



OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

Friday, 25 September 2026

To: The Parents of Students in Years 1-13
WEEKLY CIRCULAR BEFORE WEEK FIVE

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families well. It has been nice to see that most children have now settled back into their routines, and we are grateful for your collaboration and support.

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all those parents who are supporting us in ensuring that the children are in school by 7:05 am. This has improved considerably over the last two days and we are grateful. We are still requesting a few more parents to please help us in getting the kids to school on time. Today, 10 students who were late actually live at a walking distance from school. If they could wake up 20 minutes earlier, we are certain this would make all the difference.

While we try to keep our weekly circular as informative as possible, please note that when we receive a parent guide or an education charter or any other documentation from any government source but not limited to MOE, KHDA, DHA, Dubai Municipality, we are legally obligated to share those documents with all stakeholders. So please note that when parents sometimes refer to our weekly circulars as 90-page circulars, we would be grateful if you keep in mind that we are required to fulfil these compliance obligations.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF ON ACHIEVING EXCELLENT RESULTS IN PISA 2025!

We have shared a slice of this proud achievement for you to go through. Please check attached document.

NEW

- **PREFECT INVESTITURE CEREMONY:** Postponed to Friday, 2nd October in compliance with current mourning period in UAE.
- **OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR:** For ALL Parents and Students.
- **GL CAT-4 EXAMINATIONS:** Parents of students in Years 4, 6, 8 and 10.
- **GRADUATION CEREMONY, 6th NOVEMBER 2026:** Parents of present Year 12 students. Please see attached Notice.
- **YEAR ONE EDUCATIONAL OUTING (OPTIONAL):** Parents of Year One Students.
- **BUILDING OUR FUTURE STARS COMMENCES THIS EVENING:** Parents of registered students would have received a letter.
- **PISA 2025 RESULTS:** Celebrating a proud achievement with you all!
- **IBT ARABIC INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS:** Parents of Arabic A students in Years 5 - 10 and Parents of Arabic B students in Years 5, 7 and 9.

COMPETITIONS / CONTESTS & WORKSHOPS

- **EMIRATES LITFEST -ENBD POETRY FOR ALL 2027:** Please see attached flyer
- **EMIRATES LITFEST-CHEVROM READERS CUP 2026:** Please see attached flyer
- **IF AI COULD DRAW MY UAE:** Please see attached flyer.
- **LITFEST COMPETITIONS:** Parents of ALL STUDENTS.
- **GEMA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPEAKER COMPETITION -PARENTS OF ALL STUDENTS.**
- **FUTURE DOCTORS MONTH:** Please see attached flyer.
- **INSPIRIT AI :** Please see attached flyer.

An urgent appeal to all parents and students: Students must not use the Church gates for entry and exit to and from school.

- Only Gate 4 and 5 must be used by school students. These gates are manned and monitored by school appointed security who are responsible for the safety of our students.
- The church gate is not manned by school security or school staff and therefore they cannot be responsible for our school students.
- Even students who make a morning church visit, must exit the church gate and enter the school only through GATE 4.
- It is important to prevent students who are not STS users from cutting across the bus waiting area for their own safety. This will significantly minimize crowding in the bus holding areas and thereby raise safety levels for all students and staff.

IMPORTANT: Please note that NO STUDENT is permitted to change out of their school uniform before exiting the school at home time.

INFORMATION FROM THE CLINIC:

Parents, please find below the link to flyer related to important **DHA information** on the **FLU VACCINE**. <https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/FLU-VACCINE.pdf>

DENTAL CHECK UP, 5TH AND 6TH OCTOBER, YEARS 2, 3, and 4 :

Drs. Nicolas and ASP Centre will be conducting a complimentary Dental Screening and Topical Fluoride application for students in Years 2, 3, and 4 only, at Saint Mary's Catholic High School only on 5th and 6th October 2026. The procedures will be carried out by DHA- licensed dentists following strict Dubai Health Authority Infection Control Guidelines, using sterile instruments for each child.

Parents who do NOT wish for their child to take part in the Dental Screening are kindly requested to PRINT, SIGN and RETURN the OPT-OUT-FORM attached to this circular.

For the Fluoride Application, please also print and sign the consent form which will be shared by the Class Teacher in the class group email. **Kindly note that if consent for the Fluoride Application is not received, it will be considered as a refusal. The last and final day to submit both forms is 1st October 2026.** Forms must be submitted in hardcopy form and not sent via email to the class teachers.

Please note that our school office is closed on the first and third Saturdays of every month and the Administrative Staff work on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. If the office needs to be closed on a second or fourth Saturday, it will be posted on the website on the preceding Friday.

NEW ADMISSIONS WHOSE TC's have not been submitted and/or KHDA REGISTRATION IS INCOMPLETE MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL UNTIL THE SAME HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THIS IS A MANDATORY GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENT. Please do not send children to school until and unless the KHDA registration has been completed.

