



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

ص.ب. ٥٢٢٣٢، دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة

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TRN: 100483609200003

OUR REF :

Thursday, 21st October 2021

To: The Parents of students in Years 1-13 – WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 (AHEAD OF WEEK NINE)

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and healthy. We would like you to read on and familiarize yourselves with all the important news for the upcoming week. (Week Nine)

IF YOUR CHILD HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, YOU MUST TELL US WITHOUT ANY DELAY BY FILLING IN THE LINK ON THE WEBSITE AND UPLOADING A COPY OF THE PCR TEST–Many parents are not following this critical step and we only get to know from DHA days later. In this event we will be unable to contact trace and this could lead to multiple infections among children. WE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AS SAFE AS WE CAN.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19. WE WILL HAVE TO CALL YOU TO TAKE THEM HOME AND THEN A NEGATIVE PCR IS NEEDED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL .(As per DHA guidelines – Students and staff who exhibit Covid-19 symptoms should stay home until they produce a negative PCR result and should be free of symptoms to resume.) Even children who are showing symptoms at home will most likely be asked for a negative PCR test to return to school. Our school clinic will assess each case. We can all be responsible in keeping our Marian family safe in this way.

THE SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THIS THURSDAY, 21ST OCTOBER THROUGH SATURDAY, 23RD October in celebration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). We wish all our Marian family a very happy and a safe and blessed weekend.

SATURDAY, 30th October –The school office will be open. THE UNIFORM STORE WILL BE OPEN FOR PARENTS OF SECONDARY CHILDREN ONLY. Only ONE parent will be allowed on the premises and tokens will be distributed from 8:00 to 10:00 am. Gates will close at 10:00 am. Please do not bring children with you and kindly have your vaccination information ready on the AL HOSN APP to show our security or a negative PCR test with 48 hour validity.

1) KHDA REGULATIONS FOR ONLINE LINKS DURING FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING:

Parents are requested to kindly note that FULL FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING ON SITE has resumed for ALL students and no zoom links will be sent unless children have DHA authorisation on health grounds or if they have tested positive for Covid-19 or there is a family member has a high-risk medical condition and cannot get vaccinated for medical reasons. In this case, a medical report attested by DHA must be provided for the person with the medical condition. Please send an email to our school doctor, Dr. Dayani, with all the relevant details if your child falls under one of these categories. (dayani-smchs@smgeducation.org) Links will only be sent once we have the approvals from DHA.

Please read through all the information below so that you are well informed about procedures and actions being taken to ensure the safety of one and all.

a) TAKE YOUR CHILD'S TEMPERATURE BEFORE HE/SHE LEAVES HOME: All parents must take the child's temperature in the morning before leaving home. **If a child's temperature is 37.5 degrees Celsius or more, the child must be kept at home. If a child displays one or more of the symptoms listed below, kindly keep them at home.**

Things to keep in mind when self-screening each morning are as follows:

Most common symptoms

- ❖ Fever (temperature is greater than 37.5 degrees Celsius)
- ❖ Persistent dry coughing is present
- ❖ Fatigue (undue/uncommon levels of tiredness)

Less common symptoms:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- diarrhoea
- conjunctivitis
- headache
- loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- loss of speech or movement

b) CHILDREN USING STS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AT THE WAITING POINT BY ONE PARENT OR GUARDIAN: Children using STS must be accompanied by either one parent or guardian so that in the event of a temperature of over 37.5 degrees Celsius being recorded, the child can be taken back by the parent or guardian.

c) ENTRY AND EXIT MEASURES: There will be a security guard at each entry gate and the temperature will be taken of each staff and student upon entry. ***The school will use different entry points to avoid crowding at any particular gate.*** If a child is found to have a temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or more, the child will immediately be taken to the **ISOLATION ROOM** and parents will be informed to come and pick up the child immediately. Parents must co-operate in not delaying in picking up their child. We have often had to wait several hours in the past and quite often parents are not reachable on the phone. Parents must be **EXTRA ALERT** in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

ENTRY PROCEDURES:

The school will use staggered timings for different groups of student classified by:

1) Students who use the buses– *Buses will be driven through the compound.* Procedures have been put in place to use two different entry points internally for bus users to ensure optimal physical distancing.

