



## ACCREDITATION

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Mona El-Helbawi, Managing Director  
The Gulf English School  
P.O. Box 2440  
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State of QATAR

24<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

Dear Ms. El-Helbawi,

### ***CIS Response to First Report on Progress & Planning***

On behalf of the Council of International Schools, the CIS Accreditation Service and its Advisors have now completed their study of the First Report on Progress and Planning (FRPP) that you submitted in June and September, 2014. I am pleased to inform you that the report has been accepted, and therefore The Gulf English School maintains its good standing as a CIS-accredited institution.

CIS was impressed by the school's positive approach to the recommendations contained in the August 2012 Visiting Team Report and the progress made in addressing the suggested further actions outlined in your Special Report of January 2013.

CIS was pleased to learn of the considerable progress in many areas since both the Team Visit and your Special Report. These include but are not limited to:

- the appointment of a Director of Studies to oversee both Rubicon mapping and vertical/horizontal alignment in the curriculum;
- the development of vertical subject policies;
- the planned inclusion of cross-curricular links in your Rubicon mapping project;
- the linkage of your Continuous Professional Development (CPD) program to your appraisal model;
- staff completion of a course entitled "Teaching ESL Students in the Mainstream Classroom";
- the implementation of a Week Without Walls programme ; and
- the introduction of vocational courses for some IGCSE and post-16 students.

These and other substantive efforts have clearly engaged the professional community of The Gulf English School since 2012. Despite this considerable progress, however, your FRPP notes that a number of recommendations – 89 recommendations equalling 57% of the total – are still 'In Progress'. As you know, the majority of these relate to the curriculum. You report that you are '...investigating the International Primary Curriculum...' in addition to being in the midst of mapping the curriculum on Rubicon Atlas. It is imperative that these curricular matters be addressed as a matter of urgency.

In particular, CIS encourages continued focused attention on the following:

- effective use of the library space, resources, and personnel to ensure that the library is a vital resource for all students, faculty, and staff;
- the implementation and evaluation of the new iPad technology plan;
- completion of the Rubicon mapping exercise to include cross-curricular links and technology components of unit plans;
- purposeful inclusion of internationalism in the written and taught curriculum;
- continued attention to realising the full implementation of SEN and EAL school-wide policies; and
- providing evidence for a written school-wide vertical and horizontal curriculum.

In addition, of course, the planned expansion of The Gulf English School to a new campus meant to accommodate 3,000 students (almost doubling your current enrolment) will encompass all of the above considerations and more, including class size and enhanced facilities to address, for instance, the current challenge of maintaining the PE schedule during examination times. CIS awaits with interest the decision on whether and when a new facility will be constructed to meet the expanding needs of your growing population.

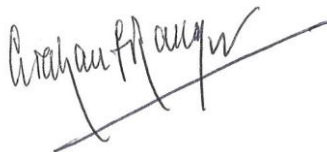
In your FRPP Conclusion, you state, 'The accreditation process has benefited the school and guided our development and improvement.' This certainly embodies the spirit of accreditation which aims to promote a culture of continuous self-reflection and improvement which will in turn support the learning and well-being of the students served by the school.

The next routine stage of the accreditation process for your school will be the Five-Year Report, which should be submitted to the CIS Accreditation Office by 1 March 2017. The CIS Five-Year Visit will follow shortly after receipt of the school's report. Guidelines for production of the Five Year Report will be sent to you from the Accreditation Office in Leiden ([accreditation@cois.org](mailto:accreditation@cois.org)).

May I wish you, Mona, and the entire school community, every success as you continue to seek school improvement through the accreditation process?

Please do not hesitate to contact Monica Greeley, the CIS Accreditation Officer responsible for your school ([monicagreeley@cois.org](mailto:monicagreeley@cois.org)), or me ([grahamranger@cois.org](mailto:grahamranger@cois.org)), if there is any point that is unclear or on which you would like further advice.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Graham Ranger  
Director of School Support & Evaluation  
Council of International Schools (CIS)

c.c. Monica N. Greeley, CIS Regional Accreditation Officer  
Michele Anderson, CIS School Services Advisor