Students who have outstanding fees of the previous year MUST NOT be sent to school as they have not been re-registered for this year 2026-2027. They can only be re-admitted once ALL outstanding dues have been cleared.

SCHOOL TIMINGS AND DROP OFF AND PICK UP: Please access this important information via the following link:

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

1) FIRST TERM EXAM TIMETABLE:

Please find the Timetables for the First Term Exams on the school website. The link can be found here:

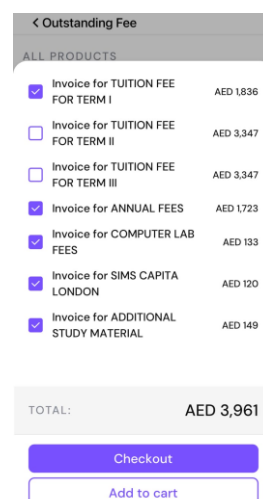
<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/examinations/>

2) CLARIFICATION OF FEE COMPONENTS REFLECTED IN SKIPLY:

We would like to clarify those fee components with the applicable portion that form part of the Term 1 installment in the Skiplly App.

- **Annual Fees**
- **Textbook Fees**
- **Laboratory Fees**
- **SIMS Capita London Fees**
- **Additional Study Material Fees**

For ease of reference, a screenshot from the Skiplly platform showing the fee structure can be found here.



< Outstanding Fee	
ALL PRODUCTS	
☒ Invoice for TUITION FEE FOR TERM I	AED 1,836
☐ Invoice for TUITION FEE FOR TERM II	AED 3,347
☐ Invoice for TUITION FEE FOR TERM III	AED 3,347
☒ Invoice for ANNUAL FEES	AED 1,723
☒ Invoice for COMPUTER LAB FEES	AED 133
☒ Invoice for SIMS CAPITA LONDON	AED 120
☒ Invoice for ADDITIONAL STUDY MATERIAL	AED 149
TOTAL: AED 3,961	
Checkout	
Add to cart	

3) GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR CURRENT YEAR 12 STUDENTS ON 06 NOVEMBER 2026:

Parents of current Year 12 students are requested to kindly save the date. Please see the attached flyer notice for further information.

4) YEAR ONE EDUCATIONAL OUTING (OPTIONAL):

Parents of Year One students are requested to check the class group email for circulars on an Educational Outing with consent forms. Please follow the steps for payment in the circular. Please note that the payment is being made to the Skiply account of Scravel and not the school.

5) IBT ARABIC A and IBT ARABIC B INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS:

- Parents of Arabic A students from Years 5-10 are requested to kindly read the separate circular attached to this weekly circular.
- Parents of Arabic B students from Years 5, 7 and 9 are requested to kindly read the separate circular attached to this weekly circular.

6) GL CAT-4 EXAMINATIONS YEARS 4,6 8 AND 10:

Parents of students in Years Four, Six, Eight and Ten are requested to kindly check the link:

https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/GL-CAT4-EXAM-LETTER-1.pdf#new_tab

regarding the GL CAT4 examination. Please email the Skiply 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.

Please find the schedule below.

THURSDAY, 1st October	GL CAT-4 EXAMS-YEAR 4
MONDAY, 5th October	GL CAT-4 EXAMS-YEAR 8
THURSDAY, 8th OCTOBER	GL CAT-4 EXAMS-YEAR 6
MONDAY, 19th OCTOBER	GL CAT-4 EXAMS-YEAR 10

7) FOURTH SUBJECT DROP (GCE/IAL SUBJECTS ONLY)–YEAR 12 STUDENTS :

We have attached the subject drop forms. These will be 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.

8) 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 today. Payment for London Board Exams must be made through Skiply. Please send the forms with the relevant documents (mentioned on the form) and the printed Skiply receipt. Please avoid waiting for the final deadline and kindly send these as soon as you are able to. The final deadline is 5th November 2026.

9) SIMS PARENT APP - Important Reminder:

SIMS Parent App registration invitations have now been sent to all new and pending parents. Parents are requested to complete the registration, where applicable, and ensure that they can access the SIMS Parent App without any issues. The app is used to view student attendance and is also the exclusive platform for publishing examination reports. If you have forgotten your username or password, or are experiencing any other sign-in issue, please contact the school IT Support Team and have the issue resolved by 31 October 2026. The First Term Examinations are scheduled from 16 November 2026. Please do not wait until examination results are published, as unresolved login or password issues may prevent you from accessing the report when needed.

10) FIRST TERM EXAM PORTIONS:

Please find the portions for the First Term exams on the school website. The link can be found here: <https://www.stmarysdubai.com/examinations/>

11) YEAR 12 and 13 BUSINESS STUDIES EXTRA CLASSES RESCHEDULED:

Parents are requested to please note that owing to a competition at Curtin University involving several of these students, their extra classes that were originally scheduled for 26 September have been re-scheduled to another day.

