



OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from Saint Mary's.** We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and healthy. It has been a wonderful week back to school with the children and we are grateful for your high level of collaboration and support.

**TOMORROW, FRIDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER WILL BE A PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON THE OCCASION OF PROPHET MOHAMMED'S BIRTHDAY.**

**RECENT UPGRADES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026**

- 1) Re-tiling of reception area and front area of boys' side and girls' side.
- 2) Elevated stairways on all staircases for safety.
- 3) New washroom for students of determination.
- 4) Brand new hinge fixtures on all classroom lockers.
- 5) Classroom blinds replaced curtains in all classes Years 5-13.
- 6) Refurbished classroom boards for children's displays across the school.

### **NEW UPDATES:**

- **INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR @ SAINT MARY'S- SAVE THE DATE - 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm – Students and parents of years 11-13.**
- **GL CAT-4 TEST FOR YEARS FOUR, SIX, EIGHT AND TEN ONLY.**
- **NGRT CYCLE A SCHEDULES.**
- **YEAR 12 SCHOOL TIMINGS: 7:10 am to 1:50 pm**
- **EDUCATIONAL POWER PLANT TOUR FOR YEAR 8 BOYS (optional)**
- **SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR.**
- **FIRST ASSESSMENT YEARS 2-10 PORTIONS AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES.**

**DECLARATION FORM – ONLY FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS FROM YEARS 7-13. Parents who have not sent this in are reminded to kindly not delay any further.**

**NEW DHA HEALTH FORM – FOR PARENTS OF ALL STUDENTS. Parents who have not sent this in are reminded to kindly not delay any further.**

**1) INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR, 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 (11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM) (Students and parents of years 11, 12 and 13):** Please save the date.

More details will follow in the coming weeks in a separate circular.

**2) GL CAT-4 TEST FOR YEARS FOUR, SIX, EIGHT AND TEN ONLY:** Parents of students in Years Four, Six, Eight and Ten are requested to kindly check the separate attachment to this circular regarding the GL CAT4 examination. Please email the Skippy 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. GL CAT-4 SCHEDULES WILL BE SENT by MID-SEPTEMBER.**

**3) NGRT YEARS 2-10 TEST DATES:** Please note that students must undertake the tests seriously as this will count towards attainment in **English**. Students of Years 2 and 3 will do the NGRT tests in the IT LABS. For **YEARS 4-10**, **parents are reminded to kindly send A FULLY CHARGED DEVICE (LAPTOP OR TABLET) with your child on the date scheduled for your child's test.**

Please consult the table below for test dates and the separate circular for all other information.

<b>Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b>	<b>YEAR 4E, YEAR 5F YEAR 7A &amp; 7B YEAR10B , 10 E &amp; 10F</b>	<b>ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop only</b>
<b>Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> Sept,</b>	<b>YEAR 4D &amp; 4F, YEAR5C YEAR6B YEAR 8A and 8B &amp; 8F YEAR 9B , 9C &amp; 9F</b>	<b>ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop only</b>
<b>Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b>	<b>YEAR 4A &amp; 4C, YEAR 5A YEAR 6D, YEAR 7D YEAR 8C, YEAR 9E</b>	<b>ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop only</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b>	<b>YEAR 5B &amp; 5E YEAR 6A , 6C &amp; 6F YEAR 7E &amp; 7F, YEAR 8D YEAR 9D</b>	<b>ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop only</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b>	<b>YEAR 4B , YEAR 5D YEAR 6E, YEAR 7C YEAR 8E, YEAR 9A YEAR 10A , 10C &amp; 10D</b>	<b>ON THEIR OWN tablet or laptop only</b>
<b>Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.</b>	<b>YEAR 2 - All classes</b>	<b>In the Computer Labs</b>
<b>Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.</b>	<b>Year 3- - All classes</b>	<b>In the Computer Labs</b>

**4) CLOSING OF POST RESULT SERVICES (IGCSE/ GCSE):** This is for students who appeared for the Pearson Edexcel GCSE examinations in May-June 2025. Please note that all post result services will be closed by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**5) SCHOOL TIMINGS FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS (7:10 am to 1:50 pm):** Parents of Year 12 students are reminded that school timings for Year 12 students are from 7:10 am to 1:50 pm. They are not permitted to leave early unless there is a medical emergency or a visa / Emirates ID appointment. They have Community service and all of them are prefects as well. They are also expected to use the library for research and study during their free lessons.

