



OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

Sunday, 9th January, 2021

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

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 SEVENTEEN)

WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION FROM KHDA FOR FULL DISTANCE LEARNING UNTIL THE 14TH OF JANUARY 2022.

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 also send an email to the doctor with the PCR test as well.

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) OFFICE WORKING DAYS:

The office working days will continue to be the second and fourth Saturday of every month and they will not work on the first and third Saturday. The school office will be closed on **SUNDAYS**.

2) FIRST TERM COMPUTING EXAM FOR PRIMARY WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST TERM EXAMS:

We would like to inform you that the exams for Computing for Primary (Years 1-6) which were scheduled for the coming week will now take place after the First Term Exams. Teachers will send a revised schedule to their classes later.

3) SOCIAL STUDIES EXAMINATION FOR YEARS 9 & 10:

Please be informed that the UAE SOCIAL STUDIES EXAMINATION for Years 9 and 10 will take place immediately after the first term exams on a regular school day.

4) 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 TWO of this circular.

5) 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.

6) FIRST TERM EXAMINATIONS:

Examination Timetables have been posted on the school website. In case of any changes due to the current situation we shall inform you immediately. Children must follow the revision being done and study well for their exams. <https://www.stmarysdubai.com/academic/examinations/>

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

One book had been 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.

8) 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.

9) 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.

10) 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. In the case of unpaid first term fees we will have to follow regulator policy with regard to discontinuation of school for the stipulated number of days as per regulator policy.

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

11) PAYMENT OF SECOND TERM FEES :

Parents are requested to kindly ensure that second term fees are paid as per the stipulated dates in your contract. Year 12 parents are requested to wait as we will tell you the amount to be paid after adjusting the amount pertaining to the refund of last year's Board Exams from Pearson Edexcel.

12) 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.

13) SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN :

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

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

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

Please refer to the circular of 21st October 2021.

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

15) 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.

16) 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 wish a speedy recovery to all those who are ill and we ask that you take extra precautions to stay safe and healthy in the coming days.

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)