12) APPROVED CALCULATORS FOR THE A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME AND GCE EXAMS (Parents of all A-Level students):

Parents of A-Level students are requested to kindly read the separate circular link as below.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/CALCULATOR-CIRCULAR-TO-GCE-STUDENTS-AND-PARENTS.pdf>

13) E-WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE:

As part of our commitment to promoting sustainable practices, our school will be organising an E-Waste collection drive. We encourage students and families to contribute unwanted electronic items to be disposed in the electronic bin waste kept in our school premises. This initiative will also help our students to understand the importance of caring for our environment and how our small practices can make a huge difference.

Our collection begins from 15th September. The E-waste bin will be kept near the Gate # 4 and Gate # 5 for easy access of students and parents for disposal.

What can be donated?

Old or unused electronic items such as mobile phones, chargers, cables, keyboards, computer accessories, batteries and other small electronic devices may be donated.

14) MICROSOFT 365 :

Students have access to Microsoft 365 for educational purposes, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint online, with licensed desktop applications available for personal devices.

Students may also use Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Microsoft Access on one personal device at home. Please note that school files and data cannot be accessed from home. The school Microsoft 365 account may also be used to sign in to computers in the school laboratories. Students will receive their credentials by 15th September 2026.

15) MOBILE PHONE LETTER AND MOBILE PHONE POLICY:

Parents of ALL students are requested to kindly read the attached letter and please access the Mobile Phone Policy using the link here. <https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Mobile-Phone-Policy-2026-2027.pdf>

16) SCHOOL LETTER FOR RTA NOL CARD:

Please note that parents wishing to avail the school letter for the RTA NOL card are requested to kindly send an email to Ms. Shirley on maryscol@emirates.net.ae The email subject should clearly state RTA NOL CARD LETTER and the email must reflect the child's full name and year group and section. **Example:** Mike Treece, YEAR 8F.

17) SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS:

Please note that parents wishing to avail school transcripts must send an email to Ms. Shirley on maryscol@emirates.net.ae. The email subject should clearly state SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS and the email must reflect the child's full name and year group and section.

Example: Mike Treece, YEAR 8F.

Please note that school transcripts require a minimum of two working weeks. Please keep this timeline in mind when you make a request.

18) POST-RESULT SERVICES:

- **FOR YEAR 13 OF THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR:** Please note that a separate circular was sent to the SIMS Parent App as well as circulated among student groups. Please be informed that the last day to request an EAR/Re-evaluation was **30 August 2026**.
- **FOR YEAR 12 OF THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR FOR ACCOUNTING AND LITERATURE (CONTINGENCY ROUTE):** Please be informed that the last day to request an EAR/Re-evaluation was **30 August 2026**.
- **FOR YEAR 11 OF THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR:** Please be informed that the last day to request an EAR/Re-evaluation is **15 September 2026**.

19) 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. Please use this link to access the policy: <https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Predicted-Grades-Policy-for-A-Level-Students-2026-2027.pdf>

20) SUBJECT CHANGE POLICY, YEARS 9 TO 13:

We would like to request all parents of children in these year groups to please go through the Subject Change Policy which is available in the Parents' Info section of the school website. Please use the following link to access the policy: <https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Subject-Change-Policy-Updated-2026-2027-1.pdf>

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) PARENTS TAKING PICTURES AND VIDEOS ON SCHOOL PREMISES:

All Parents are reminded that taking pictures and videos of children on the premises is a strict violation of Child Protection Policies. We understand that as parents it is exciting to capture memories, but when other children are involved, it goes against all Child Protection Policies. We will do our best to send you all memories of various activities captured in school.

23) GATE ACCESS TO THE PREMISES:

Parents are requested to **kindly not use the church gates to access our premises for drop off and pick up.** GATE 4 and GATE 5 are the school gates to be accessed.

24) STUDENT SCHOOL EMAIL ID:

Your child's school email will be a focal point for our communication to you. **We will use a parent's email only to communicate outstanding fee or disciplinary issues.** The **CLASS**

GROUP EMAIL 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. Please note that if there is something urgent then we might have to send a notification even after 6:00 PM, but we will keep this only for exigency situations.

25) SCHOOL FEE INFORMATION:

Please find the link to the school fee circular here.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/admission/khda-approved-fee/>

26) APPROVED KHDA CALENDAR AND ATTENDANCE:

Please find the link to the circular on the approved KHDA calendar here.

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/term-dates/>

27) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES:

We would like you to be informed well in advance that **PEARSON EDEXCEL LONDON BOARD EXAMINATION FEES** will be collected in the month of NOVEMBER 2026 for students in Years ELEVEN and THIRTEEN. We trust that this will help you to budget accordingly. You can check your KHDA Parent-School Contract for the BOARD EXAM FEE AMOUNT for each year group.

28) SCHOOL SNACK BOXES -FOODS THAT ARE PROHIBITED BY DUBAI MUNICIPALITY AND EDUCATION REGULATORS:

Parents are requested to kindly make a careful note of the following banned foods that must not on any account be sent to school. These are the main categories of course. However, we always recommend sending a balanced and healthy snack with children. Please also send sufficient water with your child. Please note that water dispensers are available on the premises, but children should have AED 1/- coins for this purpose.

