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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانويا

بريد الكتروني : maryscol@emirates.net.ae موقع ويب : www.stmarysdubai.com هاتف : ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱ + فاکس : ۳۳٦۸۱۱۹ ؛ ۹۷۱

TRN: 100259955100003

OUR REF : .....

Friday, 13th September 2024

# To: The Parents of students in Years 1-13 WEEKLY CIRCULAR BEFORE WEEK FOUR

Dear Parents.

**Greetings from Saint Mary's.** We trust that this update finds you and your families safe and healthy. Please read on to find out important information that is relevant to your child and/or his/her year group.

The school would like to take this opportunity to wish those families and staff celebrating Onam a very blessed and Happy Onam. May God shower His choicest blessings on your families.



A dedicated effort from our staff to wish all the families of our school a very **Happy ONAM!** 

# HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PEARSON EXCELLENCE AWARDEES FROM OUR IAL/GCE and IGCSE/GCSE COHORTS.

We are indeed proud of your achievements, and we wish you continued success as you strive to achieve your goals.

Please see attached AWARDEE FLYERS.

#### **NEW UPDATES:**

- September Calendar for quick reference
- GRADUATION CEREMONY CLASS OF 2023-2024 : SAVE THE DATE 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024
- PEARSON EXCELLENCE AWARDEES GCE/IAL AND GCSE/IGCSE
- November 2024 Assessment info-circular issued on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- IBT ARABIC A & B circulars issued on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- SOCIAL MEDIA PARENT AWARENESS GUIDES Sent to Parent Apps on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- KOMODO WELLBEING PLATFORM-YEARS 7,8 & 9-See attached circular.
- WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS

DECLARATION FORM – Parents who have not submitted the same are reminded to please send this urgently. Years 1 to 6 Parents are please reminded to fill out the Declaration Forms in the Student's Diary (pages 37, 39 & 41) and have them ready for submission on Monday, 16th September 2024

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) NOVEMBER 2024 ASSESSMENT REPORT INFORMATION: Please see attached circular that was issued on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 2) IBT ARABIC A & B ( ARABIC A- Years 5-10 ) ( ARABIC B Years 5, 7 & 9 ): Please see attached circulars that were issued on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 3 ) GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2023-2024 (Current Year 12 students and parents) SAVE THE DATE 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 evening ceremony : Parents are requested to kindly save this date. More details on the Graduation Ceremony will follow in a separate notice next week.
- **4) SOCIAL MEDIA PARENT AWARENESS GUIDES:** Parents are requested to please go through the colourful infographics sent to the SIMS PARENT APP. Please spend some time with your children sharing relevant information.
- **5) KOMODO WELLBEING PLATFORM -YEARS 7,8 AND 9:** Parents are requested to please see attached circular.
- **6) SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2024:** We have prepared a simple calendar of events for the month of September 2024 to help you have a quick reference and to keep track of important dates and requirements for benchmark tests etc.
- 7) WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS (COMMENCING OCTOBER 2024): With a view to improving overall student wellbeing and following through with some suggestions from students themselves, the school will champion Wellbeing Wednesdays EVERY WEDNESDAY. We would request that every child bring in ANY ONE FRUIT of their choice and/or ANY ONE DAIRY (milk, laban, yoghurt, a fruit juice could substitute for those children who are lactose intolerant) for breakfast, that they will have together in class first thing in the morning during the morning registration with their class teachers.
- 8) UAE UNIVERSITY FAIR, 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 (10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM) : Please check separate circular attached.

- 9) INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR, 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 (11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM): Please check separate circular attached.
- 10) 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 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. GL CAT-4 SCHEDULES WILL BE SENT NEXT FRIDAY.
- 11) 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 <u>YEARS 4-10</u>, <u>parents</u> 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.