2) Students who use public transport(Metro or RTA Bus)**GATE 4: ARRIVAL TIME FROM 7:00 - 7:15 AM** These students must reach the designated **gate NO. 4**. These students will be admitted with temperature scanning only through a designated entry point that leads them directly to the corridors to their classes. Gates will be opened only at 6:50 am.

3) Students whose parents drop them off**GATE 5: ARRIVAL TIME : 6:50 – 7:15 AM STRICTLY** - Parents have to leave the child with the school staff at the gate and procedures will be followed for temperature scanning and then moving them to their designated classrooms. This time slot is to be strictly followed for drop off and no child will be admitted before this slot. **STRICTLY NO PARKING or STOPPING OUTSIDE GATE NUMBER 5.** Double Parking puts our children, staff and other parents at a huge risk and is a traffic violation. Gates will open only at 6:50 am sharp. Please park your car in the available car parking slots around that area and kindly send your child to the gate or drop your child off by walking to the gate.

EXIT PROCEDURES:

The school will use staggered timings for different groups of student classified by:

- 1) Students who use the buses-**These students will be guided by school staff from in a staggered manner (yeargroup wise) to the buses.
- 2) Students who use public transport:**These students will be allowed to exit from GATE NO.4 . Please check the table at the end of the circular for timings.
- 3) Students whose parents pick them up:** Parents who pick up their children will have to come in through **GATE NO. 5** and wait in a designated pick up area with physical distancing and the children will be brought there in a staggered manner. Please check the table at the end of the circular for timings.

d) USE OF FACE MASKS BY ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF (EXCEPT STUDENTS BELOW 6 YEARS): In line with current guidance, face masks are mandatory at SMCHS for all children in Year 2 and above and all adults.

All will wear a face mask whilst at school. 3 masks are required per day. (One is to be kept as backup in case of damage or tearing to a face mask being used)

Exceptions include:

- ❖ Students under the age of 6 years
- ❖ For teachers and People of Determination that have hearing impairments, transparent masks may be used
- ❖ Children who are unable to wear masks due to medical reasons will be allowed to wear a face shield but only if supported by a medical certificate.

For all other students and staff, masks may only be removed during snack break, provided strict social distancing is maintained. **Children have to wear a face shield while eating unmasked.**

e)SANITIZER: All staff and students are required to carry a personal hand sanitizer with 70% - 80% alcohol content. Sanitizers will be available in public areas for use by staff and students.

HYGIENE KIT: Every child must have a hygiene kit that is sent daily in the school bag. The hygiene kit must contain:

- ❖ THREE face masks
- ❖ ONE FACE SHIELD
- ❖ One personal hand sanitizer containing 70-80% alcohol and approved for use by children.
- ❖ One pack of sanitizing wipes
- ❖ Tissues for personal use

GLOVES: Gloves are not mandated but may be used at the discretion of students. However if students are using gloves, they must carry an extra pair and once removed they need to be disposed.

HANDWASHING: Hand washing remains a key preventative measure against Covid-19 and so students will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and correctly.

Teachers will model hand washing for younger children so that they know the correct way to wash their hands.

Hand washing stations will be equipped with liquid soap and disposable paper towels and posters with effective hand washing and drying instructions

f)BREAK TIMES: Keeping in mind the higher temperatures currently prevailing, students will be kept in their classes during the break. Once temperatures are more feasible for outdoor comfort, one class per corridor will be given a break time outside on a rotation basis with full physical distancing to ensure the safety of all.

g)VENTILATION: Our school does not have a central AC system and each class is serviced by separate Air conditioning units. Filters will be cleaned regularly and units are regularly serviced. Ventilation arrangements have been made with open gaps in windows and class room doors will be open from time to time for fresh air circulation.

h) NO PARENTS ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES WHILE CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL, except while picking up younger children from the designated area.

i) The SCHOOL CANTEEN WILL NOT BE OPERATIONAL AT THIS TIME. Kindly send a healthy snack with your child and sufficient water or juice. Children will eat their snack in their classrooms under the supervision of their teachers.