- **Processed meats (hotdogs, sausages, nuggets etc.)**
- **Instant Noodles (e.g. Indomie, Buldak, Koka etc)**
- **Hazelnut /Chocolaté Spread**
- **Chocolate Bars**
- **Sugary/Fizzy Drinks**
- **Any sort of Candy**
- **Deep-fried potato chips or crisps**

29) UNIFORM INFRACTIONS:

Parents are hereby notified that we have been very disappointed with the large number of uniform infractions, especially among senior boys. ***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. Your collaboration will be greatly appreciated to this end. Parents are requested to please check on your children before they leave home in the morning. Please refer to the uniform policy. Kindly access the policy using the link here:

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Uniform-Policy-2025-2026.pdf>

Please help us to ensure that the children wear their uniform neatly and have an overall dignified comportment.

30) 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 absences will be marked as unjustified and will be reflected on students' progress reports.

31) PARENTS' WHATSAPP GROUPS:

Parents and carers are requested to kindly access the information using the following link

<https://www.stmarysdubai.com/parents-whatsapp-group/>

32) 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 weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)





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

PISA 2025 SCHOOL REPORT

Exploring Excellence in Science
and Digital Learning



PISA Background



PISA 2025 - The Ninth Cycle

- Dubai's sixth participation as an adjudicated region
- Approximately 850,000 students across 90+ economies participated
- Representing approximately 31 million 15-year-olds worldwide
- Major domain: **SCIENTIFIC LITERACY**
- Minor domains: reading and mathematics

PISA Results Summary

	School location Dubai		Language of testing English	
	School curriculum UK		Number of female students' 40	Number of male students' 41

PISA Overall Performance

Domain	Your School Score	OECD Average	Performance Category
Science Literacy	581	482	Middle
Mathematics Literacy	564	463	Middle
Reading Literacy	585	461	Middle

How well did your students achieve compared to their peers in Dubai private schools average?

Comparing with Dubai Private Schools Average			
	Your School Score	Dubai Private Schools	Proficiency Level
Science Literacy	581	522	Level 4
Mathematics Literacy	564	511	Level 4
Reading Literacy	585	501	Level 4

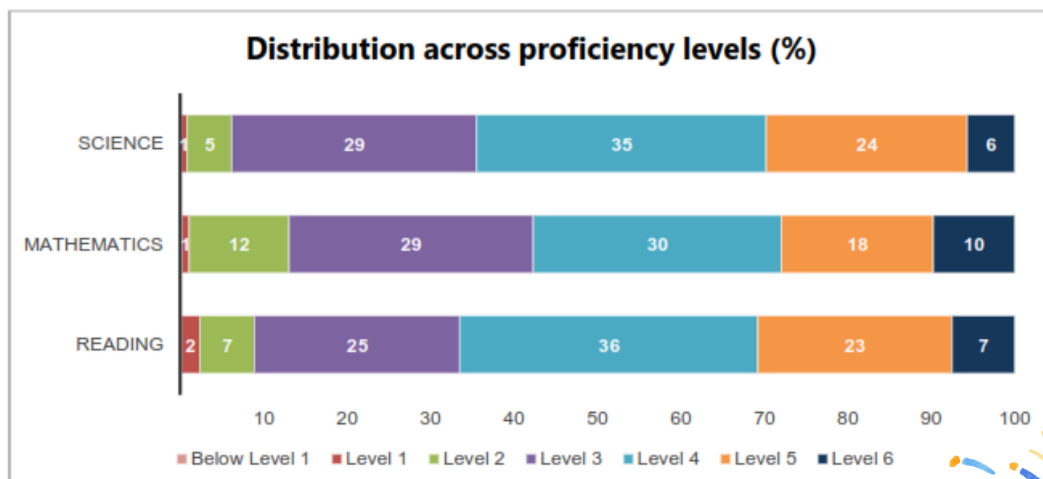
Your school scores are higher than those in Dubai private schools in all domains

PISA proficiency levels:

Proficiency Levels		Mathematics	Science	Reading
High Performers	Level 6	669	708	698
	Level 5	607	633	626
Middle Performers	Level 4	545	559	553
	Level 3	482	484	480
	Level 2	420	409	407
Low Performers	Level 1	358	335	335
	Below Level 1	<358	<335	<335

OECD proficiency levels categorise student achievement across a continuum, with Levels 5–6 identifying high achievers and Level 1 or below identifying students at risk.

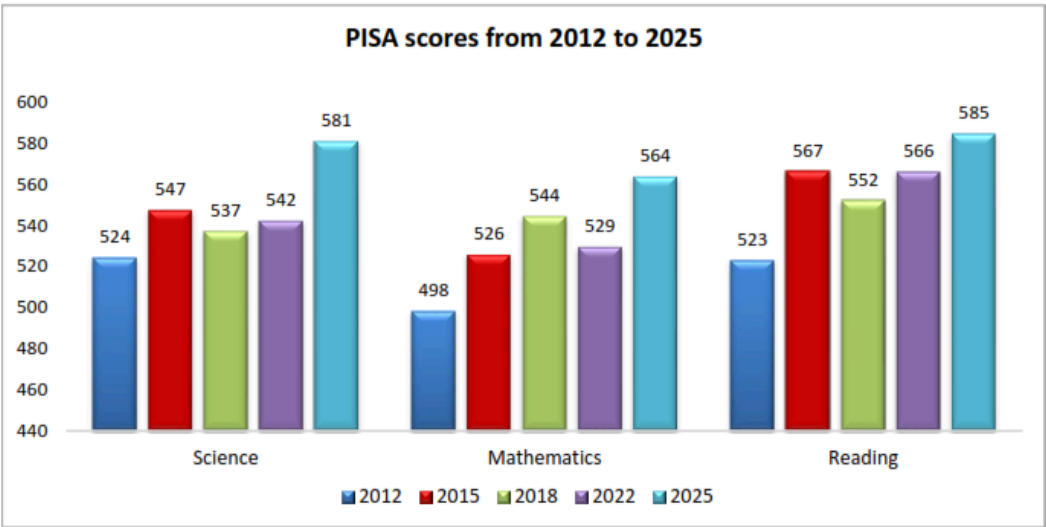
This chart illustrates the distribution of your students across each of the OECD proficiency levels. The chart shows the percentage of students at each proficiency level.



*The total values might not add up to 100% due to system rounding.

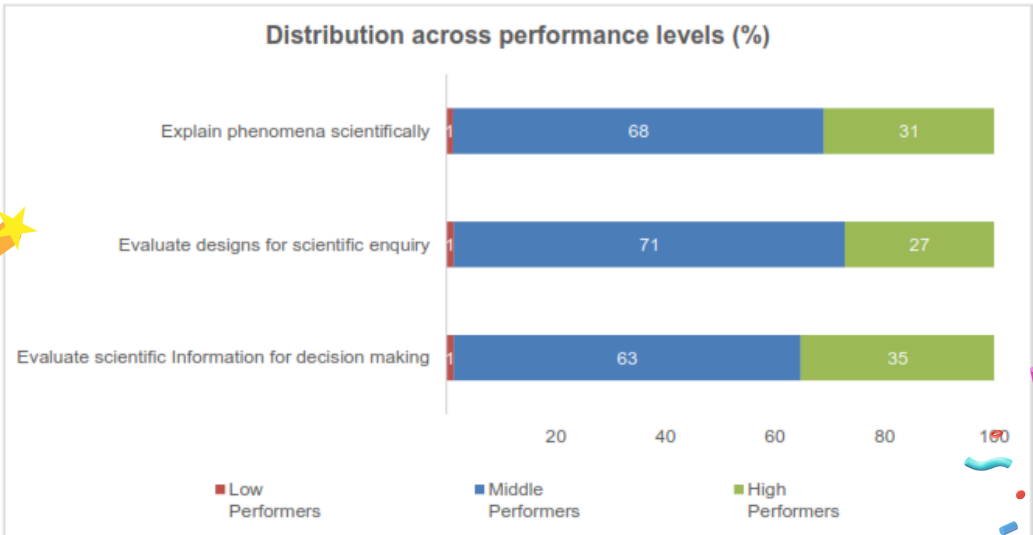
Trends in PISA performance over time

The chart below compares your students' scores across the last five cycles of PISA



How well did your students achieve in each of the PISA science competency subscales?

	Competency subscale		
	Explain phenomena scientifically	Evaluate designs for scientific enquiry	Evaluate scientific Information for decision making
Your School Score	585	573	593
Dubai private schools	523	518	527
OECD Average	482	481	480





