



OUR REF :

TRN No. 100483609200003

Friday, 6th October 2023

**To: The Parents of students in Years 1-13 –
WEEKLY CIRCULAR BEFORE WEEK SEVEN**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and healthy.

ALL STUDENTS and STAFF are invited to come dressed for PINK DAY on Friday, 13th October 2023 as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please remember to check the Coloured Clothes Day policy.



NEW

- **GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2022-2023 (YEAR 12 STUDENTS AND PARENTS)**
- **SAINTZ CHILDREN SHINE IN “BEE WRITE 2023” LITERARY COMPETION.**
- **PINK DAY ON FRIDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2023**

ALL PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR ALL FIRST TERM FEE PAYMENTS WAS 20TH SEPTEMBER 2023. 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. PLEASE RESPECT THE FEE PAYMENT DEADLINES.

THANK YOU TO YOU, DEAR PARENTS, though we are still appealing to a few whose kids are regularly late to school.: ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ON THE PREMISES BY 7:05 AM SHARP. ALL GATES WILL BE CLOSED AT 7:10 AM SHARP.

PARENT CONTACT INFO:

We are reaching out to 200 parents who have not yet filled out the PARENT INFO using the link provided. Please understand that in the event of any emergency with your child at school, this information will be critical in contacting you without delay. Please treat this seriously and kindly do not delay any further. Please find the link below.

<https://forms.gle/4MpDRT2YCsdv93ddA>

1) GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2022-2023 (Year 12 students and parents):

Parents are requested to kindly check the attached notice regarding the Graduation Ceremony. Attendance at the rehearsal on 2nd November 2023 is compulsory for those students who will be attending the Graduation.

2) MID-TERM ASSESSMENT TIMETABLES AND PORTIONS (YEARS 2-10):

Parents have received the Assessment Timetables as well as the portions from your child's class teacher, via the class group email. It was also posted in GC. We urge parents to kindly ensure that children do not miss assessments unless there are serious medical concerns. Students with unapproved leave will not be credited for any missed Assessments and this will have a very negative impact on their Summative reports. This will also affect the child's yearly average. **PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OPPOSED TO PREVIOUS YEARS,**

THIS ASSESSMENT WILL BE THE ONLY ONE THAT COUNTS TOWARDS YOUR CHILD'S NOVEMBER 2023 SUMMATIVE REPORT. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THIS AND PREPARE FOR IT SERIOUSLY.

- 3) PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM REGISTRATION FORMS FOR YEARS 11 & 13:**
Parents of students in Years 11 and 13 are reminded to please check the Pearson Edexcel Exam Registration forms that have been sent with the children this week. Payment for London Board Exams must be made through Skiplly. Please send the forms with the relevant documents (mentioned on the form) and the printed Skiplly receipt.
- 4) 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.
- 5) NO CHANGING OUT OF SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR STUDENTS WHILE ON THE PREMISES:**
Parents are reminded that students MUST NOT change out of their uniform while on the premises unless they have team practice after school or there is a specific event or function.
- 6) IBT ARABIC EXAMS (ARABIC A – Years 5-10) (ARABIC B- Years 5, 7 and 9):**
Parents are requested to kindly check the attached circulars.
- 7) EMIRATES LITERATURE FESTIVAL COMPETITIONS :**
Parents, please go through the flyers attached to this circular. We would like you to encourage children to actively register for these competitions.
- 8) ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2023 REPORT:**
Parents, please read through the attached circular regarding Assessments for the November 2023 report.
- 9) 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 attachment to this circular regarding the GL CAT4 examination. Please email the skiplly receipt indicating payment for the same to your child's class teacher.

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.

10) 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 attached to this weekly notice.

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

Parents of secondary and upper primary 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.

