



OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Friday, 17 April 2026.

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

## **WEEKLY CIRCULAR BEFORE WEEK 30**

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from Saint Mary's.** Please read on to find out important information that is relevant to your child and their year group. We send our prayers for each and every one from our Marian Family for your safety during these current times.

### **NEW UPDATES:**

- **DISTANCE LEARNING 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL to 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL:** Please check attachment.
- **UAE - Our Pride and Glory -Years 1-10:** Please check this important attachment.
- **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 12 (2026-2027):** Please check this important attachment.
- **YEAR 12 MOCK EXAMS:** Monday - Wednesday, as per timetable. Please check RULES AND REGULATIONS.
- **ONLINE PARENT SESSION BY DR. SINGHANIA - SCHOOLING TIPS FOR PARENTS** (Check the session link in this circular).
- **CANCELLATION YEAR 11 AND 13 BOARD EXAMS, UAE:** Circular sent on 15<sup>th</sup> April.
- **RE-REGISTRATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027:** Extended until 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026.
- **REMINDER: PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES.**
- **ADMISSIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027:** Please check all attachments/school website.

**WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE ANY OFFICIAL SCHOOL DOCUMENTS, EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS, REPORT CARDS, ETC. WHERE THERE ARE OUTSTANDING FEES. Please note: In cases of outstanding fees, RE-REGISTRATION MUST NOT BE PAID, even if paid, it is not considered as a re-registration but will be adjusted towards the outstanding fees. We urge parents to please be responsible and settle ALL OUTSTANDING fees without any further delay.**

**We have received many requests from parents in the current situation and in a spirit of empathy and appreciation of our parent community, we would like to share that we had extended the date for the re-registration for the next Academic Year 2026-2027 until the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2026. *Given the current situation, please remember to email the re-registration form and the Skiplly receipt of the re-registration to your child's class teacher.***

**1) UAE- OUR PRIDE AND GLORY (Years 1-10):** We at St. Mary's feel grateful everyday to call this beautiful land, Home. As a tribute to UAE, to our strong Leaders, to the sense of safety and security we feel living here and most importantly to the way we are made welcome, the school is organising an Art Showcase – “**UAE- Our Pride & Glory**”. All students from Years 1-10 will be taking part in this event on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026. This will be part of their Moral Education Assessment Portfolio. Please check the attached flyer.

**2) A-LEVEL APPLICATION TO YEAR 12: A link for admission form, as well as a letter regarding admissions, has been sent out with this circular. Please go through the circular carefully.**

**3) YEAR 12 MOCK EXAM TIMETABLE, RULES AND REGULATIONS & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY DOCUMENT:** Parents of Year 12 students who are sitting for Mock Examinations are requested to kindly check the Mock Exam Timetable and Rules and Regulations attached to this circular. Kindly also read the document on Academic Integrity.

[https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/SMCHS-ACADEMIC-INTEGRITY-LETTER-.pdf#new\\_tab](https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/SMCHS-ACADEMIC-INTEGRITY-LETTER-.pdf#new_tab)

#### **4) ONLINE PARENT SESSION BY DR. SINGHANIA -ONLINE SCHOOLING TIPS**

**FOR PARENTS:** We are pleased to share an upcoming online parent session by **Dr. Singhania from Singhania Clinic and Therapy Centre on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at 4:00 pm**. The session will offer practical, evidence-based strategies to support children during online learning, including creating effective home learning environments using visual schedules, supporting task initiation, managing screen fatigue, and incorporating movement and regulation breaks. It's a valuable opportunity to gain simple, actionable tools to make online learning more manageable at home, and we encourage all parents to join. Please find the link to the session here:

**TALK- Online schooling tips for parents**

**Saturday, April 18 · 4:00 – 5:00pm**

**Google Meet Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/yzt-bzct-jit>**

#### **5) URGENT PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES:**

At the heart of St. Mary's is our "Marian family", a community built on mutual support and a shared commitment to our children's future. As a not-for-profit institution, we rely almost exclusively on school fees to sustain our operations, pay our dedicated staff and maintain the learning environment that your child deserves. Our ethos has always been to ensure that no child's education is interrupted due to financial constraints in a particular academic year. However, the current significant amount in outstanding fees, in some cases both first and second term outstanding, has placed enormous pressure on our school. We, therefore, respectfully request all parents with outstanding fees to kindly settle these at the earliest to allow us to continue to provide a safe and good quality education as well as meet the new safety and security protocols to be compliant in order to re-open.

#### **6) GL EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, MATHS & SCIENCE YEARS 4-10:**

We are requesting parents of students in Years 4-10 to kindly check the separate circular on GL examinations. The timetable for these exams has also been included. **ALL STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT ON THE DAY OF A GL EXAM WITH A FULLY CHARGED DEVICE. Any absence will require a medical certificate to reschedule the exam, even if the absence is only for ONE DAY.**

[https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/GL-PROGRESS-TESTS-YEARS-4-to-10-2026.pdf#new\\_tab](https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/GL-PROGRESS-TESTS-YEARS-4-to-10-2026.pdf#new_tab)

## 7) RE-REGISTRATION FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027 – YEARS 1-

**10 AND YEAR 12:** We have attached an important circular regarding re-registering your child for the next Academic Year 2026-2027. It is important that you go through the circular carefully.

