staff dedicated to fostering the development of each and every child. There are three parallel classes at each level. Each class has two or three full time teachers as well as teaching assistants to support students who require additional attention. All classes within the year group follow the same weekly plan of work which is continually revised and updated using a variety of educational resources.



Apart from individual lessons in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, children are given an all round topic theme. Students take part in a variety of first hand experiences that bring a topic alive. Each term, students are given the opportunity to participate in topic related assemblies and are also encouraged to take part in special events such as Book Week, Sports Day, the Art and Craft exhibition and the annual Infant Drama production, which is staged in the school auditorium. Children also participate in assemblies and class activities which foster understanding, and appreciation of the multinational community within CIS.



The computer room is equipped with individual computers for each student and a multimedia projector to facilitate stimulating learning. Teachers have access to an interactive whiteboard in the library. The library consists of a vast selection of contemporary novels as well as classics to ensure that students are exposed to a range of reading opportunities.

A variety of after-school clubs including Scrabble, French, Computing, Art & Craft, Sport and a range of Performing Arts give students additional opportunities to foster and develop their talents and abilities.

We believe the school and family are partners in the educational process - together we can strive to provide a caring, tolerant learning environment in which all children can learn, develop, and achieve.





Great attention is paid to each classroom, in order to create an optimal learning environment. Individual and group projects, educational posters and other intellectually stimulating materials are displayed on classroom walls, to cultivate a cheerful and engaging atmosphere and to encourage students to aim high. Children are not only expected to work in a positive, enthusiastic and disciplined manner, they are encouraged to be active learners, who aspire to be the best they can.

The Junior Section (Age 7-11)

All students in the Junior Section of CIS follow a stimulating and challenging academic programme, which is closely based on the National Curriculum of England and Wales, without losing sight of the rich cultural and historical heritage of Sri Lanka.



The Junior Section has its own dedicated library, which is stocked with a wide range of relevant and interesting books, as well as valuable reference materials. The ICT suite contains modern computing facilities and is equipped with a PC for each student in a class. Children prepare and present their different project work using educational software, websites and other materials. The lessons are very exciting with the use of the Interactive Whiteboard, which adds great value to education. A purpose-built Junior Science Laboratory allows children to explore and pursue their interest in General Science.

Class teachers are responsible for teaching English, Mathematics and Topic, while specialist subject teachers take lessons in Computing, Science, Languages (French, Sinhala, Tamil), Art & Design, Music and Physical Education. Assessment is frequent and consistent, and school examinations are held twice a year. Parents are kept fully informed of their children's progress through regular reports and parent/teacher meetings.

Participation in sport within the Junior Section is considered to be of great importance. This happens both within the timetable and through extra-curricular activities. Swimming is part of the curriculum, with lessons conducted by specialist coaches in the school's two pools.



The annual Junior Inter-House Swimming and Athletics Meets are major events in the CIS calendar, with students competing enthusiastically for medals and trophies. Athletics, basketball, cricket, football, netball, chess and swimming teams regularly and successfully compete against other schools in Sri Lanka.

The arts play an important role in school life. Every child in the section is encouraged to explore and express their own artistic ideas, with the majority contributing to the annual Junior Art Exhibition.

A large-scale drama production is held each year in the school's auditorium. Many children sing in the choir and both instrumentalists and singers can showcase their musical talents at the Junior Musical Evening.



With inspiring teaching from a vibrant and experienced balance of both local and expatriate staff, all children in the Junior Section are nurtured and encouraged to develop mentally, physically and creatively. By the time they move into the Senior Section, they will have developed academic and social confidence, self-discipline and a genuine desire for knowledge, which will stand them in good stead as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey.



The Senior Section

(Age 11-18)

Academic Study

The Senior Section is where all the hard work that has been undertaken earlier in a student's educational journey comes to fruition, with the attainment of excellent grades in the UK-based IGCSE and A Level examinations.

Success in these examinations will enable students to enter top universities in Britain, America, Australia, India, Singapore or elsewhere in the world.

Throughout a child's time in the Senior Section, parents are kept fully apprised of academic progress and potential. There are both mid-term and end of term reports, regular parent/teacher meetings and direct individual contact between the school and parents. CIS aims to facilitate open communication in order to fully support student achievement.

CIS has a strong culture of student support, with teachers frequently working with small groups, or individual students, outside of timetabled lessons. This is facilitated by generous staffing where the school takes pride in a staff to student ratio of approximately 1:9. The school also has a strong pastoral system, with each student receiving support, both academic and personal, from their class teacher during daily tutoring sessions.

The Senior Section consists of two parts, covering Intermediate (Years 7-11) and Sixth Form (Years 12/13).



