

ST.MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, MUHAISNAH, TITLED A SCHOOL OF HEARTS AMBASSADOR

In its first year of operation, within a span of just 10 months, St. Mary's Catholic High School, Muhaisnah was declared a "School of Hearts Ambassador" by the KHDA on 23rd May, 2016.

During the closing ceremony of 'What Works Fusion' conference, the auditorium of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Center fell dead silent as the countdown began. The moment arrived and there we were – St. Mary's Catholic High School became one of the 3 delegates from the UAE to the Festival of Positive education.

Being happy and accepted at school is an important aspect of student well-being. Every student should have an opportunity to nurture a positive relationship with everybody in school. On 7th February 2016, the KHDA had launched the "School of Hearts" initiative with an aim to inspire schools and families to look beyond examination results, instead focus on happiness and well-being. As part of the initiative, students were invited to take part in a survey, which asked questions relating to their safety, health and interactions at school.

St. Mary's Catholic High School, Muhaisnah found it very easy to support the initiative. It submitted a report on one of its primary focus areas; the well-being of the students at school. Some of the members of the school community were interviewed to gather their opinions about how SMM fosters the well-being of its students. The report comprised a written document explaining the philosophy and the practices of the school in this regard and a video presentation that bore evidence to the school's ethos – a culture of friendliness, mutual respect and values.

Dr. Abdulla Al Karam, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of KHDA announced the result of the competition in which 14 schools emerged as semi-finalists. After further screening, SMM featured among the 7 finalists before it was declared as one of the School of Hearts Ambassadors. Along with 2 other Dubai based schools, it is now invited to be a part of the Dubai delegation to the Festival of Positive Education, scheduled to be hosted in Dallas, Texas, USA in July 2016. Representative members of our school are now eligible to participate in this Festival of Positive Education which will be a three-day



event to boost a new kind of education that promotes both academic achievement and character virtue development.

On being recognized as a “School of Hearts Ambassador”, we have proved that SMM actively promotes positivity, happiness and safety of the students within the school community. We, a brand new school, are extremely privileged and honoured to be labeled as a happy school. We are determined to carry this forward to even greater heights in our pursuit of excellence. /MEV