***Given the current situation, please email the re-registration form and the Skiplly receipt of the re-registration to your child's class teacher.***

[https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/RE-REGISTRATION-FOR-THE-ACADEMIC-YEAR-2026-2027.pdf#new\\_tab](https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/RE-REGISTRATION-FOR-THE-ACADEMIC-YEAR-2026-2027.pdf#new_tab)

## 8) NGRT FORM C EXAMINATIONS FOR YEARS 2-10:

Please note that Form C of the NGRT series will be conducted according to the schedule below. Parents have already paid for NGRT at the start of the year. **Any absence will require a medical certificate to reschedule the exam, even if the absence is only for ONE DAY.**

Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEARS 7 and 8	Bring in a fully charged device
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEARS 9 and 10	Bring in a fully charged device
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEARS 2 A and 2B	In the Computer Labs
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEAR 2C	In the Computer Labs
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEARS 2D and 2E	In the Computer Labs
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEARS 4 and 6	Bring in a fully charged device
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEARS 3A, 3B & 3C	In the Computer Labs
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEAR 3D	In the Computer Labs
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEAR 3E	In the Computer Labs
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEAR 5	Bring in a fully charged device
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	YEAR 3F	In the Computer Labs

## 9) ADMISSIONS TO YEAR ONE, YEAR TWO and YEARS THREE TO

**TEN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026- 2027:** We would like to inform all parents that

the admissions notices for the Academic Year 2026 – 2027 have been uploaded to the school website. Please go through them carefully.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/admission/>

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Admission-for-the-Academic-Year-2026-2027-Update.pdf>

## **10) FOURTH SUBJECT DROP (GCE / IAL SUBJECTS ONLY) – YEAR 12**

**STUDENTS:** We have been receiving subject drop forms signed by parents and these are being duly processed where required evidence of the requirement of only three subjects has been provided. Once a subject has been dropped it cannot later be re-taken due to a loss of curricular hours. Parents are therefore requested to carefully consider this decision There is no deadline for dropping the fourth subject.

**11) INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBERBULLYING:** Please see the link to the circular.

[https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CYBERBULLYING-BULLYING-SANCTIONS-AND-CONSEQUENCES-REMINDER-CIRCULAR.pdf#new\\_tab](https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CYBERBULLYING-BULLYING-SANCTIONS-AND-CONSEQUENCES-REMINDER-CIRCULAR.pdf#new_tab)

## **12) 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.

## **13) APPROVED KHDA CALENDAR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026:**

Parents are requested to check the approved KHDA School Calendar for the Academic Year 2025-2026 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 / bereavement 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.**

**14) 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 few 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.

**15) 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](mailto: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 thank the Government of the UAE for all its efforts in ensuring the safety of its citizens, residents and visitors. We commend the Leaders on their resilience and commitment to safety and security. Please rely only on official government sources for information and do not share any unverified information on social media or via any other means of communication.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)





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

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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)



# Frequently Asked Questions



We have put together a list of FAQs which we hope will be helpful. Please understand that the starting point for us is ALWAYS OUR CARE for the WELLBEING of our children. We care for them and we do understand your problems too.

We also trust that you are empathetic to our challenges.

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- 1 Why does my child have to wear a school uniform to attend lesson from home? **The requirement of a school uniform even for online lessons is to keep that sense of routine going for children at this time of uncertainty. It also creates a sense of equity among all students and is a big element of self-discipline**
- 
- 2 I have travelled, but I have not carried my child's uniform. What do my children wear in this case? **We understand the haste of travel under the current circumstances and so in this case we strongly recommend that boys wear a white T-shirt/ and navy blue or black trousers and girls wear a white T-shirt/ blouse and a navy blue or black skirt or trousers.**
- 
- 3 Will my child be marked absent if he/she has missed the registration but has attended all other live lessons? **We will be flexible where there is an occasional occurrence, but we do expect ALL children to attend the morning registration which is when we have the morning prayer and the playing of the National Anthem. This creates a meaningful routine for children.**
- 
- 4 We are sharing devices among children in my family and so my child might not be able to attend ALL live lessons. **We do understand that this conflict has thrown up sudden challenges that we might not have anticipated so, in this case, please send an email to your child's class teacher explaining the situation. Please send the email from your email ID and not your child's.**
- 
- 5 Why can't the school send a single zoom link for all lessons for younger children? **The main reason for this is SECURITY AND SAFETY of the virtual classroom for ALL students and staff. A single link cannot provide the added layer of security provided by separate links. Teachers are also different across various subjects.**
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- 6 Why can't my child join a zoom meeting with a parent ID or their personal ID?
- The main reason for this is **SECURITY AND SAFETY** of the virtual classroom for our learners and teachers. We are using a domain-based platform which is restricted to only SMG users. This ensures a robust and secure mode of delivery of remote lessons.
- 
- 7 Can I talk to my child's teacher when I see them in an online session ?
- This is not possible because the synchronous lessons are a space only for students and teachers. If you have any concerns, you can send an email to the class teacher or to the vice principal. Please do not approach or engage with any teachers during an online session.
- 
- 8 Why can't I access my child's school locker as they have left books there?
- KHDA** has currently mandated that the premises cannot be accessed by parents, students and even staff except critical staff required for operational purposes. While we understand that this can be distressing, might we suggest that children have their classmates share important material for the time being. Our teachers are also providing useful PPTs that might help to an extent.
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- 9 Why can't my child eat or drink during class?
- Firstly, we would recommend that your child keeps a glass or bottle of water nearby to stay hydrated. As far as eating is concerned, the virtual classroom is much like a normal classroom, and we maintain the same etiquette and discipline of a regular classroom. Children may eat during the break or in between lessons.
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- 10 My teacher scheduled a zoom lesson but then sent an Asynchronous task, any reason for this sudden change?
- Just like the families in our school communities, teachers too experience sudden issues like power outages or internet issues with loss of connectivity and therefore these sudden changes might sometimes occur.
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11 My child seems very stressed and fatigued. Is there someone I can reach out to?

