



OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Thursday, 22nd April 2021

To: The Parents of students in Years 4 - 13 – DISTANCE and BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE AFTER SPRING BREAK

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We continue to ask all of our Marian family to hold the school community in prayer especially for the health and safety of our children and their extended families. We pray in a special way for those families that are facing many challenges with health and other difficulties related because of the Pandemic and we trust that peaceful healing and happier times return to one and all. Please read these important updates as we move into week thirty five of this Academic Year.

TRAVEL DECLARATION: In order for the school to be compliant with the UAE Covid-19 travel requirements, please click on the official DHA link (available on website) and answer the relevant questions even if your child has not travelled. We appreciate if you are not travelling that you complete it as soon as possible. If you are travelling, please complete it prior to your child's return to lessons. The email required to be filled in the field on the form is:

traveldecl-smchs@smgeducation.org

REVISED ADMIN. OFFICE TIMINGS REMINDER: All parents are requested to please make a careful note that the School Admin Office will as usual be **closed on the First and Third Saturday of every month** and **will work from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm on the Second and Fourth Saturday of every month.** For any urgent collection of documents, the office will intimate you on a case by case basis of any other timings during the week when documents may be collected.

NEW DHA REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING COVID-19 SCHOOL CASES: Even if a child who has opted for Distance Learning / Blended Learning has tested positive for Covid-19, parents are requested to please access the link provided on the school website as per new DHA requirements and fill it up without fail. The new requirements necessitate that the PCR test report is sent by parents to the school on the same day that they receive it from the lab. **THIS IS NOW MANDATORY FOR PARENTS AS PER DHA. THIS IS ONLY FOR NEW COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES AND NOT THOSE WHO HAVE RECOVERED FROM COVID.**

FINAL EXAMINATION PORTIONS and TIMETABLES : The portions for the final examinations have been uploaded under the relevant Department categories on the school website and the Final examination time tables have also been uploaded on the website before the Spring Break Please note that some GL examinations will be scheduled in early June 2021 as the window for these is until 17th June 2021.

IBT ARABIC EXAMS 2019: Parents of students who sat their IBT examinations in 2019 may come to the school office on any working Saturday to collect your child's IBT Arabic certificate and corresponding report.

IBT ARABIC EXAMS 2020: Parents of students who sat their IBT examinations in November 2020 are requested to kindly go through the instructions at the end of this circular to download your child's report and certificate. We have sent your child the student ID to his/ her school email. This will be required. Please follow the steps in the info graphic attached to this circular.

GL EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLISH , MATHS & SCIENCE FOR YEARS 4-10 (MAY-JUNE 2021) CIRCULAR ISSUED ON 15TH MARCH 2021: Parents are requested to kindly go through the circular carefully and kindly remember to email a copy of the SKIPLY PAYMENT RECEIPT to the class teacher when you have made the payment. The deadline for the payment of AED75/- for the GL Exams was 10th April 2021. Those parents who have not yet done so are reminded to complete this payment by Friday, 23rd April 2021.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS IN YEAR FOUR: Please note that in collaboration with the Parish, the First Holy Communion has been arranged for Catholic students in Year Four whose parents wish for them to receive this Sacrament this year. The relevant circular has been sent by your child's class teacher to the class group email / child's individual school email later today. Please go through it carefully. For any clarifications you may email the subject leader for Bible, Ms. Judith Tarugo.

CONFIRMATION FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS IN YEAR NINE: Please note that in collaboration with the Parish, Confirmations have been arranged for Catholic students in Year Nine whose parents wish for them to receive this Sacrament this year. The relevant circular has been sent by your child's Bible Teacher to their Google Classroom during the Spring Break. Please go through it carefully. For any clarifications you may email the subject leader for Bible, Ms. Judith Tarugo.

RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 : It is that time of the year when we need to request parents to start thinking about whether your child will be returning for the next Academic Year 2021-2022 and we will be providing you with a form and some additional details on the 25th of April 2021 for re-registration for next year.

SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN : Parents are requested to kindly make sure that Primary Children are not using Social Media as they are well below the statutory age to hold these accounts. We have also noticed that many children as young as Year 4 have their own whatsapp accounts and we at St. Mary's highly discourage this practice as the children are not mature enough to handle these and often wind up in difficult conversations with their peers that might cause potential problems for parents if these are flagged to any local authority for their impropriety.

SOCIAL MEDIA FREQUENT CHECKS BY PARENTS FOR SECONDARY CHILDREN : Parents of secondary children are strongly encouraged to kindly make frequent checks of your child's use of Social Media. We have seen in many cases that minor children are being sought out on Instagram, Snapchat and other platforms by much older individuals for chats and conversations. It is important for parents to know who their children are conversing with to protect them from any potential safeguarding issues. We would also like to remind parents about your children's use of inappropriate content and language on Social Media Platforms which you will be aware of only if you make frequent checks of the same. Please have your child remove himself/herself from private social media groups that are not encouraged or recommended by us at St. Mary's. The school cannot take responsibility for private groups started by students and we strongly discourage the formation of these groups as well as discourage student participation in them. It is once again important here that ALL PARENTS check your children's digital activity frequently including group activity if your child is part of private groups created by students.

OUTSTANDING FEES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR : We are at a time junction of having gone past the last day for both first and second term fee payments but we still have a large number of students with outstanding fees. We are urging all parents who have not yet cleared these outstanding fees to do so without delay. Please note that we will not be in a position to provide examination marks, report cards, mid-term assessment scripts, reference letters or any other official documents to students who still have outstanding fees. **ALL OUTSTANDING FEES MUST BE PAID WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. RE-REGISTRATION FOR NEXT YEAR CANNOT BE DONE IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING FEES.**

YEAR 11 AND 13 BOARD EXAMINATIONS: We have been officially informed that the Edexcel Board will use a robust approach based on teacher assessment for GCSE/ International GCSE, GCE/ International AS/A Level assessment in May-June 2021 and exams will not go ahead as planned. We will continue to update you of the next steps. We would ask you to reiterate the importance of daily study to your children so that they are doing their best on all assessments as we have been encouraging them with from the beginning of this year. We would also like to clarify that although exams are not going ahead, Pearson Edexcel will continue to provide a full Qualification for the candidates even in the absence of exams and these Qualifications are a prerequisite for the next phase of your child's educational journey. The full amount had to be paid for registrations for the Qualifications and if there are any partial refunds at a later date we will inform you as and when we have been informed by Pearson Edexcel.

MOCK EXAMINATIONS YEARS 11, 12 & 13: Please note that Mock Examinations are being held virtually to ensure the health and safety of all involved. **However please explain to your children very carefully that should there be any doubt that unfair means were used while answering any of the exams then the school reserves the right to require the student to re-take the entire series of exams on the premises. The school will also be using a three year trend analysis of attainment and progress of every student in ascertaining that academic integrity has been rigorously maintained by the student in answering these examinations.**

We have always held the students of St. Mary's in high esteem as far as their integrity and respect for the Marian Values is concerned and we would like to remind them that these values must be the cornerstone while they take their Mock Examinations. We have included a reminder of the Examination rules and regulations as well as a reminder of the Academic Integrity Policy . Kindly ensure that your children have a laptop in good working condition and a fast and uninterrupted Wifi Connection well in advance of the exams.

Years 11 and 13 and those doing Mock exams in Year 12: Students will receive their examination question paper and they will be required to write the answers just as they would on ruled paper sheets and scan it as a PDF document and send it to a specially created GOOGLE CLASSROOM for Examinations. There will be a separate time allocated after the exam for students to scan and post their answer scripts. Full details of the process can be found below.

It is imperative that children have a good supply of good quality ruled refill pad paper only (not notebook size) and a digital device that works well so as not to hamper their work. Please ensure that you have a good and stable Wifi connection for the examinations. A desktop or laptop is preferable to a tablet.

PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED FOR MOCK EXAMINATIONS:

For the smooth conduct of the exam we request you to ensure that the following points are taken care of

- 1) Check the device that your child is using well in advance and ensure that it does not have any hardware or software issues.
- 2) The **CAMERA** and **MICROPHONE** MUST be in good working condition.
- 3) Kindly ensure that an uninterrupted WI-Fi network is provided for your child.
- 4) It is **MANDATORY** to switch on the device camera for the duration of the exam. **Answer Scripts will not be evaluated if the camera is not switched on.**
- 5) Students must only use the RAISE THE HAND OPTION if they have a doubt.
- 6) Class teachers will schedule the Zoom call for 7:45 am and take attendance. Class teachers will monitor them while they take the exam. A special Google Classroom for Exams has already been created before the first term exams and the papers will be posted there. The start time of ALL MORNING SESSIONS will be 8:00 am and teachers will inform students daily about the end time as paper durations will differ across subjects.

- 7) Students will be given 20 minutes at the end of each exam to scan the answer sheets. Answer sheets MUST be scanned using a good quality mobile scanner/ regular scanner in pdf format and be turned in to the special Google Classroom for exams. In case of any technical difficulty they must contact the class teacher or teacher in charge of their class for Mock Examinations immediately for further instructions.
- 8) Answer script files should be named as Student name_Subject_Class/Section (Danielle_Physics_11A)
- 9) Answer scripts that have not been turned in within the 20 minute window provided for this purpose will not be evaluated.
- 10) Students who experience a Wifi disruption will be asked to come to school to take the exam and therefore it is imperative that parents do their best to ensure a stable Wifi connection.
- 11) Where the number of lines have been specified for answers, then only those number of lines must be used to answer as this is similar to the board exam requirement for answering.

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 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 Mock Examinations.***

ATTENDANCE FOR THESE EXAMINATIONS 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. If a child is sick please send an email with the attached medical certificate as evidence to Lise-Ann on lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org. Kindly mention your child's full name and section and the exam/s missed in your email to her.

As part of the Academic Honesty and Integrity students MUST NOT EVER UNSUBMIT any assessment submitted in Google Classroom for editing purposes. Teachers get a notification when a student UNSUBMITS a document and NO MARKS will be given in this case.

Please explain to your children very carefully that should there be any doubt that unfair means of any kind were used while answering any of the assessments then the school reserves the right to require the student to re-take the entire series of assessments on the premises. The school will also be using a three year trend analysis of attainment and progress of every student in ascertaining that academic integrity has been rigorously maintained by the student in answering these examinations.

ADMISSION TO YEAR 12 FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 –PARENTS OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS: (This was shared in the circular of 19th September 2020 as well as 11th and 17th February 2021, 4th , 11th ,18th and 25th March 2021, and is being shared again since there are many queries regarding admissions to A-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'.**

We would like to point out very clearly , that admission to A-Level is not automatic.

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

- **SHOULD HAVE AN EXCELLENT BEHAVIOURAL RECORD**
- Must opt for 4 subjects with a high grade average in the subjects opted for.
- Admission will be merit-based.
- Hold a high grade average in ALL SUBJECTS (Internal Exams) in Year 11
- 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.**

Please check the school website after the Mock Exams for admission forms to A-Level.

ADMISSION FORMS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022: We would like to inform all parents that admissions to the Academic Year 2021-2022 are now open only for year 10. There will be NO ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ELEVEN. Kindly check the school website www.stmarysdubai.com for the admissions notice for further information related to admissions.

COMPETITION AND PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION UNDER DL SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE: We would like to invite you to please check this new section we have added for many interesting programmes and competitions that the children can participate in.

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.

EXPO 2020 SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: We would like to invite you and your children to browse this section regularly as we will keep updating it with interesting and relevant resources for the children.


SCHOOL EMAIL ID TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCHOOL WORK: Students **MUST NOT USE** the school email ID credentials to register on any gaming website or third party eBook websites etc. Students should be very careful when visiting any website they are unsure of as there is the potential possibility of clicking on pop ups which could lead to inadvertently sharing information from a child's device to the linked pages. If any student or parent finds any unusual activity happening with your school email ID, kindly forward the same to IT support on their email and they will look into the matter immediately.