**6) EDUCATIONAL POWER PLANT TOUR FOR YEAR 8 BOYS (optional):** We are organising an educational visit to the DEWA Jebel Ali Power Station and Desalination Complex for boys of year 8. This is completely optional, and students will be required to pay AED 35/- to cover the cost of transport to the venue and back. This payment has to be made in SKIPLY only and latest by Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

In Skiplly select the option of OTHER FEES from ALL CATEGORIES

Then select EVENTS.

Then key in the amount of AED 35/- ONLY.

**7) ENOUGH WATER TO BE SENT WITH CHILDREN OR A FEW AED 1 COINS TO PURCHASE WATER FROM THE MACHINES:** Parents of students especially those in lower primary are requested to kindly send enough drinking water with your child or one or two AED 1 coins so they can be assisted with getting water from the machines. For reasons of hygiene and safety there are no drinking water fountains.

**8) SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2025:** We have prepared a simple calendar of events for the month of September 2025 to help you have a quick reference and to keep track of important dates and requirements for benchmark tests etc. We will send an updated version if any events need to be further updated.

**9) BREAKFAST/ SNACK FIRST THING IN THE MORNING:** We recognise that many children, especially those travelling on long bus journeys to reach school every morning, find it difficult to have their breakfast so early in the morning and some suffer travel illness. We would like to inform parents that its perfectly alright to send a packed snack or breakfast with your child so that they may eat it in class first thing in the morning when they reach school. This is a much healthier option than children being on an empty stomach for long hours.

**10) YEAR ONE PARENTS – DROP OFF AND PICK UP UPDATE:** We would like to remind parents of year One students who personally drop off and pick up your children, that from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025, you will have to drop them off at GATE number 5 and pick them up from the holding area.

**11) 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.

**12) ADMISSION TO A-LEVELS (PARENTS OF CURRENT YEAR 11 STUDENTS):** Parents of Year 11 students are requested to kindly go through the separate circular on A-Level admissions. [Link here.](#)

**13) UNIFORM INFRACTIONS:** Parents are hereby notified that we have been very disappointed with the large number of uniform infractions, especially among senior students. *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, heavy make -up on girls.*

What is even more disappointing is the lack of collaboration from parents when we correct students for the same. Parents are requested to please check on your children before they leave home in the morning. Please refer to the uniform policy.

**14) 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.** A **CLASS GROUP EMAIL** has been created using the students 'official email ID for every class. This 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. New students will receive their school email Ids on Monday.

**15) 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 2025** 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.

**16) FINANCE-RELATED EMAILS:**

1) [fee-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:fee-smchs@smgeducation.org)

**ALL FEES Related matters (payments):** Kindly make sure to send the transaction details with the required SUBJECT Header for quick validation of your concerns and attached proof of payment.

(Mode of Payment / Particulars/ Amount / Student ID)

SKIPLY/ TERM 1 FEES/ 4,800 Dhs / 002563 / Kiandra Smith / 11A

SIMS Student Registration Number Request must also be sent to the email above.

2) [finance-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:finance-smchs@smgeducation.org)

**ALL INVOICE, ACCOUNTS RECONCILIATION, TC and other related matters.**

Kindly make sure to send the transaction details with the required SUBJECT Header for quick validation of your concerns and attached proof of payment.

(Particulars/ Student Details)

Request for Pro-Forma Invoice / 002536 / Kiandra Smith / 11A

**17) 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.**

**18) GOOGLE CLASSROOM:** Class teachers and subject teachers will be adding students to their respective Google Classrooms NEXT WEEK. Reference material, homework assignments, teaching and learning material will be posted in Google Classroom and this will continue to be of critical importance.

**19) SIMS PARENT APP/ ACTIVE LEARN/ LEARNING LADDERS:** Please note that these are still in process and our IT Support will be sending out the invitation and credentials for the same in some time. We will let you know via a circular when that process gets rolled out. Kindly do not email IT Support for this at the moment. Login details for ACTIVE LEARN and LEARNING LDDERS will be sent by the second week of September.