**Your child's class teacher is always a good first point of contact because they know your child well. However, our school counsellors are ready to help.**

To contact our Primary counsellor please send an email to: [natasha.joseph-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:natasha.joseph-smchs@smgeducation.org)

To contact our secondary school counsellor, please send an email to: [samantha-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:samantha-smchs@smgeducation.org)

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12 Who can I reach out to for any other issue concerning the current distance learning or other important queries?

**For minor issues, you can send an email to your child's class teacher. But for any other larger issues, kindly email our Vice Principal on [lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org)**

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13 How can I manage my child's wellbeing at this time?

**Our teachers are keeping a close eye on the children and are concerned about them. We are doing some simple mindfulness and relaxation activities with primary children. We will also be sending you useful and practical wellbeing resources that you can use to keep your child happy and resilient during this challenging phase.**

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14 When will on-site lessons resume?

**While we cannot answer this question at this time, we are closely following all directives by KHDA and we will keep updating you with any changes in directives without any delay.**

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15 How will the teachers know if my child is learning?

**AFL – Assessment for Learning continues even in the current mode of delivery. For younger children, teachers use short quizzes or Kahoot-based quizzes, short verbal responses, tasks on Active Learn Platform to assess students' learning. For older students more structured tasks as well as shorter verbal responses give teachers key indication of what learning is taking place and what needs to be adjusted.**





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- 16 Will it be my choice to send my child back to school once we re-open? **We will have to wait for the education regulator's decision on this.**
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- 17 What options do I have if I am currently outside the UAE? **We are aware that some families have temporarily re-located due to the current situation. It is heartening to know that most flights are operating to destinations where our families hail from. We will also have to wait for regulator directives on this**
- 
- 18 How will schools prevent students from falling behind? **We are keeping parents updated when we notice a major shift in a child's overall attitude to learning. However, it becomes even more important at this time for parents to partner with us and monitor your child's academics more closely than you might usually do**
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- 19 What support is in place for working parents? **We have asked teachers of younger children to send you some short teaching videos next week that will help if both parents are working. We are also sending you daily updates if children are missing live sessions. Teachers will also be sending PPTs that you can use to review and some other information in bite-size chunks which will be simpler for children to work with.**
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- 20 Do I have to pay my child's re-registration fees now? **There is no change to the process of re-registration, in fact KHDA has already begun the process of next year's planning with schools in terms of calendars etc. Re-registration fees for next year must be paid as per our circular.**
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**LET US TEACH OUR CHILDREN THAT THE KEY VALUES AT THIS TIME ARE:  
RESPECT, INTEGRITY, RESILIENCE AND EMPATHY.**

**WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE CAN BE VERY CONFUSING TIMES FOR FAMILIES, BUT WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE UAE GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO ENSURE OUR SAFETY AND SECURITY.  
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RELY ONLY ON VERIFIED SOURCES FOR INFORMATION IN THESE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND BE SUPPORTIVE OF ONE ANOTHER.**

**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**



## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Tel. : +(971) 4 3370252

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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OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### To: **Parents of Students in Years 1 – 13 - RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS**

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. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and wider Marian Family remain our highest priority.

We understand that you will have questions regarding the news of schools re-opening and a return to in-person learning from 20th April. **The reopening of the school is subject to Inspection and approval from the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), and this is fully dependent on the school's readiness and compliance with new safety and security protocols in the light of the current circumstances.**

Before any school can reopen, there are a number of mandatory steps that must now be completed. All staff must be fully trained in the required procedures, and all safety measures must be fully established and tested across the campus. Once this training and procedural work is complete, the school must undergo a formal KHDA compliance inspection to confirm that all mandatory requirements have been met. This is the same mandate for all private schools in Dubai.

**Therefore, we are not yet able to confirm a reopening date for students.** The KHDA inspection can only be scheduled once all staff training has been successfully completed, and reopening is subject to the school successfully meeting all compliance requirements and receiving formal approval based on these factors. As such, the timeline for reopening remains dependent on the completion of these steps.

**This means that until further notice, we will be continuing with distance learning, and we shall update you tomorrow, as we do every Friday about what that will look like for next week. It might be slightly different next week as staff will be on-site as they need to undergo all the safety training with regard to the new protocols for re- opening.**

We ask that you continue to ensure that students are attending live lessons and completing assigned tasks, much of which are now revision tasks towards preparation for the Final Examinations. Most of the portions have been completed and revision tasks are being worked on. Please also continue to support your children in being consistent in their learning routines and exam preparation.

For any queries, please contact our Vice Principal via email: [L.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:L.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org)

We thank you for your remarkable appreciation, support and continued partnership during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)





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

presents

# 'UAE - Our Pride & Glory'

St. Mary's Catholic High School is excited to invite our young artists to participate in an **Art Showcase** as a special tribute to the UAE, this vibrant land that we all proudly call home.

Here's your chance to illustrate what inspires you most about the UAE. Her Unity, her Strength, her Resilience in the face of adversity, the way she welcomes us all and holds us close, the Humanity that you see all around you, from the tiniest acts of kindness to the meaningful displays of care. Unleash your creative side and show us what makes the UAE '**Home**' for you.

## **The categories & themes are as follows:**

Years 1 & 2 - My UAE, My Home

Years 3 & 4 - My Dream UAE (What would future UAE look like?)

