



THE NEWTON GROUP OF SCHOOLS

**Newton International Academy
SMASH
Secondary
Parent Handbook
2026-27**



Contents

Foreword by the Principal	2
The Vision, Mission and Values	3
Our Current School Objectives:	4
The Qatar 2030 Vision	4
School Calendar 2026/2027	5
Secondary Leadership and Key Contacts	6
School Day and Timings	7
Curriculum Overview	8
Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – Year 9):	8
Key Stage 4 (Year 10 – Year 11):	8
Key Stage 5:	9
Assessment and Reporting	10
Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – Year 9): Grade Boundaries	10
Key Stage 4 and 5 (Year 10 – Year 12): Grade Boundaries	11
Behaviour Policy	12
Safeguarding and Child Protection	14
Uniform and Appearance	15
Physical Education:	15
Jewellery and Makeup	15
Communication with Parents	16
Email Communication	16
Parent Meetings	16
Class Charts	16
Microsoft Teams	16
Mobile Phone Policy	17
Key Stage 3 (KS3) – Years 7, 8, and 9	17
Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) – Years 10 to 12	17
Consequences for Policy Violations	17
Special Considerations	17
Parent and Student Responsibility	17



Foreword by the Principal

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Newton International Academy SMASH and thank you for entrusting us with your child's educational journey.

At NIA SMASH, we are proud to offer the British curriculum while celebrating the importance of Arabic culture and values. Beginning in Year 7, we build upon the strong foundations established in primary school, developing a passion for learning and equipping students with the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the 21st century. Our aim is to prepare young people for the very best universities and future opportunities around the world.

We assess progress regularly to identify strengths and areas for development, ensuring that every student is supported to achieve their potential. Students are prepared for International GCSE examinations in Year 11 and International AS examinations in Year 12. Alongside academic success, we recognise the importance of extracurricular activities in developing wider interests and talents.

We value our partnership with parents and believe that working together is essential in supporting and nurturing every child. Please take the time to read the following pages carefully. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

My staff and I look forward to working with you as we continue to be "an international community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success."

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Houston

Principal



The Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision: An international community of learners, striving for excellence, and celebrating success.

Our Mission: We aim to provide the highest quality of education possible for all our students. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence, celebrate diversity, develop critical thinking skills and become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

To achieve this, we will provide a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes positive discipline and self-motivation. We will provide and maintain a trusting and caring atmosphere where teaching and learning is meaningful and developed. We will work in partnership with our staff, students, parents and wider community to achieve our vision.

Our Values:

RESPECT	Self- respect, respect for students/staff/parents and cultures. Respect for personal and community property.
HONESTY	Honesty in all our actions
TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION	Open and effective communication among students, staff and parents
EMPATHY	Understanding and appreciation of the feelings of others
SUPPORT	Support the development of each individual to his/her full potential
DIVERSITY	Appreciation of all languages, traditions, religions and cultures
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	Development of responsible citizens through community service
PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY	Highest personal commitment to taking responsibility for our actions
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	Respect for our environment



Our Current School Objectives:

1. To Increase mental-health literacy, promote social, emotional & behavioural learning, while creating a sense of connectedness and belonging at school.
2. To strengthen foundational reading—fluency, comprehension, vocabulary—for curriculum success; foster a diverse, enjoyment-driven reading culture; close attainment gaps through targeted, explicit instruction so every pupil thrives.
3. To strengthen community partnerships within the school and its wider community so that all stakeholders develop a sense of belonging and work in partnership to achieve not only our vision and mission but also that of the Qatar 2030 vision.

The Qatar 2030 Vision

Our vision and mission not only serve the purpose of inspiring and guiding our pupils, staff and parents, but they also play a major role in contributing to Qatar's National Vision 2030. At NIA Smash, we believe that our role is not limited to ensuring good practice in the classroom and raising attainment across the board, but it is also coupled with our duty to raise well-rounded, curious, and environmentally conscious citizens who have a positive influence in the world around them.



The national vision aims to transform Qatar into an advanced country by 2030, capable of sustaining its own development and providing a high standard of living for its population and future generations.



The state of Qatar aims to achieve this through the following four pillars.