Please note that the SIMS PARENT APP must be checked on a regular basis and not just at the time of report cards as when it is inactive for more than a month, APP access automatically gets disabled.

## **20) INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-**

**2026 AND APPLICABLE PAYMENTS:** Parents are requested to kindly go through this table carefully so that you will be aware of which International Benchmark tests are applicable to your child. Payments will be via Skiply and will be advised as these come up.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

YEAR GROUP	NGRT	CAT-4	GL	IBT ARABIC A	IBT ARABIC B
YEAR 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
YEAR 2	YES	NA	NA	NA	NA
YEAR 3	YES	NA	NA	NA	NA
YEAR 4	YES	YES	YES	NA	NA
YEAR 5	YES	NA	YES	YES	YES
YEAR 6	YES	YES	YES	YES	NA

### **SECONDARY SCHOOL**

YEAR GROUP	NGRT	CAT-4	GL	IBT ARABIC A	IBT ARABIC B
YEAR 7	YES	NA	YES	YES	YES
YEAR 8	YES	YES	YES	YES	NA
YEAR 9	YES	NA	YES	YES	YES
YEAR 10	YES	YES	YES	YES	NA
YEAR 11	NA	NA	YES	YES	NA
YEAR 12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
YEAR 13	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



**21) 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.

**22) 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.

**23) 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.

**24) 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.

**25) 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.

**26) 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 for absences will be marked as unjustified and will be reflected on students' progress reports.

**27) PARENTS' WHATSAPP GROUPS:** While a WhatsApp group maybe very useful for *sharing important information that can be very helpful – sometimes essential – for busy parents, it has increasingly been noticed that these groups seem to have become breeding grounds for gossip, Chinese whispers and criticism. We are noticing more and more that a personal experience of a child or a staff member has become fodder for public comment, and this has extended to even the very private medical information of children being openly discussed on parent groups.* There's a broader societal issue here. This is all very new to us adults. We must reflect on the example we're setting. We talk about what our children are doing online, but we don't reflect on our own behaviour; we don't have an agreed etiquette. We would like all parents , especially those in primary school to do some reflection on the unchecked chatter and quite often the vilifying of staff members in the parents' WhatsApp groups over the past year and ask yourself if that is truly helping you or rather creating unwanted stress. As a school, we would like you to reach out to the teachers or to Ms. Lise-Ann (in more urgent cases) rather than allow what could be one parent's opinion or perspective or misinterpretation in many cases, cloud the perspectives of all the rest. Let us try not to micromanage the children but have more faith in their capacity for resilience and courage.

**While we continue to encourage you to use emails as the official channels for communication, we would like to offer some useful guidelines for the ethical use of WhatsApp groups should parents still feel the need for them.**

Groups can be used to share:

- **Reminders about deadlines, school activities, and events.**
- **Questions about school activities or special events e.g. what date the science project is due in, uniform or non-uniform day, when the deadline to pay for something is, etc.**
- **Sharing important information already posted in a circular to help reach more parents e.g. alerts about sickness, school policies, etc.**
- **Sharing information which can be useful to the other parents in the group e.g. where to buy costumes for dressing up days, ideas for projects, etc.**
- **Foster a sense of community.**
- **Sharing relevant community notices e.g. road closures or new traffic lights in the local area, etc.**

We **STRONGLY discourage** the use of the groups to:

- **Gossip.**
- **Voice grievances.**
- **Share personal problems.**
- **Point out another child's behaviour.**
- **Discuss the work of teachers: if a parent has a concern regarding the teacher, that parent should speak with him or her directly.**
- **Raise individual concerns or complaints: if a parent has a particular concern or complaint regarding the school or any member of the Staff, that issue should be raised directly with the school.**
- **Share political or religious posts or discussions.**

**28) 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 wish each and every one of you a safe and happy long weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)