Years 5 & 6 - UAE: A Tapestry of Cultures

Years 7 & 8 - From Sand Dunes to City Lights - The UAE Story

Years 9 & 10 - UAE: A Canvas of Hope and Tolerance



**The best artworks from each category will win certificates and exciting prizes!**

**Do carefully read all the instructions on the next page as well.**



## General Instructions:

- The event will take place on Monday, the **20<sup>th</sup> of April 2026** after break.
- There will be 3 winners in each category.
- **This will also be part of the Final Assessment for Moral Education and all students are required to take part in it.**
- An assignment will be created in the Google Classroom for all classes for this. Students must upload their artwork as instructed.
- All work must be students' own original creations.
- All entries must be on white A4 size paper.
- Artwork must be created using the mediums specified in the relevant category that the students belong to.
- Pencil sketches must be clear and visible.
- All student entries must adhere to the values, morals and ethics endorsed by our school and the United Arab Emirates.
- Any work with content that is defamatory, derogatory, or in any way inappropriate will be disqualified and will face appropriate consequences.
- Prohibited content includes, but is not limited to, political commentaries, religious symbols or images, any rainbow-based imagery that might be interpreted as representing specific social or political movements, themes or elements depicting violence and aggression etc.

## Students may use the following materials for their artwork.

### Years 1 & 2 - My UAE, My Home

### Years 3 & 4 - My Dream UAE (What would future UAE look like?)

- Crayons
- Pencils
- Markers

### Years 5 & 6 - UAE: A Tapestry of Cultures

### Years 7 & 8 - From Sand Dunes to City Lights - The UAE Story

### Years 9 & 10 - UAE: A Canvas of Hope and Tolerance

- Crayons
- Pencils
- Markers
- Paints



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## مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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موقع ويب : www.stmarysdubai.com

فاكس : ٣٣٦٨١١٩ ٤ ٩٧١ +

OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

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

### To: **Parents of Year Eleven Students applying for GCE A-Level Two Year Course (YEARS 12 AND 13)**

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School Dubai. We are writing to inform you that the A-LEVEL APPLICATION FORMS are available via the link attached. **The last day to submit these**

**forms online is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026.** PLEASE NOTE THAT NO FORM WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.

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

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 and a high-grade average in the same**
- **Admissions will be MERIT-BASED across ALL board subjects. This year this would take into account both First Term and Mock exams, owing to the current conflict circumstances.**
- **Holds 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**
- **Holds a minimum attendance record of 95%**
- **Be prepared for an entrance exam in the subject opted for that has not been taken at Year 11. The portion for the entrance exam is all content covered from Year 9 to Year 11.**

**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 GCSE/IGCSE. Hence the admission to A-Level is then a process of a 'NEW ADMISSION'.**

**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.

**Subjects offered are:**

- IAL -Accounting
- IAL- English Literature
- IAS-Computer Science- **(NEW -offered this year)**
- GCE Mathematics
- GCE Biology
- GCE Chemistry
- GCE Physics
- GCE Business
- GCE Economics
- GCE Psychology

**Mandatory Ministry Subjects are:**

- Arabic A- For Arabic A students
- Islamic B- for Muslims
- Islamic A- For Arab Muslims
- Moral Education A- For Arabic A students

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

Please consider all the criteria above while making your decision. 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 students should ensure that they have a back-up plan. This would include applying to other institutions besides St. Mary's.**

**The final deadline for the return of the A-LEVEL application forms is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Forms will not be accepted after this date neither will any calls be accepted for the same. Please respect this final deadline.**

**The list of students selected for interviews will be posted on the school website in June 2026 and so we advise you to check the school website at that time.**

**PLEASE USE THE LINK:**

**<https://smchs.ethdigitalcampus.com/RegistrationPortal?dbConnVar=SMCHS>**

Note: Parents first need to create an account (New User) and then proceed to the application form.