12) UNIFORM INFRACTIONS:

Parents are hereby notified that we have been very disappointed with the large number of uniform infractions, especially among senior students. ***These include very long and unruly hair of boys (kindly ensure that proper haircuts are undertaken this weekend) , long hair of girls untied, coloured and highlighted hair of girls (we have specifically reminded parents at the end of last year that this is strictly not allowed) , multiple ear piercings for girls, shorter than acceptable skirt lengths , long fingernails of both boys and girls, heavy make-up on girls.*** What is even more disappointing is the lack of collaboration from parents when we correct students for the same. We are constantly having to correct students for things that could be overseen by parents before they arrive at school, and this wastes precious teaching time. Parents are requested to please check on your children before they leave home in the morning. Please refer to the uniform policy.

13) CLASS GROUP EMAIL:

The **CLASS GROUP EMAIL** using the students 'official email ID for every class went into operation from 6th September 2023. This is for the dissemination of information daily from the class teacher to the parents of this class and we request parents not to write back to this address. We recommend that every parent checks this email after 6:00 pm every day for important updates.

14) PAYMENT OF TERM FEES:

(Details in previous weekly circulars)

15) FINANCE-RELATED EMAILS:

(Details in circular dated 1st September)

16) APPROVED KHDA CALENDAR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024:

Parents are requested to check the approved KHDA School Calendar for the Academic Year 2023-2024 that has been attached to this circular for your easy reference. This will help you plan ahead. If the regulators make any changes to the same, we will inform you immediately. Please note that only emergency medical leave will be approved during school days. Leave for family holidays and celebrations must coincide with the school holidays as per the KHDA calendar. Leave for events like graduations, weddings, parties etc will not be granted during school days and if absences like this occur during exams, there will be no re-exams in that case. We expect parents to respect these dates and not request leave during school days.

KEY DATES IN THE APPROVED KHDA CALENDAR

Parents are strongly reminded not to plan holidays/ celebrations and other events outside the approved holiday slots in the calendar as these will not be approved.

30 th OCTOBER 2023	Holiday for all students
10 th NOVEMBER 2023	Holiday for all students / GRADUATION CEREMONY
1 st DECEMBER 2023	Martyr's Day
11 th DECEMBER 2023 – 1 ST JANUARY 2024 (Inclusive)	Winter Break
2 nd JANUARY 2024	School re-opens after the Winter Break
16 th JANUARY – 1 ST FEBRUARY 2024	First Term Examinations in the morning. Regular lessons after break. Students will not be allowed to go home after the morning's exam.

2 nd FEBRUARY 2024	Term break for all students
15 th FEBRUARY 2024	Sports Day Years 5-13 (subject to change)
23 rd FEBRUARY 2024	Sports Day Years 1-4
11 th -22 nd MARCH 2024 15 th , 16 th & 17 th APRIL 2024	Mock Examinations years 11 and 13
25 th MARCH – 5 TH APRIL 2024 (inclusive)	Spring Break
9 th to 12 th APRIL 2024	Eid Al Fitr (subject to government declaration)
15 th & 16 th MAY 2024	Final exams in parallel with regular lessons
17 th MAY 2024	Study Holiday
20 th to 31 st MAY 2024	Final Exams and students go home at 11:00 am
17 th & 18 th JUNE 2024	Eid Al Adha (subject to government declaration)
28 th JUNE 2024	Report Day & Last working day for students and teachers

Please note that the GL EXAMS usually take place during the month of May and June.

17) SIMS PARENT APP/ LEARNING LADDERS:

Please note that these are still in process and our IT Support will be sending out the invitation and credentials for the same in some time. We will let you know via a circular when that process gets rolled out. Kindly do not email IT Support for this at the moment.

18) INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024 AND APPLICABLE PAYMENTS:

As per previous circular of 15th and 22nd September

19) PREDICTED GRADES POLICY FOR YEARS 12 & 13:

Please refer to previous circulars

20) SUBJECT CHANGE POLICY, YEARS 9 TO 13:

Please refer to previous circulars.

21) 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.

22) 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.