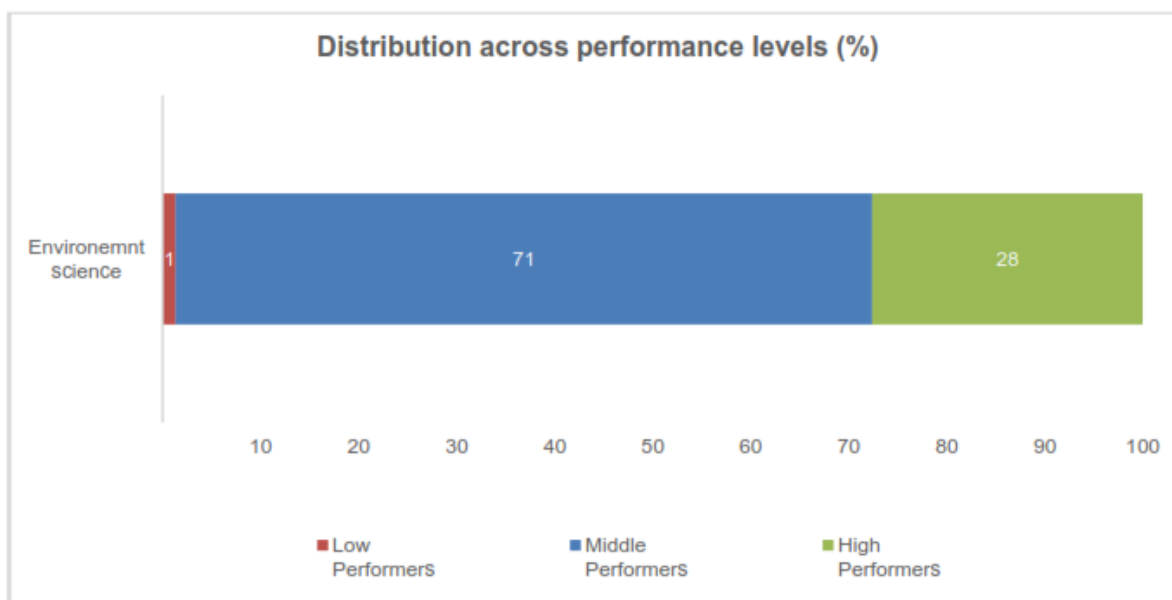
PISA 2025 Environmental Science

Environmental science is a new area of focus within the PISA 2025 science framework that assesses students' ability to understand environmental issues and apply scientific knowledge to real-world sustainability challenges.

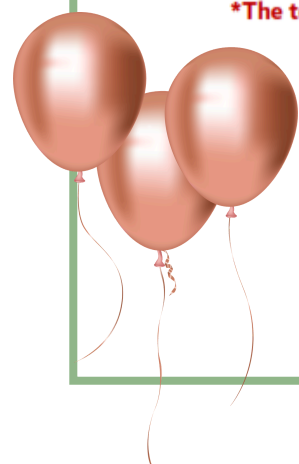
This focus area measures competencies such as explaining environmental phenomena, interpreting scientific evidence, evaluating solutions, and making informed decisions. The assessment covers topics including climate change, biodiversity, pollution, resource management, and sustainable development, while also examining students' environmental awareness and their readiness to contribute to a more sustainable future.

PISA Environmental Science	
Your School Score	587
Dubai private schools	520

Students' performance against PISA environmental science proficiency levels



*The total values might not add up to 100% due to system rounding





Learning in the Digital World: computational problem solving

In PISA 2025, a novel assessment was included to test computational problem solving. It focuses on students' capacity to engage in an iterative and self-regulated process of knowledge building and problem solving using computational tools and practices. Students complete two extended test units, during which they solve increasingly complex tasks and have access to learning resources such as tutorials, feedback and examples.

Students' performance on the computational problem-solving scale describes the extent to which students can solve problems using computational tools, such as modelling or programming tools, and through computational practices, such as conducting experiments, analysing data, and building and debugging computational artefacts. Students' performance on the test is supported by self-regulated learning, which includes how they maintain their motivation and task engagement, monitor their progress and adapt their strategies, and evaluate their own performance. A student's ability to succeed in the digital world is greatly influenced by their self-regulated learning competencies, i.e. how they manage their own learning, and, crucially, whether they can maintain their motivation and stay engaged with a task, even when it becomes challenging or frustrating.

Self-regulated learning is assessed as part of the domain but is not separately reported at school level.

	Computational Problem Solving
Average score of your students	589
Dubai private schools score	534
OECD Average score	500





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



GCSE GRADUATION CEREMONY

CLASS OF 2025-2026

The **GCSE GRADUATION CEREMONY** for the CLASS OF 2025-2026 will be held on **FRIDAY, 6th NOVEMBER 2026** at **5:00 PM** in the **MAIN HALL** at ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DUBAI.

There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, 28th October 2026 from 2:30 PM until 5:00 PM in the Main Hall. Students will receive their invitations and Graduation Gowns on the day of the rehearsal.

The cost of **AED 275/-** for the rental of the Graduation Gown as well as 1 Graduation USB with the photographs and videos, and other incidentals, 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.

Please note that the rehearsal will begin at 2:30 PM sharp.

Students who are no longer in SMCHS, Dubai, will only be allowed to collect their gowns from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM on the day of rehearsal. Students in Year 12 at the school will be given another date to collect the gowns.

Students who do not attend the rehearsal will not be permitted to attend the GRADUATION CEREMONY.



OUR REF :

TRN : 104153998000003

DATE : Friday, 25 September 2026

**To : Parents of Native Arabic speaking students in Years Five to Ten – IBT
ARABIC EXAMINATIONS – ARABIC A**

**STUDENTS MUST BRING A FULLY CHARGED LAPTOP OR
TABLET TO SCHOOL ON THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER 2026 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, 2026*. 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 specified day below:

MONDAY	16th November 2026	ARABIC A	YEARS 5-10
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**The entry fee for this exam is AED 55. The exact amount must be paid ONLY
THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 10th OCTOBER 2026.**

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 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's 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;
- 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 requirements below:

- 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. The steps 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)





OUR REF :

TRN : 104153998000003

DATE : Friday, 25 September 2026

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, 2026*. 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.