YEAR 2	Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	In the Computer labs
YEAR 3	Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	In the Computer labs
YEAR 4	Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
		only
YEAR 5	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
		only
YEAR 6	Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
		only
YEAR 7	Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
		only
YEAR 8	Wednesday, 25th September 2024	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
		only
YEAR 9	BOYS- Thursday, 26th September 2024	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
	GIRLS- Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.	only
YEAR 10	GIRLS - Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	ON THEIR OWN DEVICES tablet or laptop
	10B- 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024	only
	10C- 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024	
	10F-27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024.	

- **12) IAL/GCE & IGCSE/ GCSE ENQUIRIES AND CERTIFICATES**: Please note that enquiries about results will close by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Certificates are expected to arrive by the first week of November 2024 and a circular will be posted on the school website as soon as these arrive.
- **13) INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBERBULLYIING**: Please see circular of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

# **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.

15) SCHOOL TIMINGS AND DROP OFF AND PICK UP: School timings are 7:10 am until 1:40 pm (Mon – Thu) and 7:10 – 11:55 am (Fri) All students must be on the premises by 7:05 am SHARP.

Parents / Carers will no longer be permitted to drop children off to their classrooms/pickup their children from their classrooms from Monday, 9th September 2024.

- OWN TRANSPORT PARENTS TO ACCESS GATE NO. 5.
- Years 1 to 3 pick- up time for own transport is 1:25 pm (Monday to Thursday); 11:45 am (Friday).
- Years 4 to 6 pick-up time is at 1:30 pm (Monday to Thursday); 11:50 am (Friday).
- Students using the metro must use GATE NO. 4.

#### 16) 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 attached to this weekly notice.

- 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.
- 18) 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 everyday for important updates. New students will receive their school email Ids on Monday.

#### 19) Payment of Term Fees - PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FEE CIRCULAR

20) BOARD EXAMINATION FEES: We would like you to be informed well in advance that EDEXCEL LONDON BOARD EXAMINATION FEES will be collected in the month of NOVEMBER 2024 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 when released by KHDA for the BOARD EXAM FEE AMOUNT for each year group.

#### 21) FINANCE-RELATED EMAILS:

Please send your emails to:

#### 1) 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

#### 2) 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

- 3) The modes of payment for fees as well as the school's new bank account details are mentioned in the attached notice.
- 4) For SIMS Student Registration Number and DC Number request, please send email to: <a href="mailto:itsupport-smchs@smgeducation.org">itsupport-smchs@smgeducation.org</a> (IT-Support Email Account).

22) APPROVED KHDA CALENDAR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025: Parents are requested to check the approved KHDA School Calendar for the Academic Year 2024-2025 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 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 reexams 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.

26th AUGUST 2024	School re-opens for ALL STUDENTS
30 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024	Holiday for sudents
10 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2024	Window for mid-term assessments
1st NOVEMBER 2024	Diwali Holiday
11 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024	Holiday for all students
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2024	National Day Holidays
14th DECEMBER 2024 - 5th	Winter Break
JANUARY 2025 (Inclusive)	
6 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025	School re-opens after the Winter Break
10 <sup>t h -</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY - 2025	First Term Examinations in the morning. Regular lessons after
	break. Students will not be allowed to go home after the
	morning's exam.
13 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025	Sports Day Years 5-13 ( subject to change )
17 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY	Holiday for all students
21st FEBRUARY 2025	Sports Day Years 1-4
7 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	Window for Mid-term assessments
14 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025	Mock Examinations years 11 and 13
7 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025	
22 <sup>nd</sup> MARCH – 6 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 (	Spring Break
inclusive)	
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025	Holiday for all students
13 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2025	Study Holiday
14th 15th & 16th MAY 2025	Final exams in parallel with regular lessons
19th to 28th MAY 2025	Final Exams and students go home at 11:30 am
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025	Eid Al Adha (subject to government declaration)
26 <sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025	Government Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025	Last day of school

Please note that the GL EXAMS usually take place during the month of May and <u>June.</u>

23) 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.

**24) INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024- 2025 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.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR	NGRT	CAT-4	GL	IBT ARABIC A	IBT ARABIC B
GROUP		Amended			
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	NGRT	CAT-4	GL	IBT ARABIC A	IBT ARABIC B
GROUP					
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	NA	NA	NA
YEAR 12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
YEAR 13	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

- 25) 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.
- **26) 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.
- 27) 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.
- 28) 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.
- **29) 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.
- **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 for absences will be marked as unjustified and will be reflected on students' progress reports.

**31 ) 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.

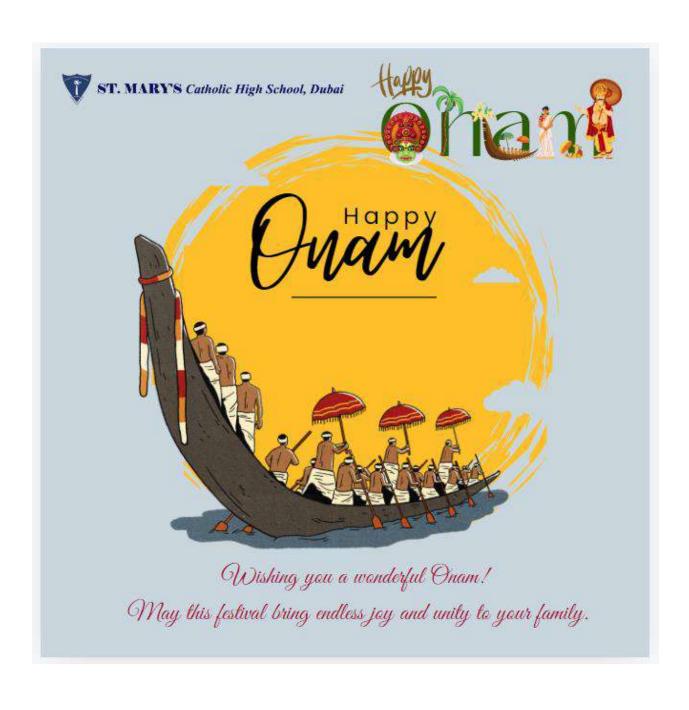
#### We **STRONGLY discourage** the use of the groups to:

- 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.

**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 <a href="mailto:l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org">l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org</a> 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







ST. MARY'S Catholic High School, Dubai

# GCE/IAL JUNE 2024

## EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

Aaron George

Aryan Idnani

Erin Amy Fernandes

Ethann Thomas Danthi

Josna Ouseppachan

Kiah Archangela D'Souza

Lisath Mevnaka Fernando Attanayaka

Rhea Araujo

Senara Rosette Benedicta Fernando

William Max Rodrigues

Congratulations

Criteria: Students who have secured A/A\* in three subjects



ST. MARY'S Catholic High School, Dubai

# **JUNE 2024**

### EXCELLENCE AWARDEE

Aadi Pankai Khatua

Alice Cascia Ida Gomes

Alliyah Louise Licop Pedojan

Alrick Tolentino D'Souza

Althea Kate Fernandes

Avushi Sharma

Daniel Valentine Lawrence Kinny

Delisha Melante Dias

Dinuka Sachin W. M. Kankanamalage Nessa Shanta Fernandes

Enoch Mwendwa Musvoki

Ethan Neil Coelho

Eudric Bryce Bernardo Hernandez

Genevieve Maria Monteiro

George Issa George Barakat

Gerleeza Pravinde R. Goonawardena

Ibdita Mariana

Jane Benedicta Rego

Jane Miracline Jeba Singh

Jose Angelo Ayson Vicencio

Katelyn Emmanuela D'Souza

Kevin Charles Ersando

Kriziana Esther Lisa Lopez

Mahin Bin Abdul Majid

Malavika Suitth

Malcolm Rudolph Pinto

Maleesha Minradha Nevindi Fernando

Megan Fleur D'Silva

Nathaniel Sumague Doma

Nikhil Joseph

Olivia Ann Rov

Reuben Mammen Thomas

Rihaan Aseem Koya

Rosy Vadakel Leo

Shelton Vion D'Costa

Softa Helena Rodil Perol.

Tanisha Raghavan

Tanuja Dulan Kumarastr

Tasha De Souza

Tess George Nellary

Criteria: Students who have secured Grade 8 and above in five subjects

#### **SEPTEMBER 2024 CALENDAR**

Sun, 1 <sup>st</sup> September	
Mon, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Orientation for year 12 &13 Main Hall (Ex student address)
Tue, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	
Wed,4 <sup>th</sup> September	Care Direct Packages distributed to Year 3 students
Thu, 5 <sup>th</sup> September	
Fri, 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Community Service Forms to Year 12
Sat,7 <sup>th</sup> September	Office closed. Year 13 Extra classes: PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY
Sun,8 <sup>th</sup> September	
Mon,9 <sup>th</sup> September	MDX BUS Kickoff event for Year 12 students. 7:30 am onwards
	ORIENTATION for Year 5 & 6 boys 5 <sup>th</sup> lesson Main Hall
Tue,10 <sup>th</sup> September	Workshop on University and Career by Anju Bhatia
	VOTING FOR PREFECTS YEARS 8-10
Wed,11 <sup>th</sup> September	ORIENTATION for Year 5 & 6 girls 4 <sup>th</sup> lesson Main Hall
Thu,12 <sup>th</sup> September	DIARIES DISTRIBUTED TO PRIMARY SCHOOL
Fri,13 <sup>th</sup> September	LACNOR SCHOOL HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAMME :
	YEAR 8 - 9:50 TO 11:00 AM MAIN HALL.
	COLOURED CLOTHES DAY WHOLE SCHOOL
	SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS TO PARENT PPS
	Sports Training commences for BOYS- 5:00-7:00 PM
Sat,14 <sup>th</sup> September	Office working/ Year 13 Extra classes: MATHS & BIOLOGY
	Sports Training for BOYS- 5:00-7:00 PM

Sun,15 <sup>th</sup> September	
Mon,16 <sup>th</sup> September	Outdoor Assemblies commence
Tue,17 <sup>th</sup> September	ZERO PERIOD- YEARS 7,8 & 9 - ROLL OUT KOMODO WELL-
	BEING PLATFORM
	ZERO PERIOD-ART COMPETITION YEARS 9-12 ( only
	participants )
	UAE University Fair – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm –Years 11,12 & 13
	@ MAIN HALL-Parents are welcome to attend
Wed, 18th	BIC PENS awarding ceremony-YEAR 8 girls @ MAIN HALL 10:15
September	am.
Thu,19 <sup>th</sup> September	International University Fair – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm –Years
	11,12 & 13 @ MAIN HALL-Parents are welcome to attend
Fri,20 <sup>th</sup> September	YEAR 11 EXTRA ART CLASS FROM 12:30 TO 4:00 PM IN
	SCHOOL.
	Training for BOYS- 5:00-7:00 PM
Sat,21st September	Office closed. Year 13 Extra classes: PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY
	Training for BOYS- 5:00-7:00 PM
Sun,22 <sup>nd</sup> September	
Mon,23 <sup>rd</sup> September	OUTDOOR BREAK COMMENCES
	YEAR 12 SCIENCE BOYS VACCINATION
	NGRT YEAR 3
	NGRT YEAR 5
	NGRT 10 A
	10 D
	10 E

Tue,24 <sup>th</sup> September	YEAR 12 SCIENCE GIRLS VACCINATION
	NGRT YEAR 6
	NGRT 10 C
	ZERO PERIOD: Seniors Readers Cup preliminaries in the Library
	2 <sup>nd</sup> LESSON: Juniors Readers Cup preliminaries in the library
Wed,25 <sup>th</sup> September	YEAR 12 COMMERCE GIRLS & BOYS VACCINATION
	NGRT YEAR 8
	YEAR 10B
Thu,26 <sup>th</sup> September	NGRT YEAR 9 BOYS
	PREFECT INVESTITURE CEREMONY -ONLY PREFECTS (
	Student event only )
Fri,27 <sup>th</sup> September	NGRT YEAR 9 GIRLS
	YEAR 7
	YEAR 10F
	Training for BOYS- 5:00-7:00 PM
Sat,28 <sup>th</sup> September	Office Closed. Extra classes: BIOLOGY & MATHS
	Training for BOYS- 5:00-7:00 PM
Sun,29th September	
Mon,30 <sup>th</sup> September	SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOR ALL

• WHOLE SCHOOL ART COMPETITION 16<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER YEARS 1-8 IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ART LESSONS

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

Tel.: +(971) 4 3370252 Fax: +(971) 4 3368119 E-mail: maryscol@emirates.net.ae website: www.stmarysdubai.com



#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانويا

بريد الكتروني : maryscol@emirates.net.ae www.stmarysdubai.com

هاتف : ۹۷۱ ؛ ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ و ۹۷۱ فاکس : ۹۷۱ ۴ ۳۳٦۸۱۱۹

TRN: 100259955100003

OUR REF : .....

DATE: 13th September r 2024

# To: Parents of students from Years 7, 8 and 9: KOMODO WELLBEING PLATFORM 2024-2025

Dear Parents.

**Greetings from Saint Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai.** As parents and educators, we are constantly trying to improve the wellbeing of our children. Wellbeing has a clear influence on student learning. When students feel safe and supported, they are more engaged and ready to learn.

Regular surveying plays an essential role in wellbeing visibility. It gives us greater insights to trends across cohorts of students and can better bridge each student to school student support networks.

We have therefore partnered with Komodo to provide students with the opportunity for to reflect on their concerns. It provides students with a safe and confidential way to ask for help.

Parents are requested to kindly send a laptop or a tab on survey Please find the first term survey dates below:

#### KOMODO WELLBEING SURVEY DATES FOR FIRST TERM FOR YEARS 7,8 AND 9

Tuesday,17 <sup>th</sup> Sep. 2024	Wellbeing survey
Tuesday,15 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2024	Wellbeing survey
Tuesday,12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2024	Wellbeing survey
Tuesday,10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.2024	Wellbeing survey

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph ( Principal )

DUBAL - U.A.E.

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

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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

بريد الكثروني : maryscol@emirates.net.ae موقع ويب : www.stmarysdubai.com

هاتف : ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱ + فاکس : ۳۳۲۸۱۱۹ ؛ ۹۷۱

Date: Tuesday,10th September 2024

To: Parents of Students from YEAR ONE to YEAR THIRTEEN

RE: Assessments for the November 2024 Report

Dear Parents,

20 marks

**20 MARKS** 

Greetings from St. Mary's. Please read the information carefully with regard to your child's Assessments ahead of the November 2024 report.

This is what Assessments will look like.

YEARS 11, 12 and 13 - Assessments for the November 2024 report

YEARS 2 to 6 - Assessments for the November 2024 report

ASSESSMENT WINDOW: Ongoing until first week of November 2024 - NO MORE THAN TWO

**ASSESSMENTS PER DAY** 

Internal Assessment marks 100% (Within set Deadlines)

	-				
ASSESSMENT WINDOW: $10^{th}$ until $23^{rd}$ October 2024 - NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER					
DAY	DAY				
( Music, Art & Sport	- Continuous AFL ) YEAR 3 FRENCH – ORALS ONLY				
Values Ed/ PSHE/	CITIZENSHIP / Geography - In-class reading based assessment. (No				
memorization)	memorization)				
SUMMATIVE- AFL					
ASSESSMENT	Presentations/ Skits/				
ONE TEST Oral Role play / Group					
visibly evidenced.	Work/ Pair work / PROJECT WORK/RESEARCH				