23) PARENTS' WHATSAPP GROUPS:

While a whatsapp group maybe very useful for *sharing important information that can be very helpful – sometimes essential – for busy parents, it has increasingly been noticed that these groups seem to have become breeding grounds for gossip, Chinese whispers and criticism. We are noticing more and more that a personal experience of a child or a staff member has become fodder for public comment and this has extended to even the very private medical information of children being openly discussed on parent groups.* There's a broader societal issue here. This is all very new to us adults. We must reflect on the example we're setting. We talk about what our children are doing online, but we don't reflect on our own behaviour; we don't have an agreed etiquette. We would like all parents, especially those in primary school to do some reflection on the unchecked chatter and quite often the vilifying of staff members in the parents' whatsapp groups over the past year and ask yourself if that is truly helping you or rather creating unwanted stress. As a school, we would like you to reach out to the teachers or to Ms. Lise-Ann (in more urgent cases) rather than allow what could be one parent's opinion or perspective or misinterpretation in many cases, cloud the perspectives of all the rest. Let us try not to micromanage the children but have more faith in their capacity for resilience and courage.

While we continue to encourage you to use emails as the official channels for communication, we would like to offer some useful guidelines for the ethical use of whatsapp groups should parents still feel the need for them.

Groups can be used to share:

- Reminders about deadlines, school activities, and events.
- Questions about school activities or special events e.g., what date the science project is due in, uniform or non-uniform day, when the deadline to pay for something is, etc.
- Sharing important information already posted in a circular to help reach more parents e.g., alerts about sickness, school policies, etc.
- Sharing information which can be useful to the other parents in the group e.g., where to buy costumes for dressing up days, ideas for projects, etc.
- Foster a sense of community.
- Sharing relevant community notices e.g., road closures or new traffic lights in the local area, etc.
-

We **STRONGLY discourage** the use of the groups to:

- Gossip.
- Voice grievances.
- Share personal problems.
- Point out another child's behaviour.
- Discuss the work of teachers: if a parent has a concern regarding the teacher, that parent should speak with him or her directly.
- Raise individual concerns or complaints: if a parent has a particular concern or complaint regarding the school or any member of the Staff, that issue should be raised directly with the School.
- Share political or religious posts or discussions.

24) 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 long weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





GCSE GRADUATION CEREMONY **FOR THE CLASS OF 2022-2023**



The GCSE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2022-2023 will be held on FRIDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2023 at 5:00 pm in the MAIN HALL AT ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DUBAI.

There will be a rehearsal on Thursday, 2nd November 2023 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm in the Main Hall. Students will receive their invitations and Graduation Gowns on the day of the rehearsal . The cost of AED 250/- for the hiring of the Graduation Gown as well as 1 Graduation USB with the photographs and video should be paid on the day of the Rehearsal. Please bring the Exact Amount. Only TWO adults per graduate can be accommodated in the Hall. No exceptions can be made due to space constraints.

ALL STUDENTS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY MUST COME FOR THE REHEARSAL. STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO COLLECT THEIR GOWNS FROM 12:00 PM -1:30 PM ON THE DAY OF THE REHEARSAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REHEARSAL WILL BEGIN AT 2:00 PM SHARP. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND THE REHEARSAL WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.





ST. MARY'S *Catholic High School, Dubai*

Saintz Children Shine in 'Bee Write 2023' Literary Competition

In early 2023, The Hive Theater Group, Dubai and Young Authors Academy, Dubai joined forces to ignite the creative sparks of school children across the UAE. Young talents were invited to submit their original short stories and poems, and the response from our children at St. Mary's was nothing short of astounding.

In a moment of immense pride for St. Mary's, from among our many budding wordsmiths who participated, an impressive 17 had their entries selected by the judges.

This outstanding achievement is a salute to the dedication and hard work of our students, their amazing teachers, who foster a love of reading, writing and language in them and the encouragement of their parents.

A collection of about 50 of the most outstanding entries from the competition were published as an anthology, "**Bee Write 2023**". The book launch and a writers meet and greet was arranged by the organisers on the 1st of October 2023 at the Hive studio, where our students got an opportunity to read excerpts of their work and receive a copy of the book.

