



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

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**مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية**

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OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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

**DISTANCE LEARNING FROM 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026.**

**Also attached is the circular issued on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from St. Mary's.** We trust that this update finds you all safe and well. Please be assured of our prayers and best wishes for every member of our Marian Family.

***Distance Learning will look a bit different this week due to the intensive training required for staff as one of the elements required for compliance towards reopening protocols.***

We would also like to say with all humility that our teachers are doing the best they can, sometimes under very challenging conditions. Your patience and understanding go a long way as we are also navigating the same uncertainties that you are. There is no Rule book for a situation like this and so with your feedback and our own review of current practices, we will make changes to improve as best we can. We would truly appreciate that parents understand this.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING -PHASE WISE**

### **Years 11 and 13:**

Students of Years 11 and 13 will be sent some work in Mathematics to work on to help them with the next phase of their educational journey. This work has to be turned into GC.

Morning registration will be **MANDATORY** for these year groups for attendance.

## **WHY ROUTINES ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS DURING TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY**

Children today often surprise us with their ability to be resilient. We do understand that in the current situation of conflict, they are also dealing with feelings of fear, confusion and uncertainty and therefore one powerful way to help children navigate this period is through the use of ROUTINES. Simple as they may seem, routines provide structure through activities that share key characteristics:

- They have a beginning and an end.
- They are usually performed in a specific way.
- They often follow a predictable sequence.

In the current times of uncertainty, a routine becomes something dependable for a child to count on. Routines serve the same purpose of predictability which becomes overarchingly important in times of conflict and confusion.

The education regulators have been wonderful in ensuring the continuity of learning while still ensuring the safety and security of students and school communities.

For this period of distance learning, we will also be following a set routine that all students in Years 1-10 and Year 12 are expected to follow.

- **School hours are from 7:10 am until 1:50 pm. Please find our lesson timings posted below. Students must be ready by 7:05 am.**
- **All students MUST be present for the morning Registration with their class teachers at 7:10 am sharp on all days and at 7:05 am on Fridays.**
- **The National Anthem will be played daily and there will be a morning prayer during registration.**
- **All students MUST be present for lessons in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM and in PE uniform on days that PE is time tabled.**
- **During distance learning, attendance will be taken at each lesson, and you will be informed via email if your child has missed certain lessons.**
- **Teachers will finish lessons 5-7 minutes earlier to give children a screen break and time to use the restroom.**
- **Please ensure that your child is fully ready with all that they need in terms of the technology as well as their writing materials and textbooks.**
- **In the case of double lessons, the teacher will give students a 5-7-minute break between both lessons as a screen break.**

## **What happens if there is an emergency alert during lessons?**

Firstly, we recommend that as far as it is possible, please try to keep the child's study space away from windows and door. If this is not possible, then you will have already instructed them to move away from doors and windows in the home to a safe space.

Not everyone receives an alert and so if this happens during lessons, teachers are asked to PAUSE, and use the pause to reassure and comfort students based on their age and to use various different approaches that might range from mindful breathing to other calming techniques or even singing a song together and then once the teacher feels that students are sufficiently calm, they will resume the lesson as appropriate.

## **Years ONE THROUGH FOUR**

Live Synchronous Lessons are applicable to students of these Year groups for **ALL SUBJECTS** except Class Time (Year 1), Library (Year 4), Guided Reading English, Guided Reading Arabic, PE, Music, Art, Values Ed., Citizenship and Activity.

During the morning registration, teachers will conduct Mindfulness and other simple activities for children.

Zoom links will be posted on a daily document and sent to you daily.

## **What has changed for week FIVE based on feedback from students, teachers and parents?**

- 1) Any lesson after break will be Asynchronous due to the Intensive medical and health and safety training to be undertaken by ALL staff in addition to running practice drills.
- 2) We have asked our teachers of Maths, English, Science and Arabic to send you short videos at the end of each day focusing on any key concepts that they have taught. These will be posted in your child's Google Classroom. This is to aid children who might have not been able to join live lessons or where working parents might need to review these.
- 3) When there is a double lesson for a particular subject on a given day, we will have a live lesson for the first lesson and then manageable work will be explained to the children for the second, so they do not have to be on the screen for a long time.

## **Years FIVE AND SIX**

Live Synchronous Lessons are applicable to students of these Year groups for ALL SUBJECTS except PE, Library, Music, Art, Values Education, Citizenship, and Activity.