IMPROVEMENT/ LEARNING LADDERS

FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR

YEARS 7 to 10 - Ass	YEARS 7 to 10 - Assessments for the November 2024 report			
ASSESSMENT WINDOW: 10th to 23rd October 2024- NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS PER DAY				
( Sports Continuous AFL ) ( Art years 7 and 8 AFL )				
SUMMATIVE-	AFL			
ASSESSMENT	Presentations/ Skits/			
ONE TEST	Oral Role play / Group			
visibly evidenced.	Work/ Pair work / PROJECT WORK/RESEARCH			
25 marks FORMATIVE FEEDBACK WITH STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR				
25 MARKS	IMPROVEMENT/ LEARNING LADDERS			

#### YEAR 1 - Assessments for the November 2024 report

ASSESSMENT WINDOW: Ongoing until first week of November 2024 – Continuous AFL and Ongoing assessments as part of ongoing class work.

#### **AFL**

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

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 scheduled shortly and will be posted in your child's GC by 20<sup>th</sup> September by your child's class teacher. For years 11, 12 and 13, their subject teachers have already begun class tests. Time tables will also be sent via the class group email.

**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.

**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 , 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,

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

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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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هاتف : ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱+ فاکس : ۳۳۲۸۱۱۹ ؛ ۹۷۱+

OUR REF :	TRN: 100259955100003
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DATE: Tuesday, 10th September 2024

To: Parents of Native Arabic speaking students in Years Five through Ten
- IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS

## STUDENTS MUST BRING A FULLY CHARGED LAPTOP OR TABLET TO SCHOOL ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2024 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, 2024*. 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 day.

MONDAY	4 <sup>TH</sup> November 2024 - 9:00 AM	ARABIC A	<b>YEARS 5-10</b>

The entry fee is AED 35/- for this exam, the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 20th SEPTEMBER 2024. 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 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
- Students and schools with 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 below requirements:

- 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 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,

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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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هاتف: ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱ فاکس: ۳۳۳۸۱۱۹ ؛ ۹۷۱

DATE: Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

#### 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, 2024*. 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.

MONDAY	18 <sup>TH</sup> November 2024	ARABIC B	YEAR 5
TUESDAY	19th November 2024	ARABIC B	YEARS 7 & 9

# The entry fee is AED 35/- for this exam, the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY THROUGH THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024. 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 the 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 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
- Students and schools with 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 below requirements:

- 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 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,

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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

ص.ب. ٢٢٣٢م، دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة

بريد الكتروني : maryscol@emirates.net.ae www.stmarysdubai.com هاتف : ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱ + ۹۷۱ فاکس : ۳۳٦۸۱۱۹ تا ۹۷۱

TRN: 100259955100003

OUR REF : .....

DATE: Friday, 6th September 2024

#### **To:** The Parents of students in YEARS 11, 12 AND 13:

UAE UNIVERSITY FAIR @ SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, DUBAI- 17th SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Parents.

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

It is a pleasure to be able to once again invite you, dear parents to join us in the Main Hall for the UAE University Fair on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. We have several top quality universities from the UAE attending our UAE university Fair. We encourage you to come and take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with all the top universities from the UAE and speak to their representatives personally. Students from years 11, 12 and 13 will be visiting the universities at specific time slots. The details of the fair are as follows:

• Date: Tuesday 17th September 2024

• Venue: Main Hall, SMCHS

• Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Please find the list of Universities that will be represented overleaf. These have confirmed but there will be many more who are yet in the process of confirming.

We look forward to your presence at the fair.