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

**FIRST ASSESSMENT OCTOBER 2025**

**(YEARS 2 – 4)**

DATE	DAY	YEAR TWO	YEAR THREE	YEAR FOUR
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 25	Wed	English Reading	English Reading. & Geog.	English Lang. & Geog.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 25	Thu	Arabic	Maths	Maths
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 25	Fri	English Writing	English Writing	English Lit.
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Mon	Science	Science	Science & French
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Tue	History & Moral Ed.	History & Moral Ed.	History & Moral Ed.
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Wed	UAE SST.	UAE SST.	UAE SST.
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Thu	Maths	Arabic	Arabic
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Fri	Values Ed. / Islamic Stu./ Ctz	Values Ed. / Islamic Stu./ Ctz	Values Ed. / Islamic Stu./ Ctz



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

**FIRST ASSESSMENT OCTOBER 2025**

**(YEARS 5 - 8)**

DATE	DAY	YEAR FIVE	YEAR SIX	YEAR SEVEN	YEAR EIGHT
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 25	Wed	English Lang. & Geog.	English Lang. & Geog.	English Lang. & Geog.	English Lang. & Geog.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 25	Thu	English Lit.	English Lit.	English Lit. & French	English Lit. & French
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 25	Fri	History	History	History	History
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Mon	Arabic & Values Ed./ Islamic Stu./ Ctz	Moral Ed. & Values Ed./ Islamic Stu./ Ctz	Arabic & Values Ed./ Islamic Stu./ Ctz	Moral Ed. & Values Ed./ Islamic Stu./ Ctz
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Tue	Maths & Moral Ed.	Maths & UAE SST.	Science & Moral Ed.	Science & UAE SST.
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Wed	Science	Science	Maths	Maths
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Thu	UAE SST.	Arabic	UAE SST.	Arabic
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Fri	French	French	Computing	Computing



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

**FIRST ASSESSMENT OCTOBER 2025**  
**(YEARS 9 & 10)**

DATE	DAY	YEAR NINE	YEAR TEN
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 25	Wed	English Lang.	English Lang.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 25	Thu	Biology / Accounting	Physics/Business Studies
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 25	Fri	Physics/Business Studies	Chemistry/Economics
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Mon	Maths & Geography	Maths & ICT/Computer Science
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Tue	Arabic & Eng. Lit/ History/ Psychology	Values Ed./ Islamic Stu & Eng. Lit/ History / Psychology
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Wed	Values Ed./ Islamic Stu & ICT/Computer Science	Biology / Accounting
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Thu	Moral Ed. & UAE SST	Moral Ed. & UAE SST
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 25	Fri	Chemistry/Economics	Arabic

**Art assessments take place during the art lessons for this week.**



OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Date: Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**To: Parents of Students from YEAR ONE to YEAR THIRTEEN****RE: Assessments for OCTOBER ASSESSMENT WINDOW towards November 2025 Report**

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from St. Mary's.** Please read the information carefully with regard to your child's Assessments ahead of the November 2025 report.

This is what Assessments will look like.

**YEARS 11, 12 and 13 – Assessments for the November 2025 report**

**ASSESSMENT WINDOW: Ongoing until 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY**

**Internal Assessment marks 100% (Within set Deadlines)****YEARS 2 to 6 – Assessments for the November 2025 report****ASSESSMENT WINDOW: 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025- NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY****(Music, Art & Sport- Continuous AFL) YEAR 3 FRENCH – ORALS ONLY**

**Values Ed/ PSHE/ CITIZENSHIP / Geography – In-class reading based assessment. (No memorization)**

**SUMMATIVE-ASSESSMENT**

ONE TEST including MENTAL

MATHS

visibly evidenced

20 marks

**20 MARKS****AFL**

Presentations/ Skits/

Oral Role play / Group

Work/ Pair work / PROJECT WORK/RESEARCH

**FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT/ LEARNING LADDERS**

**YEARS 7 to 10 - Assessments for the November 2025 report**

**ASSESSMENT WINDOW: 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025- NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY**  
**(Sports Continuous AFL) (Art years 7 and 8 AFL)**

**SUMMATIVE-ASSESSMENT**

ONE TEST including  
MENTAL MATHS (7 & 8)  
visibly evidenced

25 marks

**25 MARKS**

**AFL**

Presentations/ Skits/

Oral Role play / Group

Work/ Pair work / PROJECT WORK/RESEARCH

**FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS  
FOR IMPROVEMENT/ LEARNING LADDERS**

**YEAR 1 - Assessments for the November 2025 report**

**ASSESSMENT WINDOW: September to End October 2025 - Continuous AFL and Ongoing assessments as part of ongoing class work.**

**AFL**

PROJECT WORK/HW / IN-CLASS ASSESSMENTS PORTFOLIOS / Oral Role play / Group Work/ Pair work

Mental Maths for Mathematics

**FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT/ LEARNING LADDERS**

**All Assessments will be paper- based.** Corrected Assessments will be given to students in the second week of November and will only be given to students who have completed all First Term Fee Payments. We urge parents to respectfully make timely fee payments and respect the fee payment deadlines.