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School Calendar 2026/2027

TERM 1 – August to December 2026

Sunday 30th August

Sunday 25th October to Thursday 29th October

Thursday 17th December

Friday 18th December

Start of Term 1

Midterm Break

End of Term 1

Qatar National Day

No. of teaching days: 75

TERM 2 – January to March 2027

Monday 4th January

Tuesday 9th February

Sunday 7th March to Monday 11th March

Sunday 28th March

Tuesday 30th March

Start of Term 2

National Sports Day

Eid Al Fitr Break

Western Holiday

End of Term 2

No. of teaching days : 55

TERM 3 – March to June 2027

Sunday 4th April

Sunday 16th May to Thursday 20th May

Thursday 24th June

Start of Term 3

Eid Al Adha

End of Term 3

No. of teaching days : 55

Total number of teaching days : 185

Dates are subject to change according to declared official holidays in Qatar.



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Secondary Leadership and Key Contacts

Staff Name	Staff Role	Email Address
Mr. J Houston	Principal	principal.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. J Browne	Head of Secondary	hos.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. J Bannan	Deputy Head of Secondary - Academics	BannanJ@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. J White	Deputy Head of Secondary - Pastoral	dhop.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. Mostafa	Head of Arabic	ArabicCoordinator.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. J Buckley	Secondary Coordinator – 11 & 12	BuckleyJ.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. A Finlay	Secondary Coordinator - Boys	FinlayA.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mrs. Simone	Secondary Coordinator - Girls	Woodbridges.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Ms. Mahar	Parent Liaison Officer (PLO)	ParentLiaison_niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Ms. Ayesha	School Counsellor	Counsellor.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Mr. Charles	Exam Officer and Careers Coordinator	examoff.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa

Department	Phone Number	Email
Reception	+974 3016 2469 / + 974 44091001	info.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa / admin.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Parent Liaison Officer (PLO)	+974 5574 7693	ParentLiaison_niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa
Registrar	+974 3016 0137	registrar.niasmash@newtonschoools.sch.qa



School Day and Timings

School gates will open at 6:30am and children can be dropped off. Secondary students will line up and wait to be collected by their form tutor.

The National Anthem will be played at 7am. All children, teachers and visitors to the school will stand in silence and face the national flag.

Daily Timings:

Name	Timing
Registration	7am – 7:10am
Lesson 1	7:10am – 8am
Lesson 2	8am – 8:50am
Lesson 3	8:50am – 9:40am
Break	9:40am – 10:05am
Lesson 4	10:05am – 10:55am
Lesson 5	10:55am – 11:45am
Break	11:45am – 12pm
Lesson 6	12pm – 12:50pm
Lesson 7	12:50pm – 1:30pm / 1:40pm

To allow a calm end to the school day, our Year 7 and Year 8 students will finish at 1:30pm. Year 9 – Year 12 students will finish at 1:40pm.

Punctuality:

All students who arrive to school after 7:10am will be registered as late by their form tutor. Regular lateness to school is a serious issue and will be recorded on a students' academic report.

Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs):

On a Monday and Tuesday, we have optional ECAs for all students. These start at 1:45pm and finish at 2:25pm. At the beginning of each school term, the ECA list is shared with parents. The allocated days are below:

- Monday: Secondary Boys
- Tuesday: Secondary Girls



Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – Year 9):

The curriculum followed throughout the Secondary School is based upon the National curriculum of England and Wales: with each subject curriculum being drawn from the British QCA approved National Strategy (2007).

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – Year 9)	
Arabic	History
Art and Design	History of Qatar
Citizenship/Islamic Studies	I.C.T
Design & Technology	Mathematics
English	PE
French	Science
Geography	Islamic

Key Stage 4 (Year 10 – Year 11):

Students will select their IGCSE optional subjects in Year 9. These subjects are selected from the option blocks which are shared with students and parents. Students must select one subject per block. Students will study nine IGCSE subjects which include English and Mathematics.

Name of Subject	Number of Lessons:
English (1 st Language / 2 nd Language)	5
Mathematics (Higher / Foundation)	5
Block A: option subject	3
Block B: option subject	3
Block C: option subject	3
Block D: option subject	3
Block E: option subject	3
Block F: option subject	3
Block G: option subject	3
General PE	1
Islamic Studies / Citizenship	2
Tutorial / P4C	1



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Key Stage 5:

As part of standardisation of Newton Group of Schools, at Newton International School the IAS certification is completed through two examination boards namely Cambridge Assessment International Education and Pearson Edexcel Examination boards.

Name of Subject	Number of Lessons:
Block A: Option Subject	7
Block B: Option Subject	7
Block C: Option Subject	7
Block D: Option Subject	7
Islamic Studies / Citizenship	2
Tutorial Period	1
General PE	1
Study Periods	3



Assessment and Reporting

All students will complete three formal summative examinations per school year. Year 10 – Year 12 students will complete mock examinations based on the IGCSE/IAS past papers. At the end of each term, an academic report is generated and shared with parents.

