Welcome Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

A relatively long Spring Term has come to an end. We hope that our students have derived full benefit from reviewing their Mid-Yearly Exam papers in class and have identified any areas of weakness needing more robust attention. The Mock Examinations, once again, ran smoothly and their review along with more revision, consolidation and working of past papers has definitely helped to improve standards in time for the SEC and Edexcel examinations. Sixth Formers have also tasted what exams are like at Advanced and Intermediate level.

Gaining experience in the identical conditions of the actual exams is vital. Guidance from our teachers regarding exam content and assistance with organisational skills have helped students identify areas which need improvement.

We wish you all a blessed Easter.

Mr Patrick Padovani  
Head of Middle School & Senior School

Mr Tonia Pace  
Head of Sixth Form

Green Day

Our Ekoskola team recently organised a ‘Green Day’ at the College. The event was targeted at all Middle School and Senior School students. Its aim was to create awareness about the connections between environmental changes and the physical spaces we inhabit. Green Day provided students with an opportunity to appreciate environmental issues from a number of different perspectives. A cross-curricular approach was highlighted on this day which allowed students to explore practical ways of making the College more sustainable.

Students and staff were asked to symbolically wear a green item of clothing on the day of the event. A number of students planted a number of saplings and bright, vibrant flowers around the College grounds. Another activity involved the setting up of an aquarium in Middle School. Musical instruments were also made using different recycled materials.

Green Day was an opportunity for the Ekoskola team to continue promoting a change in attitudes and habits. It also complemented the work that is constantly carried out at St Martin’s College to provide a clean, healthy and safe environment for all students, staff and visitors.
**SMC Library News**

World Book Day will be celebrated in local school libraries on 4th May this year, with Library Week falling between 2nd and 6th May, right after the Easter Holidays. Students are urged to borrow and read books in all the languages that they are studying. The importance of reading can never be overemphasized. We promote reading throughout the scholastic year during lessons and class visits to the library. Lists of new books are prominently displayed on the school notice boards. Some 500 books were added to the collection between January and March this year.

Every year SMC Library hosts various authors to meet our students and talk to them about their books and how writing and reading influenced their lives. During Maltese Week two local authors, Clare Azzopardi and Ivan DeBattista, will meet students in the library, discuss their publications and promote reading in Maltese. Unfortunately, the planned visit by foreign author Tommy Donbavand will not materialize due to unforeseen circumstances. This is very disappointing for the J6 students but it has not stopped them from borrowing and reading his 'Scream Street' and 'Too ghoul for school' series.

The library is open throughout the day for students to browse and find the particular genre or author that interests them. They may also suggest titles of books that they would like to find in the library. Book lending statistics are very encouraging, registering a marked increase over previous scholastic years. One of the laws of library science is that every book has its reader. For this reason we target and make special efforts with students termed 'reluctant readers'. We research, purchase and promote the latest authors and themes to suit students' diverse tastes and different age groups. We find it extremely rewarding when 'reluctant readers' become regular borrowers.

On this note I urge parents to encourage students to borrow books to read during the summer months. **SMC library is open during the summer holidays for their convenience. The Summer Opening Hours shall be as follows:**

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, between 8:00-12:00, from 1st JULY to 12th AUGUST.

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**Junior 6 Outing to the MCC**

On Friday 8th April Junior 6 students were taken to the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta for an educational programme organised by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. During this outing, students learned more about the orchestra through the performances of Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf Benjamin Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

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**St Leonards-Mayfield School visit SMC**

On Monday 11th April SMC was visited by a group of students from St Leonards-Mayfield School, UK. On this occasion, the visiting students performed two short concerts of music for choir and quartet to Junior 6 and Form 1 students.
**Form 2 outing to Fort Rinella**

On the 10th December, as part of the History syllabus, our Form 2 students visited Fort Rinella in Kalkara. The students attended an introductory audio-visual presentation, followed by a guided tour of Fort Rinella, including the barracks, the famous 100 ton gun (the largest war cannon in the world), and the loading chambers. Furthermore the students were also shown how the British soldiers used to defend our islands by watching and participating in a special live re-enactment involving several 19th Century weapons.