For those eager to delve into the imaginative worlds created by these talented young authors, "**Bee Write 2023**" is now available for purchase on Amazon and Barnes and Nobles.

Links below:

Link : [Amazon](#)

Link : [Barnes and Nobles](#)

Truly, this is not just a book; it's a celebration of creativity and the bright future of literature in the UAE.



The students who got their entries published are:

- Aryanna Perera
- Bethany Fernandes
- Drei Patrick Apigo Rosete
- Filza Ali
- Jilliane Alinan Baldonado
- Kaira Teresa D'silva
- Macayla Louise Hong
- Mallawa Arachchige Gagana Perera
- Maria Theres Kizhakkuden
- Qazi Ali Ahmed
- Rachelmaria Padayatty
- Rachel Joanna Ediriweera
- Rhianna Nicole Rosario
- Selasie Ganku
- Tamanna Shibu
- Tanuja Dulan Kumarasiri
- Yawna Barkil

Congratulations!

*dear children on being published
authors at such a young age!!!!*

Well done!



OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

DATE: Friday, 22nd September 2023

**To : Parents of Native Arabic speaking students in Years Five through Ten
- IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS**

**STUDENTS MUST BRING A FULLY CHARGED LAPTOP OR TABLET TO
SCHOOL ON THE 3RD OF NOVEMBER 2023 FOR THE TEST.**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. You will be pleased to learn that our school has been invited to participate in *International Benchmark Tests for Improving Learning, 2023*. The Australian Council for Educational Research, one of the leading research organizations in the world, develops this test and provides a range of Assessment services in many countries and works in close tandem with the KHDA here in Dubai. The *International Benchmark Test in Arabic* will be held on the following day.

FRIDAY	3rd November 2023	ARABIC A	YEARS 5-10
	9:00 AM		

The entry fee is AED 35/- for this exam, the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 30th SEPTEMBER 2023.

The International Benchmark Tests are designed to give an International benchmark of your child's performance vis-à-vis the participating countries in the world and in the region. Students will be able to see their intrinsic abilities and potential for learning, identifying their strengths and weaknesses on skills and concepts related to their class level and helps clarify concepts, making them very valuable as a remedial instrument. Questions are interesting and thought provoking and encourage students to develop the skills related to problem solving, data interpretation, reasoning and critical thinking in the global context.

THE INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS (IBT) PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH :

- A comprehensive assessment of student performance and ability
- High quality test items that engage students across all ability levels;
- Individual reports that highlight skills, strengths and weaknesses;
- Reports that include a clear description of skills and concepts that have been mastered;
- A Scale Score to measure their progress over time
- Students and schools with high quality feedback that can be used to improve learning
- School, regional and international percentiles to compare and benchmark student performance;
- Recognition of student performance.

Since the Tests will be delivered on ACER's Online Assessment and Reporting System (OARS), please refer below to the system requirements for your computers/devices in the school. This will check suitability for conducting the Tests on this online interface. Technical Requirements and Browser Check Normally, standard PC's /devices meet the below requirements:

- Minimum screen resolution: 1024 x 768
- 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 Check We recommend that a browser check is done on all devices that will be used. These are given below: Open your preferred browser, click/copy and paste this link :

https://oars-z3.acer.org/browser_exam/#/ and a browser examination will run. This will check whether your internet browser is compatible, and you will also receive a recommendation for how many students you can test at a given time with your technical set up if testing in school. We request you to advise students to also do the browser check at home on their devices before these are used by them in school for the test.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)**





ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. Box: 52232, DUBAI - U.A.E.