- Water coolers will not be operational.
- Parents must send sufficient water with their child. Water bottles must not be left in school. Any bottles left in school will have to be discarded according to the protocols.
- We have installed vending machines for water, though we still encourage parents to send sufficient water from home as this is a much safer option.

jj) UNIFORMS: Students are being given one more week to secure their uniforms as many parents have still not been able to do so. However those students who have their uniforms are expected to wear the full school uniform. Kindly refer to our **UNIFORM POLICY** attached to this circular. **BOYS MUST HAVE A NEAT AND SHORT HAIRCUT AND GIRLS MUST NOT HAVE COLOURED OR HIGHLIGHTED HAIR. Uniforms will not be sold to students during school hours as we do not want them to miss lessons. Parents may come on a second or fourth Saturday to school from 8:00 am until 11:30 am for this purpose. –Please check the special uniform note for Parents of secondary children on the first page of this circular.**

2) CRITICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIRED IF ANY STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE, EVEN AT THE WEEKEND: If any child shows symptoms of Covid-19, they must

be kept at home and a diagnosis must be sought from an approved medical practitioner. **If a child tests positive, the parent must use the link on the school website and fill out the required details and upload a copy of a PCR test that has been conducted. These are critical DHA requirements and have to be treated with the utmost seriousness.** The school will then contact the parents of any other child who was in contact with the child in question as well as staff members who will also have to self isolate for 10 days as part of contact tracing requirements. ***A DHA Clearance Certificate for a child who previously tested positive is also required in order for the child to return to school.*** In addition in case a child or a parent, sibling or any family member of a child tests POSITIVE for COVID-19, an email must be sent to Ms. Lise-Ann and Dr. Dayani without delay and the child, by virtue of being a close contact, must be kept at home to self isolate for 7 days.

3) PAYMENT OF FIRST TERM FEES :

The window for payment of the FIRST TERM FEES was between the 26th of August, 2021 and 30th September 2021. Fees that have not been paid by the 30th of September 2021 will **NOW** be considered **OUTSTANDING** and commensurate actions will be applied as per regulator policy. We would like to remind ALL parents that timely fee payments are important for the sustained functioning of the school. Parents are reminded that **ALL FIRST TERM FEES MUST BE PAID WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DELAY IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.**

4) EXIT PASSES FOR A-LEVEL STUDENTS : We have issued exit passes to most of our A-Level students whose parents sent in the consent forms. Please note that exit passes are only to facilitate children to arrive later (if lessons begin later in day) and to leave early (if lessons finish earlier on a particular day) Students are not permitted to leave in between lessons , even if free. During the day, they are given specific places to sit during their free lessons.

5) NGRT – NEW GROUP READING TEST FOR YEARS ONE, TWO AND THREE ONLY:

Parents of students in Years One, Two and Three are requested to **SAVE THE DATE : SATURDAY, 30TH OCTOBER BETWEEN 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.** This will be done online with the children at home and we will send you more information regarding this next week. Please ensure that the children are available during this time. Please email the skiply receipt indicating payment to the class teacher.

6) IBT ARABIC EXAM FOR ARABIC A- ARAB SPEAKERS FROM YEARS FIVE THROUGH TEN :

Parents of students in Years Five through Ten are requested to check **ATTACHMENT THREE** of last week's circular and complete the necessary formalities at the earliest. Please email the skiply receipt indicating payment to the class teacher.

7) IBT ARABIC EXAM FOR ARABIC B- NON-ARAB SPEAKERS FROM YEARS FIVE , SEVEN and NINE ONLY :

Parents of students in Years Five , Seven and Nine are requested to check **ATTACHMENT FOUR** of last week's circular and complete the necessary formalities at the earliest. Please email the skiply receipt indicating payment to the class teacher.

8) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES: We would like you to be informed well in advance that EDEXCEL LONDON BOARD EXAMINATION FEES will be collected in the month of NOVEMBER 2021 for students in years ELEVEN and THIRTEEN. We trust that this

will help you to budget accordingly. You can check your KHDA Parent-School contract for the BOARD EXAM FEE AMOUNT for each year group.

9) SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN CLASSROOMS : We would like to inform parents that we have had to make permanent seating plans in the light of potentially having to trace close contacts in case a child tests positive. We will change these rotationally every month so children get moved to different seats. Please also note that some seats will have to be permanently assigned keeping in mind any professionally assessed concerns.