**Kindai Highschool Visit**

As happens every year, a group of Japanese students from our sister school, Kindai High School in Osaka, Japan visited us in mid March for two weeks. We prepared a programme that they enjoyed along with our students. This year we had 36 students who used our library to learn English. They also integrated in many lessons such as PE, Art, Drama, History and Environmental Studies with our students. They have also visited many sites of interest in Malta.

Our staff and students were glad to present them with a Book of Solidarity signed by many amongst us, after the recent unfortunate events in Japan.

**Christmas Talent Fest**

Last December saw the introduction of a new event on the SMC Middle School calendar - The Christmas Talent Fest. Following the success of Rock the House over the past years and the regular visits to old people’s homes during Christmas, it was decided to embark on a new project that combined the two.

The result was a morning’s outing to St Vincent De Paul’s residence on Friday 17th December. The event took place in the residence’s theatre where some 90 SMC students participated in a talent show alongside some residents. A good number of these students were performers whilst others contributed by helping out whether on backstage or the front of house.

The programme consisted of some 25 enthusiastically performed items and ranged from singing to interviews, poetry recitation to dance and instrumental performances, ending with students, teachers and residents joining in a choir number.

There was a wonderful spirit of respect throughout the performance. The audience of SMC Middle School students and St Vincent De Paule residents rallied round cheering on all contributors, and SMC students truly lived up to the Christmas spirit of altruism by sharing their talent to others to enliven their day. They also escorted the residents to and from the theatre and gave them a small gift towards which they also contributed.

Collaborators at the residence look forward to SMC’s return in December 2011 when we again hope to share a little of what our students have with others, getting enjoyment and satisfaction in return.
Humanities Day

The Humanities Department organised a Humanities Day in the Middle School on Tuesday 22nd March 2011. The activities included a special presentation for Form 2 students on career options in the Humanities and a short session in Middle School Break in which students were invited to attend for a short DVD presentation on water.

Middle School Lenten Seminars

During the month of March, our Middle School students participated in a day long Lenten seminar over three days – one per level. The day started off by visiting three homes for the elderly, namely St. Catherine’s, Villa Messina and Sawra Home. It was a great experience for all those present. The children chatted with the elderly people about their life experience, organized some games and helped out in some of the daily activities. Feedback obtained from the students as we left the homes confirmed how much this experience had moved them.

The students were taken to the Rabat M.U.S.E.U.M centre, where they attended the Lenten seminar organized by the teachers. They listened to a talk by Mr. Chris Vella, also a M.U.S.E.U.M member and an SMC teacher. They were then divided into smaller groups in which they worked on topics relevant to the Form 1 syllabus; four episodes from the life of Jesus. After a break, plays and charts about these stories were presented and explained to the whole Form 1 group with the religion teachers. We ended the day with a short prayer session to thank God for the wonderful day. Thanks to all the students and all the teachers who contributed in making this experience enjoyable and fruitful.

Majjistral Park Outing Form 1

As part of the Humanities outings programme, on the 25th of February our Form 1 students visited one of Malta’s natural parks; namely Majjistral Park near Golden Bay. The outing consisted of a guided walk where students were made aware of historical sites, different habitats, rock formations, endemic plants and animals. Whilst being an educational experience the students also enjoyed the breathtaking scenery and some free time running on the sandy beach of Golden Bay. It was a great day out and a valuable experience for students and teachers.

Form 2 Outing

On Friday 25th February our Form 2 students visited the new Xrobb l-Ghagar Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre. Students were informed about this unique project in the south of Malta which is dedicated specifically to sustainable living. The guide explained how the project is based on three main elements connected with practical solutions in the fields, namely: renewable energy, water and wastewater and biodiversity. Throughout a guided walk, the students followed one of the many routes available where they could admire the limestone coast, flora, fauna and rural areas. The walk ended up at the picturesque and famous village of Marsaxlokk.