TUESDAY	17th November 2026	ARABIC B	YEAR 5
WEDNESDAY	18th November 2026	ARABIC B	YEARS 7 & 9

The entry fee for this exam is AED 55. The exact amount must be paid ONLY THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 10th OCTOBER 2026.

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 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's 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;
- 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 requirements below:

- 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. The steps 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)



EMIRATES AIRLINE FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

EMIRATES NBD

POETRY FOR ALL

The “**Emirates NBD Poetry For All**” competition gives a chance for aspiring performers to bring poetry to life. This is a poetry recitation competition in which students recite and perform renowned poems on stage.

If you think you are the right person to represent Saintz in this prestigious event, we would like to see you at the preliminary round which is scheduled for **Saturday, 24th of October, 2026.**

There are two age categories, click the link below using your school id to see the poems for each category.

Juniors: 8 - 13 years [click here](#)
(DOB between 11/11/2012-10/11/2018)

Seniors: 14-18 years [click here](#)
(DOB between 11/11/2007-10/11/2012)

Choose and learn one of the poems assigned for your age category and come ready to perform.

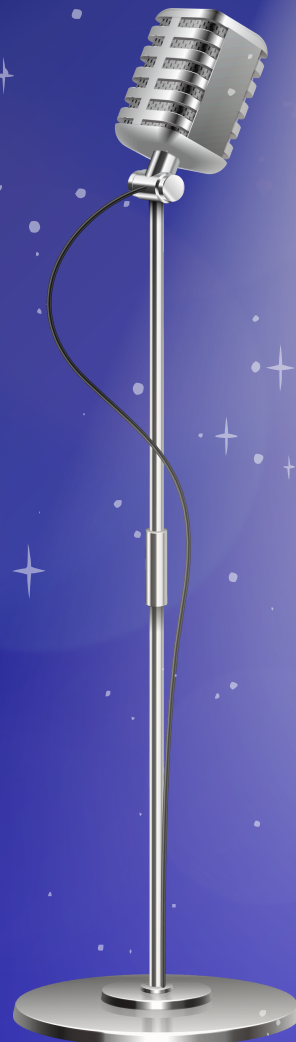
For further details on competition procedures please check:

<https://www.elfdubai.org/en/readers-cup-competition>



Preliminary Round

Saturday, 24th October 2026



Chevron Reader's Cup – 2027

Calling all bookworms of St. Mary's! If you love to read and isn't afraid of a little bit of healthy competition, this opportunity is for you!

The Emirates airline Festival of Literature is here again. And with it comes the prestigious “**Chevron Reader's Cup**” competition.

This is a team quiz competition in which students read and study a selection of books, and then answer a range of questions from those books.

If you think you have what it takes, we want you to take part in the preliminary test scheduled for Saturday, the 24th of October, 2026.

Click on the link below using your school id to access the material for the test. Make sure you are familiar with the whole book.

Juniors: Click [here](#).

Seniors: Click [here](#)

Please make sure you prepare with the material that is relevant to your year group.

Age requirements:

Juniors: 9- 11 years (DOB between 11/11/2014-10/11/2017)

Seniors: 12-16 years (DOB between 11/11/2009-10/11/2014)

For further details on competition procedures please check:

<https://www.elfdubai.org/en/readers-cup-competition>



Preliminary Round

Saturday, 24th October 2026



KIDROVE PRESENTS

IF AI COULD DRAW MY UAE...

A GENERATIVE AI CREATIVE COMPETITION • GRADES 1-12

What would YOUR UAE look like
if AI could draw it?

IMAGINE IT. CREATE IT. SHOW US YOUR UAE.

FOUR STUDENT CATEGORIES

AI Dreamers

Grades 1-3

AI Creators

Grades 4-6

AI Explorers

Grades 7-9

AI Visionaries

Grades 10-12

RECOGNITION

Participation Certificate
for every student

Medals : Gold • Silver • Bronze

Outstanding art may feature in the KidRove Public Gallery

For Partner Schools

**FREE 2-hour live online
AI & Generative AI workshop**

Plus selected complimentary student registrations

Students will also be guided on how to begin their One Million Prompts learning journey and work towards completing the official program and earning its Certificate of Completion, carrying the official marks of the Dubai Future Foundation and Dubai Centre for Artificial Intelligence.

JOIN THE COMPETITION

Individual AED 50/- student

Limited AI Access Scholarships available



REGISTER / KNOW MORE

kidrove.com/ai-art-competition

Team KidRove: contact@kidrove.com

PREMED PROJECTS PRESENTS

FUTURE DOCTORS MONTH 2026

FREE ONLINE WORK EXPERIENCE

For students aged 14–18

FREE

4 Weeks

Doctor-led online medical experiences



Sunday 11 October

A&E: Can You Save the Patient?

Assess an emergency patient and decide what should happen next.