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E-mail : maryscol@emirates.net.ae

Fax : +(971) 4 3368119

website : www.stmarysdubai.com

مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

ص.ب. ٥٢٢٣٢، دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة

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+٩٧١ ٤ ٣٣٦٨١١٩ : فاكس

OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

DATE : Friday, 22ND September 2023

**To : Parents of Non-Native Arabic speaking students in Years Five, Seven & Nine
- IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS -ARABIC B**

**STUDENTS MUST BRING A FULLY CHARGED LAPTOP OR TABLET
TO SCHOOL ON THE DAY THEY HAVE THE TEST.**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. You will be pleased to learn that our school has been invited to participate in ***International Benchmark Tests for Improving Learning, 2023***. The Australian Council for Educational Research , one of the leading research organizations in the world , develops this test and provides a range of Assessment services in many countries and works in close tandem with the KHDA here in Dubai. The ***International Benchmark Test in Arabic*** will be held on the following days.

WEDNESDAY	8th November 2023	ARABIC B	YEAR 5
THURSDAY	9th November 2023	ARABIC B	YEARS 7 & 9

The entry fee is AED 35/- for this exam , the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023. The

International Benchmark Tests are designed to give an International benchmark of your child's performance vis-à-vis the participating countries in the world and in the region. Students will be able to see their intrinsic abilities and potential for learning, identifying their strengths and weaknesses on skills and concepts related to their class level and helps clarify concepts , making them very valuable as a remedial instrument. Questions are interesting and thought provoking, and encourage students to develop the skills related to problem solving, data interpretation , reasoning and critical thinking in the global context.

THE INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS (IBT) PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH :

- A comprehensive assessment of student performance and ability
- High quality test items that engage students across all ability levels;
- Individual reports that highlight skills, strengths and weaknesses;
- Reports that include a clear description of skills and concepts that have been mastered;
- A Scale Score to measure their progress over time
- Students and schools with high quality feedback that can be used to improve learning
- School, regional and international percentiles to compare and benchmark student performance;
- Recognition of student performance

Since the Tests will be delivered on ACER's Online Assessment and Reporting System (OARS), please refer below to the system requirements for your computers/devices in the school. This will check suitability for conducting the Tests on this online interface. Technical Requirements and Browser Check Normally, standard PC's /devices meet the below requirements:

- • Minimum screen resolution: 1024 x 768
- 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 Check We recommend that a browser check is done on all devices that will be used are given below: Open your preferred browser, click/copy and paste this link:

<https://oars-z3.acer.org/browserexam/#/> and a browser examination will run. This will check whether your internet browser is compatible, and you will also receive a recommendation for how many students you can test at a given time with your technical set up if testing in school. We request you to advise students to also do the browser check at home on their devices before these are used by them in school for the test.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)**



SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION



Have a story to tell? Now is the time to put pen to paper and bring your tales to life!

The Emirates Literature Festival

is here again and so is the

OUP Story Writing Competition.

Give wings to your words and pen a short story inspired by this year's festival theme:

“Beginnings”

General guidelines and important dates:

- Use your imagination and creativity to the full, but do remember that your inspiration is ‘Beginnings’.
- You may choose your own title in keeping with the theme.
- Participants must be full-time students in schools, colleges and universities.
- Complete all sections of the online entry, attaching your story as a Word document. Entries can be in Arabic or in English.

You should submit under the appropriate age category. Please note the word limit for each category:

- Ages 11 and under (maximum of 500 words)
- Ages 12-14 (maximum of 1000 words)
- Ages 15-17 (maximum of 1500 words)
- Age 18-25 (maximum of 2000 words)

Please be sure to check out further instructions, judging criteria and other details:

<https://www.elfdubai.org/en/story-writing-competition>

Watch a story writing workshop with renowned author Christopher Edge for some tips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hNxz4IYRCg>

For Arabic please follow this link:

<https://www.elfdubai.org/ar/story-writing-competition-ar>

Last Date: 30 October 2023





RGS GUILDFORD

LETTER WRITING COMPETITION

What is the next best thing to showing up personally at someone's door?
Sending them a letter of course!

The RGS Guildford Dubai Children's Letter Writing Competition

is here to bring some of that forgotten magic back into our world.

The competition celebrates both the aesthetic of **handwriting** and that of a **well-crafted message**.

The theme for 2024 is '**Beginnings**'.

And this year, you will have to write a letter to an author suggesting an alternative 'beginning' to their already published story/book.

