



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Friday,, 28th May 2021

To: The Parents of students in Years 4-13 - DISTANCE and BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We continue to ask all of our Marian family to hold the school community in prayer especially for the health and safety of our children and their extended families. We pray in a special way for those families that are facing many challenges with health and other difficulties related because of the Pandemic and we trust that peaceful healing and happier times return to one and all. Please read these important updates as we move into week forty of this Academic Year.

CIRCULAR ON RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATIONS: Parents are requested to carefully go through the circular that explains the rules, regulations and procedures for examinations. This circular has been issued on 6th May 2021.

CIRCULAR ON RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE GL EXAMINATIONS: Parents are requested to carefully go through the circular that explains the rules, regulations and procedures for GL examinations. This circular was issued on 4th May 2021.

TRAVEL DECLARATION: In order for the school to be compliant with the UAE Covid-19 travel requirements, please click on the official DHA link (available on website) and answer the relevant questions even if your child has not travelled. We appreciate if you are not travelling that you complete it as soon as possible. If you are travelling, please complete it prior to your child's return to lessons. The email required to be filled in the field on the form is

traveldecl-smchs@smgeducation.org

NEW DHA REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING COVID-19 SCHOOL CASES: Even if a child who has opted for Distance Learning / Blended Learning has tested positive for Covid-19, parents are requested to please access the link provided on the school website as per new DHA

requirements and fill it up without fail. The new requirements necessitate that the PCR test report is sent by parents to the school on the same day that they receive it from the lab. **THIS IS NOW MANDATORY FOR PARENTS AS PER DHA. THIS IS ONLY FOR NEW COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES AND NOT THOSE WHO HAVE RECOVERED FROM COVID.**

RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 :

THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR RE-REGISTRATION WAS 15TH MAY 2021. WE WILL NOW CONSIDER THAT WHERE RE-REGISTRATION FEES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID THAT THOSE CHILDREN WILL NOT RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 AS WE HAVE TO CONFIRM OUR NEW ADMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

PLEASE TREAT THIS WEEKEND AS THE ABSOLUTE LAST & FINAL DEADLINE FOR THE PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING FEES AND RE-REGISTRATION FEES. We will be proceeding with new admissions from the following week based on those who have not been re-registered.

RELEASE OF FINAL EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS : The FINAL EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS/FORMS will be released from the 6th of June 2021 onwards to students so that students and parents may view the same. **We will not be releasing these to any students who still have OUTSTANDING FEES with the school.**

OUTSTANDING FEES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR : We are at a time junction of having gone past ALL DEADLINES for fee payments but we still have a large number of students with outstanding fees. We are urging all parents who have not yet cleared these outstanding fees to do so IMMEDIATELY. Please note that we will not be in a position to provide examination marks, report cards, mid-term assessment scripts, reference letters or any other official documents to students who still have outstanding fees. ALL OUTSTANDING FEES MUST BE PAID WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. RE-REGISTRATION FOR NEXT YEAR CANNOT BE DONE IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING FEES. We are grateful to those parents who have paid their outstanding fees and we would like to strongly

remind those who have not settled these outstanding fees that as per the regulator policy we will have no choice but to shortly disconnect lessons for fee defaulters who will also not have a place for the next Academic Year 2021-2022.

CHOICE OF SUBJECTS FOR YEAR 9 FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR (CURRENT YEAR 8 STUDENTS) :

It is that time of the year when we would ask you to reflect with your children on their subject choices for the next academic year. We are providing you with the options in this circular so that children may begin thinking about their choices and you as parents could seek information from professionals or relatives about onward subject pathways or career paths. We will of course be having an orientation for the students after the Final Exams but the final choices must be made on an official form that we will provide no later than the 8th of June 2021.

SUBJECTS FOR YEAR NINE

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|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | ENGLISH LANGUAGE | COMPULSORY |
| 2. | MATHEMATICS | COMPULSORY |
| 3. | RELIGIOUS STUDIES | COMPULSORY for students who take Bible and Islamic Studies |
| 4. | PSYCHOLOGY | COMPULSORY for students who don't take Bible or Islamic Studies |
| 5. | ARABIC | COMPULSORY |
| 6. | ICT or COMPUTER SCIENCE | COMPULSORY |
| 7. | BIOLOGY <u>OR</u> ACCOUNTS | |
| 8. | CHEMISTRY <u>OR</u> ECONOMICS | |
| 9. | PHYSICS <u>OR</u> BUSINESS STUDIES | |
| 10. | ART, ENGLISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, <u>OR</u> PSYCHOLOGY- (only 1) | |

EVERY STUDENT MUST COMPULSORILY CHOOSE ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT IN THEIR OVERALL SELECTION.

