



OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

Saturday, 13th November 2021

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

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 Twelve)

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.

1) GL CAT-4 TEST FOR YEARS FOUR, SIX AND TWELVE ONLY:

Parents of students in Years Four, Six and Twelve are requested to kindly check the separate attachment to this circular regarding the GL CAT4 examination. Please email the Skiply receipt to your child's class teacher.

2) GL CAT-4 TEST FOR NEW ADMISSIONS TO ST. MARY'S:

Parents of students who were admitted to St. Mary's from in Years 4 to 10 for this academic year are requested to kindly email a copy of your child's GL CAT-4 test report (taken in their previous school last year) to your child's class teacher by tomorrow.

3) KHDA REGULATIONS FOR ONLINE LINKS DURING FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING: Please check circular of 21st October

All information regarding protocols will not be repeated and can be referred to in the circular of 21st October

Link : [WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-21-OCTOBER-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-NINE](#)

4) SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

It has been a disappointing experience especially with many of our young lads who are being repeatedly reminded to have a hair cut or trim their long locks and yet see them day after day not paying heed to these simple yet important reminders. We urge parents to kindly set aside some time this weekend to have your son's hair cut or trimmed neatly so that it is more becoming of a well turned out school boy. 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.** Students may wear a wristwatch and girls may wear one pair of simple studs on the lower part of the ear lobe. Multiple ear piercings or nose piercings are not permitted.



PERMITTED.



NOT PERMITTED

Only school jackets/ hoodies will be permitted from November onwards.

Link : [UNIFORM POLICY 2021-2022](#)

5) 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 7 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.

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

Parents of students in Years Five , Seven and Nine who have not yet paid for the IBT ARABIC B exam are requested to do so without any further delay. Please email the skiply receipt indicating payment to the class teacher. **YEAR 7 NON ARAB STUDENTS WILL HAVE THEIR IBT ARABIC TEST ON 16TH NOVEMBER AND YEAR 9 NON ARAB STUDENTS WILL HAVE THEIR IBT EXAM ON THE 17TH OF NOVEMBER AND ALL STUDENTS MUST BEING A FULLY CHARGED DEVICE FOR THE TEST. (TABLET OR LAPTOP NOT A MOBILE PHONE)**

7) ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2021 REPORT :

Keeping in mind that a full return to on-site learning came into effect only from the 3rd of October as well as bearing in mind various gaps in learning for all cohorts, we have decided to use a different approach for Assessments for the November report. Details can be found below.

YEARS ONE THROUGH FOUR

CRITERIA	MARKS
ALL SUBJECTS-AFL (as evidenced across time)	10
ONE MARKED ASSIGNMENT - All assignments will be uploaded to GC and students should turn them in to GC too. Assignments will be posted on the Saturday before the week ahead.	10
SCHEDULE for ASSIGNMENTS	31 st October to 4 th November – MATH.

ALL SUBMISSIONS LATEST BY SATURDAY OF THAT WEEK. Please turn them in as they are completed.	ENG. READING/ENG. LANGUAGE, RELIGIOUS STUDIES/ CITIZENSHIP;
	7 TH to 11 th November- ENG. LITERATURE, HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES & COMPUTING
	ARABIC & PSHE – 12 TH & 13 TH Nov. – submission 14 th November
	14 th to 18 th –SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, FRENCH and MORAL EDUCATION
ART	20 marks as evidenced by work done in class over the last few weeks
MUSIC	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and work done.
PE	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and skill development

YEARS FIVE & SIX

CRITERIA	MARKS
CORE SUBJECTS ASSESSMENT IN WRITING AND SCANNED AND UPLOADED TO GC- Students may use a smartphone or a tablet to scan.	20 MARKS –ONE ASSESSMENT Begin by 3 rd November.
ALL SUBJECTS AFL	10 MARKS
NON-CORE SUBJECTS ONE MARKED ASSIGNMENT- All assignments to be uploaded to GC and students should turn them in to GC too.	20 MARKS
SCHEDULE for ASSIGNMENTS ALL SUBMISSIONS BY SATURDAY OF THAT WEEK. Please turn them in as they are completed.	31 st October to 4 th November – RELIGIOUS STUDIES/ CITIZENSHIP and FRENCH
	7 TH to 11 th November- HISTORY & COMPUTING
	14 th to 18 th – GEOGRAPHY
ART	20 marks as evidenced by work done in class over the last few weeks
MUSIC	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and work done.
PE	20 marks as evidenced by AFL and skill development

YEARS SEVEN THROUGH TEN

CRITERIA	MARKS
ALL SUBJECTS ASSESSMENT IN WRITING AND SCANNED AND UPLOADED TO GC- Students may use a smartphone or a tablet to scan.	30 MARKS –Combination in two assessments. Many have already been done.
ALL SUBJECTS AFL / Presentations	10 MARKS- based on what has already been done

