



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

ص.ب. ٥٢٢٣٢، دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة

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OUR REF :

DATE : Saturday, 26th June 2021

To: The Parents of students in Years 4-13 – DISTANCE and 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 the final week of this Academic Year.

END OF YEAR CIRCULAR:

Our End of Year Circular will be issued next week and that will have key information for parents. Please make sure that you read it carefully when you receive it.

RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 :

THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR RE-REGISTRATION WAS 15TH MAY 2021. We have provided several opportunities even after the final date for parents re-register their children for the next year. WE WILL NOW CONSIDER THAT WHERE RE-REGISTRATION FEES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID THAT THOSE CHILDREN WILL NOT RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022. We have moved forward with new admissions based on those who have not been re-registered. Parents who have not re-registered their children for the next year will have to apply for a leaving certificate by filling in the form available on the website.

BOOK LISTS FOR NEXT YEAR:

The book lists for next year will be sent to you in the coming week along with the process for ordering books for the next Academic Year. A detailed circular for this purpose will also be issued in the coming week. Please be informed that ALL TIMELINES must be respected as books are shipped from the UK.

RELEASE OF FINAL EXAMINATION REPORT CARDS:

We have released the Final Examination report cards over this weekend. **We have not released report cards in those cases where there are still outstanding fees.**

RELEASE OF FINAL EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS :

The FINAL EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS/FORMS have been released from the 6th of June 2021 onwards to students so that students and parents may view the same. **We have not released these to any students who still have OUTSTANDING FEES with the school.**

YEAR FOUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS:

Parents may come to school on any working day or on any working Saturday to collect the First Holy Communion photographs of your child.

OUTSTANDING FEES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR :

We are at a juncture with only four days to go until the end of this Academic Year and have gone past ALL DEADLINES for fee payments but disappointingly we still have a large number of students with outstanding fees. Please note that we will not be in a position to provide examination marks, report cards, assessment scripts, reference letters, leaving certificates 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 would like to strongly remind those parents who have not settled these outstanding fees that their children will not have a place for the next Academic Year 2021-2022. After 30th June 2021, any student with outstanding dues will be removed from the school's register. Students in Year 11 and 13 with outstanding fees will not have their Pearson Edexcel results released until all outstanding fees have been settled.

LEAVING CERTIFICATES:

Parents who requested for leaving certificates and have no outstanding dues and have paid for the leaving certificates, may come to school tomorrow, Sunday, 27th June 2021 to collect your child's medical records as well as the leaving certificate.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETING, 30TH JUNE 2021 8:00 -11:00 AM:

Parents are requested to kindly email your child's class teacher if you wish to have a meeting slot for the Parent-Teacher meeting. Please note that the teachers will accordingly send the Zoom links and meeting slots with timing on Tuesday evening in the class group email. Parents have until Monday evening 7:00pm to email class teachers and inform them if you wish to have a meeting slot. We will understand that if you have not sent in a request by email to the class teacher that you do not wish to meet with the class teacher.

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.

VERY IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT FOR THE CLINIC YEAR 9 AND 10 GIRLS :

Parents of girls in Years nine and ten are requested to urgently fill out the form regarding information about the Human Papilloma Vaccine (HPV) status for your child. This is a mandatory form to be filled in for DHA records and must be done without any delay. The form is available on the school website and will also be sent to you by the class teachers via the class group email.

PLANS FOR YEAR GROUPS 4-13 UNTIL THE 29TH OF JUNE 2021:

Parents are being informed that Sunday, 27th June will be an Asynchronous Day and work will be sent to the children's GC. Monday, 28th June will be Appreciation and Gratitude Day and Class teachers will be organising some activities for their classes from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Registration will be at 9:00 am. The end of year class party will take place virtually on 29th June from 9:00 to 11:30 am.

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 27th 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.

YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMINATION REPORT CARDS:

Mock Examination Report cards have been published on the SIMS Parent App last week and are available for viewing. **We will not publish report cards for students with outstanding dues.**

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 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 in all circulars from 11th February 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.**

A circular with the link for the admission form was published two weeks ago. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LAST DATE FOR SUBMITTING FORMS VIA THE LINK IS 30TH JUNE 2021.

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.

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

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