10) MINI WHITEBOARDS FOR YEARS 1-4 : We have provided a mini white board for every child from years 1-4 to be used in their learning sessions. The whiteboard is permanently kept under the desk of each child. Please ensure that your child carries his/ her own **BOARD MARKER** (**NOT PERMANENT MARKER**) and a **SMALL DUSTER**. It will be helpful for you to label these items with your child's name and class.

11) ISSUES WITH SOME PRIMARY CHILDREN NOT BRINGING STATIONERY/ HYGIENE KIT ITEMS –CHECK CLEANLINESS OF FACE SHIELD: We would like to once again remind ALL parents that every child MUST have their own complete stationery kit and hygiene kit as there is absolutely no borrowing of items allowed. Parents are also requested to kindly check the cleanliness of the face shield and have it changed regularly.

12) SPARE SET OF CLOTHES FOR YEAR 1 CHILDREN : Parents of children in Year One are requested to please keep one light set of spare clothes in your child's bag. Children of this age sometimes have emergencies and this is helpful for us to keep the child comfortable and clean.

13) PARENTS' WHATSAPP GROUPS : While a whatsapp group maybe very useful for sharing important information that can be very helpful – sometimes essential – for busy parents, it has increasingly been noticed that these groups seem to have become breeding grounds for gossip, Chinese whispers and criticism. We are noticing more and more that a personal experience of a child or a staff member has become fodder for public comment and this has extended to even the very private medical information of children being openly discussed on parent groups. There's a broader societal issue here. This is all very new to us adults. We must reflect on the example we're setting. We talk about what our children are doing online, but we don't reflect on our own behaviour; we don't have an agreed etiquette. We would like all parents , especially those in primary school to do some reflection on the unchecked chatter and quite often the vilifying of staff members in the parents' whatsapp groups and ask yourself if that is truly helping you or rather creating unwanted stress. As a school, we would like you to reach out to the teachers or to Ms. Lise-Ann (in

more urgent cases) rather than allow what could be one parent's opinion or perspective or misinterpretation in many cases, cloud the perspectives of all the rest. Let us try not to micromanage the children but have more faith in their capacity for resilience and courage.

While we continue to encourage you to use emails as the official channels for communication, we would like to offer some useful guidelines for the ethical use of whatsapp groups should parents still feel the need for them.

Groups can be used to share :

- Reminders about deadlines, school activities, and events.
- Questions about school activities or special events e.g. what date the science project is due in, uniform or non-uniform day, when the deadline to pay for something is, etc.
- Sharing important information already posted in a circular to help reach more parents e.g. alerts about sickness, school policies, etc.
- Sharing information which can be useful to the other parents in the group e.g. where to buy costumes for dressing up days, ideas for projects, etc.
- Foster a sense of community
- Sharing relevant community notices e.g. road closures or new traffic lights in the local area, etc.

We **STRONGLY discourage** the use of the groups to:

- Gossip.
- Voice grievances.
- Share personal problems.
- Point out another child's behaviour.
- Discuss the work of teachers: if a parent has a concern regarding the teacher, that parent should speak with him or her directly.
- Raise individual concerns or complaints: if a parent has a particular concern or complaint regarding the School or any member of the Staff, that issue should be raised directly with the School.
- Share political or religious posts or discussions.

14) SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN : Parents are requested to kindly make sure that Primary Children are not using Social Media as they are well below the statutory age to hold these accounts. We have also noticed that many children as young as Year 4 have their own whatsapp accounts and we at St. Mary's highly discourage this practice as the children are not mature enough to handle these and often wind up in difficult conversations with their peers that might cause potential problems for parents if these are flagged to any local authority for their impropriety.

15) SOCIAL MEDIA FREQUENT CHECKS BY PARENTS FOR SECONDARY

CHILDREN : Parents of secondary children are strongly encouraged to kindly make frequent checks of your child's use of Social Media. We have seen in many cases that minor children are being sought out on Instagram, Snapchat and other platforms by much older individuals for chats and conversations. It is important for parents to know who their children are conversing with to protect them from any potential safeguarding issues. We would also like to remind parents about your children's use of inappropriate content and language on Social Media Platforms which you will be aware of only if you make frequent checks of the same. Please have your child remove himself/herself from private social media groups that are not encouraged or recommended by us at St. Mary's. The school cannot take responsibility for private groups started by students and we strongly discourage the formation of these groups as well as discourage student participation in them. It is once again important here that ALL PARENTS check your children's digital activity frequently including group activity if your child is part of private groups created by students.