Students are asked to consider carefully the options before making their choice.

***** Please note that ICT and one Science have been made compulsory to further closely align with the British Curriculum, as pointed out in our KHDA inspection process over the last few years with a view to furthering students access to technology, thus arming them with the requisite 21st Century skills.**

***** Please note that students who do not take Bible or Islamic studies will have Psychology instead of the Religious studies component and therefore these students must choose another subject other than Psychology in OPTION 10.**

Islamic Studies and Bible are compulsory for students who take these subjects.

Once the choice has been made a subject CANNOT be changed.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Kindly note that places for Computer Science will be restricted to those students who currently display a secure understanding and application of computational thinking and problem solving skills.

Programming skills are a core component of this course and students will be required to have a knowledge of Python and be competent at designing, writing and debugging programmes . In case the places are oversubscribed, the school will allot seats strictly on the basis of current academic competence in ICT.

Parents may consult with your child's current subject teachers via email if you have any doubts about your child's competence in a particular subject. Ms. Amy Kuriyan is also available via email with regard to any queries about university requirements.

SCHEDULE FOR SUBJECT ORIENTATION WEDNESDAY 2ND AND THURSDAY 3RD JUNE 2021 (YEAR 8 STUDENTS) CLASS TEACHERS WILL SEND THE ZOOM LINKS.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TOPIC (GIRLS)</u>	<u>SUBJECT/ TOPIC (BOYS)</u>
2/6/21	8:00-8:15	GENERAL ORIENTATION	GENERAL ORIENTATION
2/6/21	8:15-8:45	BIOLOGY	ICT
2/6/21	8:45-9:15	ACCOUNTS	COMPUTER SCIENCE
2/6/21	9:15-9:45	CHEMISTRY	ART
2/6/21	9:45-10:00	BREAK	BREAK
2/6/21	10:00-10:30	ECONOMICS	ENGLISH LITERATURE
2/6/21	10:30-11:00	PHYSICS	HISTORY
2/6/21	11:00-11:30	BUSINESS STUDIES	PSYCHOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TOPIC (GIRLS)</u>	<u>SUBJECT/ TOPIC (BOYS)</u>
3/6/21	8:00-8:15	GENERAL ORIENTATION	GENERAL ORIENTATION
3/6/21	8:15-8:45	BIOLOGY	ICT
3/6/21	8:45-9:15	ACCOUNTS	COMPUTER SCIENCE
3/6/21	9:15-9:45	CHEMISTRY	ART
3/6/21	9:45-10:00	BREAK	BREAK
3/6/21	10:00-10:30	ECONOMICS	ENGLISH LITERATURE
3/6/21	10:30-11:00	PHYSICS	HISTORY
3/6/21	11:00-11:30	BUSINESS STUDIES	PSYCHOLOGY

YEAR 7 GL SCIENCE EXAMINATION : Parents are hereby notified that the Year 7 Science exam scheduled for 30th May 2021 will be a regular school exam in the format that students are answering examinations in as there is no GL Science Exam for Year 7 students. There is no change to the portion and all other content remains the same.

REGULAR LESSONS FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS UNTIL THE 29TH OF JUNE 2021: We would like all parents to be aware that regular lessons will continue through the month of June and attendance is mandatory .

For **Years 1-8-** Core subjects (English, Math, Arabic and Science) will focus on covering those critical gaps in learning so that we can optimize learning outcomes and ensure that students transition with limited challenges into the next year.

YEARS 9-12- Teachers will chose key content from the next Year to begin working with. Please be informed that the content/ topics/ modules will not be repeated in the following year. Teachers will also cover KEY GAPS in learning simultaneously so as to avoid an academic struggle next year.

YEAR 13- Teachers will be covering key skills that students will require for their first year at university with a large focus on research skills as well as insightful information on the consequences of plagiarism. We will also be covering a host of themes associated with the Expo 2020 for ALL CLASSES as this is going to be a major area of focus for the education sector for the next Academic Year.