**Assessment Timetable** will be sent to your child's class group email or posted in your child's GC by 4<sup>th</sup> September by your child's class teacher. For Years 11, 12 and 13, their subject teachers have already begun class tests.



**ABSENTEES:** If your child is sick, please email the class teacher and inform him/ her if your child is going to or has missed an assessment/s. Some re-assessments might be scheduled over the weekend or on a regular school day, depending on the number of assessments missed. If it is the weekend, you will be informed of the day and time to bring your child in for the same. However, children must be prepared to take a missed assessment as soon as they return to school given that they should have already been prepared in advance.

**Any absence will require a medical certificate to reschedule the assessment , even if the absence is only for ONE DAY. In the absence of a medical certificate, an assessment will not be rescheduled and no marks will be credited for that missed assessment.**

**Assessments will not be credited for leave that is not justified.** This will impact children's academic progress, and we urge parents not to schedule holidays during working days.

Students must not have any unauthorised material during an assessment – notes, chits of paper with written notes, any written notes concealed in the desk or on the person. If any of these are found with a student during an assessment, they will be given a zero. Students must not resort to any form of malpractice during an assessment, and they must not speak to any other students during an assessment. Any form of malpractice will lead to being given a zero for that particular assessment.

We would like our children to understand the importance of developing study habits that are consistent and productive and undertaken on a daily basis and not at the last minute.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)**





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

## **AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS**

### **VERSION 1.0**

Mon, 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	School re-opens for all classes
Tue, 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
Wed, 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
Thu, 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
Fri, 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
Sat, 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Year 13 Extra classes: PHYSICS AND MATHS
Sun, 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	
Mon, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	
Tue, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	ZERO PERIOD-Well being for all classes years 1-11-PPTs sent / Orientation for year 12 &13 Main Hall
Wed, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	STAFF EVENT-Onam celebration after school
Thu, 4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>COLOURED CLOTHES DAY WHOLE SCHOOL</b> <b>UNIVERSITY FAIR -YEARS 11-13 ( 9:00-11:00 am )</b> <b>First Assessment portions &amp; timetable to parents/students.</b>
Fri, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	PUBLIC HOLIDAY- Prophet Mohammed's birthday.
Sat, 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Office closed.
Sun, 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	
Mon, 8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	
Tue, 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	ZERO PERIOD-Well being for all classes years 1-11
Wed, 10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	

Thu, 11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS DOCUMENTS TO PARENTS – PARENT APP-Raising Parent awareness on various Social Media Apps.
Fri, 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>COLOURED CLOTHES DAY WHOLE SCHOOL</b> <b>SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS TO PARENT APPS</b>
Sat, 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Office working/ Year 13 Extra classes: CHEMISTRY & BIOLOGY
Sun, 14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	
Mon, 15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	NGRT YEAR 4E , YEAR 5F, YEAR 7A & 7B, YEAR10B , 10 E & 10F
Tue, 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	ZERO PERIOD-Well being for all classes years 1-11-PPTs sent. NGRT- YEAR 4D & 4F , YEAR5C, YEAR6B,YEAR 8A and 8B & 8F YEAR 9B , 9C & 9F
Wed, 17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	NGRT- YEAR 4A & 4C, YEAR 5A, YEAR 6D, YEAR 7D, YEAR 8C,YEAR 9E
Thu, 18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	NGRT- YEAR 5B & 5E, YEAR 6A , 6C & 6F,YEAR 7E & 7F,YEAR 8D YEAR 9D
Fri, 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	NGRT- YEAR 4B , YEAR 5D,YEAR 6E,YEAR 7C,YEAR 8E,YEAR 9A YEAR 10A , 10C & 10D
Sat, 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Office closed. Year 13 Extra classes: MATHS & ACCOUNTING
Sun, 21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	
Mon, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	<b>NGRT YEAR 2 – All classes</b> <b>OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY COMMENCES</b> commence ( Prayer, Thought & National Anthem only. All admin staff to attend the assembly in either quadrangle. <b>OUTDOOR BREAK COMMENCES</b> <b>YEAR 12 SCIENCE BOYS' VACCINATION</b>
Tue, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	<b>NGRT YEAR 3- All classes</b> <b>YEAR 12 SCIENCE GIRLS' VACCINATION</b>

