



**Green Shoots**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## **SECONDARY PROGRAMME**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The Green Shoots Secondary Programme serves children who, at the beginning of a school year, are aged from eleven (Year 7) to sixteen years old (Year 11).

Our aim is to prepare students to be creative, independent, lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. With this overarching goal in mind, our secondary programme focuses on building not only the academic knowledge that will allow them to move on to higher education but also the life skills, confidence, and emotional intelligence that will serve them for the rest of their lives. Students in the Secondary School are given an increasing degree of independence as they progress through the programme and are guided as they learn to use it responsibly. Our older students act as role models for those in the Primary and Early Years programmes, giving them multiple opportunities to learn leadership skills.

### **2 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

In *Cambridge Lower Secondary* (CLS, Years 7 - 9), Green Shoots' students follow a programme of study that combines the LS1 'Checkpoint' curriculum for English, Maths, Science and Global Perspectives with the UK National Curriculum for foundation subjects. This comprehensive programme offers opportunities for students to explore a broad range of subjects to develop their individual strengths, skills and interests.

The Cambridge Lower Secondary programme combines a world-class curriculum, high-quality support for teachers and integrated assessment. It is designed to be culturally sensitive and appropriate for teaching and learning in our multinational environment.

On completion of the Cambridge Lower Secondary years, Years 10 and 11 follow the *International General Certificate of Secondary Education* (IGCSE) programme. With a strong focus on independent study and assessment skills, the two-year programme builds problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities and is recognised globally as a precursor to high school and pre-university programmes such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma

and UK 'A' levels.<sup>1</sup> At Green Shoots we offer a balanced range of compulsory subjects, undertaken by all students in the programme, as well as some optional subjects and support for self-study if students chose to develop their skills and knowledge in an area not taught at the school.

**Green Shoots is an accredited Cambridge Assessment International school** and an approved exam centre. The school, its curriculum, and teachers are accredited, and staff are trained and qualified to deliver Cambridge programmes. This ensures that our secondary programme is delivered at a consistently high standard, meaning children are well-prepared for future study pathways around the world.

### **3 SUBJECT OVERVIEW**

#### **3.1 Internally Assessed Courses (All Secondary Students)**

All Secondary students follow the below courses, which offer access to non-academic areas of the curriculum.

##### *Music & Drama*

At Green Shoots, pupils 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. Throughout the secondary syllabus, students develop confidence in both solo and group presentation and performance. The secondary department produces a drama performance each school year to showcase the skills learned in both the music and drama courses. These productions are student-driven and find students working in several different subject areas to create a well-developed performance that is indicative of their unique talents as a group. Their hard work and dedication are showcased for the school and the community at their final performance.

##### *Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE)*

PSHE education is a UK National Curriculum programme through which pupils acquire the knowledge, understanding, and skills they need to manage their lives. They become equipped to live healthy, safe, productive, responsible and balanced lives while being encouraged to make effective transitions toward further education and career choices. A critical component of PSHE education is providing students with the opportunity to reflect on and clarify their personal values and attitudes.

##### *Health & Physical Education (HPE)*

Health & Physical Education is important for personal health as well as social development and is a compulsory subject for all Green Shoots secondary students. It is an internally

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<sup>1</sup> For more on different countries' recognition of the Cambridge programme, please go to <http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-secondary-2/cambridge-igcse/recognition/>.

assessed programme, the overall aim of which is to develop an appreciation of maintaining a healthy physical body and active lifestyle through a wide range of sports and activities.

### **3.2 Cambridge Secondary One (Year 7 to Year 9)**

#### ***Cambridge Lower Secondary Subjects***

The below subjects are taught using the Cambridge Lower Secondary curriculum and student performance is assessed by Cambridge at the end of Year 9.

#### ***English***

Throughout Years 7-9, students focus on improving their analytical skills by exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts of increasing complexity, sophistication, and challenge. Written work is produced for a wide range of purposes and audiences, with an increasing emphasis placed on technical accuracy. A particular focus is placed on reading for pleasure and building reading and writing stamina in preparation for the extended tasks which are a requirement of future secondary-level study. The course covers four key areas of language development: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

#### ***Mathematics***

This course is divided into seven main areas of study which spiral throughout Year 7, 8 and 9 in order to develop skills in the following areas: number, algebra, geometry, measure, handling data, calculation and mental strategies, and problem-solving. Students increasingly make connections between different aspects of mathematics and other areas of study and the world around them. Technology is woven through the curriculum and its use encouraged.

#### ***Science***

Cambridge Secondary 1 science is an integrated course of biology, chemistry and physics which aims to develop knowledge, skills, and the scientific method through a wide range of topics and concepts. It is a dynamic course which 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.

