



**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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**مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية**

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OUR REF : .....

TRN No. 100483609200003

Friday, 5th January 2024

**To: The Parents of Students in Years 1-13**

**WEEKLY CIRCULAR AHEAD OF WEEK SEVENTEEN**

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from Saint Mary's.** We hope that this update finds you all happy and in good health in this New Year. We pray in a special way for our school community so that this year brings blessings of good health and joy in abundance to each of our families that make up our greater Marian Family.

**NEW**

- **DHA EYE CHECK UP FOR YEARS 2, 5, 8 & 11 on 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024.**
- **SAINTZ NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024.**

**ALL PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WINDOW FOR PAYMENT OF THE SECOND TERM FEES IS BETWEEN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER 2023 AND THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY 2024. We REQUEST ALL PARENTS TO RESPECT THIS TIME FRAME. ANY STUDENT WHOSE FIRST TERM FEES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID WILL BE CONSIDERED OUTSTANDING AND WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE ANY OFFICIAL SCHOOL DOCUMENTS.**

**1) DHA EYE CHECK UP:** Please be informed that students in years 2, 5, 8 and 11 will have their annual DHA eye check up on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please ensure that your child is present in school on that day.

**2) PROM FOR YEAR ELEVEN STUDENTS - 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024:** Parents of ALL Year 11 students are requested to kindly check the separate circular attached.

### **3) SPRING BREAK CHANGE IN RE-OPENING DATE AS INFORMED BY KHDA:**

Parents are hereby informed that we have just been informed that the school will resume after the Spring Break on **15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and not 8<sup>th</sup> April** as per their originally approved calendar. PLEASE MAKE A DUE NOTE OF THIS CHANGE.

**4) FIRST TERM EXAMS:** Please ensure that children are seriously preparing for their Examinations. We are also reminding parents that unless there is a serious emergency or severe illness, students should not remain absent during exams. Children with mild colds can always be kept separately. We have observed that absenteeism at the school is becoming very frequent, we will address this with parents at a later date as this has now been documented by KHDA.

**5) SPORTS MEET 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 (YEARS 5-13) TRY OUT SCHEDULE:** We will send further updates later.

### **6) 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. **Parents are reminded that we do not admit NON-ST. MARY'S STUDENTS TO OUR A-LEVEL PROGRAMME.**

### **7) 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.

**8) 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 be not be approved.**

16 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY – 1 <sup>ST</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2024	Term break for all students
15 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024	Sports Day Years 5-13 ( subject to change )
23 <sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2024	Sports Day Years 1-4
11 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2024 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024	Mock Examinations years 11 and 13
<b>25<sup>th</sup> MARCH – 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 (inclusive)</b>	<b>Spring Break. SCHOOL RE-OPENS 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024	Eid Al Fitr ( subject to government declaration )
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2024	Final exams in parallel with regular lessons
17 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2024	Study Holiday
20 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> MAY 2024	Final Exams and students go home at 11:00 am
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024	Eid Al Adha ( subject to government declaration )
28 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

**9) PREDICTED GRADES POLICY FOR YEARS 12 & 13 :** Please refer to previous circulars

**10) SUBJECT CHANGE POLICY, YEARS 9 TO 13:** Please refer to previous circulars.

**11) URGENT QUERIES AND CONCERNS:** If you have any urgent queries and concerns, kindly send an email to our Vice Principal , Ms. Lise-Ann on [lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org) and she will get back to you. Please include your telephone number in case she needs to call you. As shared with you , Lise-Ann is also our school's Wellbeing Champion and so she may be contacted via email for any wellbeing issues that you would like to urgently discuss.

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

Yours sincerely



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
( Principal )



**[Link: SAINTZ NEWSLETTER](#)**