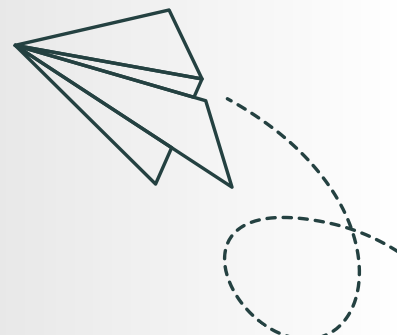
General guidelines and important dates:

- The competition is divided into the following categories:
 - Ages: 8-10
 - Ages: 11-13
 - Ages: 14-18
- The letter must be on a single side of an A4 sheet of paper, in your best handwriting.
- Write a letter to an author, suggesting an alternative 'beginning' to their story/book. Tell them why you want to change the original 'beginning' and why the new one would work better, in your opinion
- The recommended word limit is 200-400 words max.
- Entries can be in Arabic or English. To submit your letter in **Arabic**, please follow this link: <https://www.elfdubai.org/ar/letter-writing-competition-ar>
- Please be sure to check out **further instructions, judging criteria and other details**: <https://www.elfdubai.org/en/letter-writing-competition>

Watch the video of a workshop for effective letter writing here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPHavCW1uiY>

Last date: 11 December 2023





OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

Date: Friday, 22nd September 2023

To: Parents of Students from YEAR ONE to YEAR THIRTEEN
RE: Assessments for the November 2023 Report

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's. Please read the information carefully with regard to your child's Assessments ahead of the November 2023 report.

This is what Assessments will look like.

YEARS 11, 12 and 13 – Assessments for the November 2023 report

ASSESSMENT WINDOW: Ongoing until 3rd November 2023 – NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY

Internal Assessment marks 100% (Within set Deadlines)

YEARS 2 to 6 – Assessments for the November 2023 report

ASSESSMENT WINDOW: 10th until 31st October 2023- NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY

(Music, Art & Sport- Continuous AFL) YEAR 3 FRENCH – ORALS ONLY

SUMMATIVE-

ASSESSMENT

ONE TEST

visibly evidenced.

20 marks

20 MARKS

AFL

Presentations/ Skits/

Oral Role play / Group

Work/ Pair work / LEARNING

LADDERS / PROJECT WORK/RESEARCH

FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

YEARS 7 to 10 – Assessments for the November 2023 report	
ASSESSMENT WINDOW: 10th until 31st October 2023- NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY	
(Sports- Continuous AFL)	
SUMMATIVE- ASSESSMENT ONE TEST <u>visibly evidenced.</u> 25 marks	AFL Presentations/ Skits/ Oral Role play / Group Work/ Pair work / LEARNING LADDERS / PROJECT WORK/RESEARCH
25 MARKS	FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

YEAR 1 – Assessments for the November 2023 report	
ASSESSMENT WINDOW: September to November 2023 – Continuous AFL and Ongoing assessments as part of ongoing class work.	
AFL PROJECT WORK/HW / IN-CLASS ASSESSMENTS PORTFOLIOS / RESEARCH/ Presentations/ Skits/ Oral Role play / Group Work/ Pair work / LEARNING LADDERS	
FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT	

All Assessments will be paper- based. Corrected Assessments will be given to students in the second or third week of November and will only be given to students who have completed all First Term Fee Payments (20th September 2023 was the deadline for all First Term Fee Payments). We urge parents to respectfully make timely fee payments and respect the fee payment deadlines.

Assessment Timetable will be different for every class, but some subjects will be scheduled on the same day across a whole cohort or group of cohorts and will be posted in your child’s GC and via the class group email by next weekend by your child’s class teacher. For years 11, 12 and 13, their subject teachers have already begun class tests.

ABSENTEES: If your child is sick, please email the class teacher and inform him/ her if your child is going to or has missed an assessment/s. Some re-assessments might be scheduled over the weekend or on a regular school day, depending on the number of assessments missed and you will be informed of the day and time to bring your child in for the same.

