



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

INFORMATION UPDATE

FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Wednesday, 13 November 2019

Assalamualaikum

In the previous Board *Information Update* (18 October) I indicated that two exciting events were planned. I am pleased to be able to report on these and the way forward.

Islamic pedagogy

One of the actions in our Strategic Plan is to continue to effectively incorporate Islamic Pedagogy into our educational programs at Malek Fahd Islamic School.

Put simply, *pedagogy* refers to the approaches, techniques and strategies that teachers use to turn the curriculum into learning experiences for their students. Hence, when we talk about *Islamic pedagogy*, we refer to approaches that are consistent with Islamic beliefs and develop values such as Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Perseverance, Care and Compassion and Self-Discipline.

I am pleased to say that, through the hard work and dedication of the staff, MFIS already has many excellent teaching and welfare programs that are consistent with Islamic pedagogy. This is excellent but there is more that can be done.

In order to gain a wider and more detailed understanding of the topic, on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 October a team from the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education at the University of South Australia – Professor Mohamad Abdalla, Dr Nadeem Memon and Dylan Chown – visited the School.

On Friday, Mr Rixon took them to the three campuses to meet and speak with staff and students. This gave them the opportunity to gain a good understanding of our School and how it operates.

On Saturday, they presented their ideas on Islamic pedagogy to a seminar at the Greenacre campus. There were about 40 participants comprising Board members, staff, parents, students and alumni.

Notes from the seminar are being organised and summarised for discussion. This material will form the basis of further work next year.

As we move forward in this area, we will maintain contact with the team from the University of South Australia. Mr Rixon will investigate professional development and induction programs that the team can deliver for the staff.

The rewards from this journey will be significant. I am confident that you will see benefits reflected in your children. It will enhance the educational experiences the students receive at MFIS and enrich their lives.

The Master Plan 2020 – 2040

On Monday, 4 November, we began the process to develop a Master Plan to guide the development of the School over the next 20 years.

A seminar facilitated by Greg O'Meara from Ascend Consulting was held at the Greenacre campus. There were about 30 participants comprising Board members, staff, parents and alumni. This was the first of three or four sessions for this group.

Using as a guide the 'Vision' and 'Mission' statements that are key to our current Strategic Plan, the group set about the task of describing to what the School should aspire in 20 years.

The larger group was divided into groups of four. Each group discussed and jotted down its ideas in relation to Curriculum; Pedagogy; Assessment; Staff; Safe, Secure and Respectful Environment; Buildings and Facilities; ICT Facilities and Communications and Public Relations. These ideas will be collated by a working group and be considered by the Board in December.

During the development of the Master Plan 2020 – 2040, there will be opportunities for all staff and parents to have input through public meetings and surveys over the next year. In addition, we will provide opportunities for students and alumni to express their thoughts.

This process will take some time and I am confident that the outcomes will be well worth the effort and bring great benefits to the School.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

DR JOHN BENNETT

Chair