Thank you for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely



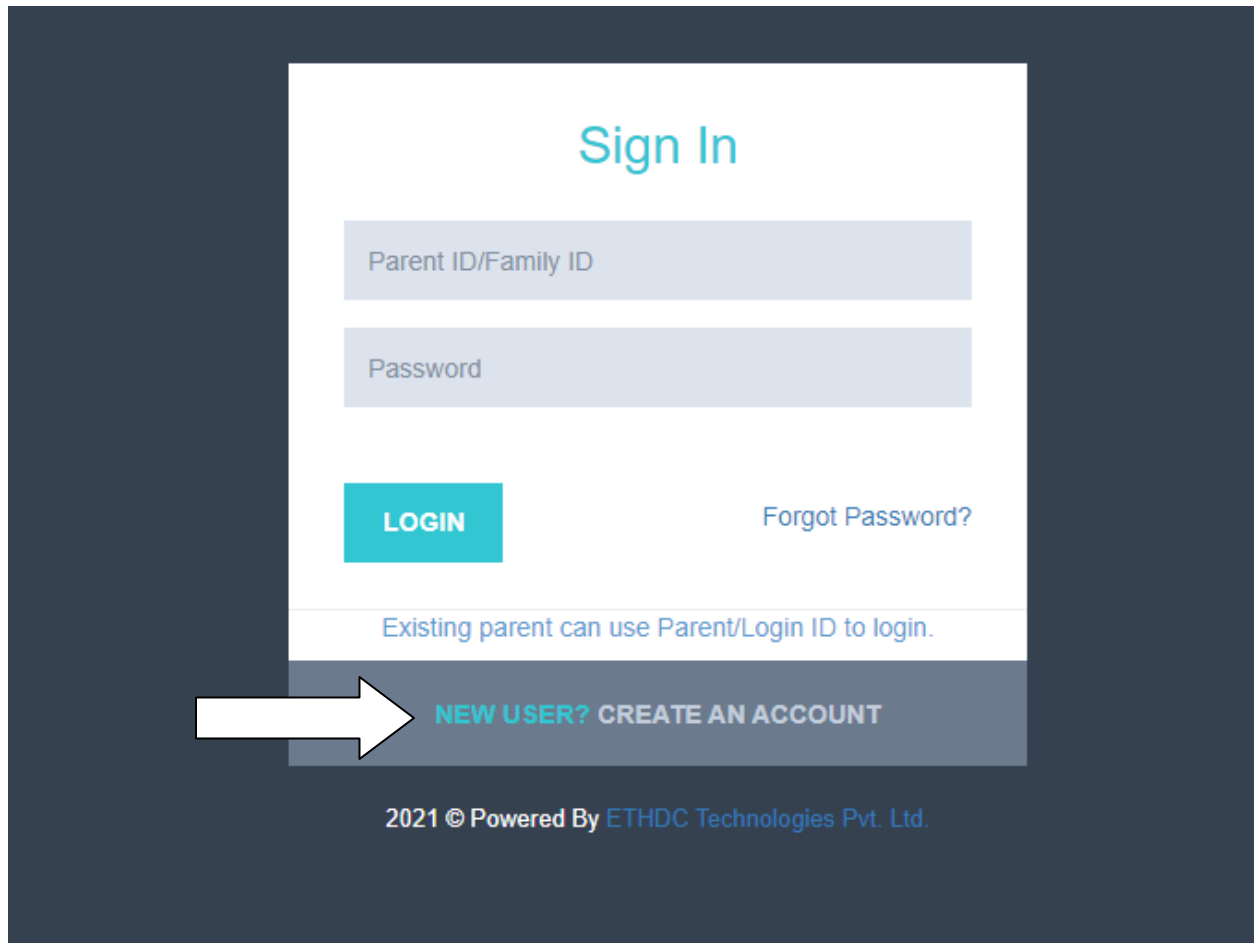
Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal )



Step 1: Click on the online admission URL mentioned below.

<https://smchs.ethdigitalcampus.com/RegistrationPortal?dbConnVar=SMCHS>

Step 2: Click on NEW USER? Create an account.

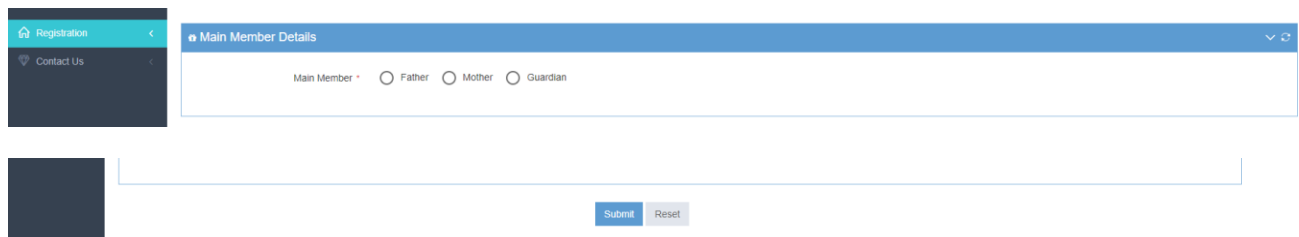


The screenshot shows a 'Sign In' form with the following elements:

- Header: Sign In
- Input fields: Parent ID/Family ID, Password
- Buttons: LOGIN (teal), Forgot Password? (blue)
- Text: Existing parent can use Parent/Login ID to login.
- Link: NEW USER? CREATE AN ACCOUNT (teal)
- Footer: 2021 © Powered By ETHDC Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

A white arrow points to the 'NEW USER? CREATE AN ACCOUNT' link.

Step 3: Fill in all the information and select submit.



The screenshot shows the 'Main Member Details' registration form with the following elements:

- Navigation: Registration, Contact Us
- Form Title: Main Member Details
- Form Content: Main Member \*  Father  Mother  Guardian
- Buttons: Submit, Reset

Step 4: You will receive an acknowledgment email with your login details.