Intermediate (Years 7-11)

The five years which make up this part of CIS cover the vital period in every student's academic and social development, culminating in their IGCSE examinations. As children grow older, they need to take more responsibility for their own learning, time-management and self-discipline. Consequently, from the start of Year 7, students are actively encouraged to begin to work more independently and resourcefully so that they are able to acquire these essential life-skills. However, teachers are mindful that this process requires guidance and thus take an active role in supporting and monitoring students throughout this journey.



Students in the Intermediate Section go to specialist teachers for each academic subject. In Years 7, 8 and 9 a broad and balanced curriculum is taught, based on the National Curriculum of England and Wales. During this time, teachers lay the important groundwork for IGCSE.

Students who require additional English language support also benefit from the school's Supportive Literacy programme handled by a specialised branch of the English Department, which creates specific and individualised programmes for students with literacy needs.

In Years 10 and 11, students embark on a two-year course leading to IGCSE examinations which are taken at the end of Year 11. All students must continue with English and Mathematics throughout this time. In addition, seven subjects are chosen from the wide selection available, which include the Arts, Commerce (Economics and Business Studies), Humanities (History and Geography), Modern Languages (French, German, Sinhala, and Tamil), Computer Sciences, Information Technology, and the separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).



Towards the end of Year 11, all students receive a comprehensive induction into the Sixth Form and also take part in a programme of work experience outside the school. This encourages them to begin thinking seriously about future career paths and possible degree courses.

The intermediate years see such rapid development and change in boys and girls, intellectually, physically, and emotionally. It is therefore vital at this time that they are educated in an atmosphere which is structured and secure, while also being stimulating and challenging.



The Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13)

All students arriving from other schools (without the appropriate English Language qualification for entry to an overseas university) have access to the Supportive Literacy branch of the English Department which offers extra classes outside of ordinary lesson time, to those who may have more specific language related needs. All students undertake the IELTS qualification which is increasingly sought by universities around the world.

In Year 12, students study four subjects for AS Level. They then continue with either three or four subjects in Year 13 for the final A2 Level examination.

Examination results have been consistently outstanding, with many students achieving three or more A or A* grades every year.



In addition to the wide range of possible A Level subjects available for study, there is a valuable Enrichment Programme incorporated into the CIS Sixth Form curriculum, which broadens intellectual horizons and develops critical thinking skills. This enables our students to enhance the breadth of their skills necessary for admission to the most prestigious overseas universities.



The school also provides assistance, training and preparation for a variety of other examinations in the Sixth Form, depending on what students wish to study at university. These include the BMAT and UCAT (for those wishing to study Medicine or Dentistry in the UK), LNAT (for Law at some UK universities) and SAT 1 and 2, (for all those who wish to go to university in the USA). The IELTS course is also offered to those who require this English language qualification for university admission and this is taught by experienced staff.

Importantly, the school offers comprehensive university and career guidance to all students. This begins formally in Year 12, with initial advice and orientation, and continues throughout the application process. Interview training is also arranged and conducted for all those called for interviews (such as applicants to Oxford, Cambridge and UK medical schools).

There are three specialists appointed with specific responsibility for : UK universities / UCAS; US and Canadian college counselling; and Australian / Asian universities coordination. They are guided by the University Applications Coordinator and work closely with the Principal and Mr. Sanders, Chief Education Consultant/Director of University Admissions and Tertiary Education, who oversee the entire process. Significantly, all students continue to receive help and guidance where necessary after leaving CIS, whether it is with further applications or with the clearing process.

Heads of Department and Sixth Form subject teachers are also more than happy to offer advice and guidance to students and parents, so that they might make well informed decisions on which university or course to choose for further study.



CIS is justifiably proud of its teaching faculty and boasts a large number of highly qualified, experienced and competent staff, with a proven track record of facilitating academic excellence.

The overall ambition of the Sixth Form is to encourage students to aim high, both in their studies and in their lives, thereby achieving what is set out in our Mission Statement. By the time they leave the school, students will have become confident, disciplined, resourceful and independent learners, fully prepared to make the very most of their lives at university and beyond.



Learning Resources and Modern Technology at CIS

CIS places great emphasis on the implementation of educational technology, striving to offer world class facilities. Technology is consistently updated and facilitates opportunity for an outstanding education to be achieved.

The Secondary School boasts five purpose-built multimedia rooms which benefit from high volume broadband connections. In addition to this, there are three computer labs equipped with state-of-the-art computer, printing and multimedia facilities.

Apart from computer classes specified in the curriculum, our students are encouraged to use computer facilities as often as their schedules permit. Specialised support and supervision is always provided.



