



Cambridge Secondary 1 (Year 7-9)

Your Child’s Learning Journey

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Programme Aim

This combined Cambridge Secondary 1 (CS1) and UK National Curriculum Key Stage 3 (KS3) programme is offered to Year 7 to Year 9 students, providing the platform for the first three years of secondary education at Green Shoots.

Green Shoots aims to prepare its students to be creative, independent, lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. The Green Shoots secondary curriculum implements a range of subjects that provide students with a strong foundation in English, mathematics and the sciences, parallel to a selection of subjects that support the school's overall vision and mission for its learners. The very broad range of core and non-core foundation subjects support the development of skills and understanding that Green Shoots values as essential for citizens of the 21st century.

Programme Overview

In Year 7 to Year 9 Green Shoots' students follow a programme of study that combines the CS1 curriculum for English, maths and science and the KS3 foundation subjects.

English, maths and science are core subjects and are developed and delivered through the CS1 guidelines and standards. This comprehensive programme of study prepares learners for further secondary studies in the International General Certificate of Education (IGCSE) programme or another secondary programme.

In addition to these three core subjects, Green Shoots believes that foundation subject studies enhance the development of knowledge and skills that are an essential part of the developing the whole learner. Our programme offers opportunities for all students to explore a broad range of subjects in order to develop their individual strengths, skills and interests. Our foundation subjects include:

- The Humanities (History, Geography, and Citizenship),
- Foreign Language (Vietnamese),
- Creative Arts (Art & Design, Design & Technology, and Music & Drama),
- Computing,
- Health & Physical Education (HPE),
- Personal, Social, Health & Economics (PSHE).

Green Shoots follows the standards outlined in the KS3 curriculum framework, we also deliver some key foundation areas through a unique programme that integrates our core value of sustainability with community-based projects. TLCS stands for Technology, Life-skills, Community & Sustainability and provides our young secondary students with authentic and inspiring learning opportunities in a real-world context.

Green Shoots is an accredited Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) member school. The school, its curriculum and the teachers are accredited, trained and qualified to deliver the Cambridge programmes. The school is an approved exam centre at which students may sit any Cambridge Secondary exam (Cambridge Checkpoint for Year 9, IGCSE for Years 10-11, and A Levels for Year 12-13). Our combination of internally and externally moderated assessment ensures the secondary programme is delivered at a consistently high international standard and that learners are well prepared for future study anywhere in the world.

Teaching and Learning

CS1 Core Subjects

English

Course Content

The CS1 English curriculum aims to provide a smooth transition from primary by building on communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening through a range of schemes. Throughout Years 7 to 9, learners focus on improving their analytical skills by exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts of incremental complexity, sophistication and challenge. Written work is produced for a wide range of purposes and audiences, with an increasing emphasis placed on technical accuracy. Our schemes of work link explicitly and proportionately to the assessment objectives, which underpin our Cambridge courses. Where possible, students are encouraged to communicate using real-world contexts. A particular focus is placed on reading for pleasure and building reading and writing stamina in preparation for the extended tasks that are a requirement of future secondary-level study. Short revision modules are provided in preparation for the structure of Cambridge Progression and Checkpoint exams.

Skills Developed

This course covers three key areas of language development: reading, writing and listening and speaking.

Key skills are:

- Information retrieval
- Inference and deduction
- Analysis and Evaluation
- Writing for a specific purpose and audience
- Writing with clarity and sophistication of expression
- Writing in a way that is technically accurate
- Independence in proof reading and editing
- Structure and organisation of written texts
- Speaking and listening

Maths

Course Content

Students entering Years 7 to 9 progress through the Cambridge Checkpoint series one, two and three and work is differentiated for individual needs when appropriate. Technology is woven through the curriculum and we encourage its use. Assessment is conducted using a variety of methods including common tests, homework and investigational problems.

The maths course is divided into seven main areas of study, which spiral throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 in order to develop skills in the following areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measure
- Handling data
- Calculation and mental strategies

- Problem solving

Skills Developed

The Green Shoots maths programme aims to challenge our students and build their problem solving, logical reasoning and coherent communication skills. Students increasingly make connections between different aspects of maths and other areas of study and the world around them. We believe that maths plays a significant role in nurturing creative, critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Science

Course Content

CS1 science is an integrated course of biology, chemistry and physics that aims to develop knowledge, skills and method through a wide range of topics and concepts. It is a dynamic course that provides an abundance of practical and investigative opportunities. As students develop their theoretical understanding in each of the science disciplines, learning is connected to real-life scenarios in order to emphasise the relevance and importance of the subject.