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 and evidence, planning investigative work, obtaining and presenting evidence, and considering evidence and approach.

#### ***Global Perspectives***

Cambridge Global Perspectives is a unique programme that helps students develop transferable skills, including critical thinking, research, and collaboration. This innovative and stimulating skills-based programme places academic study in a practical, real-world context. It gives students the opportunity to develop the skills they will need to be successful at

school and university as well as in their future careers. The programme taps into the way today's students enjoy learning, including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other students around the world. The emphasis is on developing students' ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view.

### ***Key Stage Three Subjects***

The following courses are taught using the British National Curriculum for lower-secondary students.

#### ***Humanities***

The Key Stage 3 (KS3) humanities programme is represented by History and Citizenship. Green Shoots values and encourages understanding of both the physical and human systems of our location and of the wider world. This understanding equips pupils with the framework they need to build a sense of identity and responsibility to their physical and social communities.

***History*** equips them to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. This helps them to understand the complexity of people's lives, process of change, diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

***Citizenship*** develops students' understanding of democracy, government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students apply their knowledge and understanding whilst developing the skills needed to research, debate and evaluate viewpoints, present reasoned arguments, and take informed action.

#### ***Languages***

Green Shoots offers English as an Additional Language (EAL) to students who have difficulty accessing the school's taught curriculum. In addition, we offer French and Vietnamese as both Mother Tongue or Foreign Language options. Students who require extra English learning will be placed in our EAL programme, which combines in-class and pull-out support, until their English level enables them to participate in full classroom learning. All other students choose French or Vietnamese and, depending on their background, join either the Mother Tongue or Foreign Language class. Cultural awareness and empathy are developed, with excursions into the local community playing a key role in the development of these skills with reference to Vietnamese culture.

#### ***Information Communication Technology (ICT)***

The aim of our ICT programme is to help students become responsible and digitally literate citizens who are able to express themselves and their ideas with the support of technology. We encourage students to develop reasoning skills by problem-solving, collecting and analysing data, and becoming competent with a range of different devices and platforms as they build their relationship with technology. Skills and understanding is built through either ICT activity linked to other subject areas, or through specific teaching in our ICT lab.

## *Art & Design*

Art & Design engages, inspires, and challenges pupils to imagine, experiment, and create. A wide range of skills is explored including drawing, painting, sculpture, craft and design techniques. Knowledge and inspiration are drawn from historical figures and different cultures, and students develop the skills to evaluate and analyse art and design. Art history, period styles, and major movements are explored throughout the syllabus. Students are introduced to practical artistic techniques and become proficient with a range of different materials and media. In developing evaluation and analytical skills, they strengthen the visual impact and application of their own creations.

## ***Green Shoots' In-House Curriculum Subjects***

The following courses have been developed in-house by Green Shoots and are designed to promote learning in areas linked to our core values.

### *Innovation, Design, Engineering and Sustainability (IDEaS)*

IDEaS is a dynamic subject which challenges students to apply practical and creative thinking skills to find sustainable solutions for contemporary technological and engineering issues. The course borrows from the UK's Design & Technology curriculum protocols as a strategy that helps students to investigate, plan, manufacture and evaluate, the products and systems they create. An understanding of function, aesthetics and social issues, is developed through projects and topics. A focus on sustainability is embedded in every aspect of this course, building students' ability to make responsible and sustainable choices to solve problems. Practical skills are developed through units of study such as cooking & nutrition, sewing & textiles, and engineering & construction.

### *Community, Environment, Life-skills and Sustainability (CELS)*

CELS is a unique subject at Green Shoots which aims to develop students' understanding of their local environment and the community they live in through a combination of theoretical, practical, and outdoor learning activities. With the [Sustainability Compass](#) as a point of reference, students explore school and local sustainability issues, and apply practical skills in order to create solutions for the community we live in. Ecology and agriculture is a core focus, with the school garden development being an ongoing project for students throughout the year. Introductory studies in ecology and earth science prepare students for further studies in environmental management and conservation while the life-skills and outdoor education elements develop an appreciation for our natural world and the practical skills needed to care for it.

## **3.3 IGCSE (Year 10 and Year 11)**

### ***Core Subjects***

#### *English First Language (0500) or Foreign Language (0510)*

The **English First Language** course centres on developing three key areas - reading, writing, and speaking & listening - in response to texts from a variety of fiction and non-fiction

sources. This programme aims to develop the use of the English language to communicate accurately, effectively and confidently. Students build an appreciation of the variety within the language and an ability to communicate and write with creativity for different purposes and audiences. A focus on fostering a personal connection with literature promotes personal development and understanding of themselves and others.

