



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE: Thursday, 21st May 2020

To: The Parents of students in Years 5-13 – Sixth 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 would like to request your sincere prayers for members of our Marian family who have not been so fortunate and are facing challenges of ill health and other burdens. It has been two months now that the children have been following the Distance Learning Programme and we are grateful for your support and their collaboration with their teachers and the school staff. It has been a truly challenging time for us all and we pray that all our Marian families continue to receive the blessings of God's strength and courage to face these unprecedented times. We pray that the festival of Eid be a blessed and beautiful one for all those celebrating and we extend our special Eid wishes to our Marian family.

EID BREAK: According to the Federal Authority for Government Human resources in the UAE, the Eid Al Fitr break will be from Ramadan 29 to Shawwal 3 as per the Islamic calendar. Exact dates will be confirmed closer to the observation based on moon sighting. There will be no live lessons for students of years 5-13 this week and based on the final declaration of the Eid break only some revision work for lessons according to the time table will be sent for Wednesday and Thursday (27th and 28th May) or only Thursday 28th May in the event that Wednesday is also declared a holiday. These will be directly posted in the Google classroom.

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 if there are outstanding fees to be paid. This report is only applicable to students in years 5-10 and year 12.

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.

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 receive 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.**

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.

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.

TEXT BOOKS LEFT IN SCHOOL LOCKERS: Parents whose children have left their books in the school lockers and who wish to collect them are requested to kindly send an email to Ms. Lise-Ann clearly stating your child's name, section and LOCKER NUMBER. Please write BOOKS LEFT AT SCHOOL as the subject of your email. She can be reached at l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org

EID MUBARAK: We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Marian Family members a peaceful and blessed Eid. Our prayers are with you all at this special time and we pray that you all enjoy meaningful a quality time with your families. Please remember to stay home and stay safe and enjoy the festival in the tranquillity of home and family.

We would like to thank all of you, dear parents for your continued support and collaboration and above all for your prayers during this most challenging time of our lives. Please continue to stay positive and remind the children that they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

