



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

Friday, 3rd December 2021

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

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 Fifteen)

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) NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAYS:

The school and the school office will be closed for the National Day Break from Wednesday 1st December until Saturday 4th December (inclusive). Staff and students will return to school on Sunday, 5th December. The Marian family offers special prayers for this milestone National Day in the Year of the Fiftieth for the UAE and its rulers.

2) 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](#)

3) THE YEAR OF THE FIFTIETH- A TIME TO CELEBRATE THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE UAE- THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION :

We would like to express our appreciation at the overwhelming participation particularly from our primary school children in the various competitions that were organised towards the celebration of the Year of the Fiftieth- UAE National Day. All participants will receive an E-Certificate of participation and winners will receive prizes.

4) EXCITING EXPO 2020 COMPETITIONS:

All parents are asked to check the competition flyers attached to this circular and encourage children to take part in these very inspiring competitions.

5) WINTER BREAK :

We had shared our KHDA approved calendar with all parents on the 1st of July 2021 in our end of year circular and the calendar is also available on the school website. A reminder that the winter break runs from the 10th of December 2021 to 1st January 2022 (inclusive). **School resumes on 2nd January 2022. School ends by 10:30 am for ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF on Thursday, 9th December 2021. Students from years 1-3 will leave at 10:00 am on the 9th of December and the rest of the students will leave at 10:30 am.**

9TH DECEMBER 2021- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE THE WINTER BREAK: Students are invited to come dressed in coloured clothes on the 9th of December . We would like to remind all parents that students must come modestly dressed in keeping with the cultural sensitivities of the UAE. Students may carry snacks and food but due to Covid-19 protocols , food must not be shared. We will organise a session with each class on gratitude and thanksgiving as well as a some games that can be organised without them moving around and thereby maintaining all safety protocols.

6) ADMISSION TO THE TWO YEAR GCE A-LEVEL PROGRAMME- for parents of year 11 students:

All parents of students in Year 11 are requested to kindly go through attachment ONE of this circular.

7) BOARD EXAMINATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 11 AND 13 :

We would like to remind all parents and students that the winter break will be a key opportunity for students sitting board exams to review the work done in years 9 and 10 and use this time to their best advantage.

The situation that unfolded over the last two years made many children realise, albeit too late the true value of being consistent with their study habits and not waiting until the last minute before exams to prepare and study. It is always best for every child to be **CONSISTENT AND HIGHLY REGULAR** with their study and ensure that they maintain a good level of attainment across all their assessment opportunities and prepare as well as they can for their Board Examinations. In the unlikely event that Board Examinations do not go through as planned, students' grades will be based on school assessments.

8) FIRST TERM EXAMINATIONS :

We would like to remind ALL PARENTS of students from YEARS 1-13 that the first term examinations will run **from the 16th to the 31st of January 2021**. All examinations will be **handwritten** and only students from years 5 to 10 will need to carry their devices or smart phones to scan the answer sheets. Parents of students in lower primary are reminded to kindly use this time to have children practice some handwriting as we are still encountering many children who are struggling with even the most basic writing.

9) READING QUIZ BASED ON A BOOK FOR ALL CLASSES YEARS 1-10 :

One book will be assigned for children to read during the Winter Break and a quiz on these will be conducted after the break and the marks will be part of the first term English Language Examination . Reading is the most valuable skill and we would like to embed this skill in every child, so your support in encouraging them to read with interest will be greatly appreciated.

10) NO DISTRIBUTION OF ANY ITEMS FOR BIRTHDAYS OR OTHER CELEBRATIONS:

All Parents are reminded that in light of the Covid-19 protocols, children are not allowed to distribute any items whether eatables or other items . Please do not send these with the children.

11) 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](#)

12) 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.

13) 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 for students who still have outstanding fees. Kindly settle all outstanding dues at the earliest.**

14) 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.**

15) SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN :

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

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

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

17) 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.

18) 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 happy National Day Weekend. Please stay safe and enjoy some quality time with your families.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE: Saturday, 20TH November 2021

To: Parents of Year Eleven Students –ADMISSION TO TWO YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School Dubai. We invite you to read this circular very clearly as it has important information for parents regarding admission to the two year A-Level GCE Programme.

We would like to point out very clearly, that admission to A-Level is not automatic and is a completely new process.

The conditions for a student to be considered for a place in A-Levels are as follows.

- **SHOULD HAVE AN EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR RECORD**
- **4 SUBJECTS TO BE OPTED FOR and a high grade average in the same.**
- **Admissions will be MERIT-BASED.**
- Hold a high grade **average** in all subjects (Internal Exams) in Year Eleven.
- Should have not had any serious or repeated disciplinary issues over Years Nine through Eleven.
- Should not have engaged in activities, in or out of school, which tarnish the reputation of the school.
- **Hold a minimum attendance record of 95%**
- **Be prepared for an entrance exam in the subject opted for that has not been taken at O-Level**

We would also like to bring to your attention that under the British system, a student completes high school with the completion of his/her O-Level. Hence the admission to A-Level is then a process of a 'NEW ADMISSION'.

