



Dear Parents and Responsible Parties,

The Management team of Saint Mary's College hopes that you and your family are in good health and you are able to cope with the harsh conditions we are all confronted with since the outset of the current COVID19 confinement period.

On the academic side, since Monday 6th April 2020, secondary schools at the level of Grades 10 to 13 have been resorting to Emergency Remote Learning to ensure that students are kept focused on their studies.

This sudden lockdown situation could not have been predicted a few weeks ago. Due to lack of time and resources, Educators, at our school level, were not adequately prepared to proceed with online tutorials via several platforms. We are grateful to our educators who, despite numerous constraints, have been trying hard to teach your ward/ son from their own homes.

We are aware that the on-going online classes are being conducted under conditions which are far from being perfect. Face to face teaching and learning sessions in a classroom cannot be easily discarded. Our students are presently facing a lot of difficulties and we are doing our utmost best to help them in many ways.

To start with, the college's online platform known as OISAPP (*Online Intelligent School Application*), which was set up in 2017 to forward academic results term wise to Grades 7 to 10 students through their parents, is being made use of by some educators to deliver their lessons. Others are free to use any of other available platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Classrooms, WhatsApp Skype or emails, etc. to communicate with their respective groups of students. During this confinement period, some teachers are moreover using two available email addresses, namely

- (i) the college's email address: maryssaint@gmail.com
- and (ii) a recently created one: confinementsmc@gmail.com

We wish to thank also the members of the college's Student Council who have willingly helped in setting up various groups of classmates of Grades 10 to 13.

With regard to students of Grades 7 to 9, please note they can watch the TV programmes that the Ministry of Education, Human Resources, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research has scheduled on the following channels:

For Grade 7 students: Bhojpuri Channel as from 11:15 am approximately

For Grade 8 students: MBC Channel 2 as from 12 :00 pm approximately

For Grade 9 students: Senn Kreol as from 12:00 pm approximately

You can also have access to a wide range of online resources through

- (i) Mauritius Institute of Education <http://portal.mie.ac.mu>
- (ii) Mathematics Online Resources from Cambridge for Educators (GCSE/O-Levels)
- (iii) Student Support Programme <https://ssp.moemu.org>



(iv) Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Dear Parents, your ward/ son, in such present unforeseen circumstances, is being made to learn differently and he is engaging in various activities at home. This may indeed be viewed as a good opportunity for you to encourage him to expand such skills as studying and learning in an independent manner.

The Management Team is aware of the fact that some students, being deprived of internet access facilities and appropriate electronic devices, are disadvantaged by the ways and prevailing conditions under which the online teaching project is being carried out. When the confinement period is lifted and normal classes resume, we shall devise ways and means, with the support of teachers, to enable them to catch up with their studies.

As we move further in this remote learning process, difficulties can crop up and some issues will have to be addressed by the authorities concerned. In the meantime, there is a need for us to work together as partners whilst safeguarding the health and safety of each and every one.

We rely much on your kind understanding and continued collaboration in the best interest of your ward/son and that of all students of Saint Mary's College.

Yours Faithfully

Mr Jocelyn Renaud
Manager

Mr Gérard Yu Tim Lun
Rector

Miss Annelise Lafrance
Deputy Rector