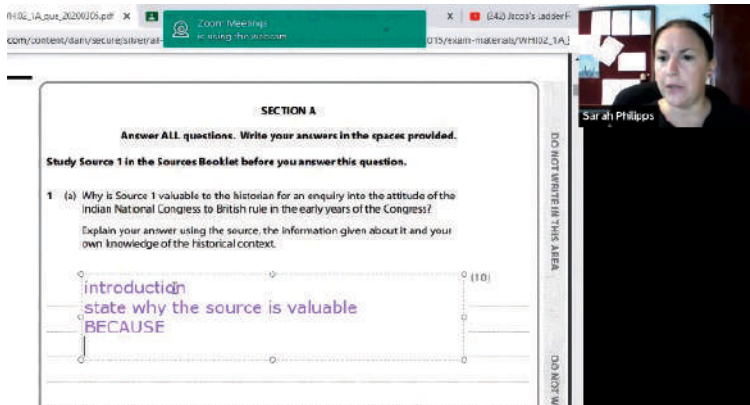
The introduction of an Electronic Reference Library (ERL) has also been a new initiative in the school. The ERL allows teachers to conduct research and share information that provides a broader view of the subjects being studied. Our expert teachers understand that information and knowledge is constantly evolving, so the ERL is a means to ensuring that the most current trends and developments are identified and introduced, ultimately benefitting student achievement.

Our new Virtual Museum with world-wide coverage provides students with the opportunity to use the latest technology for a simulating experience which projects a feel of the reality of a museum within the school's premises.

As stated in the school's Mission Statement, CIS aims to provide a "challenging, inspiring and stimulating" learning experience. We firmly believe that a key ingredient to achieving this is through the use of modern technology. As a school, we are committed to continuing to develop our technological infrastructure. In addition to this, we understand how vital it is for students to use technology to empower their learning.



Dual Approach to Teaching and Learning



Introduction

The Colombo International School now has in place an international scale, well-established dual approach to learning designed to broad-base the scope and reach of the educational programme for teaching and learning.

The school has been following the traditional classroom method of teaching students based on the selected syllabuses. However, as a result of new challenges that have emerged in recent times, the school has structured a dual approach to teaching and learning, which incorporates the traditional method of classroom based teaching combined with online education.



Implementing a dual approach to learning, apart from providing a global platform for the advancement of knowledge, ensures that student education can continue uninterrupted even when physical presence in school is deterred for various reasons. Under such circumstances the online programme can be expanded to substitute for the classroom based teaching component.

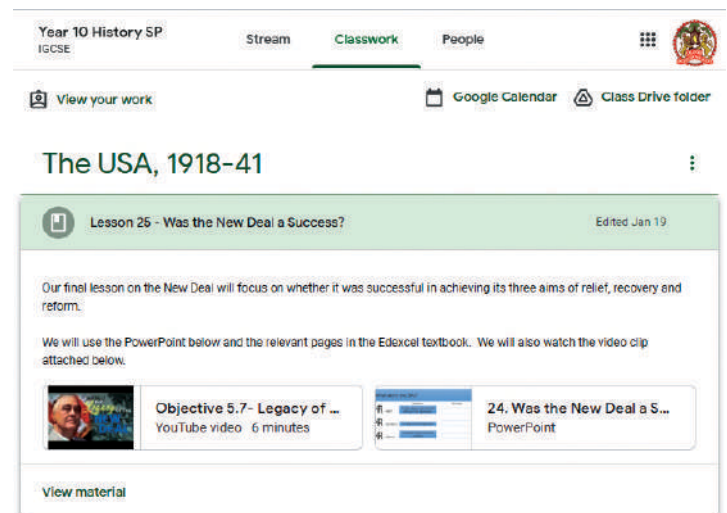
Practical Implementation of the Online Educational Programme

The school has now put in place, through paid investment, a broad range of technology oriented teaching applications and instruments supported by wide coverage Wi-Fi, data systems and related infrastructure to ensure efficient, continuous and high value education on a global platform.



The online programme covers almost the entirety of the classroom based model. This allows the school to operate both simultaneously, or switch over to either swiftly, to continue uninterrupted comprehensive syllabus coverage.

Implementation is by a well-resourced professional teaching staff whose knowledge and capability receive continuous upgrading through training and skills development.



Education Information and Research Coordination Unit (EIRCU)

The Education Information and Research Coordination Unit (EIRCU) was established in September 2014 and has since become integral to the success of the school.

Educational trends and reforms to qualifications are fast-moving, and it is the role of EIRCU to ensure that CIS is fully informed and prepared for these shifts.

There are several key benefits provided by this specialist department within the school. Primarily, EIRCU ensures that decisions are made which provide the best possible qualification options for CIS students. In addition to this, research is undertaken to provide students with the most up-to-date and appropriate academic resources, in order to maximise achievement.

Another example of the contribution made by EIRCU has been the utilisation of ResultsPlus.

This is a post-examination service provided by Edexcel which allows teachers and students to analyse individual and cohort examination performance in detail. The use of this technology has been crucial in preparing students for their examinations and enhancing teaching throughout the school.

