



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

2 February 2018

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalaamu Alaikum WRWB

Welcome Back!

I hope you have enjoyed your holidays immensely. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

A special welcome to our new students and teachers to our wonderful school. This year, for the first time, we have allocated Learning Support staff to actively assist Kindergarten teachers and students for Term 1. Three Learning Support staff will be shared amongst Six Kindergarten teachers. It was so wonderful to visit, meet and take a "selfie" with our new Kindergarten children at the three campuses. The photos will be stored and shown to students as they finished Year 6 showing just how much they have grown. I can report the children are very happy and well behaved.



All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic Office team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files.

Exciting times at Beaumont Hills, as this is the first year we offer schooling from Kindergarten to Year 12 at this campus. It gave me great pleasure to speak at the opening assembly acknowledging the wonderful work of our teachers, the commitment of parents to support this campus and the expectation that all students will strive for the best of academic standards.



I am delighted to inform you of the dramatic increase of student numbers for 2018. Our Student number has grown by more than 270. The number of students at Malek Fahd has reached over 2560. For me this is the community and parent vote of confidence in the teachers, school board, school management and the direction the school is going. It is an honour and a privilege to educate your child and I thank you for providing us with this opportunity.

On Monday we had a Professional Development Day for all staff. It was a distinct honour to have Mr Jihad Dib, MP Shadow Minister for Education and member for Lakemba, join our staff meeting. Mr Dib drew our attention to the

Japanese word, Kaizen. Kaizen, is continuous improvement; in small incremental steps or large leaps. It is important that we focus on the long game to improve the efficiency and quality of our work and in whatever we do. It is all about doing the best we can. This week I spoke to all students at each campus assembly on the expectation of doing their best, studying as hard as they can, and to be on their best behaviour. I have visited many of the classes and am pleased to report that the students have settled well into the class routine.

Passing of Dr Ahmed Hammoud

Over the holiday break we received the extremely sad news that Dr. Ahmed Hammoud, Head of Arabic, passed away suddenly while on his holiday in Lebanon. Dr. Hammoud was known as a compassionate man who was passionate for his beloved language, Arabic, and for his love for the School and the students he taught during his long tenure at Malek Fahd. He was a great and dedicated teacher who has left a lasting legacy for this wonderful School. We will have a memorial award set up for him at the Presentation Day.

Greenacre Primary Morning Supervision

Parents are advised that supervision of children before school has changed. Students can be dropped off at school from 8:10am and must move immediately to the Primary Undercover Assembly area where they'll be supervised. They must stay in this area until 8:30am. They should be sited and not playing. They are not allowed to go into classrooms or upstairs.

Best HSC Results for Years

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 69th, up from 76th in 2016. Forty percent of our students gained an ATAR of **90 or more**.

The School was ranked 18th 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.

Our students have chosen to take on further studies at university level and have received various course offers such as; Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor Arts/ Bachelor Education, Bachelor Engineering, Bachelor Medical Science, Bachelor Laws, Bachelor Health Science, Bachelor Criminology, Bachelor of Science and numerous other courses. Again, I thank the HSC teachers and all staff

on a magnificent result. We are a team from Kindergarten to Year 12 achieving excellent results together.

The Muslim Year 12 Academic Awards Presentations will be held 11th and 18th of March. This is a special ceremony where students with an ATAR of 90 or more are invited to attend. They will be presented with a certificate and a valuable gift. Twenty of our students will receive awards and it is important that they attend this prestigious event.

Diary

All students will receive a School Diary in the coming weeks. Diaries will be used as a form of communication between teachers and parents. Please ensure to check and sign diaries regularly. Students homework, out of class time will be noted in the diaries.

Discipline Policy

The Discipline Policy has been revised and will be placed in the student diary. To avoid any confusion with the discipline policy special assemblies will be held to explain the policy and the consequences if students do not abide by the rules. Positive reinforcement is the best way to build confidence and reassurance. To this end we have reviewed the reward system.

Uniform

Unfortunately, we currently do not hold stock for all parts of our school uniform. This is partly due to the significant increase in student numbers, as well as late delivery of stock from our suppliers. The situation is regrettable and I do apologise for any inconvenience. I have been in contact with our suppliers requesting they act on this situation as a high priority.

Mobile Phones

It has come to the school's attention that students have been intermittently accessing their mobile phones without authorisation from their teachers. This misuse of mobile phones has the potential to adversely impact the wellbeing and learning outcomes of our students. As such, to ensure a safe learning environment for all students, the school has decided to adopt a **zero tolerance approach** towards the use of mobile phones by students. Under no circumstances are students permitted to use mobile phones inside school grounds. They must be switched off and placed in their bags or lockers.

In the event that a student is caught with, or using a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated for the day, the student will receive an afterschool detention and parents/guardians will be called to collect the device. If the same student is caught using a mobile phone a second time, they will receive a second afterschool detention and this will automatically lead to an internal suspension. The device will also be confiscated for one week and parents/guardians will be notified to collect the device.

Contact with parents in the event of illness or other urgent matter will be managed through the school office after a student has been referred to or attended the sick bay for treatment or assistance. Should a parent need to contact their child during school hours, they must do so through the front office, and should not contact the student's phone. We look forward to your cooperation.

Year 7 Sports

This year, for the first time, our Year 7 students will do sports once a week. This lesson will be on Tuesday afternoons in period 5 and 6. This will allow our students to develop their sporting skills and take part in Inter-school competitions.

Co-curricular Sports

The School has introduced Co-Curricular Sports Program. The program will run once a week between 3:45pm and finish by 4:30pm. Oz Tag will be played in Term 1. Year 7/8 Boys on Mondays, Year 9/10 Boys on Tuesdays, Year 7/8 Girls on Wednesdays and Year 9/10 Girls on Thursdays. Female students will be supervised by Ms Mitchell and the male students will be supervised by Mr Merhi.

