



OUR REF :

TRN : 100259955100003

Friday, 11th October 2024

To: The Parents of students in Years 1-13

WEEKLY CIRCULAR BEFORE WEEK EIGHT

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.

NEW UPDATES:

- **DHA HEALTH AND HAPPINESS CHALLENGE**
(Only for Years 7 to 13)
- **SIMPLY BOTTLES RECYCLING PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES:**
PET PLASTIC or TYPE 1 – Campaign Starts Monday, 14th October 2024.
- **SAINTZ MUN TRYOUTS – See attached flyer.**

1) SIMPLY BOTTLES RECYCLING PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES: We are inviting parents to please support the children in this campaign as we really would like them to value the importance of recycling. In addition to prizes from Simply Bottles , we will be awarding three classes (YEARS 1-4/ YEARS 5-8/ YEARS 9-13) with the highest number of bottles recycled with a picnic day out in January 2025. Please send the empty plastic water bottles collected with your child each day. This campaign will run until the 9th of December 2024. Last Year our school won the **FIRST PRIZE** among all other participating schools for this.

Winning classes of last year (currently year 10D, 8A and last year's 4D) will have their winner's picnic on 13th November 2024. A separate letter will follow to these parents later.

2) DHA HEALTH & HAPPINESS CHALLENGE (Only for Years 7 to 13): Please see the separate circular attached. This is a wonderful initiative to encourage healthy habits in our children and your support would be greatly appreciated.

3) YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME : We have created a group email with the school email ID of those students who have registered for the programme. The first session will be tomorrow, 12th October from 8:00 to 10:00 am. Students must report to the boy's quadrangle by 7:45 am sharp.

4) 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. .

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 Skiplly. Please send the forms with the relevant documents (mentioned on the form) and the printed Skiplly receipt.

6) 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.

7) WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS: With a view to improving overall student wellbeing and following through with some suggestions from students themselves, the school will champion Wellbeing **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) GL CAT-4 TEST FOR YEARS FOUR, SIX, EIGHT AND TEN ONLY: 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 TEST FOR YEARS FOUR, SIX, EIGHT AND TEN ONLY

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, 29 th October 2024	YEAR 10 A B C D E & F

9) 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.

10) 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.

26 th AUGUST 2024	School re-opens for ALL STUDENTS
30 th SEPTEMBER 2024	Holiday for students
10 th to 23 rd OCTOBER 2024	Window for mid-term assessments
1 st NOVEMBER 2024	Diwali Holiday
11 th NOVEMBER 2024	Holiday for all students
2 nd & 3 rd DECEMBER 2024	National Day Holidays
14 th DECEMBER 2024 – 5 th JANUARY 2025 (Inclusive)	Winter Break

6 th JANUARY 2025	School re-opens after the Winter Break
10 th - 24 th 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 th FEBRUARY 2025	Sports Day Years 5-13 (subject to change)
17 th FEBRUARY	Holiday for all students
21 st FEBRUARY 2025	Sports Day Years 1-4
7 th to 21 st March 2025	Window for Mid-term assessments
14 th -21 st MARCH 2025	Mock Examinations years 11 and 13
7 th to 11 th APRIL 2025	
22 nd MARCH – 6 TH APRIL 2025 (inclusive)	Spring Break
17 th & 18 th APRIL 2025	Holiday for all students
13 th MAY 2025	Study Holiday
14 th 15 th & 16 th MAY 2025	Final exams in parallel with regular lessons
19 th to 28 th MAY 2025	Final Exams and students go home at 11:30 am
5 th & 6 th JUNE 2025	Eid Al Adha (subject to government declaration)
26 th JUNE 2025	Government Holiday
27 th JUNE 2025	Last day of school

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

11) 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.

12) 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.

13) 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.

14) 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.

15) 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.

16) 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:

- [DHA Health and Happiness Schools Challenge](#)
- [OCTOBER 2024 CALENDAR VERSION 1.0](#)
- [Youth Leadership Programme](#)
- [Sustainable Photography Competition](#)
- [ASSESSMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 REPORT](#)
- [MID-TERM OCT 2024 ASSESSMENT TIMETABLES YEARS 2-10](#)
- [Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2023-2024 – 8TH NOVEMBER 2024](#)
- [IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS – ARABIC A](#)
- [IBT ARABIC EXAMINATIONS – ARABIC B](#)
- [GL CAT4 EXAMINATION](#)
- [KOMODO WELLBEING PLATFORM 2024-2025](#)
- [International Essay Writing Competition '24](#)
- [Letter Writing Story Writing Competition 2025](#)
- [PERSONAL APPEARANCE](#)
- [CYBERBULLYING/ BULLYING / INAPPROPRIATE USE OF OR BULLYING ON SOCIAL MEDIA](#)
- [ADMISSION TO TWO YEAR A-LEVEL GCE PROGRAMME](#)

Health & Happiness Challenge

Dear Students,

We're inviting you to an exciting Government initiative designed to connect our school community and inspire student health & happiness. This Dubai Health Authority initiative will give you the opportunity to **win 1 of 50 iPhone 13's** should you take on the challenge and support our school in climbing to the top of the [inter-school challenge leaderboard](#).