The **English Second Language** course is aimed at students who are not native speakers of English and is designed to develop the language skills necessary for studying and working in English. It is a skills-based course covering a range of topics while addressing the specific needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language. It develops independent learning, oral and written communication skills, confidence, oral performance skills, inquiry, analytical skills (based on literary and non-literary texts), evaluation of different information and sources, individual time management and editing/revising/proof-reading skills.

### *Mathematics - Core or Extended (0580)*

Students develop their knowledge and skills in the following branches of maths: number, algebra and graphs, geometry, mensuration, trigonometry, matrices and transformations, and statistics and probability. Knowledge and skills are developed using a variety of teaching methodologies, incorporating relevant and appropriate use of technology as an integral part of the syllabus. Mathematical modelling, critical thinking and communication are developed throughout the syllabus, while development of analytical skills provides a strong foundation for further studies in areas such as science, engineering and technology.

### *Coordinated Science (0654)*

The Coordinated Science syllabus combines Biology, Chemistry & Physics and offers excellent preparation for higher studies in any science discipline. Students learn the principles of each area of science through theoretical and practical studies with an emphasis on understanding how the three areas connect. This challenging course promotes interdisciplinary learning and inquiry with a strong focus on building practical collaborative skills as well as independent study skills. Communication and fine-motor skills are enhanced through practical laboratory work in which logic, problem-solving and critical thinking are developed. With such a challenging course, independent study, research, and organisation skills are developed and supported throughout.

### *Global Perspectives (0457)*

This course is a core subject for Green Shoots because it develops an understanding of the world while also developing pupils' potential to understand different perspectives and to make reasoned responses; skills which will be useful in their study of other disciplines and for lifelong learning. Students increase awareness of the significance of the Green Shoots philosophy and become empowered to contribute to an ever-changing, information-heavy, interconnected global community. During the two-year course, they explore a range of global issues through individual, small-group and whole-class activities. The awareness of global issues that is developed throughout this course instils a sense of understanding, care, and responsibility for our world and develops the skills needed to discern biases and reflect on

personal reactions to local and world issues. Planning, analysis, synthesis, collaboration, evaluation and communication are key skills which are developed throughout the two years.

### *Environmental Management (0680)*

The Environmental Management course centres around the concept of sustainable development. It requires a deep understanding of the four spheres of our Earth's environment and the way in which they function and are used by humans, our impact on them and how we can manage them sustainably. For each of the four spheres (lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere) the following aspects are considered: Resources, Development, Impact, and Management. With Sustainability as a core value of Green Shoots, this course further develops an understanding of, and sense of responsibility toward the natural world we live in. It builds upon interdisciplinary connections between science, social studies, geography, mathematics and economics and develops academic skills such as research and inquiry, data analysis, organisation, evaluation and judgement.

### **Optional Subjects**

#### *Foreign Languages (0520)*

Students have the option to study a foreign language. These courses are based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, which are developed as pupils progress through their studies. The course also aims to offer insight into the culture of countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages. We offer a taught programme of study for students wishing to follow the Foreign Language French course. For those interested in an alternate language, the school may offer assistance in finding a private tutor. Time may be offered during school hours or outside of school as an extra classes. Previous Green Shoots students have successfully completed courses in German, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese.

#### *Art & Design (0400)*

The Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response to art by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation, and analytical ability. Students gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three-dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions and develop a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

#### **Other IGCSE Subjects**

Green Shoots will assist students who wish to undertake private study in a subject not offered by the school. This assistance may consist of: helping to find a tutor, oversight by a Green Shoots secondary teacher, providing room space for teaching, and registration for the final Cambridge exam.

## 4 ASSESSMENT

Cambridge Assessment International Education considers 'Assessment for Learning' (AfL) to be an approach, integrated into teaching and learning, which creates feedback for students to improve as they progress through their secondary education.

**Formative assessment** ranges from the informal (e.g., oral comments given immediately to students as they think through problems), to more formal (e.g., written feedback and the use of instruments such as rubrics that help clarify and scaffold learning and assessment objectives). AfL also involves collaborative learning activities such as peer and self-assessment. AfL helps students see what they are aiming for and understand what they must do to achieve those aims. Assessments provide feedback that informs both the student and the teacher during the teaching and learning process.

**Summative Assessment** offers an end-of-year and end-of-programme summary of each student's progress. In-school summative assessment takes the form of two written school reports each year: a *Student Progress Report* in January and a comprehensive *End-of-Year Report* in June. Each report includes an opportunity to bring your child(ren) to a three-way conference where progress can be discussed and goals set for future learning. External assessment is conducted by Cambridge: Lower Secondary students sit their formal Checkpoint exams at the end of Year 9 and IGCSE students sit their final exams at the end of Year 11.