Wed, 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>YEAR 12 COMMERCE GIRLS &amp; BOYS VACCINATION</b> <b>INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR ( organized by IDP ) @</b> <b>St. Mary's – Parents and students of years 11, 12 and 13-</b> <b>11:00 am – 1:00 pm</b>
Thu, 25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>YEAR 12 VACCINATIONS</b>
Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Building our future stars commences
Sat, 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Office working. Extra classes: PHYSICS & BIOLOGY Building our future stars
Sun, 28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	
Mon, 29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	
Tue, 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>PREFECT INVESTITURE CEREMONY ( SENIORS )-ONLY</b> <b>PREFECTS</b>

**WHOLE SCHOOL ART COMPETITION 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**-YEARS 1-8 IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ART LESSONS**



# THE YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE UAE COMPETITION 2025



Piano | Bowed Strings | Woodwinds & Brass | Voice

Registration period  
**1<sup>st</sup> September - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025**



FIRDAUS  
ORCHESTRA

STEINWAY & SONS



Register here: [www.nyo.ae/young-musician-of-the-uae2025](http://www.nyo.ae/young-musician-of-the-uae2025)

Contact: [ymuae@nyo.ae](mailto:ymuae@nyo.ae) Follow us [@ymouaecompetition](https://www.instagram.com/ymouaecompetition)

# Young Musician of the UAE (YMOUAE) Competition 2025

a new national platform celebrating the exceptional musical talent of young people across the Emirates.



This prestigious competition has been created to:

- Champion excellence in music performance and education
- Inspire the next generation of artists
- Provide meaningful opportunities for growth and recognition
- Strengthen the UAE's vibrant music community

## Competition Overview

- **Dates:** 24th October – 8th November 2025
- **Registration:** 1st September – 1st October 2025
- **Categories:** Piano | Bowed Strings | Woodwinds & Brass | Voice
- **Ages:** 5 to 18
- **Levels:** From Grade 1 ABRSM or equivalent to advanced

## Why Participate?

Students will:

- Perform before an esteemed international jury
- Gain valuable performance experience in a supportive environment
- Compete for awards, prizes, and the title of *Young Musician of the UAE 2025*
- Broaden their skills, confidence, and artistic appreciation

We warmly encourage educators, schools, and parents to nominate and support talented students for this exciting new competition

## Registration & Further Information

Competition guidelines and the online registration form are available

at: <https://nyo.ae/young-musician-of-the-uae2025/>

**Young Musician of the UAE 2025**

CONTACT: [ymuae@nyo.ae](mailto:ymuae@nyo.ae) FOLLOW US : [@ymouaecompetition](https://www.instagram.com/ymouaecompetition)



OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Date: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

**To: Parents of Students in Years FOUR, SIX EIGHT & TEN ONLY –  
GL CAT4 EXAMINATION- OCT - NOV 2025**

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai.** It is that time of the year for our students to complete the GL Cognitive Ability Test CAT4 which is mandated by KHDA for the year groups mentioned above. As part of our commitment to the National Agenda targets, and with a view to tracking progress and identify gaps in learning, our school will participate compulsorily in the GL-CAT4 exams. GL Education, 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. These are mandatory assessments by KHDA and feature in your Parent-School Contract as well.

***The entry fee is AED 75/- for the test, the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY VIA THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025.***

***Please email a copy of the SKIPLY receipt to your child's class teacher. This amount has been included in the Parent Contract as well. CAT4 is designed to assess the four main abilities that underpin intellectual development and influence attainment. It measures four areas of reasoning:***

- Quantitative
- Verbal
- Non-verbal and
- Spatial, a skill important for success in STEM subjects and an ability that is not measured by any other reasoning test for schools.

