



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

Assalamualiakum

Thursday 5 January 2017

I trust that you are enjoying the summer holiday season and looking forward to the 2017 school year.

It is several weeks before school returns but there are three important developments of which I want you to know about immediately. This is a lengthy newsletter but there is a lot to tell you. The three important developments are:

1. The appointment of our new Principal, Mr Bruce Rixon and confirmation of Mr Aiyub Ahmed as Deputy Principal
2. The decision on our appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and our next steps to ensure the future of our School
3. Four key appointments to the School Board in Br Yasin Mohammed, Dr John Edwards, Sr Ruby Fattouh and Br Fayez Moussa
4. HSC Excellence

1. New Principal Bruce Rixon

The Board is pleased to announce that it has appointed Mr Bruce Rixon to lead Malek Fahd Islamic College from the beginning of the 2017 school year.

Bruce is an outstanding educator with more than 20 years of experience in leadership at several Independent schools across Australia. He joins us from Al Sadiq College and has also served as Principal at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College and Georgiana Molloy Anglican School in Western Australia. Before that, he occupied leadership positions at SCEGS (Shore) and St Ignatius College.

Of special relevance to Malek Fahd is Mr Rixon's focus to integrate mission and values into programming, curriculum delivery and effective pastoral care. He impressed the Board as a confident leader with strong credentials in strategy development, people and fiscal management and marketing.

The Board commends Bruce Rixon to you and we know that he looks forward to meeting his staff and students over coming weeks.

The Board would like to confirm that Mr Ahmed will remain the deputy Principal for MFIS. Mr Ahmed continues to show strong leadership to our MFIS community and has met with Bruce and is looking forward to working with him.

2. Administrative Appeals Tribunal

In a judgement given to us late on the afternoon of Friday 23 December the Tribunal rejected our appeal against the Commonwealth's removal of public funding. We will now lodge an appeal with the Federal Court and keep you informed of progress.

In its judgement, the Tribunal acknowledged the considerable progress of the new Board since March 2016 and the improved governance and management of the School. It was, however, concerned that the Greenacre campus continues to be owned by the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC).

The Tribunal said that it was convinced that Commonwealth money would, as a consequence of AFIC's ownership of Greenacre, *'continue to leak from Malek Fahd Islamic School to AFIC'* and, therefore, had no alternative but to uphold the Commonwealth decision and reject our appeal.

The Tribunal concluded that this *'is a hard outcome for Malek Fahd Islamic School and for the students and community it serves. But the ultimate responsibility must be laid at the door of the previous management of Malek Fahd Islamic School'*.

Among the positives noted by the Tribunal is our School's NSW Supreme Court action against AFIC and the previous Board of MFIS for the repayment of School funds, damages and relief from other inappropriate obligations.

The message to AFIC could not be clearer. Our School's future and the welfare of students, teachers and families can immediately be guaranteed if AFIC does the only right thing and turns over the Greenacre campus to Malek Fahd Islamic School. This will ensure that the campus serves the purpose for which it was dedicated by AFIC more than 25 years ago.

I will formally approach AFIC this month with that request on your behalf and that of our School.

The Tribunal and the Commonwealth have spelt it out very plainly. It is up to AFIC. Our future hinges on AFIC doing the right thing by Malek Fahd Islamic School and our community for this generation and generations to come.

A full PDF copy of the Tribunal's decision is attached for your information and background.

3. Four new Board members

Malek Fahd Islamic School continues to build the expertise of its Board. The four new members are:

Yasin Mohammed

Yasin is an information technology professional and is the Digital Sales Executive - Cloud Applications with Oracle Corp Australia.

Dr John Edwards

John Edwards is a member of the Board of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), an Adjunct Professor at the John Curtin Institute for Public Policy at Curtin University and a former member of the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Sr Ruby Fattouh

Ruby is a chartered accountant and is the Managing Director of MAS Tax Accountants.

Br Fayez Moussa

Fayez is an information technology professional and is the Principal Consultant at Empower CS.

Fayez and Ruby are active and dedicated members of the Malek Fahd Islamic School alumni and Yasin is an active member of the Parents' Advisory Committee.

Three members of Board have completed their terms and we thank them for their invaluable contributions in a demanding year. Thank you **Martyn Bawden, Jim McDowell** and **Geoff Dornan**.

4. HSC excellence

All of this comes hot on the heels of Malek Fahd Islamic School's brilliant Higher School Certificate (HSC) results. Indeed, you may have seen a superb article and photograph in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Saturday 24 December that brought great credit on our high-achieving Year 12s, our incredibly dedicated teachers and the entire Malek Fahd Islamic School community.

If you missed it, here is a link to an online copy of the story:

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/hsc-results-2016-sydney-divided-by-education-latte-line-20161220-gtfhpf.html>

As *The Sydney Morning Herald* makes clear, the traumas and adversity of the year brought out the best in both students and staff. Of our 113 HSC students, 45 achieved ATARs of 90-plus with six of them topping 98.

They were determined to perform for themselves and Malek Fahd. The achievements of the class and teachers of 2016 add another great chapter to the proud history of Malek Fahd Islamic School.

Finally, I again put on the record my gratitude and that of the entire Board to the Parents' Advisory Committee for its strong and willing support for you and your School. We have challenges ahead and are better placed than ever to get the job done.

Jazakallah Khairan

Wassalam



MIRIAM SILVA

Chairman