



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Thursday, 28th May 2020

To: The Parents of students in Years 5-13 : Seventh update for the extended phase of Distance Learning

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families continuing to be safe and well. We hope that you had a restful Eid break and we understand now that many parents will have returned to work with the opening of businesses in Dubai from the 27th of May 2020. We wish you good health and safety as you adjust to this new way of working in this 'New Normal'.

REMINDER -THIRD REPORT WITH FEEDBACK TO PARENTS:

We are in the process of preparing a third report based on the work done by children over the last two months. **We have marked this report out of 50 and additional formative comments will also be included for each subject.** We have taken into account Assessments, Assessment for learning conducted in Live sessions, Attendance and Participation and Assignments to give a completely rounded reflection of every child's learning and the progress that they have made. We have been doing our best to contact parents whose children have not been regular and it must be expected that this irregularity will impact their grades as will be reflected in the report. We regret that we will not be able to send reports in there are outstanding fees to be paid. This report is only applicable to students in years 5-10 and year 12. **We regret we will not be able to give any credit for assessments and assignments that have not been done.**

NEW SCHEDULES FROM 31ST MAY 2020:

Once the Assessments begin we will be having regular lessons only after the break. All assessments have been scheduled in the first half of the day and so class teachers will continue to send you the weekly schedule with the Zoom and Google Class notations in the schedule. We will also send you the lesson timings accordingly.

These timing will go into effect from 3rd June 2020 and will be applicable to all classes from years 5-13.

LESSON	TIMING
FIFTH	11:00-11:40 am
SIXTH	11:40 am- 12:20 pm
SEVENTH	12:20-12:55 pm
EIGHTH The eighth lesson on Thursday will be a Class Teachers session	12:55- 1:30 pm

ATTENDANCE LINK FROM 3RD JUNE 2020 :

The attendance link for students to register their daily attendance will be sent at 10:45 am from the 3rd to the 18th of June for years 5-13. The link will be open only until 11:15 am.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO CLASS TEACHERS FOR MEDICAL ABSENCES:

While most parents have been contacting class teachers in the case of medical absences not all have. May we request you to kindly drop an email to the class teacher stating that your child may not attend live sessions due to medical reasons. We completely respect your privacy at this time and there is no reason for you to share any details of the medical illness but do let us know so that we may log in the absence as justified.

UPGRADE TO ZOOM 5.0:

After 30th May 2020, the older version of Zoom will not work. We had sent all parents a reminder notice with a link to download the latest version of Zoom with enhanced security features. Please ensure that this is done without fail.

FINAL ASSESSMENTS FOR FINAL REPORTS:

You will have received an Assessment Schedule for June 2020. We will be having online assessments through Google Forms for Years 5-10 and 12 .

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE ONLINE LIVE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULED FOR THAT MORNING. Kindly make sure that you go through the schedule very carefully with your child. We have also included the topics for each assessment with the schedule.

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 during these assessments 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 of the assessment administration if needed but to refrain from assisting in any way with the content of the assessment. 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. ***For older children, we recommend that you have a conversation with them about the school's clear expectations for 'Academic Honesty' and that they must not resort to any unfair means while doing their assessments.*** **ATTENDANCE FOR THESE ASSESSMENTS IS CRITICAL AND WE URGE YOU TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT NOT TAKING THESE LIGHTLY. WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO CREDIT OR MARK ASSESSMENTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DONE OR THAT ARE TURNED IN LATE.**

THE FIRST TERM AVERAGE AND THE THIRD REPORT ALONG WITH THESE JUNE ASSESSMENTS WILL BE USED TO GENERATE THE FINAL REPORT and PROMOTIONS. Attendance and participation during the Distance Learning is a key aspect that will be taken into account when computing final grades.

PSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT YEARS 9 AND 10 ON 8TH JUNE 2020:

Please be informed that the Psychology Assessment for Years 9 and 10 has been scheduled for 12:00 to 1:00pm. The other optional subject assessment will take place at the regular stipulated time of 9:00 to 10:00 am on 8th June 2020.

SECURE INTERNET CONNECTION FOR ASSESSMENTS :

All parents are urged to ensure that you have a secure and working Internet connection while assessments are being done. Students or parents should inform the class teacher via email of any medical emergencies with supporting evidence.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATES AND MEDICAL RECORDS:

A reminder to parents who are planning to transfer out of the UAE or transfer from our school to another to kindly send an official email requesting a TC and the child's medical records to maryscol@emirates.net.ae. Please address this email to Ms. Shirley (the Principal's secretary).

DL SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:

We would like to remind ALL parents to kindly visit the DL section on our school website as we have been updating it with many useful links , documents, vital information for keeping your children safe online, tips on well-being and mindfulness to name a few. We are sure that you will find these useful and we will keep updating this section as often as we can.

ATTENDANCE IN LIVE SESSIONS:

While the majority of children have been keeping up an excellent rate of attendance, we would like to encourage parents of those children who have not been regular to please make sure that your children are attending the live sessions and participating in them. This will help in a big way to mitigate potential gaps in learning that will be hard to overcome with irregularity at this stage. Some children have also not been turning in their assignments even after repeated reminders from teachers. These assignments are also being counted towards their final grades.

RAMADAN BOOK REPORT AND VIDEO/ PHOTO JOURNAL PROJECTS :

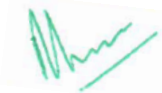
Students are requested to email your completed projects to your class teachers. Email Subjects must read as : **RAMADAN PROJECT JOHN SMITH YEAR 5B.**

YEAR 8 SUBJECT OPTIONS :

Parents of students in Year 8 please note that on Saturday, 30th May , you will receive power point presentations for orienting your children towards their subject choices for year Nine. You will also be provided a link in the SIMS Parent App and on the website to fill the subject choice form. The last day to fill this is Thursday, 4th June after which the link and attached form will be locked.

We wish all parents and your families continued safety and good health. We pray that you will surmount all the challenges that these days have thrown up.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

