ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية

ص.ب. ٣٢٣٢ه، دبى – الإمارات العربية المتحدة

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

Friday, 20th September 2024

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

Dear Parents,

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

Hearty Congratulations

to all our students for their determined efforts towards recycling.

Our school was awarded.

SECOND PLACE in the BIC PENS UAE RECYCLING CAMPAIGN 2024.

PARENTS WE NEED YOUR HELP & COLLABORATION: It is becoming increasingly difficult to deal with the large volume of late comers every morning. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ON THE PREMISES BY 7:05 AM SHARP.

GATE no. 5 WILL BE CLOSED AT 7:10 AM SHARP. Sadly most children who are arriving late are living near the school. Please have your child take an earlier bus or train if they are using public transport. If you are dropping your child, please leave home a little earlier.

NEW UPDATES:

- GRADUATION CEREMONY CLASS OF 2023-2024 : PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.
- OCTOBER 2024 ASSESSMENT TIMETABLES YEARS 2-10uploaded to school website.
- OCTOBER 2024 ASSESSMENT PORTIONS-uploaded to school website.
- IDP STUDY ABROAD EXPO-GRAND HYATT DUBAI 22ND SEPT.
- GCSE/ IGCSE & GCE/IAL BOARD EXAM REGISTRATION FORMS-YEAR 11 & 13.
- PREFECT CONTRACT.
- LETTER WRITING STORY WRITING COMPETITION: PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.

Link to:

SAINTZ TIMES NEWSLETTER – VOLUME 3



- **1) OCTOBER 2024 ASSESSMENT TIMETABLES AND PORTIONS:** Please check the school website for this information. These will also be sent to you via the class group email.
- 2) GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2023-2024 (Current Year 12 students and parents) 8TH NOVEMBER 2024 evening ceremony: Parents are requested to kindly save this date and check the separate attachment.
- 3) IDP STUDY ABROAD EXPO AT GRAND HYATT DUBAI (Parents of students in Years 10-13): Please check separate flyer attached.
- **4) GEMA INTERNATIONAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2024:** Parents are requested to please check the GEMA FLYER attached.

5) PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM REGISTRATION FORMS FOR YEARS 11 & 13: Parents of students in Years 11 and 13 are reminded to please check the Pearson Edexcel Exam Registration forms that have been sent with the children today. Payment for London Board Exams must be made through Skiply. Please send the forms with the relevant documents (mentioned on the form) and the printed Skiply receipt.

6) PREFECTURAL ROLES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS:

Parents of Year Twelve students must please note that they will ALL be given the opportunity to serve as School Prefects as well as undertake compulsory Community Service in preparation for university life. Being a leader calls for both maturity and responsibility and we will be taking them through the process in the coming weeks. Year 12 students have been given a Prefect Contract which they have been asked to carefully read and then sign as an acceptance of the role of Prefect for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

- **7) OCTOBER 2024 ASSESSMENT REPORT INFORMATION:** Please see attached circular that was issued on 10th September 2024.
- 8) IBT ARABIC A & B (ARABIC A- Years 5-10) (ARABIC B Years 5, 7 & 9): Please see attached circulars that were issued on 10th September 2024.
- **9) SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2024:** Please refer to the circular of 13 Sept.
- **10) 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 on **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.

11) 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.

Tue, 8th October 2024	YEAR 4 A B C D E & F
Tue, 15 th October 2024	YEAR 6 A B C D E & F
Tue, 22 nd October 2024	YEAR 8 A B C D E & F
Tue, 29th October 2024	YEAR 10 A B C D E & F

12) 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.

13) 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>, 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.

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

14) INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBERBULLYIING: Please see circular of 6th September 2024.

15) 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.

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) 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 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.

0.64 4770.0004	G A A A A GENERAL TO A GENERAL
26 th AUG 2024	School re-opens for ALL STUDENTS
30 th SEP 2024	Holiday for students
10 th to 23 rd OCT 2024	Window for mid-term assessments
1st NOV 2024	Diwali Holiday
11 th NOV 2024	Holiday for all students
2nd & 3rd DEC 2024	National Day Holidays
14 th DEC 2024–5 th JAN 2025	Winter Break
(Inclusive)	
6th JAN 2025	School re-opens after the Winter Break
10 ^{t h -} 24 th JAN - 2025	First Term Examinations in the morning. Regular lessons after break.
	Students will not be allowed to go home after the morning's exam.
13th FEB 2025	Sports Day Years 5-13 (subject to change)
17th FEB 2025	Holiday for all students
21st FEB 2025	Sports Day Years 1-4
7 th to 21 st MAR 2025	Window for Mid-term assessments
14th -21st MAR 2025	Mock Examinations years 11 and 13
7 th to 11 th APR 2025	
22 nd MAR – 6 TH APR 2025	Spring Break
(inclusive)	
17 th & 18 th APR 2025	Holiday for all students
13th 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
5th & 6th JUN 2025	Eid Al Adha (subject to government declaration)
26th JUN 2025	Government Holiday
27th JUN 2025	Last day of school

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

20) 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.

21) 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

- **22) 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.
- **23) 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.
- **24)** 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.
- **25) 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.
- **26) 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.
- **27) 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.

28) 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.

29) URGENT QUERIES AND CONCERNS: If you have any urgent queries and concerns, kindly send an email to our Vice Principal, Ms. Lise-Ann on l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org and she will get back to you. Please include your telephone number in case she needs to call you. We take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph (Principal)



Links:

- SEPTEMBER 2024 CALENDAR
- ASSESSMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 REPORT
- IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS ARABIC A
- <u>IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS ARABIC B</u>
- NGRT NEW GROUP READING TEST
- GL CAT4 EXAMINATION
- KOMODO WELLBEING PLATFORM 2024-2025
- CYBERBULLYING / BULLYING / INAPPROPRIATE USE OF OR BULLYING ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- ADMISSION TO TWO YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME



ST. MARY'S Catholic High School, Dubai

GCSE GRADUATION CEREMONY

FOR THE CLASS OF 2023-2024

The GCSE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2023 - 2024 will be held on FRIDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2024 at 5:00 PM in the MAIN HALL AT ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DUBAI.

