



OUR REF : .....

DATE : Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **To: The Parents of students in Years 4-13 – DISTANCE & BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE**

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 seven of this Academic Year.

### **EID HOLIDAYS:**

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. The 29<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan corresponds to Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. There will be no lessons during the break for Eid Al Fitr.

### **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 and quality time with your families. Please remember to stay safe and enjoy the festival in the tranquillity of home and family.

### **CIRCULAR ON RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATIONS:**

Parents are requested to carefully go through the circular that explains the rules, regulations and procedures for examinations. This circular has been issued on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **CIRCULAR ON RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE GL EXAMINATIONS:**

Parents are requested to carefully go through the circular that explains the rules, regulations and procedures for GL examinations. This circular was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **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](mailto:traveldecl-smchs@smgeducation.org)

### **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.**

### **RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 :**

It is that time of the year when we need to request parents to inform us if your child will be returning for the next Academic Year 2021-2022 and we have provided you with a form which also clearly states the criteria for re-registration. We have included the criteria in this circular as well.

### **CRITERIA FOR RE-REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022**

- 1) There should **not be any OUTSTANDING FEES** for the current Academic Year 2020-2021. In case you re-register your child by error but still have outstanding fees, then the AED 500/- which is the re-registration amount will be adjusted towards the OUTSTANDING FEE and **WILL NOT** be considered as a RE-REGISTRATION AMOUNT. In addition, students who have OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS by the end of this year will automatically not be re-registered for the next Academic Year. We strongly urge ALL parents who still have Outstanding Fees to clear these without any further delay.
- 2) Please be informed that even though the KHDA sends out the Parent-School Contract to all parents by default via email, it will not be considered binding even if you sign it, if you still have outstanding fees for your ward.
- 3) Parents will have to pay **AED 500/-** as a **RE-REGISTRATION AMOUNT** that will be adjusted with your child's FIRST TERM FEE for the next Academic Year 2021-2022. This amount has to be paid via the SKIPLY APP **from the 26<sup>th</sup> of APRIL 2021** with a FINAL DEADLINE of 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021.
- 4) Please note that once you re-register your child and pay the re-registration amount but then wish to cancel the same, the amount of AED 500/- shall not be refundable.

- 5) Parents who respond that they are not re-registering their child for the next Academic Year 2021-2022 MUST fill out the attached form to apply for a Leaving Certificate that will be issued at the end of this Academic Year.
- 6) For parents who do not fill out the form by 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, we will consider it as a case of non registration for the next Academic Year 2021-2022.
- 7) Kindly fill out this form and scan it and email it back to your child's class teacher along with the scanned SKIPLY receipt for payment of the re-registration amount of AED 500/-.

#### **RELEASE OF MID-TERM ASSESSMENTS :**

The mid-term assessments and mid-term reports have been released to students so that parents may view the same. We have not been able to release the assessments and reports for those students who have any outstanding fees and we would like to remind those parents to kindly settle **ALL OUTSTANDING FEES** without any further delay. Please also be informed that when fees are paid, the assessments will be released only at the weekends as these processes are not automatic and there are several factors involved.

#### **OUTSTANDING FEES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR :**

**We are at a time junction of having gone past ALL DEADLINES for 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 IMMEDIATELY. 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. We are grateful to those parents who have paid their outstanding fees this week and we would like to strongly remind those who have not settled these outstanding fees that as per the regulator policy we will have no choice but to disconnect lessons for fee defaulters.**

#### **CHOICE OF SUBJECTS FOR YEAR 9 FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR ( CURRENT YEAR 8 STUDENTS ) :**

It is that time of the year when we would ask you to reflect with your children on their subject choices for the next academic year. We are providing you with the options in this circular so that children may begin thinking about their choices and you as parents could seek information from professionals or relatives about onward subject pathways or career paths. We will of course be having an

orientation for the students after the Final Exams but the final choices must be made on an official form that we will provide no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