ALL SUBJECTS HW / ASSIGNMENTS- All assignments to be uploaded to GC and students should turn them in to GC too.	10 MARKS- based on what has already been done
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YEARS ELEVEN THROUGH THIRTEEN

CRITERIA	MARKS
ALL ASSESSMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS SO FAR COVERED UP UNTIL 10 TH NOVEMBER	Marks out of 100

Academic honesty is a fundamental part of learning and teaching and a core value of Saint Mary's Catholic High School

Dubai. While we understand that children are in your physical space while doing their assignments, we also know and trust that parents are the first teachers of values to their children. We therefore request you to only facilitate or help with the technological aspect if needed but to refrain from assisting in any way with the content of the assignment. We know that above all else both parents and teachers want the values of honesty and integrity to be deeply embedded in the children as key drivers for their journey through life. Children watch us very closely and look up to us as role models and we want them to know that they can continue to maintain these values even when they are doing an assessment at home. We have noticed a few discrepancies from last year and so **we strongly urge ALL parents to maintain the highest standards of INTEGRITY and ETHICS while assignments are being done.**

8) PAYMENT OF FIRST TERM FEES :

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021. **In addition, we would like parents to be aware that we will not be able to issue any documents, letters or report cards for students who still have outstanding fees. Kindly settle all outstanding dues at the earliest.**

9) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES:

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

10) 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.**

11) SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN :

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

12) SOCIAL MEDIA FREQUENT CHECKS BY PARENTS FOR SECONDARY CHILDREN :

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

13) 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.

14) 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.**

15) USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES:

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

Link : [WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-21-OCTOBER-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-NINE](#)

We take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and productive week ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Saturday 13th November 2021

**To : Parents of students in Years Four, Six, and Twelve ONLY -
GL CAT4 EXAMINATION-NOVEMBER 2021**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. It is that time of the year for our students to complete the GL Cognitive Ability Test CAT4 which is mandated by KHDA for the year groups mentioned above . As part of our commitment to the National Agenda targets, and with a view to tracking progress and identify gaps in learning, our school will participate compulsorily in the GLS-CAT4 exams. GL Education , 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. These are mandatory assessments by KHDA and feature in your Parent-School Contract as well.

The entry fee is AED 65/- for the test , the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY VIA THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 16TH NOVEMBER 2021. Please email a copy of the SKIPLY receipt to your child's class teacher. This amount has been included in the Parent Contract as well. CAT4 is designed to assess the four main abilities that underpin intellectual development and influence attainment. It measures four areas of reasoning:

- Quantitative
- Verbal
- Non-verbal and
- Spatial, a skill important for success in STEM subjects and an ability that is not measured by any other reasoning test for schools.

CAT4 is an assessment of reasoning that helps identify pupils' developed abilities and likely academic potential. *CAT4* is not about knowledge recall and requires no preparation, offering all students the same opportunity to show their underlying ability.

What is CAT4?

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

While many tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).

CAT4 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

How are CAT4 Results used?

CAT4 provides teachers with information that can form the basis for discussions about how best a student can learn and reach his or her potential in school.

Teachers are provided with an individual profile of learning preference along with a range of indicators of likely future performance. Used with other information (such as results from Key Stage 2 SATs, for example), these data can support teaching and learning for all children.

Can students practice for CAT4?

GL strongly advises against any kind of practice ahead of a CAT4 test as this will alter the reliability of test scores. The point of CAT4 is that it is not a test of learnt knowledge and it needs to be as unaffected as possible by any external factors, such as practice. Think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct and valuable information may be missed.

CAT4 is a timed assessment and is administered under formal conditions. However, each section of the assessment includes introductory information with practice examples, and these will familiarise the children with the style and format of the questions. These sections are not timed and may be repeated.

Is additional time allowed for children with SEND ?

CAT4 is a timed assessment and additional time is not permitted as this will affect the reliability of the results. CAT4 is not just about what and how it tests but how the questions are answered within a set timeframe. The timed element makes it diagnostically very powerful.

CAT4 subtests are generously timed and most children reach the final questions, however there may have been a minority of students during the standardisation process who would have obtained higher scores if they had been given more time. Therefore, giving extra time to a particular student could give an inflated view of their relative ability when comparing their results with the CAT4 norms.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO GIIVE YOU AN IDEA OF QUESTION TYPES

<https://www.tests.com/practice/cognitive-abilities-practice-test>

ALL NEW ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL THIS YEAR FROM YEARS 4 TO 10 MUST SUBMIT A SOFT COPY OF YOUR CAT-4 RESULTS FROM LAST YEAR (Done in your previous school) via EMAIL TO YOUR CLASS TEACHER NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER 2021.

Yours sincerely,



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

