



OUR REF :

Date : February 9, 2020.

To: The Parents of students of Years 8 and Year 11 : Psychometric Aptitude Testing (Optional)

Dear Parents,

Greetings to you from St. Mary's Catholic High School!

In the coming months, the students of Year 8 and Year 11 will be asked to make choices regarding the subjects that they would like to pursue in Year 9 and the A- level course respectively. This is one of the most important decisions that your child will be making in the course of their educational career. Please note that admission to A-Level is not automatic and is a completely new process that is highly competitive as seats are limited. As a school, we understand how important it is that they are provided with all the support we can offer to help them make decisions that will ultimately bring out the best of their potential.

An understanding of their interests, strengths and personality type will go a long way in helping them make this choice. In this context, we are once again arranging for an aptitude/ psychometric testing to be done for our Year 8 and Year 11 students.

St. Mary's Catholic High School in conjunction with Varsity Connections have been conducting psychometric assessments at the school for the past seven years. Please see below details of the test.

VC MAP Psychometric assessment Overview

VC MAP is an in depth and accurate psychometric tool which explores 3 key areas which are used in the making career choices.

1. Motivation

- Highlights student's interest in 7 different areas
- Identifies the type of activity that appeals most to the student
- Guides student in stream Selection viz Arts & Humanities /Science/Commerce

2. Aptitude

- a. Battery of tests in 9 different areas
- b. Identifies the skill sets of the student
- c. Maps student skill sets against the skill requirements for numerous careers
- d. Shortlists Career Clusters that best fit the students skills

3. Personality

- a. Analyses dimensions of personality that are useful to students in planning their careers.
- b. Helps them understand what it is about the way they feel and behave that might make them more suited to certain careers

Students will undertake all 3 modules of VC MAP online. Candidates receive a comprehensive, modular report upon completion of VC MAP which analyses all 3 modules of Motivation, Aptitude and Personality in detail. The report clearly indicates the students' level of aptitude for a range of career clusters thus helping them arrive at realistic decisions while keeping Motivation and Personality in perspective. In addition, the VC MAP Report also includes a recommended list of subjects for each one of the career clusters detailed in the report. This ensures all possible career options are explored before making informed career choices ensuring academic success.

VC MAP – Group Counseling

The VC MAP Report analyses is done via group Counselling scheduled with the students and parents during an online session. The reports will be sent to the students via email prior to this. During the group counselling session, a sample report is displayed and each page of the report is discussed. This will provide students and parents with the tools and guidance to understand/interpret their own reports. This comprehensive session will also have an FAQ section which will address common queries and any specific doubts that arise.

To start off, we will be having an orientation session for both parents and students for the purpose of providing information about the test and what it is developed to achieve.

Please see below the schedule for the different sessions that will be conducted for the testing:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Method of Delivery</u>
Saturday	13/2/21	Orientation (8:00-9:00 am) Year 8 and 11 A,D,E,G (9:15-10:15 am) Year 8 and 11 B,C,F, H	Zoom link will be sent from class teacher to all students
Monday	15/2/21	Deadline to register for the test	

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Method of Delivery</u>
Wednesday	17/2/21	Briefing session for registered students at 5pm	Zoom link
Sun to Thu	21 to 25/2/21	Time frame for students to complete online test	Students log in individually
Saturday	6/3/21	Group Counselling for parents and students Year 8 and 11 A,D,E,G (8-9:30 am) Year 8 and 11 B,C,F,H (9:45-11:00 am)	Zoom link

The test is an online test that will need to be done at home. The team conducting the tests are certified by the British Psychological Society – Certificate of Competence in Occupational Testing. The test will be conducted at a price of AED 250 (inclusive of 5% VAT)

In order to plan effectively for this, we require you to kindly attend the parents briefing session and complete the form below if you are interested in having your child take the exam. Please return to the class teacher before **Monday the 15th of February 2021**. **The payment for this test must be made on Skiplly directly on the separate section for Aptitude Test. This is completely optional but if you are opting for it then kindly email the SKIPLY RECEIPT to the class teacher.**

Yours sincerely



Paul Asir Joseph
Principal



NAME OF STUDENT: _____

YEAR & SECTION: _____

EMAIL ID OF PARENT: _____

MOBILE CONTACT: _____