## Registration Details [Trash x](#)

**noreply1-smchs@smgeducation.org**

to ▾

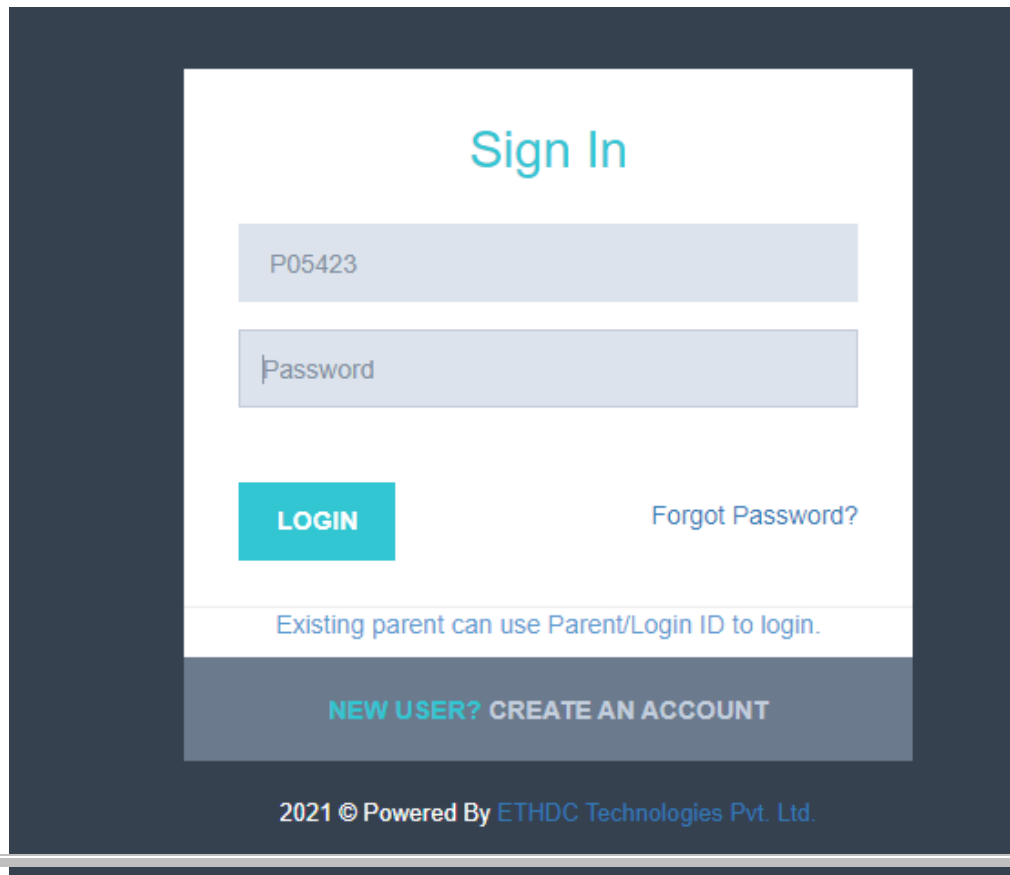
Dear ,

Welcome. Your Login Id is                      and password

Note : please do not reply to this auto generated email.

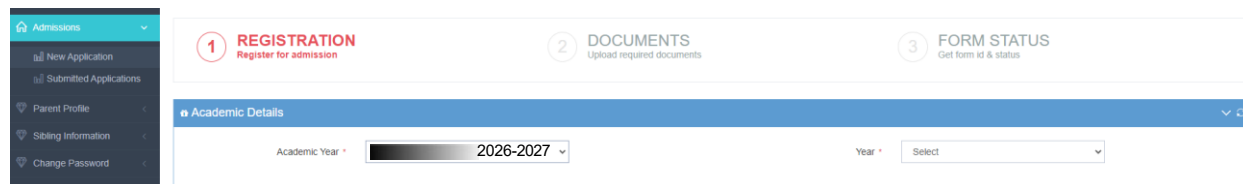
Regards,  
St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai  
Registration Team

Step 5: Login with the Login ID and password.



The screenshot shows a 'Sign In' page with a dark blue background. At the top, the text 'Sign In' is displayed in a light blue font. Below this, there are two input fields: the first contains the text 'P05423' and the second contains the text 'Password'. Below the input fields, there is a teal 'LOGIN' button and a link for 'Forgot Password?'. A horizontal line separates the login section from a footer section. The footer section contains the text 'Existing parent can use Parent/Login ID to login.' and a dark blue button with the text 'NEW USER? CREATE AN ACCOUNT'. At the very bottom, there is a copyright notice: '2021 © Powered By ETHDC Technologies Pvt. Ltd.'

Step 6: Select the academic Year **2026-2027**. Fill in all fields, attach all the Mandatory documents / required files.



The screenshot displays a web interface for online registration. At the top, there are three numbered steps: 1. REGISTRATION (Register for admission), 2. DOCUMENTS (Upload required documents), and 3. FORM STATUS (Get form ID & status). Below this, the 'Academic Details' section is expanded, showing a dropdown menu for 'Academic Year' set to '2026-2027' and another dropdown for 'Year' set to 'Select'.

Step 7: You will receive an acknowledgment Email once you have submitted the application.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ONLINE REGISTRATION ➤

**noreply1-smchs@smgeducation.org**

to ▼

Dear Parent,

Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High school, Dubai!

Thank you for applying. Your application form has been submitted successfully.

Application form

Kindly check the school website [www.stmarysdubai.com](http://www.stmarysdubai.com) for further updates .

Regards,

Paul Asir Joseph,

The Principal,

St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai.

**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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www.stmarysdubai.com : موقع ويب

فاكس : ٣٣٦٨١١٩ ٤ ٩٧١ +

OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

DATE: Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**To : Parents of Year Eleven Students**

**ADMISSION TO TWO YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME -  
UPDATED 15TH April 2026.**

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 YEAR 11. Hence the admission to A-Level is then a process of a 'NEW ADMISSION'.**

**YEAR 11 students must not re-register for the next Academic year when re-registration 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 ACROSS ALL GCSE SUBJECTS (This year, this would take into account both First Term and Mock exams owing to the current conflict circumstances).**
- 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 in 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)





