

Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at PPS

At The Phoenix Private School, we are constantly working hard to review and improve our practice when it comes to curriculum and assessment. As your child progresses and moves up through the school, we regularly monitor their progress and areas for improvement by delivering a continuous assessment process to ensure that they learn as effectively as possible. We do this in many forms, including observations, marking class and homework and administering small unit assessments.

We have launched our external assessment practice using CEM (Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring) with great success over the past couple of years. Many of our students have previously signed up for the assessments and did remarkably well. Using the results from CEM assessments, we were able to compare our students' achievements against those of *British Schools* and against *British Standards*. These assessments evaluate performance, monitor progress and indicate potential in specific and helpful ways and are currently in use by **70 countries** around the world.



What do the assessments assess?



There are a variety of assessments, depending on the age and stage of your child, that we will use to identify your child's abilities in key cognitive areas which research shows are linked to later academic outcomes. Some of the assessments focus on vocabulary, mathematics, non-verbal ability such as recognising shapes, matching patterns, applying spatial awareness and visual intuition, as well as other skills such as proofreading, and perceptual speed and accuracy.

How will the new assessments be of use to parents and teachers?

We believe our external assessments will:

- support educational tracking – giving you a measure of your child's potential and progress through school
- present diagnostic assessments that help inform parents where interventions may be helpful to improve your child's grade
- provide attitudinal questionnaires that help to give a deeper understanding of the learning environment as seen by your child
- provide additional information to support and prepare your child for iGCSE coursework and exams
- equip us with clear, reliable and external evidence to support our termly report writing process



How will the assessments be carried out?

The assessments are computer based and adaptive, meaning the assessment will become easier or stop when your child has reached their level of understanding. The questions are set in a fun and game-like manner, meaning that your child will neither get bored nor feel stressed.



When will these assessments take place?

The assessments will take place throughout the year without impacting classes or other school commitments. Each class will continue for a number of short sessions until the assessments have been completed.

What happens if I don't want my child to participate?

This is not a compulsory assessment, however having these results will mean that we can identify the gaps in your child's learning much quicker and we can begin tailoring the teaching to raise your child's attainment and progress faster, so we are asking for your help and support by enrolling your child for these assessments.

Will I find out about the results?

After the assessments have been completed, your teacher will have a baseline to work with. If there are any findings that are unusual or unexpected, the class teacher will contact you for a meeting to discuss the results.

The results will be discussed with you during your parent consultation meetings and will also be sent home to parents along with the school report at the end of the year.