All those wishing to learn more about this project can visit this site: www.xrobblghagar.org.mt

Biology Fieldwork

Towards the end of March the Form 3 biology students were taken to the Ghadira nature reserve as part of their programme of studies. At the reserve students learnt about Malta’s Ecology - the animals, plants and other living organisms typical of the island. Students observed nature at its best and were lucky to see some of the nicest birds that migrate over the country. The highlight of the visit was the observation of two wild rabbits which helped the students become more aware and appreciate The Maltese countryside. Special thanks go to Mr Victor Falzon and Birdlife Malta for hosting us.

Fieldwork Activities Form 4

As happens every year, Form 4 Biology students were taken on fieldwork activities in Buskett. This is an important part of the Biology programme where students get the chance of studying different living things in different habitats. They also learned about different plant species and new fieldwork skills. It is an enjoyable learning experience where learning is fun.
Junior 5 - Moving On Up!

At first, Middle School may seem far away, like a mysterious place full of strangers and new things — hallways lined with lockers, different teachers and classrooms for different subjects, cafeteria, football pitches — so much to take in.

Now that our Junior 5 pupils are only five months away from Middle School, a visit was organised on the 24th March to make their transition as seamless as possible. In this treasure-hunt styled visit, they got a chance to sneak a peek at the building and of life at St. Martin’s College, even popping into some lessons. Some basic information about how such a big school is organised, keeps our students busy and helps them in their various needs was explained. Mr. Patrick Padovani and Mr. Mario Borg welcomed the pupils and took them on a walk-about to familiarise themselves with the school premises. Mr Borg will be their Level Coordinator next year, so found it useful to get to know them. Some of the current Junior 6 students spoke about their own transition experience. Before the Junior 5 pupils made their way back to Chiswick House School they were asked about their thoughts and feelings for St. Martin’s College. Here are a few:

“The library is going to be heaven” - Martina Azzopardi

“The place is different. It is larger because we are growing. We are looking forward to having our own locker.” - Ana Tortell & Philippa Desira

“The place is amazing even though it is hard to find someone. There is movement all the time.” - George Portelli

“There are real labs. I am excited to work on some experiments” - Nicholas Scerri

“I like the place because it is spacious and there is so much more to do.” - Emma Tabone

“I look forward to playing in the football pitches” - Neil Fitzpatrick

Middle School Sports Day

St Patrick looked kindly on us this year and we were blessed with a glorious Spring-like day for Middle School Sports Day in the midst of an otherwise wet week. The day was filled with events on the track, the infield and the various areas of the stadium.

We got off to a flying start with six flights of the hurdles event. Louisa Valenzia (Jr. 6), Tilly Abbot (F.1) and Ellie Muscat Barron (F.2) managed to break records in each of their events. Besides these, only two other records were broken. Mia Vickery out-jumped everyone else in all categories in the long jump to establish a new record; the previous record had been set eleven years ago! The other record was in the discus event where Anna Aloisio improved the record by more than a metre. Very well done girls! (Take note boys!)

Other noteworthy performances by junior six students were in the 80m sprint which Suzanne Pace ran in 12.25s. While in the 300m Louisa Valenzia won a second gold medal.

In the Form 1 category, the medals were shared among many talented young athletes: Tilly Abbot took home silver from the long jump event as well as gold for the hurdles. Timmy Zammit had an impressive lead in the 80m and the 200m, he also helped to bring his relay team gold. Steve Grima took home a haul of medals: gold for the hurdles and the relay, silver for the long jump and bronze for the 300m. Mia Vickery won the 80m, the long jump and the high jump; she was second in the hurdles and together with her team took gold in the relay. Steve Galea won the 300m and the 1200m and was on the winning blue team for the relay. Marcus Ganado struck gold in the long jump and shot put and placed 2nd in the high jump. Michaela Warr excelled in the throws, she was 1st in shot and discus and 2nd in the cricket ball throw.