New Staff Appointments

Each year brings positive change. This includes several new additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome all our new staff and look forward to working together as our School grows. There were 34 new staff employed on new contracts this year across the 3 campuses 27 in full time roles and 7 in part time roles. Some vacancies were created due to resignations, new subjects being offered in Stage 5 and 6 across the campuses in high school, Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills going on to Year 10 and Year 12 respectively and streaming of Arabic at Greenacre Primary and High.

Learning Support Appointments

During Term 4, the School conducted testing of students in years Two, Four, Six and Eight to further understand the development levels of our children. This information, combined with our data and school results has assisted me to understand the need to provide a greater level of learning support. As part of our new staff, we have employed two Learning Support Teachers and Five Teacher Aides. The appointment of additional Learning Support teachers and Teacher Aides will further assist the educational needs of our Secondary and Primary students. I commend the wonderful work undertaken by our Learning Support Coordinator, Ms Chris Blackall.

Facilities Update

During the summer holidays much work has been undertaken by our maintenance team and external contractors to develop the facilities of the three campuses. Significant work was undertaken by the IT

team, implementing 120 computers, developing computer labs, reimaging existing computers and dispersing them across the school. At Beaumont Hills, the staff carpark has been fenced for the safety of our students, parents and staff. The play area has been painted and concreted and also marked with kid's games like hops scotch and hand ball. The major work for Hoxton Park is the laying of synthetic turf for our students to enjoy.



School Fees in 2018

Each year, every school reviews school fees. Student School fees at Malek Fahd Islamic School have increased 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 just above inflation and have ensured that the cost of education at Malek Fahd remains affordable compared to similar schools with similar educational outcomes.

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: Competition Fees, Sports Fees, Athletics, Reading Eggs, Swimming Lesson, Courses, Coaching and Assessments, Lockers and many student Curriculum Excursions. Please note that Annual Camp is not included in the fees.

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.

The increase in fees will assist in:

- 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.

Should you have any questions for any school fees please feel free to contact your Head of Campus or the Business Manager. Those who are experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact the Business Manager, Mr Ben Marsh, your Head of Campus or myself.

Resignation of our Business Manager Mr Ben Marsh.

It is with little joy I write to inform you that our Business Manager, Mr Ben Marsh, has tendered his resignation from the School and will leave us Friday, 16th March. You may not be aware that Ben lives in Wollongong and makes the commute each day. Ben has accepted a significant leadership role as CFO a few minutes from his home and family.

Though at the School for a short time, Mr Marsh's input for the School has been very significant in refining the financial operational side of the School across the three campuses. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes assisting me, the Board Chairman, Dr Bennett and the Chair of the Finance Committee, Dr Edwards, on many other matters. We have sought the services of Derwent Executive for the recruitment of a new Business Manager with the view of appointment as soon as possible. I know you will join with me in thanking Ben for his terrific contribution to the School and wish him every success in his new adventure.

Leadership Roles 2018

At the end of last year, I announced at both at the speech days and in my last Newsletter, a significant increase of leadership roles across the three campuses at the School. I am delighted to announce that Mr Ali Dib will be the Head of Secondary Campus, Greenacre. The changes

include a significant increase of staff to assist with the well-being of students. The Year Advisers, 7 – 10, at Greenacre Campus, will be the first port of call for parents in dealing with welfare matters. Over the coming days, you will receive a welcome letter from your child's Year Advisor, providing you with an email contact details and the opportunity to communicate with the Year Advisor as your need arises. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity. Below is a list of the leadership roles for 2018.

Greenacre Head of Campus: Mr Ali Dib

Hoxton Park Acting Head of Campus(Term1): Mr Stephen Lord

Primary Curriculum Coordinator: Ms Hibba Mourad
Year Curriculum Coordinators:

Greenacre: Ms Aqifa Bassett Uddin, Ms Dianne Sofios, Ms Iman Halbouni, Ms Assma Skaf.

Stage Curriculum Coordinators:

Hoxton Park: Ms Firoza Ahmed, Ms Fatma Molina and Ms Ferreen Rahim

Stage Curriculum Coordinators:

Beaumont Hills: Ms Cabe Ferris, Ms Vandana Karan and Ms Rukshana Musa

Acting Coordinator of ICT: Mr Hussein Oubani

Acting Science Coordinator (Term1): Ms Farzana Khan

Extra-curricular Sport

Greenacre: Ms Kate Mitchell and Mr Ali Merhi

Head of Wellbeing: Primary (Boys') Mr Yaakoub Saddik; Primary (Girls') Ms Rania Charmand; Secondary (Boys') Mr Billal Khoder; Secondary (Girls') Ms Houda Kabbar

Welfare Coordinators - Greenacre

Years 7, 9, 11	Boys	Mr Ahmad Ismail
Years 7, 9, 11	Girls	Ms Hanade Saddik
Years 8, 10, 12	Boys	Ms Linda Nachar
Years 8, 10, 12	Girls	Ms Nasheen Parker

Year Advisers

Year 7	Boys	Ms Sharin Culleton
	Girls	Ms Claudia Simon
Year 8	Boys	Ms Thamina Kassar
	Girls	Ms Samara Jalloul
Year 9	Boys	Mr Ali Merhi
	Girls	Ms Kate Mitchell
Year 10	Boys	Ms Houda Hamad
	Girls	Ms Rihana Bashir
Year 11	Boys	Mr Mohammed Hanif
	Girls	Ms Eman Taha
Year 12		Welfare Co-coordinators

Yours sincerely



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal