

# Ghana International School

## Junior School Academic Programme and Curriculum

The Junior School caters to students from year 3 to year 6 (7 to 11 year olds). While the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science follow the UK Cambridge curriculum; other subjects such as History and Geography follow the English National Curriculum with complimentary infusions and components from Ghana, our host nation.

Our Year 6 students write the **Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Examinations in English, Mathematics and Science** in the month of April. The papers are marked externally in the UK and allow the School to benchmark its achievements against other Cambridge Schools around the world. All students receive diagnostic feedback on their individual performance.

Students are taught Mathematics, English, History, Geography and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) by their class teachers. Subject specialists teach Science, French, Music, Art, Physical Education and Information Technology.

The **Online Scholastic Reading Scheme** has started and encompasses all students who are able to read at their own pace progressing through a variety of diverse texts. The scheme also levels the students and set targets for progression.

The Junior School aims to expose our students to the 'reality outside the classroom'. We do this by incorporating field trips and visiting speakers who are experts in their field into the curricular plans.

Year 6 history and Geography goes further to expose students to the wealth of experiences from the African continent culminating in a residential trip to Kumasi in which students experience at first hand the rich Ashanti history and culture as well as the land features and industries of the region.

**Weekly assemblies** are held to showcase the learning taking place in and out of the classroom. Students show their learning through dramatized skits, music and dance. Achievement awards are given for individual student effort in all subject areas. Students are also recognized for their achievements in external music performance exams, maths and sports such as the annual inter-house swimming competition. Various developing talents within the school are also given a platform in which to hone their performance skills. The **Junior School Band** was created to encourage the development of musical talent in our students. They are creating their own music and have several opportunities to perform during special events as well. **Class of the Week** encourages collective responsibility in adhering to the Junior School's essential behaviour agreements and routines.

**Playtimes** are tailored to cater for the differing needs of our children. Those that prefer quiet play can play board or card games and those that are more kinaesthetic can take to the field with hoops and ropes and other large play equipment. This equipment is now maintained by the students themselves as the Junior School Council is responsible for organising fund raising activities to replenish the stock.

### **Community Service**

Community service is an important part of the Junior School life. The Junior School prides itself on its thriving community service programme. Projects such as an annual visit to a home for the aged to donate essential provisions gathered during a food drive; and partnering with established organisations such as “Chance For Children” a project that houses, educates and supports needy children; enable our students to develop a sense of compassion and the importance of helping those who may be less fortunate. Our students also support and sponsor surgeries for children with congenital heart conditions through the "Children's' Heart Foundation Ghana."

We consider community service essential to inculcate a sense of civic duty and global responsibility in our children.