There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, 30th October 2024 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm in the Main Hall. Students will receive their invitations and Graduation Gowns on the day of the rehearsal. The cost of AED 260/- for the hiring of the Graduation Gown as well as 1 Graduation DVD and 1 DVD with the photographs and other incidentals should be paid on the day of the Rehearsal. Please bring the Exact Amount. Only TWO adults per graduate can be accommodated in the Hall. No exceptions can be made due to space constraints.

ALL STUDENTS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY MUST COME FOR THE REHEARSAL. STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO COLLECT THEIR GOWNS FROM 12:00 PM -1:30 PM ON THE DAY OF THE REHEARSAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REHEARSAL WILL BEGIN AT 2:00 PM SHARP. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND THE REHEARSAL WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.



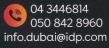


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UNITED STATES & CANADA

DUBAI SEPTEMBER 22ND

GRAND HYATT DUBAI - AL AMEERA BALLROOM

03:00 PM - 08:00 PM

CANADA

- # Dalhousie University
- # University of Alberta
- # University of Manitoba
- # University of Ottawa
- # University of Saskatchewan
- # University of Waterloo
- · Acadia Universitu
- · Durham College
- · Fanshawe College · George Brown College
- · Georgian College of Applied
- Arts and Technology
- · Lakehead University · Langara College
- Navitas Canada

- · North Island College
- · Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- · Ontario Tech University
- · Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- · Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advance Learning
- · Simon Fraser University
- · St. Clair College
- · St. Francis Xavier University
- · The University of Winnipeg
- · University of Fraser Valley
- · University of Guelph
- · University of Guelph Humber
- · University of Lethbridge

· De Montfort University · Edinburgh Napier University

· INTO University of Exeter · Kaplan International Pathways

Northumbria University

· Regent's University London · Robert Gordon University

 Kingston University London · Lancaster University

· Nottingham Trent University

· Manchester Metropolitan University

· Oxford International Education Group

· Swinburne University of Technology

· The University of New South Wales

Keele Universitu

· Navitas UK

· OnCampus

· Study Group UK

· Ulster University

· University of Bath

· RMIT University >

· The University of Adelaide

· The University of Melbourne · The University of New England

· The University of Newcastle

· The University of Sydney

· The University of Queensland

· Swansea University

· Goldsmiths University of London · Heriot-Watt University

· University of Prince Edward Island

- · University of Regina
- · University of Windsor >
- · Vancouver Island University
- · York University

UNITED STATES

- · Green River College
- · INTO
- · Lawrence Technological University
- · Iowa State University
- · Kaplan International Pathways
- · Northeastern University
- · Northern Kentucky University
- · Study Group US
- · St. George's University
- · University of Cincinnati

UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

DUBAI SEPTEMBER 22ND

GRAND HYATT DUBAI - BANIYAS BALLROOM

03:00 PM - 08:00 PM

UNITED KINGDOM

- * Cardiff University >
- * Durham University
- * King's College London
- * Newcastle University >
- * Queen Mary, University of London
- * Queen's University Belfast
- * The University of Bristol
- * University of Birmingham
- * University of Exeter
- * University of Glasgow >
- * University of Leeds
- * University of Liverpool
- * The University of Manchester * University of Nottingham
- * University of Sheffield
- * University of Warwick
- · Aberystwyth University
- · Arts University Bournemouth
- Aston University
- · Bath Spa University
- · Brunel University
- · Coventry University
- · Cranfield University

AUSTRALIA

- · Australian Catholic University
- · Deakin Universitu

- · Macquarie University
- · Monash University

IELTS Masterclass



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- University of Kent ►

· University of Bradford

· University of Brighton

· University of Chester >

· University of Dundee

· University of Leicester University of Portsmouth

· University of East Anglia

- · University of Reading >
- · University of St Andrews
- · University of Stirling >
- · University of Strathclyde >
- University of Surrey
- · University of Westminster

· Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest

· The University of Western Australia

· Trinitu College Foundation Studies · University of South Australia

· University of Southern Queensland

· University of Wollongong

· Western Sydney University

· The University of Auckland

· UNSW College

NEW ZEALAND

- · Trinity College Dublin · University College Dublin

- · Curtin University >
- · Edith Cowan University
- · Flinders University
- · INTO
- · La Trobe University



Don't miss our seminars at the Expo!

Join us on social media to stay tuned for timings & more.



01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

Medicine Session 05:00 PM - 06:00 PM



RGS GUILDFORD

LETTER WRITING COMPETITION

What is the next best thing to showing up personally at someone's door?

Sending them a letter of course!

You are invited to write a letter to someone special in your best hand writing and submit it for a chance to win certificates and prizes.

- The theme for this year is "Imagine."
- Entries can be in Arabic or English.
- Please check out Categories, Further instructions, Judging criteria and other details: https://www.elfdubai.org/en/letter-writing-competition

Last date: 13 December 2024







Looking for an opportunity to unleash your inner Shakespeare?
Well here is your chance! Let your imagination flow!

You are invited to write a story and submit it for a chance to win certificates and prizes.

- The theme for this year is "Imagine."
- Entries can be in Arabic or English.
- Please check out Categories, Word Limits, Further instructions, Judging criteria and other details:

https://www.elfdubai.org/en/story-writing-competition

Last date:28 October 2024