16) URGENT QUERIES AND CONCERNS: If you have any urgent queries and concerns, kindly send an email to our Vice Principal, Ms. Lise-Ann on l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org and she will get back to you. Please include your telephone number in case she needs to call you. For subject – related concerns , kindly send an email to the subject teacher. For minor class-related concerns and absences , kindly send an email to both class teachers. Concerns will be addressed by a return email or a phone call from school depending upon the nature of the concern.

17) FULL UNIFORM FROM NOVEMBER 2021: We have provided adequate slots and time right from September 2021 for parents to purchase their children's uniforms and we expect that from the month of November 2021, **ALL STUDENTS MUST BE WEARING THE CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM.**

18) USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES: While we are being very flexible on the use of mobile phones and smart watches , given the current pandemic and the sense of security it gives both children and their parents and also bearing in mind that senior students are using it for scanning their work, we have also noticed a rather indiscriminate use of the mobile phone for messaging and use of social media , especially among secondary school students and more particularly among A-Level students . Trust works both ways and we would like you to sit down with your children and speak to them about acceptable use of the mobile phone only for academic work and in emergencies.

We will confiscate phones if they are being used for purposes other than the above. Parents will have to come in to collect the phones and if this happens more than once, only the SIM card will be returned but the phone will only be returned in June 2022.

19) BULLYING (PARTICULARLY FOR LOWER PRIMARY): We all want our children to be safe, both you as parents and we as a school. We integrate the concept of 'Bullying' in our lessons and class discussions across all levels. Children discuss what behaviours constitute bullying and which do not, the frequency, the gravity, the various kinds of bullying. However, we must also recognise that these are very unique cohorts of children in the sense of them not having had a true school experience for well over a year. We must therefore not throw around the term 'bullying' too lightly to describe a one single instance or a non-repetitive behaviour that might not be 'bullying' at all but rather children of the same age getting used to these new routines and once again re-discovering having to share space and time with other children.

What Is Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is **repeated**, or has the **potential to be repeated, over time.**

Bullying is...

- Hurting another person, or group, **on purpose, more than once.**
- Bullying can involve **using violence, hurtful words or ganging up** to make another person feel **helpless.**
- It can happen **face-to-face** or through the **Internet.**

Bullying can be...

- One person making fun of another.
- One person trying to beat up another.
- A group of people ganging up against others.

Types of Bullying

Physical Bullying Hitting, Kicking, or Pushing someone Stealing, Hiding or ruining someone's things Making someone do something he or she doesn't want to do	Verbal Bullying Name calling Teasing Insulting	Relationship Bullying Refusing to talk to someone Spreading lies and rumors about someone Making someone feel left out or rejected
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20) STS TRANSPORT CONCERNS: We are working closely with STS in order to solve the transport challenges that some parents are encountering and we hope that a swift solution will be found in these specific cases. We are also grateful for solutions that have been found and we thank you for your trust and patience.

21) PARENTS WHO HAD NOT BOOKED ACTIVE LEARN EARLIER: We are aware that some parents have only recently approached our distributors to pay for the Active Learn subscriptions. We would like to inform you that books that come with these subscriptions have to be sourced from the UK and will take up to two weeks or more.

We take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy weekend .

