

# Grades 9 & 10

ABIS  
PARENT  
INFORMATION  
EVENING



## Welcome to Grades 9 & 10

Our students' first experience with external exams

Grades 9 and 10 mark a major milestone for ABIS students. We follow the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) curriculum during these two years, as it provides a recognized and rigorous standard. Our students take up to ten subjects, all of which culminate in external exams. We believe that the IGCSE curriculum challenges our students in a way that prepares them for the IB Diploma Programme in grades 11 and 12.

The IGCSE curriculum is made up of prescribed syllabi of content knowledge and skills, but ABIS remains committed to open, inquiry learning as much as possible. Students are still encouraged to consider big questions and to challenge assumptions.

Additionally, students in grades 9 and 10 will continue to take part in MCAS and will receive the same pastoral support as they always have. Our commitment to the whole child remains as strong as ever.



## About Al Batinah International School

ABIS was founded in 2007 by Sohar Aluminium to meet the needs of the growing expat community in Sohar. It has been a busy few years with the school growing steadily and with authorisation in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, IGCSE and most recently the IB Diploma Programme.

The school is committed to providing all our students with the very best opportunities for learning and personal growth.

**Challenge Yourself, Involve Yourself, Be Your Best**

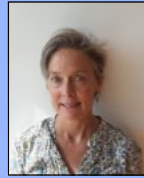
## Our Grades 9 & 10 Team



**Meaghan Kenney**  
English &  
Literature



**Jon Adams**  
IGCSE  
Coordinator  
Mathematics



**Briar Chatterjea**  
Dance



**Lina Hurst-  
Mawasse**  
Science



**Jorge Lopez**  
Science



**AdbuNabi Uthman**  
Arabic & Islamic  
Studies



**Ann Turton**  
Visual Art



**Françoise  
Cerdan**  
French



**Abby Brewer**  
Pastoral  
Coordinator



**Todd Davis**  
Global  
Perspectives



**Liz Jurkowski**  
History & Global  
Perspectives



**Leo Thompson**  
Secondary Team  
Leader



**Michael Carberry**  
PE



**Isgak Jacobs**  
PE



**Kirrili Williams**  
Choir



**Eric Griebenow**  
Band

## Helping your child

### How can I support my child's learning?

#### 1. Talk to your child about their learning.

The more you are involved in their learning at school, the more likely they are to connect their learning in the classroom to the outside world.

#### 2. Check in frequently on the Broadcaster.

The school and your child's teachers will be using the Broadcaster regularly to communicate with parents. Please make regular visits.

#### 3. Ensure balance in your child's life

Their lives outside of school have a direct impact on how they perform in school and vice versa. Therefore, outdoor exercise, proper sleep and eating well are also key factors in academic success.

#### 4. Communicate with teachers.

As mentioned previously, please do not hesitate to approach your child's teachers directly

with questions and comments.

#### 5. Celebrate your child's successes.

The more involved in their learning, the more you will be able to recognize their growth and development and be able to praise it.

#### 6. Be aware of your child's homework.

Student homework is posted to their calendars, which can be viewed on their websites.

The students' websites are an integral part of teaching and learning. Children and teachers update the websites regularly with samples of work, videos, photos and reflections on their processes and successes. We encourage parents to visit their child's website often.

## Independent Learners

A key component of the ABIS mission is to foster independent learning in our students. We believe that a cornerstone of 21st century education is empowering students to plan and manage their own learning as much as possible. From the Personal Project in Grades 7 and 8, through to Global Perspectives in IGCSE and the Extended Essay in IB, we put this belief into practice.



## MCAS

MCAS stands for Modified Creativity, Activity and Service. Based on the DP CAS program, MCAS will give students the chance to pursue their own interests outside of their regular academic work. There are three MCAS sessions, corresponding to the three ASA sessions. Students will be eligible for achievement awards if they meet the MCAS expectations - complete at least one MCAS experience each session, cover each strand at least once during the year, complete a Collaborative Project, and maintain the MCAS Journal. Grades 9 and 10 are expected to initiate experiences on their own.