Units of study throughout Years 7 to 9 fall into the following broad categories or strands:

Biology

- Cells & organisms
- Living things in their environment
- Plants as organisms
- Humans as organisms
- Variation & classification

Chemistry

- States of matter
- Material properties
- Material changes
- The Earth

Physics

- Forces & motion
- Energy
- The Earth & beyond
- Sound
- Light
- Magnetism
- Electricity

Skills Developed

In addition to developing knowledge and understanding in the three science disciplines, a strong focus on scientific inquiry ensures students are able to consider ideas, evaluate evidence, plan fair investigations, and record and analyse data. Specific areas of study are:

- Ideas & evidence
- Planning investigative work
- Obtaining & presenting evidence
- Considering evidence & approach

KS3 Foundation Subjects

Humanities

Course Content

The KS3 humanities programme is represented by history, geography and citizenship. Green Shoots values and encourages understanding of both the physical and human systems of our learners' local and wider world. This understanding equips learners with the framework they need to build a sense of identity and responsibility toward their physical environment and social communities.

Skills Developed

In geography, students learn:

- Globe, map and atlas use
- Topographical, aerial and satellite maps
- Analysis and interpretation of data
- Communication of geographical information

In history, students learn how to:

- Identify, compare and contrast significant events
- Analyse trends and make connections
- Research, structure and present historical enquiries

In citizenship, they develop the skills needed to:

- Identify political systems and governments
- Develop a sense of society, justice and the role of law
- Think critically and debate political questions
- Develop basic money management skills

Foreign Language (Vietnamese)

Our Vietnamese course aims to develop the use of language for the purpose of practical communication. The vocabulary, grammar and skills taught are applicable to real-world scenarios, with an emphasis on speaking and listening for use in our host country, Vietnam.

Course Content

The course adopts a topic-based approach with study in the following areas:

- At home and abroad
- Education and employment
- House, home and daily routine
- The modern world and the environment
- Social activities, fitness and health

Skills Developed

The four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing are simultaneously developed over the three-year course. Cultural awareness and empathy are further developed through the topics, with excursion into the local community playing a key role in the development of these skills.

Computing

Course Content

Computing at Green Shoots has deep links with maths, science, and design & technology, providing insights into natural and artificial systems. Through exploring the principles of information technology, digital systems and programming, students become responsible and digitally literate citizens who are able to express themselves and develop ideas with the support of technology.

Skills Developed

- Logic, reasoning and problem solving
- Collecting and analysing data
- Literacy in at least two programming languages
- Competence with a range of devices
- Responsible use of technology

Physical Education

The Green Shoots PSHE programme is adapted yearly to suit specific class needs and incorporates a range of sporting activities, dance, and movement throughout the year. Although topics may vary each year, key areas of study are aligned with the UK National Curriculum for KS3 and include:

- Fitness & Athletics
- Dance & Gymnastics
- Invasion games
- Striking & fielding games
- Net/wall games
- Swimming
- Outdoor & Adventure

Skills Developed

The Secondary Physical Education Programme aims to develop the following skills:

- Gross and fine motor skills
- Teamwork and communication
- Empathy toward others and social awareness
- Responsibility and leadership
- Resilience in a challenging and competitive environment

Art & Design

Course Content

Art & Design at Green Shoots engages, inspires and challenges learners to imagine, experiment and create. A wide range of skills is explored including, but not limited to, drawing, painting, sculpture, craft, and design techniques. Knowledge and inspiration are drawn from historical figures and different cultures, and as students progress through secondary they develop the skills to evaluate and analyse using the language of art and design. Art history, period styles and major movements are explored throughout the syllabus.

Skills Developed

Students are introduced to practical artistic techniques and supported in becoming proficient with a range of different materials and media. In developing evaluation and analytical skills, students are able to strengthen the visual impact and application of their own creations.

Music & Drama

Course Content

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Green Shoots, learners develop a love and appreciation of music and drama across a range of genres, styles, traditions and cultures. Theoretical understanding of the components of music and performance provides students with a context for their

learning while historical works and great composers are drawn upon for inspiration, encouraging a sense of creativity and self confidence. Listening to, reviewing and evaluating music and dramatic performance prepares students for performance and production of music and plays with a range of instruments and technology.

Skills Developed

Throughout the secondary syllabus, students develop confidence in both solo and group presentation and performance. Strong collaboration and communication skills are developed and competence with one or more musical instruments (including voice) is extended.

Technology, Life Skills, Community & Sustainability (TLCS)

Course Content

Technology, Life Skills, Community and Sustainability is a dynamic and unique subject at Green Shoots that integrates the following KS3 areas of study (as well as focusing on a subject close to our hearts at Green Shoots; sustainability):

- Design & Technology
- Personal, Social, Health & Economics
- Citizenship

The course is a topic- and inquiry-based one that adopts a student-led approach. Design and technology skills are developed through school and community-based projects, providing authentic learning experiences in relevant, real-world contexts. A focus on sustainability is embedded in every aspect of this course, supporting students' awareness and understanding of how to make responsible and sustainable development choices.

Skills Developed

Students develop problem-solving skills and learn to take risks, think critically, innovate and create. Practical skills developed through projects include:

- Cooking and nutrition
- Design and construction using a variety of tools, components, techniques, processes, equipment and materials
- Sewing, textiles and fashion
- Woodwork
- Agriculture and horticulture
- Engineering and model construction

Additional Green Shoots Programmes

Core Values & Personal Learning Goals

We believe that learning is a lifelong process and we aim to empower our learners with a positive 'tool-kit' that is essential in the 21st century. The Green Shoots Core Values and Personal Learning Goals underpin individual qualities that will equip our students for the continually changing contexts of their lives. Opportunities to learn, experience and practise these are developed at an age-appropriate level and are celebrated in assemblies where we acknowledge these positive attributes in daily life on our campus.

