



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 :

TRN : 100259955100003

Friday, 30th September 2022

To: **The Parents of students in Years 1 - 13:** **WEEKLY CIRCULAR AHEAD OF WEEK SIX**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and healthy. Please read on for all the latest updates. Information that is still relevant from last week's circular will be referenced from there so that it is not repetitive.

ALL PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR ALL FIRST TERM FEE PAYMENTS. AFTER TODAY, ANY STUDENT WHOSE FIRST TERM FEES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID WILL BE CONSIDERED OUTSTANDING AND WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE CORRECTED ASSESSMENT PAPERS, OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS ETC.

1) FACE MASKS NO LONGER MANDATORY FOR STAFF & STUDENTS:

Please note that we had sent parents an update on the 27th of September about a key change to protocols for masks released by KHDA , effective 28th September. Face masks are no longer mandatory for staff and students while on the premises in private schools but must still be worn on the school buses and other public transport like the metro and public buses etc. We still recommend that children who have underlying health issues or are vulnerable, take precautions by using a face mask.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NO-MASK-MANDATORY-FROM-28-SEPTEMBER.pdf>

2) UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FROM KHDA:

Parents are requested to kindly view the image below to have a clear picture of the latest Covid-19 protocols released by KHDA. The quarantine period for Covid positive cases is now FIVE days. However students can only return to school on the sixth day if they are symptom-free. If your child still has symptoms at the end of the 5 day quarantine period, kindly email our school doctor for further instructions. (dayani-smchs@smgeducation.org)



3) NO SHARP OBJECTS TO BE SENT WITH CHILDREN IN YEARS ONE THROUGH THREE:

Parents of children in years One through Three must check your children's pouches and bags in the morning to ensure that there are no sharp objects like scissors, compasses, steel rulers, paper cutters, paper clips, etc which can be potentially dangerous to the child and other children in the class. Please do not send any toys with them either unless specified in the class group email as may be required for some lessons.

4) FOURTH SUBJECT DROP FORM FOR YEAR 12 AND 13:

Parents please note that we have attached a subject drop form for those students of Years 12 and 13 who may wish to drop the fourth subject. The form will also be available on the school website.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SUBJECT-DROP-APPLICATION.pdf>

5) ASSESSMENTS FOR YEARS 1-13:

Parents are requested to please check the separate attachment on Assessments (issued on 20th September) that is also available on the website .

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ASSESSMENTS-FOR-NOVEMBER-REPORT-2022-2023.pdf>

6) IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, PARTICULARLY BY STUDENTS IN YEARS 9-11:

Parents are requested to carefully read the separate circular issued in this regard on 16th September.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CYBERBULLYING-BULLYING-SANCTIONS-AND-CONSEQUENCES-REMINDER-CIRCULAR.pdf>

7) GL CAT-4 TEST FOR YEARS FOUR, SIX, EIGHT AND TEN ONLY:

Parents of students in Years Four, Six, Eight and Ten are requested to kindly check the separate circular regarding the GL CAT4 examination issued on 23rd September. Please email the skiply receipt indicating payment for the same to your child's class teacher. Please find the schedule below for the GL CAT-4 examinations. **CHILDREN MUST BRING A FULLY CHARGED**

DEVICE – ONLY A TABLET OR LAPTOP (THE TEST WILL NOT RUN ON A MOBILE PHONE) ON THE DAY THE TEST HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THEIR CLASS.

Children who have been newly admitted to Saint Mary's this year to years Four to Ten must submit a copy of your CAT-4 results done in your previous school, to your class teachers no later than 30th September 2022.

SCHEDULE FOR CAT-4 EXAMINATIONS

1 st NOVEMBER	YEAR 4 A B C D E & F
2 nd NOVEMBER	YEAR 6 A B C D E & F
3 rd NOVEMBER	YEAR 8 A B C D E & F
4 th NOVEMBER	YEAR 10 A B C D E & F

8) UAE UNIVERSITY FAIR @ SMCHS, DUBAI FOR YEARS 11, 12 & 13:

Parents are requested to kindly check the separate attachment to this circular regarding this event.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/UAE-UNIVERSITY-FAIR-AT-SMCHS-5-OCTOBER-2022.pdf>

9) ADMISSION TO A-LEVELS (PARENTS OF CURRENT YEAR 11 STUDENTS):

Parents of Year 11 students are requested to kindly go through the separate circular on A-Level admissions issued on 23rd September.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ADMISSION-TO-A-LEVELS-for-the-ACADEMIC-YEAR-2023-2024.pdf>

10) WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS:

With a view to improving overall student wellbeing and following through with some suggestions from students themselves, the school will champion Wellbeing Wednesdays as the first in a series of initiatives to improve overall student wellbeing. *We would request that every child bring in ANY ONE FRUIT of their choice and ANY ONE DAIRY (milk, laban , yoghurt, a fruit juice could substitute for those children who are lactose intolerant)* for breakfast every Wednesday, that they will have together in class first thing in the morning during the morning registration with their class teachers.