## India Trip

Following IGCSE exams, Grade 10 students are given the privilege of taking part in a CAS trip to India. Students spend approximately a week living and working at the Maher Foundation. Maher's mission is to care for and shelter destitute women and children. They work towards enhancing their capabilities with a view to facilitating their life-long rehabilitation and to bring about the general advancement of the underprivileged in the area.

During their stay students take part in a variety of activities, including teaching English, interacting with the children through dance and crafts, taking a few trips to learn about the surrounding areas, and assisting with building maintenance. The trip is chaperoned by two ABIS staff members.

## Pastoral Care Program

The Pastoral Care Program has ABIS' mission and vision statements at its core and is seen as a vital part of the secondary curriculum. The program helps students develop social, emotional and independent learner skills by guiding them in areas such as organisation, proactive learning and personal goal setting. Other learning opportunities such as leadership, public speaking and team building are given focus. The Pastoral Care Journal is used by each student to record this learning. Pastoral Care runs a 20 minute Advisory session at the start of most school days with a 40 minute session for assemblies and a closer study of the curriculum on Thursdays. The Advisory is closely connected to the House system, and is divided into four groups of grade 7 to 12 students. The teacher Advisor supports the holistic wellbeing of each student and is the primary contact for parents in relation to absence or general concerns.

## Keeping in touch

### How will the school communicate with me?

#### 1. Through the Broadcaster

The Broadcaster is the main way of the school communicating with parents. You will find the the Broadcaster at <http://abisoman.com/broadcaster>.

The password for parents is, unsurprisingly, "parents'.

#### 2. E-mail Updates

Starting in the next few weeks, parents who have provided us with their e-mail addresses will receive weekly updates from the school summarizing relevant materials posted on the Broadcaster

#### 3. SMS

The school operates an SMS information system which provides important updates about events through your phone. If you do not receive these messages please check with reception.

#### 4. E-mail

Occasionally, teachers may contact you directly by e-mail. Please ensure that the school has an up-to-date e-mail address on file.

#### 5. Telephone

If your child is sick, or we need direct assistance from you about a matter related to your child, we will contact you by email or by telephone.

#### 6. Face to face

Of course, when possible we'll try to have a chat!

## Homework In Secondary School

Grade Level	7	8	9	10	11	12
Total HW minutes per school day	70	80	90	100	110	120
Total time per week	350 minutes	400 minutes	450 minutes	500 minutes	850 minutes (weekends & study periods )	900 minutes (weekends & study periods )

## Assessment In Secondary School

Below is the equivalency chart that appears on all ABIS secondary reports. The purpose of the chart is to align the marking between the IB grading scale (7-1) and the IGCSE marking scale (A-F), with universal descriptors. Official ABIS reporting marks use the IB scale.

IB Numerical Level	Description	Alphabetical score
7	Outstanding ( <b>significantly above average</b> )	A+
6.5	Working towards a 7	A
6	Very good ( <b>well above average</b> )	A-/B+
5.5	Working towards a 6	B
5	Good ( <b>above average</b> )	B-/C+
4.5	Average Level of Achievement	C
4	Approaching ALA	C-/D+
3.5	Working towards a 4	D
3	Needs improvement	D-/E+
2.5	Working towards a 3	E
2	Significant improvement needed	E-/F+
1.5	Working towards a 2	F
1	At beginner level	F-/G

Average IB subject score

Official IGCSE pass mark

Target here and above

Please note that due to a number of reasons the grade comparison above is very approximate and should only be used for guidance. As the level of difficulty and expectation increases in each subject each year, it is normal for students to begin a school year 'up to' a full grade lower than they achieved in the final semester report in the previous year. If students are new to the school, subject, or from a foreign language background, they will probably take longer to catch up with their age group, which is normal and to be expected.