## **MOCK EXAMINATION RULES AND REGULATIONS YEAR 12 - APRIL 2026**

**(To be read in conjunction with the school's document on ACADEMIC INTEGRITY)**

- 1) ALL CANDIDATES MUST REPORT ONLINE IN FULL AND COMPLETE SCHOOL UNIFORM (NO SPORTS UNIFORMS) AT 7:30 AM SHARP. No extra time for later comers.
- 2) Please ensure that you have joined the special Google Classroom for Mock Examinations.
- 3) Laptops must be in full and proper working condition, webcams must be fully working, and Internet connection MUST be stable.
- 4) The webcam MUST be SWITCHED ON throughout the duration of the exam and during the answer script submission phase as well. **WEBCAMS MUST BE PLACED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE STUDENT'S FACE AND WRITING SPACE ARE VISIBLE DURING THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE EXAMINATION.** Examination invigilators will let students know when it is ok to switch off.
- 5) All examinations must be answered only on **RULED A4 SIZE PAPER.** Students MUST write only on ONE side of the sheet and when over, take a second sheet and so on. Please note that blank sheets or any size other than A4 will not be accepted. Please ensure that you have enough stock of A4 sized refill pads well in advance of your examinations. Please do not say midway through an exam that you have run out as this will not be accepted.
- 6) A Cam scanner MUST be used to scan the sheets which should be numbered 10f, 2 of etc. and **scanned and uploaded as ONE SINGLE PDF document.** **Scanned documents must not be dark or correction won't be possible.** **ALL PAGES MUST BE SCANNED IN THE FINAL PDF DOCUMENT BEING UPLOADED TO THE MOCK GC.**

- 7) **NO WRIST WATCHES ALLOWED AT ALL !!!** (This includes both smart watches and regular digital / analogue wrist watches as well ). NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY SORT except the laptop you are using to answer your exam. (Except a calculator ) Any Bluetooth device found with a student during an exam will be considered as malpractice and will lead to disqualification.
- 8) Calculators **MUST NOT HAVE COVERS.**
- 9) Only **BLACK BALL POINT PENS** must be used. Please ensure that you have AMPLE supply.
- 10) Students must ensure that they have ample supply of their own stationery to include Black ballpoint pens, pencils ( only for drawing ), erasers, geometry equipment to include 30 cm rulers, calculators ( without covers ) .
- 11) Cancellations of rough work or wrong answers must be made by cutting across them neatly with a **single line.**
- 12) The following are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**: Correcting pens, correcting fluid or tape, erasable pens or blotting paper, highlighters or gel pens.
- 13) Students must not communicate in any way with, ask for help from any other person in their homes, neither MUST they use or consult any other device/ books/ notes/ academic material nor use ANY FORM OF AI while answering examinations.
- 14) Students should raise their hands to attract an invigilator's attention.
- 15) Water bottles must be transparent without any labels on it. Please remove the brand label if you are using commercial water bottles.
- 16) Please note that any form of malpractice during the exams will lead to disqualification and a ZERO in that exam.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE COMPARING EACH STUDENTS MOCK EXAM OUTCOMES WITH HIS/HER ATTAINMENT TRENDS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS. Any significant deviations will be treated with the utmost seriousness.

- 17) Students must be in proper school uniform. If you wish to wear a pullover / jacket , please note that only the SCHOOL HOODIE or THE SCHOOL BRANDED VARSITY JACKET is allowed. However, during an exam, hoodies must not cover the ears or head.
- 18) Students must not write any inappropriate , obscene or offensive material on paper.
- 19) **ANY MALPRACTICE OF ANY KIND WILL LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION.**
- 20) **NO MESSAGES ABOUT OR CONCERNING MOCK EXAMINATIONS either with regard to ANSWER DISCUSSIONS/ CONTENT** are to be posted in any student private WhatsApp groups as this information could later be used by others against a particular student or group of students.
- 21) Any absence, even for one day, will require a **MEDICAL CERTIFICATE** to reschedule the examination. The school will require flexibility with regard to rescheduling missed examinations given the current situation.





OUR REF : .....

TRN : 10415399800003

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**To: Parents of Students in Years 11 and 13 –  
CANCELLATION OF PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAMINATIONS IN  
UAE - LATEST UPDATE**

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from St. Mary's.** Greetings from St. Mary's. Firstly, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your patience and support regarding the impact of the current situation on the students' examinations. We also understand that like us, you too are completely focused on your child's safety as a top priority, and we are certain that these decisions are solely made keeping their safety as the singular focal point.

Our awarding examination board, Pearson Edexcel have announced that all examinations scheduled for Summer 2026 will not take place in-person in the UAE.

At this time, we want to reassure you that school leaders are well experienced in dealing with emerging situations of this kind and we have well-established policies and procedures in place to ensure that we can provide the necessary evidence that may be required by the awarding examination board.

**PEARSON EDEXCEL IGCSE EXAMINATIONS -Applicable to Year 11 students**

At SMCHS, we offer the current suite of Pearson Edexcel IGCSE subjects: Arabic A, Accounting, Computer Science, Economics, ICT, History and Religious Studies.

The centre (our school) has been asked to submit a portfolio of assessment evidence for each student for each paper. This evidence **MUST** cover the breadth of the content for that component.

This portfolio of evidence will be graded by a Pearson Examiner.

## **PEARSON EDEXCEL GCSE EXAMINATIONS -Applicable to Year 11 students**

At SMCHS, we offer the current suite of Pearson Edexcel GCSE subjects: Biology, Business, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology.

Ofqual has confirmed that regulated qualifications must be based on reliable evidence to secure their comparability with qualifications taken in England and around the world. This means that awarding bodies cannot accept alternative forms of evidence, such as teacher judgement or mock exams.

Pearson Edexcel is committed to ensuring that students have a route to certification. Therefore, for regulated qualifications (in this case GCSE suite of subjects), a student who already has a summer 2026 exam entry will be provided an exceptional route to certification through a Pearson **INTERNATIONAL GCSE** equivalent for this summer series.

The centre (our school) has been asked to submit a portfolio of assessment evidence for each student for each paper. This evidence **MUST** cover the breadth of the content for that component.

This portfolio of evidence will be graded by a Pearson Examiner.