EIRCU also provides the link between CIS and the major examination bodies and educational institutions in the UK. This means that accurate information is received promptly and then transmitted to the relevant members of the school community. Having the most current and accurate information is especially important considering the recent changes to UK qualifications. EIRCU ensures that all required information is obtained in order to then make the best decisions possible for the students of CIS.

The Electronic Reference Library (ERL), the dual approach to learning, Educational Information and Research Coordination Unit (EIRCU) and the Virtual Museum are components that provide students and teachers a knowledge base in keeping with the highest international standards.



Extra-Curricular Programme

Whilst we believe that academic study and the attainment of excellent exam results are, of course, the most important part of a student's education in the Senior Section, they are by no means the only goals.

The all-round, holistic education that CIS provides, stimulates young minds to develop and thrive. It also helps build confidence and self-esteem. Vitally, it provides a balance which is important not only in life, but also in practical educational terms. University applications require students to demonstrate their contribution to school life beyond the academic curriculum.

The Senior Section offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, encompassing sport, the arts and a large number of clubs and societies.



Sport

Sport certainly receives due recognition at CIS. Every pupil and staff member is assigned a House. The House system is a long standing tradition that creates competition, promotes teamwork, encourages good behaviour and academic excellence. It also provides opportunities to take on responsibilities and brings everyone in the school together. Annual competitions are held in the performing arts, debating and sports. For many students, participating in sport and proudly representing their school or House is an enjoyable part of school life. All students are actively encouraged to take part in sport on a regular basis.

The Sports Department consists of specialists in a wide range of sport consisting of athletics, badminton, basketball and cricket to netball, rugby, soccer, swimming and tennis. Whereas some schools choose to specialise in one or two sports only, at CIS we believe in diversity and in offering our students the chance to participate in many different sports. We compete against both local and International Schools island-wide and are proud to say we are highly rated contenders in all sports. Our students have had spectacular success whilst representing CIS, and many are selected for national and international teams.

The Arts

Art, Dance, Drama and Music play an important role in the Senior Section at CIS. Not only is Art offered as a subject within the curriculum (with lessons for all children in Years 7/8/9), but it also features outside the timetable, with students preparing for art competitions and exhibitions, both in and out of school.

With regular Musical and Cultural evenings, both a Senior and Intermediate Drama production and a host of other events, there are plenty of opportunities for students to display their talent and build the confidence necessary to perform in public. Many of these events take place in the fine surroundings of the unique 700-seat CIS auditorium. The school choir and orchestra perform regularly, both in and out of school, at a wide range of events. Students' talents and abilities are both developed and nurtured at CIS, facilitated by our Coordinator and Organiser of Performing Arts.



Clubs and Societies

Students are given the opportunity to join the different clubs and societies, covering everything from Debating to Drumming, Environment to Engineering, Interact to IT and Social Service. Whilst every club and society has a member of the teaching staff overseeing activities and helping with organisation and administration, the President and Secretary are always students, who are appointed on an annual basis.

Students are strongly encouraged to join societies, whether it is to discover new skills and interests or to develop existing ones. There are ample opportunities to enrich both the mind and body through mental and physical development.



Pastoral Support in the Secondary Section

At CIS we are committed to ensuring that students receive high quality pastoral care throughout their time at the school. This means that as well as achieving academic success, the students of CIS develop into well-rounded, confident and responsible members of society.

A key element of this successful pastoral support is the role of Class Teachers. Each year group is divided into several classes.

Class Teachers are responsible for monitoring student well being, conduct and performance. As such, students meet with their Class Teacher on a daily basis for registration. This is extremely important in supporting students with issues such as attendance and punctuality, as well as providing help with any other personal issues that may be impacting upon a student's education.

In addition to Class Teachers, each year group is monitored by a Head of Year. The Head of Year takes overall responsibility for the pastoral welfare of the year group, and works closely with the Class Teachers, the Head of Secondary and Principal.

Central to the success of our pastoral system is communication. Class Teachers provide an opportunity for students to discuss their school life and raise any issues they may have. From this point, Class Teachers can liaise with the Head of Year, Head of Secondary and the Principal as necessary. Our ultimate goal is to provide the necessary support to ensure that students are happy at CIS, as we believe this is when students learn best.

The Prefects' Guild consists of a carefully selected group of senior students identified and appointed entirely on merit. Those receiving the prefect's badge are considered the most able and outstanding students who possess leadership skills and have a track record of excellence in academics and extra curricular pursuits.

In general, CIS is an institution which, by example, has displayed its ability to provide the best in education for students whose aim is to learn and achieve the highest levels of competency required to progress in life.





Further Information and Contacting the School

Further information about the school can be obtained from the website www.cis.lk

Application forms and other relevant details can be obtained upon request. Entry to the school takes place throughout the year and involves student assessment in English and Mathematics. Reports from previous schools will also be reviewed at the relevant interview.

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Location of the School



