

Cambridge IGCSE® Enterprise case study

Chisipite Senior School, Zimbabwe

Chisipite Senior School is an independent, multicultural girls' school based in Harare, Zimbabwe. It has 730 pupils aged 12 to 18 who are mainly day scholars, with a small boarding element. The school aims to provide a broad and balanced education, recognising the need for academic qualifications, but mindful that the formative period at school should offer a young person breadth of interests and an opportunity to develop social confidence in preparation for adult life.

The girls have a varied programme in Forms 1 and 2 and in Form 3 begin a two-year Cambridge IGCSE programme of either eight or nine subjects. They then join the Sixth Form to take Cambridge International

A Levels or vocational courses. The school opened in 1954 to cater for the pupils leaving the Junior School that was originally founded as a farm school in 1929. Chisipite Senior School became the first inter-denominational independent girls' school in Central Africa.

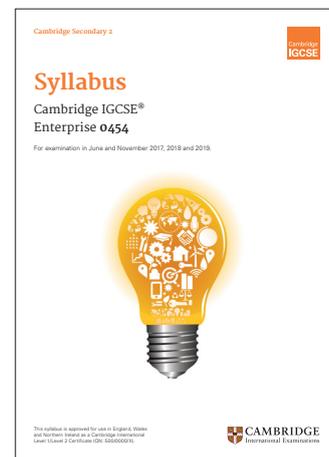
Chisipiti' is the Shona word for 'spring' and this has inspired both the fountain badge and the school motto 'Fons vitae caritas' (Love is the fountain of life).

Why does Chisipite Senior School teach Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise?

The school sees Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise as having a real benefit for the vocational studies which the students undertake in Sixth Form. The curriculum offers the students the opportunity to develop business skills and knowledge and also develops their life skills, encouraging them to work as part of a team and communicate with their peers and also with wider groups.

“Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise fits well with our business-oriented course. We really like the practical aspect of the students actually running their own business whilst still being an 'academic' school-based course.”

Lorraine Hill, Deputy Head, Chisipite Senior School, Zimbabwe



The school also thinks that the syllabus encourages the students in their thinking skills and problem solving approaches as they have to consider what will and won't work in the ideas and proposals that they are considering. The students especially enjoy running and participating in business meetings and seeing the final results of the activities they have undertaken.

How does Chisipite Senior School teach Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise?

Students currently take Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise over a two-year period with two hours of teaching each week. They also undertake activities outside the classroom as part of their coursework. The subject is taken by vocational students in the Lower Sixth Form who have just completed IGCSEs. The school will eventually teach the subject over one year in the Lower Sixth Form as it gives the students valuable preparation for the Advanced Diploma in Business or Cambridge International AS Level Business Studies.

Shortly after starting teaching Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise, the school invited a local motivational speaker and entrepreneur to present to the Enterprise students and this inspired them to set up their own promotions company called 21 Promotions.

Each student has bought shares in the company and they have also devised their own branding. The aim of 21 Promotions is to promote the image of the school community. The school has noticed this has changed the way that the students think about themselves and their school. They know that if they are negative about any aspects within the school this could also potentially affect their business.

As part of their Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise studies, the students are planning a Showcase to promote all that goes on in the school. This involves dealing with the wider student community and students that they would not normally come into contact with. In addition to the Showcase, the students are organising their own end of year company dinner'.

The school is also seeing the emergence of leadership qualities within the cohort of students undertaking Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise. They feel that this will have an impact on their progress within the school where all students in the Upper Sixth Form are given the opportunity to serve as Senior Leaders'.

This programme aims to encourage, enhance and exploit the leadership potential of all the students, to give them valuable management experience that will be relevant throughout their lives.



“The girls are excited about the Showcase event they are holding but they are also beginning to realise that running a company is not all plain sailing. It has taught them all patience, humility and the acceptance of the abilities and attitudes of others.”

Louise Morrisby, Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise teacher, Chisipite Senior School, Zimbabwe

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