Assessments will not be credited for leave that is not justified. This will impact children's academic progress and we urge parents not to schedule holidays during working days. Students must not have any unauthorised material during an assessment – notes, chits of paper with written notes, any written notes concealed in the desk or on the person. If any of these are found with a student during an assessment, they will be given a zero. Students must not resort to any form of malpractice during an assessment, they must not speak to any other students during an assessment. Any form of malpractice will lead to being given a zero for that particular assessment.

We would like our children to understand the importance of developing study habits that are consistent and productive and undertaken on a daily basis and not at the last minute.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)**



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

DATE: Friday, 1st September 2023

To Parents of students in Years TWO to TEN :

NGRT – NEW GROUP READING TEST YEARS TWO TO TEN

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings. Our school as mandated by KHDA has to undertake the NGRT for students in Years Two to Ten . The government of Dubai has mandated that all students from ages 6-16 undertake a standardized reading literacy test thrice a year. This year we have to undertake the test thrice . We invite you to read on for further information.

NGRT is a fully adaptive, standardised, termly reading assessment. As it's adaptive, it offers a personalised experience for each student, ensuring it's accessible for those who are struggling and challenging for those who need to be stretched, so you can get to the root of any problems identified precisely and quickly.

There is no more crucial skill for success in any subject than reading, so being able to accurately assess and monitor this is essential. NGRT is proven to deliver a reliable assessment of reading comprehension, set against national benchmarks. Using it regularly helps to quickly spot problems that will hold back a child's progress, with customised practical classroom solutions for each student and the ability to demonstrate the impact of the interventions you put in place.

The amount to be paid for the NGRT is **AED 105/- ONLY**. This amount must be paid only via the **SKIPLY APP** and a soft copy of the receipt must be emailed to the class teacher. **The deadline for payment is 8th SEPTEMBER 2023.**

The schedule for the tests will be sent with the next weekend circular but will tentatively be in September 2023.

Please note that results will go towards part of the English Language assessment for the FIRST REPORT IN NOVEMBER 2023 and students must undertake the tests seriously as this will count towards attainment in English.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)



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OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

DATE : Friday 1st September 2023

**To: Parents of students in Years FOUR, SIX EIGHT & TEN ONLY
GL CAT4 EXAMINATION-SEPTEMBER 2023 (Revised year group
cohorts as advised by KHDA and will differ from the year groups we
indicated in our end of year and welcome back circular)**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. It is that time of the year for our students to complete the GL Cognitive Ability Test CAT4 which is mandated by KHDA for the year groups mentioned above. As part of our commitment to the National Agenda targets, and with a view to tracking progress and identify gaps in learning, our school will participate compulsorily in the GL-CAT4 exams. GL Education, one of the leading research organizations in the world , develops this test and provides a range of Assessment services in many countries and works in close tandem with the KHDA here in Dubai. These are mandatory assessments by KHDA and feature in your Parent-School Contract as well.

The entry fee is AED 65/- for the test , the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY VIA THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 8th SEPTEMBER 2023. Please email a copy of the SKIPLY receipt to your child's class teacher. This amount has been included in the Parent Contract as well.

CAT4 is designed to assess the four main abilities that underpin intellectual development and influence attainment. It measures four areas of reasoning:

- Quantitative
- Verbal
- Non-verbal and
- Spatial, a skill important for success in STEM subjects and an ability that is not measured by any other reasoning test for schools.

CAT4 is an assessment of reasoning that helps identify pupils' developed abilities and likely academic potential. *CAT4* is not about knowledge recall and requires no preparation, offering all students the same opportunity to show their underlying ability.

What is CAT4?

The Cognitive Abilities Test (*CAT4*) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

While many tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, *CAT4* is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).

CAT4 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

How are CAT4 Results used?

CAT4 provides teachers with information that can form the basis for discussions about how best a student can learn and reach his or her potential in school.

Teachers are provided with an individual profile of learning preference along with a range of indicators of likely future performance. Used with other information (such as results from Key Stage 2 SATs, for example), these data can support teaching and learning for all children.