*French and History for Years 5 and 6 -One synchronous and one asynchronous lesson.*

**What has changed for week five based on feedback from students, teachers and parents?**

1. Any lesson after break will be Asynchronous due to the Intensive medical and health and safety training to be undertaken by ALL staff in addition to running practice drills.
2. We have asked our teachers of Maths, English, Science and Arabic to send you teaching material in the form of short PPTs at the end of each day focusing on any key concepts that they have taught. These will be posted in your child's Google Classroom. This is to aid children who might have not been able to join live lessons or where working parents might need to review these.
3. When there is a double lesson for English Language or Arabic on a given day, we will have a live lesson for the first lesson and then manageable work will be explained to the children for the second, so they do not have to be on the screen for a long time.

## **Years SEVEN AND EIGHT**

Live Synchronous Lessons are applicable to students of these Year groups for ALL SUBJECTS except Art, PE, Library, French, Geography, History and Activity.

*One lesson of English Language/ Literature and Arabic will also be Asynchronous for Years 7 and 8.*

Zoom links will be posted in your child's subject GC.

*Any lesson after break will be Asynchronous due to the Intensive medical and health and safety training to be undertaken by ALL staff in addition to running practice drills.*

## **Years NINE AND TEN**

Live Synchronous Lessons are applicable to students of these Year groups for ALL SUBJECTS except PE and Library.

*One lesson of English Language and Arabic will also be Asynchronous for Years 9 and 10.*

Zoom links will be posted in your child's subject GC.

*Any lesson after break will be Asynchronous due to the Intensive medical and health and safety training to be undertaken by ALL staff in addition to running practice drills.*

## **Year TWELVE**

Live Synchronous Lessons are applicable to students of these Year groups for ALL SUBJECTS.

**Students sitting mock examinations will start at 7:30 AM and teachers will give them instructions. Other students will have Asynchronous lessons on Monday.**

**Live Synchronous lessons will take place as normal on other days.**

We are trying our best to consider students' wellbeing and not have extended screen time for younger children.

We appeal to parents to ensure that children are attending required lessons and that they are maintaining respectful standards of behaviour online.

It is extremely important to speak to your children right now about the value of sensitivity and empathy for others. This is particularly in relation to respecting teachers and fellow students at a time when everyone is navigating a period of uncertainty. We have had to deal with cases in the week before the Spring Break where students behaviour did not reflect our core Marian values and this is even more disappointing in the current situation.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL and LEARNING READINESS TO CONTINUE WITH DISTANCE LEARNING**

- 1) Please ensure that the latest version of ZOOM is installed on your child's laptop. Zoom will be used for ALL LIVE/SYNCHRONOUS LESSONS.
- 2) For Asynchronous lessons, work will be posted in Google Classroom.
- 3) Please ensure that your child has a fully working device with a fully working camera/webcam. The video MUST BE TURNED ON FOR ALL LESSONS. We will remove students whose videos are off. KINDLY ENSURE WORKING TECHNOLOGY. This is for reasons of safeguarding.
- 4) No filming/ photography of any part of a lesson or screen during a lesson or content of a lesson is permitted. Strict action will be taken in accordance with UAE cybercrime laws.
- 5) Parents are requested to check their email daily for important updates from the government and/or the school. We will communicate with you daily if your child has been absent or if your child has not been following the regulations in accordance with online learning.
- 6) **PARENTS MUST INFORM THE CLASS TEACHER VIA EMAIL ONLY, THE PREVIOUS NIGHT if your child is going to be absent the following day.** Please note that this has not been followed by MANY parents and it is a matter of child safeguarding that must be treated very seriously.

- 7) No eating or drinking during lessons. A virtual classroom must be respected in the same way that we respect an on-site classroom. Please talk to your children about this.
- 8) Please reach out to your child's class teacher via email if your child is struggling with anything in particular.
- 9) We strongly advise parents to refrain from exposing students to distressing news and social media which often have unverified and overly sensationalised material that causes more harm than good. Children cannot be treated in the same way as adults, and it is best to stick to familiar routines for them. This helps children feel safe both physically and emotionally.
- 10) Kindly inform your child's class teacher via email if you are currently out of the UAE.

We wish you all safety in your day-to-day routines as we navigate the current uncertainty.

Please be reassured of our prayers for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)