Yours sincerely

#### **UAE UNIVERSITY**

- Middlesex University
- Bathspa University
- De Montfort University Dubai
- Amity University Dubai
- Herriot Watt
- Symbosis
- Qadri International (medical studies abroad)
- RIT-Rochester Institute of Technology
- Curtin University
- GBS Dubai
- Bolton University Dubai
- Ajman University
- Unihawk
- Explorer
- University of Waterloo
- UNB Canada
- Zayed University
- UKCBC
- Gyanberry
- Study in Germany
- Dubai Medical College
- Regent
- Demont
- Cromwell
- PWC
- Book My Univeristy
- Jain University
- Unique Robotics
- Learners
- Study In Australia
- Vedatma
- American College

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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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هاتف : ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱ + فاکس : ۳۳۲۸۱۱۹ ؛ ۹۷۱

OUR REF: ...... TRN: 100259955100003

DATE: Friday, 6th September 2024

# To: The Parents of students in YEARS 11, 12 AND 13 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR

Dear Parents.

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

It is a pleasure to be able to once again invite you to join us in the Main Hall for **THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR** on **Thursday**, **19**<sup>th</sup> **September 2024**. We have several top-quality universities from the UK, US, Ireland, Canada and Australia attending the Fair. We strongly encourage you to come and take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with all the top universities and speak to their representatives personally. Students from years 11, 12 and 13 are strongly advised to stay back in school and attend the fair that will be highly beneficial to them. The details of the fair are as follows:

• Date: Thursday 19th September 2024

• Venue: Main Hall, SMCHS

• Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

The following universities have confirmed their attendance

COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY
Australia	Australian Catholic University
Australia	University of Melbourne
Australia	The Australian National University
Australia	Victorian Institute of Technology (VIT)
Australia	Flinders University
Canada	University of Guelph
Canada	Simon Fraser University
Canada	St Francis Xavier University
Canada	University of Guelph-Humber
Canada	University of Waterloo
Canada	University of Saskatchewan

Canada	Humber
Canada	University of Alberta
Canada	The University of Winnipeg
Canada	University of Windsor
Canada	Wilfrid Laurier University
Canada	Toronto Metropolitan University
Canada	University of Lethbridge
Canada	Yorkville University   Toronto Film School
Dubai	Heriot-Watt University Dubai
Dubai	University of Wollongong
Ireland	University College Dublin
Ireland	Dublin City University
United Kingdom	St Georges University
United Kingdom	Northumbria University
United Kingdom	Kingston University London
United Kingdom	Swansea University
United Kingdom	University of Nottingham
United Kingdom	Keele University
United Kingdom	Study Group
United Kingdom	Nottingham Trent University
United Kingdom	Brunel University London
United Kingdom	University of Birmingham
United Kingdom	Durham University
United Kingdom	The University of Liverpool
United Kingdom	University of Surrey
United Kingdom	University of Lincoln
United Kingdom	University of Sheffield
United Kingdom	Arts University Bournemouth
United States	University of Cincinnati
United States	University of Arizona
United States	Green River College
United States	Kaplan International Pathways
United States	Shorelight
United States	Lawrence Technological University

Yours sincerely



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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية صب. ٢٢٢٦، يبي - الإماران العربية المتحدة

بريد الكتروني : maryscol@emirates.net.ae موقع ويب : www.stmarysdubai.com

هاتف : ۳۳۷۰۲۵۲ ؛ ۹۷۱ فاکس : ۳۳٦۸۱۱۹ ؛ ۹۷۱

OUR REF: ...... TRN: 100259955100003

DATE: Friday 30th August 2024

# To: Parents of students in Years FOUR, SIX EIGHT & TEN ONLY - GL CAT4 EXAMINATION - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

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 GLS-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 65/- for the test, the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY VIA THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023. 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 OUR NEXT WEEKLY CIRCULAR.

Yours sincerely,

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

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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

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TRN: 100259955100003

OUR REF : .....

DATE: Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

#### **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 105/- 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 2024.

The schedule for the tests will be sent with the next weekend circular but will tentatively be in September 2024.