St. Marys Catholic High School

Scan or click the QR code to join your schools' challenge and leaderboard. Earn points through the Core Direction app and help your school find a place on the podium



Scan or click the QR code to view the school leaderboard.

WIN an iPhone 13!

50 iPhone 13s up for grabs! Join the Challenge & you could be a winner!

How to participate and enter the student prize draw

1. Click the link or scan the QR code below and click “Join Challenge”

<https://my.coredirection.com/challenge/detail/KAqj0RnkiVCO4Wtl>



2. Download the [Core Direction Health Coach App](#) & collect points for your daily activity
3. Students who individually collect 450 points or more during the challenge will be entered into the iPhone 13 prize draw

How to earn points

Earn up to 10 points per day from any of the 5 metrics

- Earn Steps Points: Each 1000 steps = 1 Core point
- Earn Active Heart Rate Points: Each 3 minutes in the active zone = 1 Core Point
- Create an activity & Invite Friends: 7 Core Points
- Book an Activity & check-in: 10 Core Points
- Watch an On-Demand Video: 3 Core Points

To learn more about Core Points [Click here](#)

Helpful Links

- [Download the App](#)
- [View On-Boarding Guide](#)
- [View User Guides](#)

FAQ

Can my family Participate?

While your family can not join the school challenge, by downloading the Core Direction app, they will automatically be entered into the [Public Health & Happiness Challenge](#) with AED205,000 in cash up for grabs for UAE residents, 18 years and older.

Who can join our school challenge?

Any student from Grades 6-12 can join our school's challenge and leaderboard.

Is it necessary to download the Core Direction application?

Yes. While you can collect points through the Core Direction website alone, you will need to download the Core Direction application to collect step points or Active Heart Rate minutes if you have a heart rate tracking wearable device. The application will also provide supporting daily notifications to guide healthy habits and improve your chances of going into the challenge prize draw.

Do I need a wearable/smartwatch to participate?

A smartwatch or heart rate tracking device is not required to participate. You can earn Step Points through your phone. You can log activity and invite friends manually for Activity Points, book city-wide activity for Booking Points, or watch virtual content for On-demand Points. The only points you can not earn without a heart rate tracker is Active Heart Rate Points

How can I collect points towards the challenge leaderboard?

You can collect points through the Core Direction platform for clocking up steps, elevating your heart rate during physical activity, booking city-wide activity, logging activity and inviting friends & family to join or by consuming content from a wellness-focused content library. For a full overview of how you can earn points and the various point allocations, review the [challenge onboarding guide](#).

What is the duration of the challenge?

The Challenge will start on October 14th, 2024 and will run for 91 days until January 12th, 2025.



How can I win the Challenge?

While there is no prize for winning your individual school challenge, you can reach the top of the leaderboard by earning 10 points per day and collecting the most steps.

How can my school win?

Once the challenge starts, the school will be ranked based on the total points across all students divided by the number of registered students to give the student point average and rank against other competing schools.

What if I miss the challenge start date?

Students should register and join their schools' challenge and leaderboard before October 14th. Students who miss the start date can still join and participate and even go into the prize draw as long as the student collects more than 450 points over the entire challenge. It is still possible to collect 450 points if a student joins by Friday, November 29th by scoring a daily maximum of 10 points from your date of joining until the challenge end date. Please note that late student registrations will bring down the school average so late entry is not advised.

The number of winners?

There are 50 iPhone 13 devices up for grabs. If you earn 450 points over the course of the challenge you could be one of the lucky draw winners.

SAINTZ MUN

MUN TRYOUTS

finally open!

-ANNUAL COMEBACK-

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL SAINTZ MUN TRYOUTS 2024! ARE YOU READY TO SHARPEN YOUR DEBATING SKILLS, ENGAGE IN DYNAMIC DISCUSSIONS, AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON GLOBAL ISSUES? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT AND PASSION FOR DIPLOMACY! OPEN TO ALL YOUNG DEBATERS EAGER TO REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL

SIGN UP BEFORE: 18th October

WHEN: 9th November 2024 Saturday

ELIGIBILITY: Year 7-10

WHERE: Saint Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai

CONTACT US AT: mun-smchs@smgeducation.org