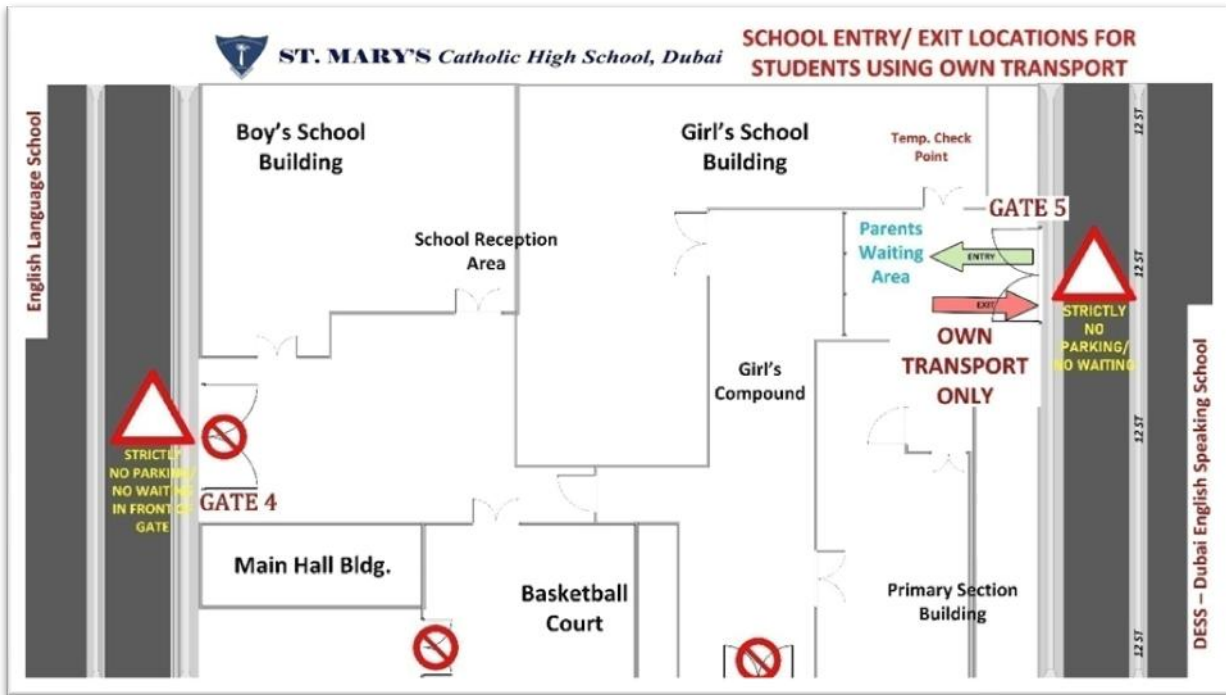
Yours sincerely



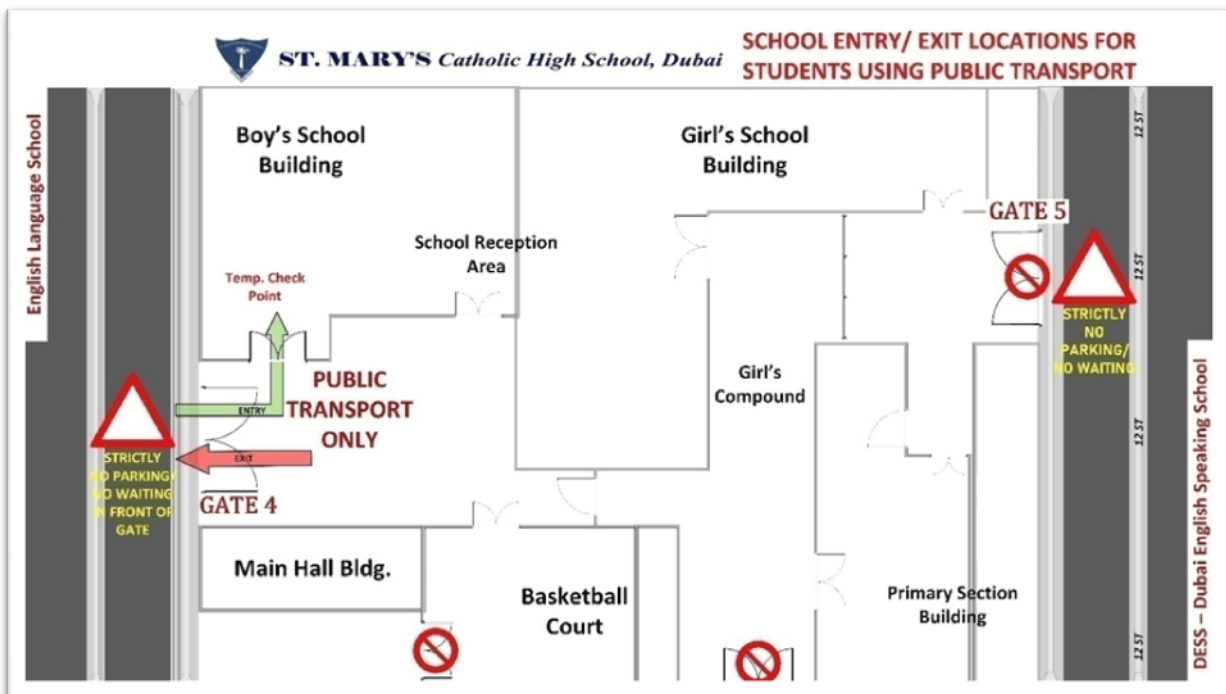
Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)



School Entry | Exit Location for Student Using Own Transport



School Entry | Exit Location for Student Using Public Transport





OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

Date: Friday, 8th October 2021

To : Parents of all A-Level Students- YEAR 12 and 13

RE: School Timings for A-Level Students- EXIT PASS

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's. With this letter, we would like to inform you about timings for A-Level students. As there is a lot of independent and individual study required during the A-Level year, some students prefer to return home early or arrive at school only in time for lessons.

Therefore, A-Level students are permitted **ONLY with parental consent**, to arrive at school at the start of their lessons. For example, should they have no lessons scheduled for the first or the second period, they need only arrive for the beginning of the lessons scheduled for them on any given day.

In addition, they are permitted, again **ONLY with parental consent**, to leave school as soon as their lessons are over. Therefore, on any given day, if they have no lessons scheduled after break, they will be able to leave school.

Parents should be aware, however, that the school will not take responsibility for the same students during the time when parents have given their consent to them to be out of school. Neither will the school check whose company your son or daughter is in once they leave school. In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic , it would be advisable that children go straight home and not socialise in public places. We trust that as parents you will explain the importance of being safe to them.

We presume that you, as parents, will recognize the ability of your child to take his or her own responsibility, with respect to his or her conduct outside of school.

All students are also permitted and are welcome to remain in the school for the full morning if their parents so wish. During their free time, if students remain in school, we will make provision for them to remain in a secure space to study.

We would like you, as parents, to indicate below, the choice that you would like to make for your child. The school will respect that choice.

In order to implement this system, **we shall be providing all A-Level students with a stamped copy of their timetable for this purpose. THEY MUST HAVE THIS WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES.** The system will become operative only after classes have settled and your consent letters, are processed. Until that time students should be in school for the full day.

Thank you for your kind co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)**



PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE and SCAN and EMAIL back to your child's class teacher.

I wish my child to remain in school for the full day until _____

I grant permission to my child to arrive at school for the start of lessons and to leave as soon as lessons are over _____

STUDENT'S NAME : _____

PARENT'S NAME : _____

PARENTS' SIGNATURE : _____

DATE : _____



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OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE: Friday, 8th October 2021

To: Parents of students in Years ONE, TWO & THREE : **NGRT – NEW GROUP**
READING TEST

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings. Our school will be undertaking the NGRT for students in Years One, Two and Three. We invite you to read on for further information.

NGRT is a fully adaptive, standardised, termly reading assessment. As it's adaptive, it offers a personalised experience for each student, ensuring it's accessible for those who are struggling and challenging for those who need to be stretched, so you can get to the root of any problems identified precisely and quickly.

During lockdown, some students will have kept up with their reading while others, with fewer books at home or without access to libraries and school reading programmes, may have stalled. Developing literacy in primary school is key and reading ability is fundamental to a student's ability to access the curriculum in secondary school. So, having a reliable measure of reading ability will be critical in planning catch up as students return to school. In addition, the independent study required by remote learning may have further disadvantaged weaker readers without support at home.


There is no more crucial skill for success in any subject than reading, so being able to accurately assess and monitor this is essential. NGRT is proven to deliver a reliable assessment of reading comprehension, set against national benchmarks. Using it regularly helps to quickly spot problems that will hold back a child's progress, with customised practical classroom solutions for each student and the ability to demonstrate the impact of the interventions you put in place.

We are aiming to schedule these on a Saturday (date to be announced later) so that parents can assist **ONLY WITH THE TECHNOLOGY** required for younger children. However we must make it clear that parents must in **NO WAY** assist children with the contents of the test. The rationale to check reading levels is for the sole purpose of helping children where we see gaps

and challenging those with exceptional reading abilities. We therefore ask that **ALL PARENTS** exhibit an **OUTSTANDING ETHICAL APPROACH** while these tests are being administered, even though the child is in your physical space.

The amount to be paid for the NGRT (as also reflected in your KHDA Parent-School Contract) is **AED 40/- ONLY**. This amount must be paid only via the **SKIPLY APP** and a soft copy of the receipt must be emailed to the class teacher. **The deadline for payment is 21st October 2021.**

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Friday, 8th October 2021

**To : Parents of Native Arabic speaking students in Years Five through Ten –
IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS**

**STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR LAPTOPS OR TABLETS TO
SCHOOL ON THE 3RD OF NOVEMBER 2021 FOR THE TEST.**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. You will be pleased to learn that our school has been invited to participate in ***International Benchmark Tests for Improving Learning, 2021***. The Australian Council for Educational Research , one of the leading research organizations in the world , develops this test and provides a range of Assessment services in many countries and works in close tandem with the KHDA here in Dubai. The ***International Benchmark Test in Arabic*** will be held on the following day.

WEDNESDAY	3rd November 2020 – 9:00 AM	ARABIC A	YEARS 5-10
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**The entry fee is AED 45/- for this exam , the exact amount of which must be paid
ONLY THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 21st OCTOBER 2021.** The

International Benchmark Tests are designed to give an International benchmark of your child's performance vis-à-vis the participating countries in the world and in the region. Students will be able to see their intrinsic abilities and potential for learning, identifying their strengths and weaknesses on skills and concepts related to their class level and helps clarify concepts , making them very valuable as a remedial instrument. Questions are interesting and thought provoking, and encourage students to develop the skills related to problem solving, data interpretation , reasoning and critical thinking in the global context.

THE INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS (IBT) PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH :

- A comprehensive assessment of student performance and ability
- High quality test items that engage students across all ability levels;
- Individual reports that highlight skills, strengths and weaknesses;
- Reports that include a clear description of skills and concepts that have been mastered;
- A Scale Score to measure their progress over time
- Students and schools with high quality feedback that can be used to improve learning
- School, regional and international percentiles to compare and benchmark student performance;
- Recognition of student performance

Since the Tests will be delivered on ACER's Online Assessment and Reporting System (OARS), please refer below to the system requirements for your computers/devices in the school. This will check suitability for conducting the Tests on this online interface. Technical Requirements and Browser Check Normally, standard PC's /devices meet the below requirements:

- Minimum screen resolution: 1024 x 768
- Minimum DSL or cable internet connection: 56 kbps
- Compatible computers and devices:
- PC or laptop
- Apple Mac
- iPad
- Other tablet devices
- Compatible browsers:
- Google Chrome (latest version)
- Mozilla Firefox (latest version)
- Safari (version 10 or above)
- Edge (latest version)
- Internet Explorer (version 11 or above with compatibility mode disabled)

Browser Check We recommend that a browser check is done on all devices that will be used are given below: Open your preferred browser, click/copy and paste this link <https://oars-z3.acer.org/browserexam/#/> and a browser examination will run. This will check whether your internet browser is compatible, and you will also receive a recommendation for how many students you can test at a given time with your technical set up if testing in school. We request you to advise students to also do the browser check at home on their devices before these are used by them in school for the test.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Friday, 8th October 2021**To : Parents of Non-Native Arabic speaking students in Years Five, Seven & Nine – IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS –ARABIC B****STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR LAPTOPS OR TABLETS TO SCHOOL ON THE DAY THEY HAVE THE TEST.**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. You will be pleased to learn that our school has been invited to participate in *International Benchmark Tests for Improving Learning, 2021*. The Australian Council for Educational Research , one of the leading research organizations in the world , develops this test and provides a range of Assessment services in many countries and works in close tandem with the KHDA here in Dubai. The *International Benchmark Test in Arabic* will be held on the following days.

WEDNESDAY	10TH November 2021	ARABIC B	YEAR 5
TUESDAY	16th November 2021	ARABIC B	YEAR 7
WEDNESDAY	17th November 2021	ARABIC B	YEAR 9

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Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)**