STRONG PASSWORD TO BE SET FOR SCHOOL EMAIL ID & NO SHARING OF PASSWORD WITH OTHER STUDENTS:

It is imperative that parents of students (especially years 4-8) ensure that your child has set a strong password for his/ her school email. Moreover we have observed that many students are sharing their passwords with their classmates and we would like you as parents to remind them that this is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Please explain to them the potential issues they could face if they share their email passwords with friends/ classmates.

We wish you safe days ahead with blessings of good health for one and all.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





International Benchmark Tests

Online Assessments

2020

OARS Help document for Student

Before the Test

Minimum Technical Requirements

Below are the technical requirements to run the IBT tests:

Screen resolution:

- Minimum screen resolution: 1024 x 768

Bandwidth:

- Minimum DSL or cable internet connection: 56 kbps

Compatible computers and devices:

- PC or laptop
- Apple Mac
- iPad
- Other tablet devices

Compatible browsers:

- Google Chrome (latest version)
- Mozilla Firefox (latest version)
- Safari (version 10 or above)
- Edge (latest version)
- Internet Explorer (version 11 or above with **compatibility mode** disabled)

Browser Exam

To check if your computer meets the minimum technical requirements, click the link below and it will run a browser examination for you. It will check whether your internet browser is compatible to run the test.

Browser Exam: <https://oars.acer.edu.au/browserexam/#/>

On the day of Test

Click on the link below to log in to your school account: (example for illustrative purposes only) Students will receive the actual link on registration

<https://schools.acer.edu.au/dubai-show-school-ibt>

Log in with your user ID and password

Student Name: [sample 2, sample 2](#)

Student Username: [khda124](#)

Student Password: [khda1234](#)

<Your School Name> IBT



Home

Log in

Username

Password

Log in

[Forgot your password?](#)



Once you login using your username and password, you will be able to see the assigned tests for you on the page:

Welcome, sample 2 sample 2

IBT 2019 Arabic

NEW **2019 IBT Arabic B L1**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

IBT2019 Maths

NEW **2019 L3 IBT Maths**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

IBT2019 Reasoning

NEW **2019 L3 IBT Reasoning**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

IBT2019 Science

NEW **2019 L3 IBT Science**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

Click on the Test scheduled for the particular day and as per the image below:

Welcome, sample 2 sample 2

IBT 2019 Arabic

NEW **2019 IBT Arabic B L1**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

IBT2019 Maths

NEW **2019 L3 IBT Maths**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

IBT2019 Reasoning

NEW **2019 L3 IBT Reasoning**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

IBT2019 Science

NEW **2019 L3 IBT Science**
Last updated: 27th September 2020, 11:08am

You will see the question with the multiple choice answers. Please click on one option which you think is the correct answer and click the green button below “Next”

IBT 2019 English – Level 5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	End																													

Troll



When the villagers heard there was a troll living under the bridge, they rushed out with sticks and saucepans to chase the troll away. No-one had asked whether the troll had done anything wrong. No-one had questioned whether it deserved to be chased away. No-one except Pablo.

When the villagers reached the bridge they banged on their saucepans as loud as they could. 'Come out!' they shouted. 'Show your face, you evil monster!'

They were not expecting to see Pablo. He came out from beneath the bridge and offered them a piece of chocolate cake. 'The troll made it,' he said, 'from a secret troll recipe.' The troll poked its little head over Pablo's shoulder. The mob gasped, then fell silent.

'Anyone?' asked Pablo. 'It is the finest cake you will ever eat.'

Brushing aside the others and mumbling 'cowards', a village elder put down his stick and took a bite. 'Oh my! The boy's right!' he said. And then began a mad scramble for the next piece.

By the day's end, many more villagers had surrounded the bridge. But they had brought with them plates instead of saucepans. One of the villagers even offered the troll a job at the tea house.

'Oh my! The boy's right!'

What was the boy right about?

- what the troll ate
- where the troll lived
- how the troll cooked
- what the troll looked like

Back

Next

Once you move to all the 40 – 45 test questions and reach the end of the test. You will see the below window.

Test review

You are about to complete the test.

Number of questions **not** answered: 40 out of 40.

Go Back

Finish

Ending the Test (by student)

Once 60 mins elapse, at the end of the test session, you must click on **“Finish”** button in order to submit the test.

Thank you for participating in the IBT 2020 assessments.