Adam Cutajar impressed everyone with two wins in the 100m and 200m as well as being an important member of the winning white relay team. Matthew Barthez won the hurdles and placed second in the 100m. Matthew Demicoli won the 1200m with a substantial lead. After winning the hurdles with a new record Ellie Muscat Barron also placed 2nd in the cricket ball throw and 3rd in the shot and discus. The star of the day has to be Anna Aloisio who dominated no less than 6 events: 200m, 1200m, long jump, shot, discus and cricket ball.

When all the points for the day were counted the shield went to the Reds this year.

Well done to all who took part, thank you to all the teachers and support staff who helped in so many ways. Many of our winners will be asked to represent the College in the forthcoming Athletics meetings in May so let’s keep practicing team!
**Career Guidance Programme News**

**Sixth Form**
One to one meetings are being held with all first year Sixth Form students to review their Mid-Yearly results and to discuss post Sixth Form plans regarding further studies. A meeting will be held in May with all first year students who intend to further their studies abroad.

Second Year students are also being guided in the process of replying to conditional offers from U.K. Universities.

**Form 5**
Guidance sessions were held to discuss O-levels to be taken, Post-Secondary possibilities and options available.

**Form 4**
Sessions will be held with all Form 4 students regarding the Educational System in Malta, O-levels, I-levels, and A-levels. Post Secondary institutions and entry requirements will also be discussed, along with Prospectuses and important websites. All Form 4 classes will also undergo the Holland’s Code Exercise in which personality types and careers are matched.

**Form 2**
Form 2 students are being assisted in the process of choosing their options. Class by class sessions were held. Students who need further guidance are being met individually.

Ex-SMC students who are currently studying at The University of Malta are going to share their experiences with Form 2 students regarding the course of their choice, the skills and abilities needed and the career opportunities available.

**Senior School Sports Day**
As in previous years, the Senior School Sports day was a great success. A good number of students attended this much awaited event and participated in various athletic events such as hurdles, sprints, long distance races, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus, cricket ball throw and relay events. Moreover, all students had the possibility of participating in other popular races: the fun races. These included the piggy-back race, sack race and the three legged race.

The PE department would like to thank all teachers and staff who helped out in making such event possible by officiating and even delivering and setting up the equipment.

**Taekwondo**
During January and February, our Senior School students had the opportunity to try out a different sport discipline during the PE General lessons. The sport discipline mentioned was: Taekwondo. Taekwondo is a Korean martial art and the national sport of South Korea. Its name stands for “the art of the foot and fist” or “the art of kicking and punching.” In fact, as many arts, it combines combat techniques such as self defence, sport, exercises, meditation and philosophy.

These lessons were conducted by a qualified Taekwondo instructor: Mr Joe Azzopardi, who awarded the ‘Best in Class and Performance’ trophy to Rowena Zrinzo (Form 5 student) on Friday 4th February 2011 in the school gymnasium.

**Form 5 outing to MCAST**
On Tuesday 22nd March an outing was organised for our Form 5 students by Ms Eleanor Abela, Guidance teacher and accompanied by Mr Victor Bezzina Art teacher. An introduction was given by Mr Mark Theuma, Deputy Director at MCAST, Mosta, explaining the various courses offered by their institution. Mr Theuma explained that courses are at different levels and vary from diplomas for beginners to BA(Hons) degree. Afterwards all students were taken for a tour around the different classrooms, labs and workshops, observing MCAST students at work doing pottery, texture design, 3D design, stone carving and even fine arts.
PGL Trip

A group of senior school students are now counting the days in order to experience the popular and exciting PGL - adventurous and educational trip to UK, which is going to be held from the 15th to the 23rd of April 2011. The center chosen for this year is Liddington Center in Wiltshire. There, our students will participate in a number of adventurous and educational activities, such as: trapeze, zip wire, tree canopy study, quad biking and Jacobs ladder. Moreover, an excursion day which includes shopping and ice skating has been included in this trip. This experience will definitely be an unforgettable one for our students. Should you require some information about this trip please contact Ms Cynthia on: cynthiaransley@smc.edu.mt

French Programme Outing

On Thursday 17 March a group of Form 4 students attended a University of Malta Open Week event organized by the French Programme within the Department of Arts and Languages in Education, to celebrate Semaine de la francophonie. The students watched a short comic sketch based on the popular Petit Nicolas adventures and were given a booklet with pedagogical activities based on the play. By filling in the booklet they can participate in a competition to win a book prize kindly offered by the Service de Coopération et d’Action Culturelle of the French Embassy, and at the same time help student teachers of French develop their homework correction skills.