### **SUBJECTS FOR YEAR NINE**

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE                      COMPULSORY
2. MATHEMATICS                              COMPULSORY
3. RELIGIOUS STUDIES                      COMPULSORY for students who take Bible and Islamic Studies
4. PSYCHOLOGY                                COMPULSORY for students who don't take Bible or Islamic Studies
5. ARABIC                                        COMPULSORY
6. ICT or COMPUTER SCIENCE              COMPULSORY
7. BIOLOGY **OR** ACCOUNTS
8. CHEMISTRY **OR** ECONOMICS
9. PHYSICS **OR** BUSINESS STUDIES
10. ART, ENGLISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, **OR** PSYCHOLOGY- ( only 1 )

### **EVERY STUDENT MUST COMPULSORILY CHOOSE ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT IN THEIR OVERALL SELECTION.**

Students are asked to consider carefully the options before making their choice.

**\*\*\* Please note that ICT and one Science have been made compulsory to further closely align with the British Curriculum, as pointed out in our KHDA inspection process over the last few years with a view to furthering students access to technology, thus arming them with the requisite 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills.**

**\*\*\* Please note that students who do not take Bible or Islamic studies will have Psychology instead of the Religious studies component and therefore these students must choose another subject other than Psychology in OPTION 10.**

**Islamic Studies and Bible are compulsory for students who take these subjects.**

**Once the choice has been made a subject CANNOT be changed.**

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE:**

**Kindly note that places for Computer Science will be restricted to those students who currently display a secure understanding and application of computational thinking and problem solving skills.** Programming skills are a core component of this course and students will be required to have a knowledge of Python and be competent at designing, writing and debugging programmes . In case the places are oversubscribed, the school will allot seats strictly on the basis of current academic competence in ICT.

Parents may consult with your child's current subject teachers via email if you have any doubts about your child's competence in a particular subject. Ms. Amy Kuriyan is also available via email with regard to any queries about university requirements.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES BOOK 3 FROM MOE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM IRIS INTERNATIONAL:**

Parents who had paid for and ordered MOE Social Studies text books are hereby informed that Book 3 was just released by the MOE and is available for collection from our book distributors. Please use the link on the school website to make an appointment for collection.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The time tables have also been attached to the circular of today on the rules, regulations and procedures for Final Examinations.

## **GL EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLISH , MATHS & SCIENCE FOR YEARS 4-10 ( MAY-JUNE 2021 ) CIRCULAR ISSUED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021:**

**We are urgently requesting parents who have not paid the GL fee of AED 75/- to do so without delay as the school has to make the entire payment to GL Assessment in the UK and this is delaying the payment for ALL cohorts. We will not be able to send the exam codes to those students whose GL fee has not been paid.**

## **YEAR 11 AND 13 GRADING ARRANGEMENTS AND EXAMINATION POLICY:**

Parents are reminded to please check the circular that was sent about grading arrangements for Year 11 and 13 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. We have also uploaded a more detailed Examination Policy in this regard and we had sent it to the SIMS Parent Apps earlier this week.

## **CONTINUATION OF LESSONS FOR YEARS 11 AND 13:**

Please note that lessons for years 11 and 13 will continue and relevant content will be covered with students which is meaningful for the next phase in their educational journey. We have created a balance of synchronous and asynchronous lessons to help students better develop skills in research, debates, investigations and other related life skills that will be crucial as they move onto university. We will also be covering some topics and content from Year 12 with students from Year 11.

## **VIEWING OF MOCK EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS FOR YEAR 11 AND 13:**

We will be organising the viewing of Mock Examination Answer scripts for students of Year 11 and 13 during the period from 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May when the rest of the school has Final Exams. A more detailed time table for the same will be provided later keeping in mind the health and safety protocols.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 closed. There will be NO ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ELEVEN. Kindly check the school website [www.stmarysdubai.com](http://www.stmarysdubai.com) for the admissions notice for further information related to admissions.

### **ADMISSION TO YEAR 12 FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 -PARENTS OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS:**

**( This was shared in the circular of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as well as 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 4<sup>th</sup> , 11<sup>th</sup> ,18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 shortly for admission forms to A-Level.**

### **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 )