Sunday 18 October

Inside the Operating Theatre: Anaesthetics

Explore anaesthesia, airway management, monitoring and how patients are kept safe during surgery.



Sunday 25 October

The Diagnosis Challenge: Medical Detective

Students investigate a mystery patient, interpret the evidence and work towards a diagnosis.



Sunday 1 November

Outbreak: Can You Stop the Spread?

Investigate an infectious disease outbreak and make clinical and public-health decisions.

Students can join the sessions live from anywhere in the world, but they don't need to attend live. Every session will be available on demand afterwards, making the course accessible regardless of time zone.

One registration unlocks all four experiences.
Completely free – 5,000 places available worldwide.



KNOWLEDGE TEST + PERSONALISED CERTIFICATE

Complete the 20-question test. Score 80% or above to download your certificate.

Register now >

premedprojects.co.uk/free

AI LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

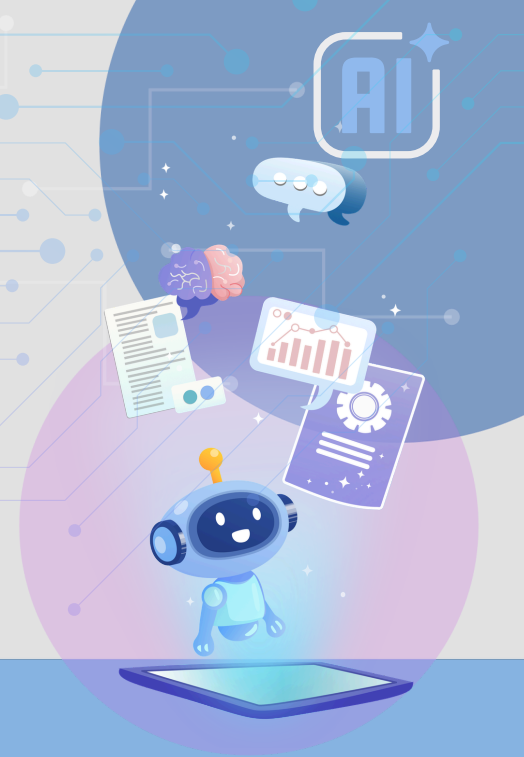


INSPIRIT AI

AI Scholars Program Application

FOR STUDENTS

Explore AI. Build real projects. Shape what comes next.



An exciting opportunity for students interested in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and emerging technologies.

Inspirit AI, an internationally recognized AI education program developed by graduates and researchers from leading universities, is currently accepting applications for students.

The program offers hands-on experience in **AI, machine learning, and real-world problem-solving.**

WORKSHOP FOCUS:



Effective lesson design and personalized learning using modern generative AI tools.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

We encourage interested students to explore this valuable opportunity to develop AI knowledge and future-ready skills.

READY TO BEGIN?

Register for the workshop



REGISTRATION



2026

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
GL CAT4 Exam - Students to bring in a fully charged laptop or tablet.			1 GL CAT4 - YEAR 4	2 - PREFECT Investiture Ceremony - only Prefects. - Building Our Future Stars.	3 - Year 13 Extra classes: Chemistry and Economics. - Year 12 Extra classes Economics and Chemistry. - Building Our Future Stars. - Office Open.	4
5 - GL CAT4 - YEAR 8 - SSES Survey (KHDA) - Years 5 and 6. - Dental Check-Up - Years 2, 3 and 4. - SMU Team visit to our school - 12:30 PM	6 - Class Outing - Year 1 (A, B and E) - Dental Check-Up - Years 2, 3 and 4.	7 Class Outing - Year 1 (C and D)	8 - GL CAT4 - YEAR 6 - Breast Cancer Awareness Session - Girls (Years 11-13) - 1:00 to 1:50 pm - PIRLS (2 selected Year 6 sections)	9 - Pink Day - Breast Cancer Awareness Day - Coloured Clothes Day. - Building Our Future Stars.	10 - Start of Mid-Term Break. - Building Our Future Stars. - Office Closed.	11 Mid-Term Break.
12 Mid-Term Break.	13 Mid-Term Break.	14 Mid-Term Break.	15 Mid-Term Break.	16 - Mid-Term Break. - Building Our Future Stars.	17 - Mid-Term Break. - Building Our Future Stars. - Office Closed.	18 Mid-Term Break.
19 - School resumes after Mid-Term Break. - GL CAT4 - YEAR 10	20	21	22	23 - SSES Survey (KHDA) - Years 10 and 11. - Staff Meeting (After School) - Building Our Future Stars.	24 - Year 13 Extra classes: Maths, Biology / Accounting. - Year 12 Extra classes Accounting and Computer Science. - Building Our Future Stars. - Office Open.	25
26	27	28	29	30 Building Our Future Stars.	31 - Year 13 Extra classes: Maths & Psychology. - Year 12 Extra classes Psychology & Biology. - Building Our Future Stars. - Office Closed - SMG Education Conference for Staff.	