**CAT4 is an assessment of reasoning that helps identify pupils' developed abilities and likely academic potential.** CAT4 is not about knowledge recall and requires no preparation, offering all students the same opportunity to show their underlying ability.

## **What is CAT4?**

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students, and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

While many tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).

CAT4 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

## **How are CAT4 Results used?**

CAT4 provides teachers with information that can form the basis for discussions about how best a student can learn and reach his or her potential in school.

Teachers are provided with an individual profile of learning preference along with a range of indicators of likely future performance. Used with other information (such as results from Key Stage 2 SATs, for example), these data can support teaching and learning for all children.

## **Can students practice for CAT4?**

GL strongly advises against any kind of practice ahead of a CAT4 test as this will alter the reliability of test scores. The point of CAT4 is that it is not a test of learnt knowledge and it needs to be as unaffected as possible by any external factors, such as practice. Think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct, and valuable information may be missed.



CAT4 is a timed assessment and is administered under formal conditions. However, each section of the assessment includes introductory information with practice examples, and these will familiarise the children with the style and format of the questions. These sections are not timed and may be repeated.

### **Is additional time allowed for children with SEND?**

CAT4 is a timed assessment, and additional time is not permitted as this will affect the reliability of the results. CAT4 is not just about what and how it tests but how the questions are answered within a set timeframe. The timed element makes it diagnostically very powerful.

CAT4 subtests are generously timed, and most children reach the final questions, however there may have been a minority of students during the standardisation process who would have obtained higher scores if they had been given more time. Therefore, giving extra time to a particular student could give an inflated view of their relative ability when comparing their results with the CAT4 norms.

### **SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF QUESTION TYPES**

<https://www.tests.com/practice/cognitive-abilities-practice-test>

**SCHEDULE FOR CAT-4 EXAMINATIONS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER 2025.**

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)



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

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**مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية**

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www.stmarysdubai.com : موقع ويب

فاكس : ٣٣٦٨١١٩ ٤ ٩٧١+

OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Date: Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**To: Parents of Year Eleven Students –  
ADMISSION TO TWO-YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME**

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**
- 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 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)





OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Date: Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025

To **Parents of Students in Years TWO to TEN:**  
**NGRT-NEW GROUP READING TEST YEARS TWO TO TEN**

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings. Our school as mandated by KHDA, has to undertake the NGRT for students in Years Two to Ten. The government of Dubai has mandated that all students from ages 6-16 undertake a standardized reading literacy test thrice a year. This year we have to undertake the test thrice. We invite you to read on for further information.

**NGRT** is a fully adaptive, standardised, termly reading assessment. As it's adaptive, it offers a personalised experience for each student, ensuring it's accessible for those who are struggling and challenging for those who need to be stretched, so you can get to the root of any problems identified precisely and quickly.

There is no more crucial skill for success in any subject than reading, so being able to accurately assess and monitor this is essential. NGRT is proven to deliver a reliable assessment of reading comprehension, set against national benchmarks. Using it regularly helps to quickly spot problems that will hold back a child's progress, with customised practical classroom solutions for each student and the ability to demonstrate the impact of the interventions you put in place.

The amount to be paid for the NGRT is **AED 115/- ONLY**. This amount must be paid only via the **SKIPLY APP**, and a soft copy of the receipt must be emailed to the class teacher. **The deadline for payment is 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025.**

**The schedule for the tests will be sent with the next weekend circular but will tentatively be in September 2025.**

**Please note that results will go towards part of the English Language assessment for the FIRST REPORT IN NOVEMBER 2025 and students must undertake the tests seriously as this will count towards attainment in English.**

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)



# 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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فاكس : ٣٣٦٨١١٩ ٤ ٩٧١ +

OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

Date: Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025

To **Parents of Students in Years 11, 12 & 13 -**  
**IDP STUDY ABROAD EXPO 2025**



Dear Parents,

We are excited to invite you and your students to the IDP Study Abroad Expo 2025 — the UAE's largest International Education Fair! This premier event offers students an exclusive opportunity to explore global academic pathways and connect with top universities from around the world.