Mid-Yearly Examinations

Mid-yearly Examinations were held between 14th February and 24th February. Students’ profiles are sent home before Parents’ Day so that parents are able to view them with their children. We urge you to bring the profile with you on Parents’ Day for reference and to leave it with your child’s Form Tutor in preparation for the next compilation of results in the same display book.

Thank you for your cooperation.

GetupStandup

PSHE issues in immigration - Form 3

GetupStandup is a new voluntary organization started up by a group of Maltese students late 2009. The organization was created to offer more channels for activism and volunteering in Malta. The desire to promote love and friendship amongst all people is at the core of our beliefs. In Malta there are many community oriented projects, but the areas of human rights and cultural acceptance are often neglected. So the initial focus of the group has been on improving the conditions of immigrants, spreading awareness about human rights and campaigning for improved inter-cultural relations.

We felt that it was important to bring this group of young active people to speak to our form 3 students about the values of acceptance and tolerance. To explain to them the realities about immigrants in Malta, and to make them aware of the situation such immigrants find themselves in. They were invited to organise activities for the kids allowing them to actively participate in the session, brainstorming, role plays and even discussions. This helped to make them more aware of the realities going on around them. They were shown video clips of natural disasters, one of the causes of immigration and helped them to imagine “what if this happened to us”. The student’s participation was excellent asking interesting questions and taking the initiative to brainstorm ideas for future GetupStandup projects. These could help the immigrants feel more welcome in our country and learn more about Maltese people and culture.

Automated External Defibrillator

St Martin’s College are in the process of installing an Automated External Defibrillator. This device, which was partly bought with the help of the SMC Parents’ Circle, is a life saving device intended to be used when someone has a cardiac failure. Both Mr Padovanj, SMC Head and Mr Nello Calleja, Operations Manager, are trained in the use of the AED. Mr Calleja is also a qualified Instructor in Basic Life Support/ AED, and SMC will endeavour to train as many personnel as possible on how to use this device.
SMC Parents’ Circle

Christmas Fair

A very successful Christmas Fair was organized once again by the Parents’ Circle during Parents’ Days. Various items were on sale including poinsettias, books, mince and apple pies, Christmas gifts, costume jewellery and beauty products. Refreshments including homemade sandwiches and cakes were also sold.

Proceeds from the sale of the above items were in aid of charity and an attractive sum of €1,300.00 was donated to Fondazzjoni Saret il-Bniemed. The sum was divided equally between Dar Patri Leopoldo in Gzira and Dar Tereza Spinelli in Valletta. These two homes provide shelter to homeless men, women and children.

THANK YOU PARENTS!

First Aid Courses for parents

A first aid course for Parents were held in March/April. The sessions consisted of fourteen hours of basic first aid training which incorporated both practical and interactive learning giving participants the confidence and ability to put the theory into practice and to cope with real-life situations in the future.

Forthcoming Events

* A MOTHER’S MORNING WILL BE ORGANISED AT CHISWICK HOUSE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 9TH MAY.
Please keep this date free. More information will be given out closer to the date.

** 80’s Party for all parents **

ON FRIDAY 27TH MAY

KEEP THIS DATE FREE.
REBOUND AND RELAX!
Let us take you back to the 80’s.

80% of proceeds will go to the Malta Hospice Movement.
A flyer with further information will be sent out soon.

End of Year Disco Party

For Form 1 and Form 2

The Parents’ Circle will be organizing an end of year disco party for all Form 1 & 2 students on Friday 1st July in the College’s Piazzetta.

Please keep this date free. More information will be given out closer to the date.