Can students practice for CAT4?

GL strongly advises against any kind of practice ahead of a CAT4 test as this will alter the reliability of test scores. The point of CAT4 is that it is not a test of learnt knowledge and it needs to be as unaffected as possible by any external factors, such as practice. Think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct and valuable information may be missed.

CAT4 is a timed assessment and is administered under formal conditions. However, each section of the assessment includes introductory information with practice examples, and these will familiarise the children with the style and format of the questions. These sections are not timed and may be repeated.

Is additional time allowed for children with SEND ?

CAT4 is a timed assessment and additional time is not permitted as this will affect the reliability of the results. CAT4 is not just about what and how it tests but how the questions are answered within a set timeframe. The timed element makes it diagnostically very powerful.

CAT4 subtests are generously timed and most children reach the final questions, however there may have been a minority of students during the standardisation process who would have obtained higher scores if they had been given more time. Therefore, giving extra time to a particular student could give an inflated view of their relative ability when comparing their results with the CAT4 norms.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF QUESTION TYPES

<https://www.tests.com/practice/cognitive-abilities-practice-test>

ALL NEW ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL THIS YEAR in years 4, 6 8 and 10 will also be required to do the GL CAT-4 EXAMINATION.

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
6 th NOVEMBER	YEAR 8 A B C D E & F
7 th NOVEMBER	YEAR 10 A B C D E & F

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)**





OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

DATE: Friday, 1st September 2023

**To: Parents of Year Eleven Students –
ADMISSION TO TWO YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School Dubai. We invite you to read this circular very carefully as it has important information for parents regarding admission to the two year A-Level GCE Programme.

We would like to point out very clearly, that admission to A-Level is not automatic and is a completely new process.

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'.

YEAR 11 students cannot re-register for the next Academic year when this comes up for other year groups.

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

- **SHOULD HAVE AN EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR RECORD**
- **4 SUBJECTS TO BE OPTED FOR**
- **Admissions will be MERIT-BASED.**
- Hold a high grade **average** in all subjects (Internal Exams) in Year Eleven.

- 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**

Those students who take Arabic as a First language and Islamic Studies in A-Level will have to maintain a minimum aggregate attendance percentage of 95% for Arabic and / or Islamic Studies lessons, FAILING WHICH STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ISSUED A SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE/ATTESTED CERTIFICATES OR RECOMMENDATION LETTERS. Students who do not reflect this 95% aggregate attendance after the first month of enrollment might not be allowed to continue the A-Level programme.

Please note that St. Mary's Catholic High School offers the GCE Advanced Levels Linear Programme which means that we DO NOT OFFER **AS LEVEL CERTIFICATION** at the end of Year 12. This is a standalone qualification and results are declared only at the end of Year 13.

The whole two year Programme has to be completed for any equivalency certification.

Please consider all the criteria above while planning ahead with the next phase in your child's educational journey. Parents should also be aware that even if all criteria are met, **competition for places remains very stiff as seats are limited** and therefore, **we strongly recommend that all parents should ensure that their children have a back-up plan. This would include applying to other institutions besides St. Mary's well in advance.**

Thank you for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)



August 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	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	.	.	.

School Days: 4

September 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	.	.	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	.

School Days: 20

October 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	.	.	.	.	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	.	.	.	.	.

School Days: 21

November 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	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	.	.	.

School Days: 21

December 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	.	.	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

School Days: 5

January 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.
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	.	.	.	.

School Days: 22

February 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	.	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	.	.	.

School Days: 20

March 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	.	.	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

School Days: 16

April 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.
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	.	.	.	.	.

School Days: 13

May 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	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	.	.

School Days: 22

June 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.	.	.	.	.	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

School Days: 18

July 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
.
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	.	.	.	.

School Days: 0

Academic Year (Total School Days) (Minimum days required to submit the calendar is 182)
The total number of days that students formally attend school and includes instructional days, examinations, academic and non-academic activities.

Total days
182