## Event Details:

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Venue: Grand Hyatt Dubai

US/Canada: Al Ameera Ballroom

UK/Ireland/Australia/New Zealand: Baniyas Ballroom

Registration: [Click Here to Register](#)

## Special Sessions:

IELTS Masterclass: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Medicine Insights Session: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

## What Awaits You at the Expo:

Meet 100+ World-Class Universities: Explore programs from the UK, Australia, Canada, the US, Ireland, and New Zealand.

## Expert Guidance:

Receive personalized advice on courses, admissions, tuition fees, scholarships, and more.

## Application Fee Waivers:

Eligible students can enjoy fee reductions on the spot.

## Fastlane Service:

Accelerate applications and receive preliminary offers instantly.



## IELTS & Medicine Insights:

Attend the dedicated sessions to gain specialized guidance from experts.

## Why Attend?

This free event is the perfect platform for students to explore opportunities, gain expert advice, and take concrete steps toward achieving their academic dreams.

Promotional materials for schools are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Let us know if your school would like to receive these. We look forward to welcoming you and your students at the Expo!

### UNITED STATES & CANADA

Grand Hyatt Dubai - Al Ameerah Ballroom

#### CANADA

- # Dalhousie University
- # University of Alberta
- # University of Manitoba
- # University of Ottawa
- # University of Saskatchewan
- # University of Waterloo
- Alexander College
- Columbia College
- Carleton University

- Huron University
- Kaplan International Pathways
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University ▶
- MacEwan University
- Navitas North America
- Ontario Tech University
- Sheridan College
- St. Francis Xavier University
- The University of Winnipeg ▶

- University of Guelph
- University of Lethbridge
- University of Prince Edward Island ▶
- University of Regina
- Vancouver Island University
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- York University

#### UNITED STATES

- Green River College
- Iowa State University
- Kaplan International Pathways
- Kings Education

- Northeastern University
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Shoreline Community College

- St. George's University
- University of Cincinnati

### UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, AUSTRALIA

Grand Hyatt Dubai - Baniyas Ballroom

#### UNITED KINGDOM

- \* Cardiff University ▶
- \* Durham University
- \* Newcastle University ▶
- \* Queen Mary University of London ▶
- \* Queen's University Belfast
- \* The University of Manchester
- \* University of Birmingham ▶
- \* University of Nottingham ▶
- \* University of Sheffield
- \* University of Exeter
- \* University of Glasgow ▶
- \* University of Leeds
- \* University of Liverpool
- \* University of Southampton ▶
- \* University of Warwick
- Brunel University London
- Coventry University ▶
- De Montfort University
- Edinburgh Napier University ▶
- INTO University Partnership
- Kaplan International Pathways
- Keele University ▶
- Kingston University London ▶
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Beckett University ▶
- Malvern International
- Middlesex University Dubai
- Northumbria University, Newcastle
- Nottingham Trent University ▶
- Oxford Brookes University ▶
- Sheffield Hallam University
- St. Mary's University School of Medicine
- Study Group UK
- Swansea University
- Ulster University
- University for the Creative Arts ▶
- University of Bath
- University of Brighton
- University of Birmingham Dubai
- University of Bradford
- University of Chester ▶
- University of Dundee ▶
- University of East Anglia ▶
- University of Essex ▶

- University of Greenwich, London
- University of Kent ▶
- University of Leicester
- University of Plymouth ▶
- University of Portsmouth ▶
- University of Reading ▶
- University of South Wales ▶
- University of Staffordshire ▶
- University of Strathclyde ▶
- University of Surrey ▶
- University of Sussex
- University of Sunderland ▶
- University of the West of England ▶
- University of Westminster

#### IRELAND

- University College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University of Galway
- University of Limerick
- Technological University of the Shannon

#### AUSTRALIA

- The Australian National University
- Curtin University ▶
- Deakin University ▶
- Deakin College
- Edith Cowan University
- Flinders University
- James Cook University
- Kaplan International Pathways
- La Trobe University ▶
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Navitas
- RMIT University ▶
- Swinburne University of Technology ▶
- The University of Sydney

- The University of Queensland ▶
- The University of Western Australia ▶
- Trinity College
- University of Adelaide
- University of New South Wales
- University of Wollongong ▶
- UP Education