This route is entirely optional for students, and they can of course choose to withdraw from the current series and defer to the June 2027 series.

**ONLY THOSE STUDENTS WHO WISH TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CURRENT JUNE 2026 SERIES, MUST send an email (STRICTLY FROM THE PARENT via the PARENT EMAIL ID)** to Ms. Vichitra Gabriella on:

[vichitra.gabriella-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:vichitra.gabriella-smchs@smgeducation.org) to confirm your child's withdrawal from the June 2026 series no later than 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**Parents of those students who wish to certificate this year itself through the Pearson International GCSE certification route, need not send in an email.**

For qualifications that include NEA which in our case is the GCSE Art and Design qualification, completed assessments will be used in calculating an overall grade.

## **Important information about International qualifications and progression**

International GCSEs are not regulated by Ofqual. Certificates awarded will clearly show that the qualification is an International one and will not display the Ofqual logo.

### **PEARSON EDEXCEL IAL EXAMINATIONS -Applicable to Year 13 students**

At SMCHS, we offer the current suite of Pearson Edexcel IAL subjects: Accounting and English Literature.

The centre (our school) has been asked to submit a portfolio of assessment evidence for each student for each paper. This evidence **MUST** cover the breadth of the content for that component.

This portfolio of evidence will be graded by a Pearson Examiner.

### **PEARSON EDEXCEL GCE EXAMINATIONS -Applicable to Year 13 students**

At SMCHS, we offer the current suite of Pearson Edexcel GCE subjects: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology.

Ofqual has confirmed that regulated qualifications must be based on reliable evidence to secure their comparability with qualifications taken in England and around the world. This means that awarding bodies cannot accept alternative forms of evidence, such as teacher judgement or mock exams.

Pearson Edexcel is committed to ensuring that students have a route to certification. Therefore, for regulated qualifications (in this case GCE suite of subjects), a student who already has a summer 2026 exam entry will be provided an exceptional route to certification through a Pearson **INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL** equivalent for this summer series.

The centre (our school) has been asked to submit a portfolio of assessment evidence for each student for each paper. This evidence **MUST** cover the breadth of the content for that component.

This portfolio of evidence will be graded by a Pearson Examiner.

This route is entirely optional for students, and they can of course choose to withdraw from the current series and defer to the June 2027 series.

**ONLY THOSE STUDENTS WHO WISH TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CURRENT JUNE 2026 SERIES, MUST send an email (STRICTLY FROM THE PARENT via the PARENT EMAIL ID) to Ms. Vichitra Gabriella on:**

[vichitra.gabriella-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:vichitra.gabriella-smchs@smgeducation.org) to confirm your child's withdrawal from the June 2026 series no later than 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**Parents of those students who wish to certificate this year itself through the Pearson International GCSE certification route, need not send in an email.**

### **Important information about international qualifications and progression**

International A-Levels are not regulated by Ofqual. Certificates awarded will clearly show that the qualification is an International one and will not display the Ofqual logo.

Students holding university offers that require a GCE A-Level must check directly with their higher education institution (s) that an International A-level is acceptable to make sure that any offers they hold are still valid. Pearson International qualifications are widely recognised globally, and they are working with UCAS to ensure UK universities are aware of the arrangements in place.

## **FAQ'S**

### **1) What is the portfolio of evidence that will be sent?**

The centre (our school) has been asked to submit a portfolio of assessment evidence for each student for each paper. This evidence MUST cover the breadth of the content for that component. In our case this would be the MOCK EXAMINATION. If Pearson Edexcel, asks for any further evidence, we will furnish it.

### **2) What is the difference between an International Qualification (IGCSE and IAL) as compared with a Regulated Qualification (GCSE and GCE)?**

International qualifications are not regulated by Ofqual. Certificates awarded will clearly show that the qualification is an International one and will not display the Ofqual logo.

### **3) Will the International Certification Route (IGCSE) impact my progression to the two-year stand-alone GCE programme at St. Marys?**

St. Mary's understands the current circumstances. This certification route will not impact the admission criteria. Please see our admission's to A-Level circular attached to this communication.

**4) If I choose to defer to the June 2027 examination series, will that impact my progression to the two-year stand-alone GCE programme at St. Mary's?**

Students who choose to defer to the June 2027 examination series, will essentially be taking a gap year and MUST NOT APPLY to the 2026-2027 intake for the two-year stand-alone GCE programme at St. Mary's.

**5) Will the International Certification Route (IAL) impact my progression to university courses?**

Students holding university offers that require a GCE A-Level must check directly with their higher education institution (s) that an International A-level is acceptable to make sure that any offers they hold are still valid. Pearson International qualifications are widely recognised globally, and they are working with UCAS to ensure UK universities are aware of the arrangements in place.

**6) Will exam boards change their minds if the conflict stops?**

Examination boards have confirmed cancellations, and this decision will not be reversed.

**7) Will there be refunds?**

Refunds will only be applicable to those students who are withdrawing from the June 2026 series. Students who are certificating in this June 2026 series, are not eligible for any refund.

Please rest assured that we are managing this situation diligently and with care and consideration for our students.

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)



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

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OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

DATE: Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**To : Parents of Year Eleven Students**

**ADMISSION TO TWO YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME -  
UPDATED 15TH April 2026.**

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 YEAR 11. Hence the admission to A-Level is then a process of a 'NEW ADMISSION'.**

**YEAR 11 students must not re-register for the next Academic year when re-registration 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 ACROSS ALL GCSE SUBJECTS (This year, this would take into account both First Term and Mock exams owing to the current conflict circumstances).**
- 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 in 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)

