



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

Friday, 4 September 2020

Assalamualaikum

Education during the COVID-19 restrictions

The Board is very grateful for the hard work of staff during this very difficult time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created extra challenges for the staff as they go about the important job of ensuring the students receive the best education possible.

Unfortunately, many activities have had to be cancelled or delayed but the ways staff and students have risen to meet the challenges are impressive.

The Board appreciates that the restrictions have also created difficulties for parents and appreciates how parents have made whatever changes were necessary to ensure that their children and the staff remain safe.

No-one knows at this point when the restrictions can be lifted but, in the meantime, please impress upon the children the importance of following the instructions they are given and maintaining their good hygiene practices.

A message to Year 12

The Board would like to especially recognise Year 12. There have been many disruptions to normal routines this year and from all reports you have dealt very well with the challenges those disruptions created.

The coming weeks leading up to the examinations and the time during the examinations are extremely important. This is a time when you 'fine-tune' your learning and prepare and practice for the examinations. How well and how hard you work during this time can make a huge difference in how well you perform in the examinations.

While it is important that you take sufficient rest breaks and exercise, you need to continue to prepare for the examinations. Your teachers will have reminded you of this many times and suggested strategies for you to use. In particular, they will have told you about the wealth of resources on the NESA website: www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au. It includes past papers, multiple choice questions, examination reports and general advice.

Remember, your teachers are available to assist you throughout this period.

Islamic pedagogy

The School has formed a partnership with *The Centre for Islamic Thought and Education* from the University of South Australia. The purpose of this partnership, which began in late 2019, is to ensure that our teachers have a better understanding of how to incorporate Islamic values and practices into their teaching.

To date, seven teachers have commenced a one-year Graduate Certificate course and 28 teachers have already completed a short course in Islamic Pedagogy. The feedback from these teachers has been very positive. In coming years, more teachers will have the opportunity to undertake these courses and other activities and programs will be introduced.

In a separate initiative, we are discussing a trial of a new curriculum in Islamic Studies.

Building plans

Work has progressed on the development of building plans to substantially increase and upgrade the facilities at both Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills. As these building programs will be substantial and take time to complete, we will need to follow a two-stage process.

The first stage will involve adding whatever portable buildings and other temporary arrangements will be necessary to accommodate the increasing numbers of students over the next couple of years. The second stage will be the building of the new facilities when all the plans are finalised and approved.

The Board will explore ways to obtain feedback from parents as soon as the plans have reached the stage where this can be done effectively.

NSW Government funding

At this point the School has still not had its State Government funding restored. The School has provided all the evidence the Minister has requested to demonstrate that the School has met the requirements she placed on it.

The Board is hopeful that this matter will be resolved soon and will continue to closely monitor the situation and take further action, if needed.

The Australian Government re-instated the funding the School receives from the Federal Government in September 2018. Federal funding makes up the majority of our government funding.

Some Board changes

Ruba Fattouh recently vacated the positions of Deputy Chair of the Board and Chair of the Board's Finance Committee. We thank her for her hard work and strong contributions in these roles. She will continue to be a member of the Board and continue to work hard for the School. We wish her well for the future.

The new Deputy Chair is Fayez Moussa and the new Chair of the Finance Committee is Fehraz Fallil.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

DR JOHN BENNETT

Chair