The Green Shoots Core Values are: respect, cooperation, thoughtfulness, integrity, tenacity, adaptability, independence and sustainability.

Our Personal Learning Goals programme builds from the IPC framework and from learning in KS1. These valued attributes become increasingly complex as our learners develop through their educational pathway. Our Personal Learning Goals include: confidence, enquiry, enthusiasm, creativity, communication, service, appreciation, and empathy.

Mindfulness Practice

At Green Shoots, mindfulness is a practice that helps us to direct our attention to experiences and emotions as they unfold, being in the present moment with an open mind. Being mindful helps us to respond effectively and appropriately to what is happening to us and around us, whether it be positive or negative. Developing our awareness and focus, and being able to manage our emotions and experiences are essential skills for 21st-century learners. We provide strategies to help students overcome the daily stresses and challenges they may face.

Students and teachers all practice mindfulness on a regular basis in a variety of ways. Breathing exercises, guided visualisations, quiet reflection time and art journaling are just a few ways we support all members of the school community to be more mindful and to maintain a healthy balance in their lives.

Homework

Cambridge recommends that students at this level receive 30-45 minutes of homework per subject per week, giving a total of up to eight hours of homework each week. At Green Shoots we endeavour to remain within this limit, although students may find they dedicate more time to home study in the time leading up to their Checkpoint progression tests and final Checkpoint tests. Homework will sometimes be assigned over weekends and holidays, although this will be kept to a minimum.

Teachers provide students with the opportunities they need to develop independent study skills. Such skills include: organisation, scheduling and time management, understanding assessment, exam skills, revision, and study methods.

Students in our CS1/KS3 programme are expected to be responsible for their homework and to submit completed work on time and to the required standard. To help them do so, each student is provided with the resources needed to manage their time such as a Student Organiser, timetables, weekly goal-setting and reflection time.

Reports and Assessment

Assessment is completed regularly and consistently through both formative (ongoing assessment that informs teaching and learning) and summative (evaluating student performance at a particular time and against certain benchmarks) methods. Our learners' attainment in core subjects is recorded at the end of each unit, however opportunities for assessment for learning are conducted throughout the learning process as a means to evaluate progress achieved, areas for development, and goal setting for future learning. Green Shoots teachers provide regular feedback, both written and verbal, to ensure that learners are aware of their progress and are given frequent opportunities for reflection. As we aim to prepare CS1 learners for further study, students are introduced to a variety of assessment methods including presentations, individual and group assignments, and individual tests. This is conducted in a supportive environment where learners understand that assessment allows both them and their teachers the opportunity to check

where they are against their learning objectives and identify next steps within their learning journey at Green Shoots.

CS1 students receive two Green Shoots school reports each academic year, a Student Progress Report in January and a comprehensive End-of-year Report in June. These reports assess students attainment (academic performance determined by set grade descriptors) as well as attitude and effort (assessment of the learner’s attitude toward learning and non-academic progress and development). School reports cover all IGCSE externally assessed CS1 and internally assessed KS3 subjects.

Green Shoots’ CS1/KS3 Academic Attainment Indicators are:

Grade	Summative % Equivalent	Reporting Descriptor
A	90+	Student is consistently mastering learning objectives and year-level standards and displays a deep and broad level of understanding of concepts taught. He or she demonstrates a mastery of skills and understandings.
B	80-89	Student is consistently meeting year-level standards and displays a deep level of understanding of concepts taught. He or she can demonstrate, explain and apply skills and understanding independently.
C	70-79	Student is meeting year level standards and displays a firm understanding of skills and concepts taught which can be generally demonstrated without support.
D	60-69	Student is developing the skills and understanding expected for their year level and displays an understanding of some of the skills and concepts taught. He or she can generally demonstrate this with support.
E	50-59	Student is working towards year-level standards. Skills are being developed but the student does not yet show a consistent understanding of concepts being taught, and often requires support.
N	-	Insufficient evidence for assessment.

Green Shoots secondary Attitude & Effort Indicators are:

- Strives for personal best
- Engages actively in learning
- Shows initiative and is confident in making positive choices
- Cooperates and strives to build positive relationships
- Shows respect for self, others and the learning environment
- Is organised and completes set homework

These are assessed as being demonstrated *Consistently, Usually, Generally, Occasionally or Rarely*.

Cambridge Checkpoint is a CIE externally moderated assessment, which is taken at the end of Year 9 for core subjects only. These tests provide valuable feedback on learners’ strengths and areas for development before they progress to IGCSE. The tests provide

an international benchmark for learners and the school, and students receive an internationally recognised statement of achievement and diagnostic feedback report.

Prior to these end-of-programme assessments, CS1/KS3 learners undertake internally assessed progression tests to ensure they are meeting the required benchmarks and fully prepared to complete this stage of their education and progress to our IGCSE programme.