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – Year 9): Grade Boundaries

Grade	Percentage	Description
9	96 – 100%	- Outstanding work - Excellent level of presentation - Excellent effort shown
8	90 – 95%	- Very good work - Very good presentation - Very good effort
7	80 – 89%	- Good work - Good presentation - Good effort
6	75 – 79%	- Significant potential shown - Some improvement possible - Take care with presentation
5	67 – 74%	- Some areas of good work - Follow advice given - Some room for improvement - Take care with presentation
4	58 – 66%	- Some areas of good work - More improvement is required - Work is slightly below average
3	50 – 57%	- More effort and detail required - Work is below expectation
2	40 – 49%	- Much more effort and detail required - Work is below expectation
1	30 – 39%	- Much more effort and detail required - Work is significantly below expectation
U	0 – 29%	Unsatisfactory



Key Stage 4 and 5 (Year 10 – Year 12): Grade Boundaries

KS4 and KS5 grade boundaries will be informed by the relevant IGCSE and IAS examination boards.

Letter Grading	Number Grading	BTEC Grading
A*	9	Distinction
	8	
A	7	
B	6	Merit
	5	
C	4	Pass
D	3	
E		
F	2	
G	1	Ungraded
U	U	



Behaviour Policy

An aim for every lesson is that students are 'Ready to Learn'. The principles of LEARN are visible in every classroom are:

- Learn in and Listen
- Equipment at the ready
- Annotate and take notes
- Respond like a scholar
- Never interrupt

The principles of being 'Ready to Learn' work alongside our behaviour and classwork expectations for every lesson. We expect all students to follow these expectations and in turn students will make greater academic progress. Referring back to our initial aims of:

- We have the **highest of expectations** for our students, both of their behaviour and conduct and their ability to achieve in all areas of academy life.
- **No student's education should be disturbed or disrupted** by poor behaviour in classrooms.

The behaviour and classwork expectations, of which are displayed in every classroom are:

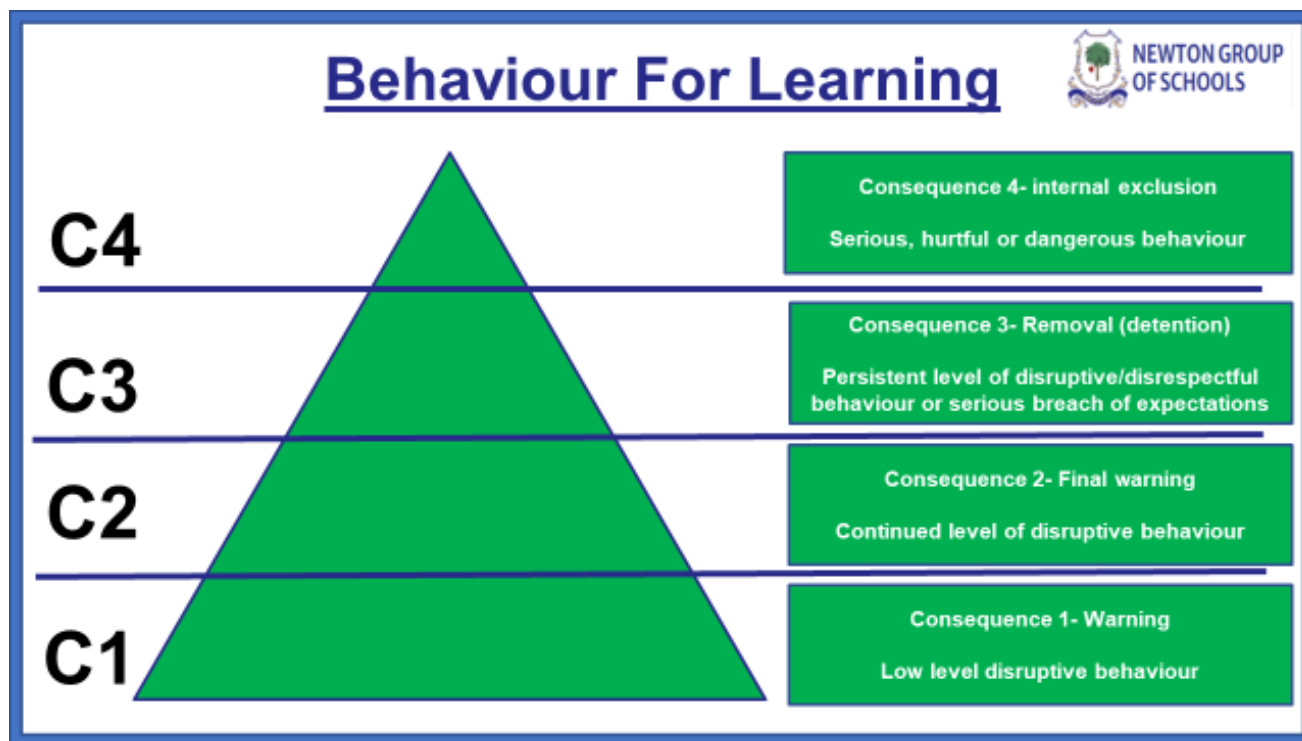
Ready to Learn

**NEWTON GROUP OF SCHOOLS**

<u>Behaviour expectations</u>	<u>Classwork expectations</u>
• Arrive to lesson/tutor on time. • Line up outside of the classroom in silence • Check you uniform is correct • Walk into the classroom silently and stand behind your chair. • Await the teacher's instruction to be seated • Do not eat or drink in lessons. Water is allowed when students asks the teacher • Be polite and respectful • Raise your hand when addressing the teacher and wait to be asked to speak • Listen actively and respond like a scholar • At the end of the lesson, wait to be dismissed	• In your book, rule off after the last piece of work with a pencil or start a new page. • Underline the date and title using a ruler. • Write in black ink • Complete any drawings/diagrams using a pencil • Read your teacher's feedback carefully • Use purple pen when responding to teacher feedback and when making improvements • Complete self and peer assessment in purple pen. • Do not doodle or graffiti anywhere in your book • If you make a mistake, rule through once with a ruler. • Take pride in the way you present your work



Teachers will be expected to use their professional skills to refocus behaviour before progressing to the formal consequence system. Below is an example of our behaviour escalation system which is visible in all classrooms. Students will be clearly told what stage of the escalation they are on and given the reason. Parents will be informed when students escalate up to a C3 or C4.



- **Step 1 –Warning (C1)- low level disruption - students name goes on the board**
- **Step 2 – Final warning (C2)- Continued low level disruption- a tick next to the students name on the board**
 - A teacher may have a quiet word with the student outside of the classroom to remind of expectations
- **Step 3 - Removal (C3) Three break time detentions in a 5 day block**
 - Removal from the classroom and moved to another room with work. Break time detention issued.
 - Form tutor to contact home and issue an after school detention if more than 1 C3 in a day
- **Step 4 –Internal isolation (C4)- Hurtful or dangerous behaviour OR High number of detentions**
 - Day out of circulation with a member of the leadership team completing work set by the class teacher and to be returned to be marked.
- **Step 5 – Non-renewal of admission into the next academic year**

The Principal reserves the right to request the consent of the CEO not to renew the admission of a student if there is repeated failure to adhere to the values and Behaviour Management Policy of the school.



Safeguarding and Child Protection

The safety and wellbeing of our children and wider school community is our first priority. We are privileged to live in an incredibly safe country and work with supportive families. We remain uncompromisingly committed to the safeguarding of our children.



SAFEGUARDING@Newton Smash

Newton International Academy Smash is committed to a whole school approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All pupils have the right to be protected from all types of harm and abuse. Staff at NIA Smash understand that Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

تلتزم أكاديمية نيوتن الدولية-سماش باتباع نهج مدرسي كامل لحماية الأطفال. لكل التلاميذ الحق في الحماية من كل أنواع الأذى والاساءة. يدرك جميع الموظفون في مدرسة نيوتن أن حماية الأطفال وتعزيزهم هي مسؤولية الجميع

If you have any concerns about the health, safety or well-being of any student in Newton-Smash, please immediately speak to one of the following



DSL Stephanie Hardy
Deputy Head of Primary (Pastoral)
dhopastoral_niasmash@newtonschools.sch.qa



Deputy DSL Lisa Davies
EYFS Coordinator
eyfscordinator_niasmash@newtonschools.sch.qa



Deputy DSL Jonathan White
Deputy Head of Secondary (Pastoral)
dhop.niasmash@newtonschool.sch.qa



Deputy DSL Aysha Hussein
School Counselor
schoolcounsellor.niasmash@newtonschools.sch.qa



Uniform and Appearance

Students should be dressed in full uniform each day. Students may ONLY come to school in their PE kit on PE days. If students have after school ECA or fixture they must bring their PE kit and get changed after school. It is an expectation that both parents and students adhere to the required dress code and ensure that students are neatly and appropriately presented at all times.

