



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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OUR REF :

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To: Parents of Students in Years 11 and 13

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN ONLINE EXAMS

Dear Parents,

Greetings to you from St. Mary's Catholic High School!

As your child prepares to sit their upcoming online mock examinations, we write to you on a matter that lies at the very heart of what we stand for as a school community - **Academic Integrity**.

At St Mary's Catholic High School, we are guided by our Marian values of honesty, respect, and personal responsibility. These are not merely academic expectations - they are the foundations of the character we seek to build in every student. Examinations, whether conducted in school or online, are an opportunity for your child to demonstrate their own knowledge, effort, and ability. We ask that those values be upheld fully, even when no one is watching.

What Academic Integrity Means

Academic integrity means that every piece of work submitted, and every answer given in an examination, is entirely the student's own. In the context of online mock examinations, this means:

- Working independently and without assistance from any other person during the examination.
- Not consulting unauthorised resources, websites, notes, or textbooks unless explicitly permitted by the subject teacher.
- Not communicating with peers, siblings, or any third party - verbally, by message, or through any platform - during the examination.
- Not using artificial intelligence tools, online solvers, or translation tools to produce or enhance answers.

- Ensuring the camera remains on throughout and that the student is seated alone in a quiet space for the duration of the session.

Why It Matters More Than Ever

For students in Years 11 and 13, these mock examinations carry real weight. They are a vital rehearsal for the Pearson Edexcel IGCSE/ GCSE and GCE/ IAL examinations ahead, and they give teachers the information they need to provide meaningful, targeted support in the weeks that follow. A result that does not reflect your child's own understanding ultimately does them a disservice - it masks the areas where they need guidance and denies them the opportunity to grow.

Beyond the academic impact, malpractice in any form has serious consequences. Should any breach of academic integrity be identified, the school will investigate and respond in accordance with our Examination Malpractice Policy, which may include formal reporting, grade cancellation, and, for Year 11 and Year 13 students, potential implications with examination boards.

Our School Values in Action

“The strength of your character is not measured by what you do when others are watching, but by the choices you make when no one is.”

Honesty • Integrity • Responsibility • Respect

How You Can Support Your Child

Your role as a parent or guardian is invaluable. We ask that you support your child in the following ways during the examination period:

- Have an open conversation with your child about the importance of honest work and the values that St Mary's stands for.
- Ensure that during examination time, your child is seated in a quiet, private space with no other people present.
- Please refrain from offering assistance or hovering nearby during the session, even with good intentions.
- Encourage your child to approach the examination with confidence in the preparation they have done, and to reach out to their teachers if they have concerns before the examination rather than during it.

A Note on AI & Online Tools

We are aware that artificial intelligence tools and online answer resources are widely accessible. Please be clear with your child that the use of any such tools during an examination constitutes malpractice. Schools and examination boards are increasingly able to identify AI-generated or sourced content, and the consequences are significant. Authentic effort is always the right path.

We are immensely proud of our students and the community we have built together at St Mary's. We trust that our Year 11 and Year 13 students will approach these examinations with the honesty and integrity that defines them - and that you, as their parents and guardians, will stand alongside us in reinforcing that message at home.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of your child's examination arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or our IT support team.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