Please note that results will go towards part of the English Language assessment for the FIRST REPORT IN NOVEMBER 2024 and students must undertake the tests seriously as this will count towards attainment in English.

Yours sincerely



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#### مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية مرير ۲۲۲۲ مير – الإماران العربية البندية

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TRN: 100259955100003

UR	REF	 and a second		

Friday, 6th September 2024

# Parents of students in Years 5 – 13 CYBERBULLYING/ BULLYING / INAPPROPRIATE USE OF OR BULLYING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. I am sure that every child is precious to every parent and it is our duty to safeguard every child in the school. We at St. Mary's hold this sentiment close to our hearts and we strive to offer all students a hazard free and emotionally safe environment in which they can achieve their full academic and personal potential. In light of this it has been a rather disappointing experience to have learned that some students have been resorting to Cyberbullying with the intention to emotionally and psychologically hurt another child or other children.

We have recently been made aware of several accounts on Instagram that are using the school name and logo with content that is racially offensive, sexually inappropriate, has targeted staff and students by name in a manner that is vilifying and degrading.

Several senior students especially in years nine and ten have been identified as following these accounts, commenting on and even liking the offensive content.

Some of these accounts are smchs\_confess, smchs\_sleep, smchs\_eating, smchs\_slapping etc. The school has provided all information regarding these accounts to the e-crime division of Dubai Police and those involved will have to face subsequent consequences as all that has been described goes completely against UAE cultural as well as cybercrime laws.

Please review your children's social media accounts, so you may advise them appropriately.

We believed that our O-Level students are mature enough to handle their devices in school but we have seen that a large majority of them have been following these accounts and so we will now be requiring them to hand in their phones every morning to their class teachers.

We would like for every parent to carefully go through the KHDA Parent-School Contract over the weekend with your child as well as this letter to be well reminded of the school's zero-tolerance policy for bullying in all its forms and the potential consequences that might arise from any behaviour that constitutes bullying. We will be updating our Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policies and shall make these available to you shortly.

#### FROM THE KHDA PARENT-SCHOOL CONTRACT

The school has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying in all its forms. Bullying is the intentional and deliberate intimidation of another person through emotional, physical. Psychological and / or cyber means. Instances of proven and intentional bullying may result in immediate suspension of the aggressor from the school. The matter will be referred to KHDA for ratification.

Aligned with the above, the school will not tolerate any form of defamation or intentional harm practiced through social media forums. The school has set clear policies for parents and students about the use of and participation in social media outlets and/or forums and these centre around UAE guidelines and protocols such as:

- Parents and students in all year groups using any social media forum, must at all times, demonstrate respect for the members of the school community (including all students and personnel)
- 2) Parents and students must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community. Instances of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions which may include SUSPENSION from school.

WARNING LETTERS WILL BE ISSUED IN CASES WHERE ANY FORM OF BULLYING HAS BEEN OBSERVED: These letters will be also sent to KHDA and will be placed on the students' personal file.

- 1) The First Warning letter will be issued with clear cut details of consequences that will follow should the behaviour in question be repeated.
- 2) The Second Warning letter will result in a one-day suspension from school along with details of further consequences.
- 3) The Third Warning letter will result in a three-day suspension from school with the potential permanent suspension from the school after consultation with the KHDA.

The school also reserves the right not to re-enroll students for the following Academic Year when behavioural issues are repeated. This will be documented by the school through the issuance of dated warning letters supported with evidence and after obtaining KHDA approval.

We appeal to ALL parents to kindly make frequent checks on your children's use of Social Media as well as checking the statutory age limits for holding certain Social Media Accounts . While some parents may feel that checking on their Children's social media is intrusive, evidence that we have seen of many children's use of social media strongly points to the old adage 'It is better to be safe than sorry'.

We trust that this reminder will be taken seriously by ALL parents and that you will set up a dedicated time this weekend to go over this letter with your children.

Yours Sincerely,