Secondary School Uniform Newton International Academy	
Girls	Boys
○ McKenzie tartan straight cut skirt, calf to ankle length or loose fitting navy blue trousers. ○ White linen shirt with school logo on left side. ○ School sweatshirt/fleece jacket <u>NO HOODS</u> ○ Plain black/navy coat, no logos. ○ Plain black or navy head wear (optional). ○ <u>Plain, flat black footwear.</u> ○ Abaya – Abaya should be plain dark colour (e.g. black or blue) ○ Plain black or navy blue tailored trousers.	○ Navy black/blue tailored trousers. ○ White linen shirt with school logo on left side. ○ <u>School tartan tie (to be tied properly and worn up to the neck) must be worn at all times- can be bought in school</u> ○ <u>Black footwear</u> ○ Plain white T shirt or vest can be worn under shirt (optional). ○ School sweatshirt/fleece jacket– <u>NO HOODS</u> ○ Plain black/navy coat, no logos, School cap only may be worn at break times only. ○ No black trousers and jumpers are allowed. ○ Hair should be natural and well-groomed

Physical Education:

- School PE navy shorts/ trousers
- School PE shirt, a plain white vest may be worn under shirt (optional)
- Appropriate trainers
- Girls are expected to get changed into PE uniform in the provided PE changing rooms

Jewellery and Makeup

Girls	Boys
○ One pair of small stud or sleeper earrings ○ Watch <u>(NO SMART WATCHES DURING EXAM PERIODS)</u> ○ No make-up or nail varnish is to be worn. ○ No acrylic or gel nails	○ Watch <u>(NO SMART WATCHES DURING EXAM PERIODS)</u> ○ No earrings, necklaces or jewellery.

Uniform can be purchased at Newton Lagoon or online at
[Newton School - Uniforms](#)



Communication with Parents

At Newton International Academy SMASH, we believe that strong communication between home and school is essential to supporting every student's success. We value the partnership we have with parents and are committed to maintaining open and effective channels of communication throughout the academic year.

Email Communication

Email is the primary method of communication between parents and the school. At the beginning of each academic year, parents will be provided with the email addresses of all subject teachers and key members of staff. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers directly regarding academic progress or subject-specific concerns.

Parent Meetings

Each term, the school hosts a Parent-Teacher Meeting, providing parents with the opportunity to meet subject teachers and discuss their child's progress, strengths, and areas for development. Additional meetings may be arranged if required.

Class Charts

The school uses Class Charts, an online platform that enables parents to monitor their child's behaviour, achievements, and overall engagement in school. Through Class Charts, parents can view:

- Achievement points awarded for positive contributions, effort, and outstanding work.
- Negative behaviour points issued when students do not meet the school's expectations.
- Patterns of behaviour and areas where support may be needed.

Class Charts provides parents with real-time information, allowing home and school to work together to celebrate success and address concerns promptly.

Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is used as our online learning platform. Teachers regularly upload lesson resources, revision materials, and homework assignments to Teams, enabling students to access learning materials both in school and at home. Students are expected to check Teams regularly and complete all assigned work by the deadlines provided.



Mobile Phone Policy

Please find below the guidance regarding the use of mobile phone use in school to maintain a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment, in line with the Ministry of Education Circular 4.

Key Stage 3 (KS3) – Years 7, 8, and 9

- Students in KS3 are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school under any circumstances.
- If a KS3 student is found with a mobile phone, it will be confiscated and returned only to a parent at the end of the school day.
- Repeated violations may result in further disciplinary action.

Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) – Years 10 to 12

- Students in KS4 and KS5 are permitted to bring mobile phones to school.
- Phones must be switched off or set to silent mode during lessons unless a teacher explicitly allows their use for educational purposes.
- Any misuse, including taking photos/videos without consent, cyberbullying, or accessing inappropriate content, will result in disciplinary action.

Consequences for Policy Violations

- First Offense: Verbal warning and confiscation of the phone for the day.
- Second Offense: Phone confiscated and returned only to a parent at the end of the day.
- Third Offense: Further disciplinary action, including detention from bringing a phone to school.

Special Considerations

- If a student requires a mobile phone for medical reasons or emergencies, parents must submit a written request to the school for approval.
- Teachers and staff have the authority to confiscate mobile phones if students do not comply with this policy.

Parent and Student Responsibility

- The school is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure their phone is kept secure and used appropriately.