



# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

[www.mfis.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mfis.nsw.edu.au)

## INFORMATION UPDATE

### FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Monday, 22 January 2018

Assalamualaikum

Happy New Year... I hope that you had an enjoyable break and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

#### **School Fees in 2018**

Student fees at Malek Fahd Islamic School will rise this year to ensure that your School continues to meet your expectations for your children with the best possible education in a caring Islamic setting. We recognise that the increases are above inflation and have ensured that the cost of education at Malek Fahd remains affordable compared to similar schools with similar educational outcomes.

The increase will range from \$240 a year for Kindergarten (\$4.60 a week) up to \$420 a year in Year 12 (\$8 a week). See the Schedule of Fees attached.

In a major change, however, for the first time, fees will cover many additional items that previously were charged separately during the year. These include the competition collection, sports collection, courses, coaching and assessments, *Mathletics* and other books collection, lockers and most student curriculum excursions. An added advantage of this is that it will alleviate the need for students and teachers to handle cash.

While the School is not in a position to do this at present, in the future we expect to move to a fully 'cashless' system for the payment of fees. This will make the whole process much simpler and convenient for everyone.

In addition to the change to fees, there will be a new \$100 building development compulsory levy to maintain and build the School's facilities. As you are aware, the School has made very limited investment in IT and building infrastructure because of ongoing legal matters. With the resolution of the majority of these matters, we now are in a position to confidently and assuredly plan for the future development of the School. Some early initiatives have been undertaken during these school holidays and more will follow throughout 2018.

Sensitivity to family budgets and the following priorities in our School's development program drove our decision to approve a balanced increase in fees that is prudent and responsive. The increase in fees will assist in:

- The Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park building expansion programs to accommodate increasing student numbers and open more places for the Kindergarten to Year 7 waiting list

- The technology upgrade programs at all three campuses, including new hardware, the fit-out of an additional computer laboratory, iPads, inter-campus visual conferencing and an upgrade of the internet service. This is essential to enhance teaching and learning and facilitate the move to NAPLAN being online.
- A major focus on Learning Support, Wellbeing and Sports and the appointments of a Head of Wellbeing, Welfare Coordinators, Year Advisers and Co-curricular Sporting Coordinators
- The introduction of new subject choices in Years 9 and 11
- The introduction of annual testing of all students in Years 2, 4, 6 and 8 to better understand each student's academic capacities and so, advance their learning
- The appointment of more Learning Support Teachers and Teachers Aides
- Enhanced literacy development with English streamed in Years 7 and 8 and Arabic streamed from Years 1 to 10 at Greenacre Campus
- Meeting escalating government and regulatory costs
- The introduction of *Before and After School Care* and *Holiday Care* services, to meet the needs of parents.

We will assist families in genuine hardship so, if fees pose difficulties for you, please don't hesitate to raise it with the School administration.

Malek Fahd Islamic School will not waver from its rigorous commitment to deliver outstanding learning outcomes and results. In the 2017 NSW Higher School Certificate Results across the 600-plus secondary schools, Malek Fahd Islamic School was ranked 69<sup>th</sup>, up from 76<sup>th</sup> in 2016. Forty percent of our students gained an ATAR of 90 or more.

The School was ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the State in Mathematics. Students gained 79 Band 6s and 121 Band 5s. Many students received a score of 89, one mark short of Band 6. All Extension 2 Mathematics students received a notional Band 6. Every Compression student in Year 11 achieved Band 6 results in Mathematics and Biology.

The NAPLAN Assessment ranked the School 50<sup>th</sup> out of all secondary schools in NSW, based upon the nationally-accepted *My School* rankings system.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to raise them with the administration.

### **Final Outcome of the Court Action against AFIC**

You will be aware from Information Update late last year (see December 12, 2017 Update) that the judge delivered his decisions in the matter of MFIS v AFIC.

At this point there are still details that the legal representatives for both sides need to resolve and present to the judge for his final approval. It is expected that this process will still take a few weeks.

I will include the final details in a later Information Update as soon as they are known. In the meantime, it is 'full steam ahead' for 2018.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

**DR JOHN BENNETT**

Chair