Those students who take Arabic as a First language and Islamic Studies in A-Level will have to maintain a minimum aggregate attendance percentage of 95% for Arabic and / or Islamic Studies lessons, FAILING WHICH STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ISSUED A SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE/ATTESTED CERTIFICATES OR RECOMMENDATION LETTERS. Students who do not reflect this 95% aggregate attendance after the first month of enrollment might not be allowed to continue the A-Level programme.

Please note that St. Mary's Catholic High School offers the GCE Advanced Levels Linear Programme which means that we DO NOT OFFER **AS LEVEL CERTIFICATION** at the end of Year 12. This is a standalone qualification and results are declared only at the end of Year 13.

The whole two year Programme has to be completed for any equivalency certification.

Please consider all the criteria above while planning ahead with the next phase in your child's educational journey. Parents should also be aware that even if all criteria are met, **competition for places remains very stiff as seats are limited** and therefore, **we strongly recommend that all parents should ensure that their children have a back-up plan. This would include applying to other institutions besides St. Mary's.**

Thank you for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)



The background of the top section is a photograph of the Expo 2020 Dubai architecture, featuring large, white, tree-like structures with circular canopies. The text is overlaid on this image.

THE FEATURE STORY COMPETITION

Highlighting the elements that make Expo 2020 Dubai distinct

The Mohammed Bin Rashid School for Communication at The American University in Dubai in collaboration with The Ministry of Education, the Dubai Press Club, and the Culture and Science Symposium in Dubai

Present

FEATURE STORY

Highlighting the elements that make Expo 2020

a competition for high school students in English or Arabic for Grade 12 students nationwide, in public and private schools (citizens and residents)

The first winner will receive a Scholarship at The Mohammed Bin Rashid School for Communication

The next three winners will receive other valuable awards

The Feature Story is a press report that begins with an introduction to the story, followed by the presentation of the subject and a conclusion. It should be objective and should not include the author's personal opinion.

“Feature Story” competition for high school students.

The competition aims to support the upcoming generation in discovering their writing talents and honing their skills in journalism.

Competition details:

- The Feature Story should highlight the elements that make Expo 2020 Dubai distinct/special
- The Feature Story may be written in English or Arabic
- Submissions should be between 500 and 800 words
- All submissions should include three interviews, with interviewees from both genders (male and female)
- High-quality photos of the interviewees should be included with the Feature Story
- Submissions should be mindful of word choice and written using correct grammar and punctuation. Sentences should be short and include relevant background information
- Direct quotes and references must be placed in quotation marks
- Submissions must include the student’s full name, school name, phone number, and email address
- **The submission deadline is 1, February 2022.** Results will be announced on 1, March 2022

Please send submissions to the following email: nmakansi@aud.edu

The competition is sponsored by EmiratesNBD.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.aud.edu/all-news/the-feature-story-competition/>



THE SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Inspired by Expo 2020 Dubai, a perspective on the cultural diversity in the UAE and how it impacts our lives

NOV 07, 2021

The Mohammed Bin Rashid School for Communication at The American University in Dubai in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation

Present

THE SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Inspired by Expo 2020 Dubai, a perspective on the cultural diversity in the UAE and how it affects our lives.

a high school competition

Short Film in English or Arabic for Grade 12 students nationwide, in public and private schools (citizens and residents)

The winner will receive a Full Scholarship at AUD-MBRSC

The next three winners will receive other awards prizes

The Mohammed Bin Rashid School for Communication is pleased to announce a revamped short film competition open for all students (citizens and residents) attending public and private high schools in the UAE.

The competition guidelines are as follows:

1. Students must submit a one to three-minute original short film (fully shot and edited by the student) based on the following theme: **Inspired by Expo 2020 Dubai, a perspective on the cultural diversity in the UAE and how it affects our lives.**
2. A brief text describing the rationale behind the creative treatment of the short film (no more than 250 words).
3. Students must shoot the film on their mobile phone and share it in MP4 H264 format on a social media platform of their choice, including the hashtag #expo2020_MBRSC. The file should be named as follows: Contestant full name film title_MBRSC_HSC2022.
4. **Deadline for submissions is 1st February 2022.** Winners to be announced 1st March 2022.

The film can be fictional, documentary, or any other free form, so long as it portrays the theme creatively.

Projects will be evaluated based on the originality of the idea, concept, creativity, technique (high-quality sound and video), and relevance to the theme of “our lives in multi-cultural Dubai.”

We advise students to conduct research to enrich their project with facts.

Students should send the link of their submission, with their full name, school name, phone number and email address to: nmakansi@aud.edu.

The competition is sponsored by EmiratesNBD.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.aud.edu/all-news/the-short-film-competition/>