In addition we will be having celebration days for the students related to culture and environmental awareness with a view to larger student engagement.

SOCIAL STUDIES BOOK 3 FROM MOE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM IRIS INTERNATIONAL: Parents who had paid for and ordered MOE Social Studies text books are hereby informed that Book 3 was just released by the MOE and is available for collection from our book distributors. Please use the link on the school website to make an appointment for collection.

YEAR 11 AND 13 GRADING ARRANGEMENTS AND EXAMINATION POLICY: Parents are reminded to please check the circular that was sent about grading arrangements for Year 11 and 13 on the 27th of April 2021. We have also uploaded a more detailed Examination Policy in this regard and we had sent it to the SIMS Parent Apps earlier this week.

VIEWING OF MOCK EXAMINATION ANSWER SCRIPTS FOR YEARS 11 AND 13: We had organised the viewing of Mock Examination answer scripts for students of years 11 and 13 this week. Students who do not have any outstanding dues and were not able to make it this week are requested to send an email to Ms. Lise-Ann and she will provide you with information about another date when you can view your answer scripts.

SOCIAL MEDIA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN : Parents are requested to kindly make sure that Primary Children are not using Social Media as they are well below the statutory age to hold these accounts. We have also noticed that many children as young as Year 4 have their own whatsapp accounts and we at St. Mary's highly discourage this practice as the children are not mature enough to handle these and often wind up in difficult conversations with their peers that might cause potential problems for parents if these are flagged to any local authority for their impropriety.

SOCIAL MEDIA FREQUENT CHECKS BY PARENTS FOR SECONDARY CHILDREN : Parents of secondary 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.

ADMISSION TO YEAR 12 FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 –PARENTS OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS: (This was shared in the circular of 19th September 2020 as well as in all circulars from 11th February 2021, and is being shared again since there are many queries regarding admissions to A-Level)

We would also like to bring to your attention that under the British system, a student completes high school with the completion of his/her O-Level. **Hence the admission to A-Level is then a process of a 'NEW ADMISSION'.**

We would like to point out very clearly , that admission to A-Level is not automatic.

The conditions for a student to be considered for a place in A-Levels are as follows.

- **SHOULD HAVE AN EXCELLENT BEHAVIOURAL RECORD**
- Must opt for 4 subjects with a high grade average in the subjects opted for.
- Admission will be merit-based.
- Hold a high grade average in ALL SUBJECTS (Internal Exams) in Year 11
- Should have not had any serious or repeated disciplinary issues over Years Nine through Eleven.
- Should not have engaged in activities, in or out of school, which tarnish the reputation of the school.
- **Hold a minimum attendance record of 95%**
- **Be prepared for an entrance exam in the subject opted for that has not been taken at O-Level.**

Please check the school website shortly for admission forms to A-Level.

COMPETITION AND PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION UNDER DL SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE: We would like to invite you to please check this new section we have added for many interesting programmes and competitions that the children can participate in.

DL SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: We would like to remind ALL parents to kindly visit the DL section on our school website as we have been updating it with many useful links , documents, vital information for keeping your children safe online, tips on well-being and mindfulness to name a few. We are sure that you will find these useful and we will keep updating this section as often as we can.

EXPO 2020 SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: We would like to invite you and your children to browse this section regularly as we will keep updating it with interesting and relevant resources for the children.

SCHOOL EMAIL ID TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCHOOL WORK: Students **MUST NOT USE** the school email ID credentials to register on any gaming website or third party eBook websites etc. Students should be very careful when visiting any website they are unsure of as there is the potential possibility of clicking on pop ups which could lead to inadvertently sharing information from a child's device to the linked pages. If any student or parent finds any unusual activity happening with your school email ID, kindly forward the same to IT support on their email and they will look into the matter immediately.

STRONG PASSWORD TO BE SET FOR SCHOOL EMAIL ID & NO SHARING OF PASSWORD WITH OTHER STUDENTS: It is imperative that parents of students (especially years 4-8) ensure that your child has set a strong password for his/ her school email. Moreover we have observed that many students are sharing their passwords with their classmates and we would like you as parents to remind them that this is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Please explain to them the potential issues they could face if they share their email passwords with friends/ classmates.

We wish you safe days ahead with blessings of good health for one and all.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