11) PREFECTURAL ROLES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS:

Parents of Year Thirteen students are required to note that while this cohort was not able to undertake these responsibilities last year owing to the various challenges and restrictions brought on by the pandemic, we as a school recognise the need for students to have the experience of being young leaders and undertaking some community service before they embark upon their university journey. Lise-Ann has been working with the current Year Thirteen cohort to provide them both prefectural as well as community service opportunities and your children will be able to share more with you at home.

12) PREFECTURAL ROLES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS:

Parents of Year Twelve students must please note that they will ALL be given the opportunity to serve as School Prefects as well as undertake compulsory Community Service in preparation for university life. Being a leader calls for both maturity and responsibility and we will be taking them through the process in the coming weeks. Community service forms have been sent to students and they must be returned as a hard copy to their class teachers by **Monday, 3rd October at the latest.**

13) PREDICTED GRADES POLICY FOR YEARS 12 & 13 :

We would like to remind all parents and students to carefully go through this Policy that is available on our school website. The situation that unfolded over the last two years made many children realise, albeit too late the true value of being consistent with their study habits and not waiting until the last minute before exams to prepare and study. It is always best for every child to be **CONSISTENT AND HIGHLY REGULAR** with their study and ensure that they maintain a good level of attainment across all their assessment opportunities and prepare as well as they can for their Board Examinations. This will also help them to achieve better predicted grades as every assessment and examination counts towards the calculation of the same.

14) EMIRATES LITERATURE FESTIVAL OF READING (LITFEST):

We had a wonderful response from potential participants and those who cleared the preliminaries will be informed about the next steps. Please note that team events will require a great deal of commitment and preparation after school hours (virtually) as well as individual preparation and those who wish to take part must keep this in mind and not pull out at the last minute which compromises the work of other children in the team and hugely disadvantages them.

15) SUBJECT CHANGE POLICY , YEARS 9 TO 13:

We would like to request all parents of children in these year groups to please go through the Subject Change Policy which is available in the Parents' Info section of the school website.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Subject-Change-Policy-2022.pdf>

16) IBT ARABIC EXAM FOR ARABIC A- ARAB SPEAKERS FROM YEARS FIVE THROUGH TEN :

Parents of native Arabic speakers in Years Five through Ten are requested to check the separate circular attached to this weekly circular and complete the necessary formalities at the earliest.

Please email the skippy receipt indicating payment of AED 35/- to the class teacher.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/IBT-LETTER-ARABIC-A.pdf>

17) IBT ARABIC EXAM FOR ARABIC B- NON-ARAB SPEAKERS FROM YEARS FIVE, SEVEN and NINE ONLY :

Parents of non-native speakers in Years Five , Seven and Nine are requested to check the separate circular attached to this weekly circular and complete the necessary formalities at the earliest.

Please email the skippy receipt indicating payment of AED 35/- to the class teacher.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/IBT-LETTER-ARABIC-B.pdf>

18) YEAR 11 STUDENTS REQUIRED TO HAND IN THEIR PHONES DURING MORNING REGISTRATION :

Please refer to our circular of 16th September 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/To-The-Parents-of-students-in-Year-1-%E2%80%93-13-WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-FOUR-1.pdf>

19) SOCIAL MEDIA FREQUENT CHECKS BY PARENTS FOR SECONDARY & UPPER PRIMARY CHILDREN :

Please refer to our circular of 16th September 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/To-The-Parents-of-students-in-Year-1-%E2%80%93-13-WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-FOUR-1.pdf>

20) PARENT ACCESS TO THE CAMPUS IN THE MORNING:

Please refer to our circular of 16th September 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/To-The-Parents-of-students-in-Year-1-%E2%80%93-13-WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-FOUR-1.pdf>

21) PARENT ACCESS TO THE CAMPUS AT HOMETIME:

Please refer to our circular of 16th September 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/To-The-Parents-of-students-in-Year-1-%E2%80%93-13-WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-FOUR-1.pdf>

22) NO DISTRIBUTION OF ANY ITEMS (cakes/ candies/ chocolate/ and even non-edible items) FOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:

Parents are reminded that while the class would be happy to sing for your child on his/her birthday , there should be STRICTLY NO DISTRIBUTION of any food/ sweets or even non-edible items like small toys etc on your child's birthday.

23) PARENT'S' APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHERS:

Parents are requested to kindly email a particular teacher that you wish to meet for any urgent reason. Please specify if you would like a telephone call, a zoom meeting or a face-to-face meeting. Please include your telephone number in the email. Teachers will get back to you.

24) CRITICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIRED IF ANY STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE, EVEN AT THE WEEKEND:

Please refer to our circular dated 2nd September.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-2-SEPTEMBER-2022.pdf>

25) ONLINE LESSONS ONLY FOR ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES/ SYMPTOMATIC CLOSE CONTACTS:

Please refer to our circular dated 2nd September.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-2-SEPTEMBER-2022.pdf>

26) STUDENT SCHOOL EMAIL ID:

Please refer to our circular dated 2nd September. **Please do not use the class group email to communicate with teachers. Kindly email teachers directly on their school email ID.**

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-2-SEPTEMBER-2022.pdf>

27) GOOGLE CLASSROOM:

Please refer to our circular dated 2nd September.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-2-SEPTEMBER-2022.pdf>

28) NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR STUDENTS OF YEARS 1-8 (EXCEPT FOR MOBILE PHONE) :

Please refer to our circular dated 2nd September.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-2-SEPTEMBER-2022.pdf>

29) PARENTS' WHATSAPP GROUPS :

Please refer to our circular of 16th September 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/To-The-Parents-of-students-in-Year-1-%E2%80%93-13-WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-FOUR-1.pdf>

30) OWN TRANSPORT DROP OFF AND PICK UP GATE :

Please refer to our circular of 16th September 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/To-The-Parents-of-students-in-Year-1-%E2%80%93-13-WEEKLY-CIRCULAR-AHEAD-OF-WEEK-FOUR-1.pdf>

31) SCHOOL OFFICE WEEKEND SCHEDULES :

The school office will work on Second and Fourth Saturdays from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. The school office will remain CLOSED on First and Third Saturdays and ALL Sundays.

32) SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP (Boys' uniforms/ sports uniforms for boys and girls and hoodies) :

The Uniform Shop will be open only on Second and Fourth Saturdays from 8:00 until 11:00 am. Students have been accessing the uniform store for the first hour in the mornings after their class registration.

33) PAYMENT OF TERM FEES :

Please check all information related to the same from our WELCOME BACK CIRCULAR dated 26th August 2022.

THE FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE FOR TERM ONE IS 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022. KINDLY RESPECT THIS DEADLINE.

We would like to remind ALL parents that timely fee payments are important for the sustained functioning of the school. We urge parents not to delay fee payments and ensure that you have paid well within the stipulated fee payment window for each term.

34) SCHOOL CANTEEN:

The school canteen has been operational from Monday, 5th September 2022. However we strongly discourage primary students from buying food at the canteen, rather they would benefit from healthy snacks/ food carried from home. Parents must keep in mind that crowded canteen lines are not viable for younger children and as much as we do try to streamline the queues, it is not always possible to whittle down the crowds.

35) APPROVED KHDA CALENDAR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023:

Please check all information related to the same from our WELCOME BACK CIRCULAR dated 26th August 2022.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/KHDA-calendar-2022-2023.pdf>

The legend of key dates is below.

THE COLOURED ROW HAS BEEN UPDATED LAST WEEK .

24th October	Diwali Holiday
18th November	Holiday
1st & 2nd December	Government Holidays
12th -30th December(inclusive)	Winter break
17th January – 2nd February (inclusive)	First Term examinations in the morning session and regular lessons after break.
3rd February	End of Term Holiday
15th to 24th March 2023 and 10th to 14th April 2023 (inclusive)	Mock Exams for Years 11 and 13
27th March to 7th April 2023	Spring Break
20th and 21st April 2023	Government Holidays
4th and 5th May 2023	Final exams (Years 1-10 and year 12) in the morning session and regular lessons after break
8th to 19th May 2023	Final exams (Years 1-10 and Year 12 in the morning and students go home after the exam.
22nd May	Holiday
26th June	Last day for students and staff

36) STUDENT ABSENCES MUST BE INFORMED BY PARENTS:

All parents are requested to kindly inform the class teacher via email whenever a child is absent, even if it is just for one day. A simple email with the reason for the absence will suffice but is mandatory. Unaccounted for absences will be marked as unjustified and will be reflected on students' progress reports.

37) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES: We would like you to be informed well in advance that EDEXCEL LONDON BOARD EXAMINATION FEES will be collected in the month of NOVEMBER 2022 for students in years ELEVEN and THIRTEEN. We trust that this will help you to budget accordingly. You can check your KHDA Parent-School contract for the BOARD EXAM FEE AMOUNT for each year group.

38) URGENT QUERIES AND CONCERNS: If you have any urgent queries and concerns, kindly send an email to our Vice Principal, Ms. Lise-Ann on l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org and she will get back to you. Please include your telephone number in case she needs to call you.

We take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy weekend .

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

