



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

CHAIR'S LETTER TO NOTIFY THE RETIREMENT OF BRUCE RIXON

22 June 2021

I write to inform you that Mr Bruce Rixon has advised the Board of his intention to retire at the end this year.

Mr Rixon will leave with the gratitude and respect of the Board and the Malek Fahd Islamic School community. He came to us five years ago when the School was deeply in crisis. He leaves it in a position of strength and well advanced on a growth and improvement trajectory.

Working closely with successive School Boards and the School community, Mr Rixon led our transformation into a school that offers greater opportunities for students and staff.

Mr Rixon's leadership nurtured a collaborative and empowered executive and leadership framework across our three campuses to inspire a shared vision for success.

Our achievements during Mr Rixon's time are considerable and significant. Key among them are:

- Receiving the maximum five-year period of re-registration and accreditation to enable stability and confidence in planning. Previously, the government had since 2012 only registered and accredited the School for just 12 months at a time
- Obtaining unqualified approval of audited reports for the School's financial statements; also not achieved since 2012
- Restructuring the senior leadership team across the three campuses with the appointments of two Deputy Principals, a Director of Innovation and Compliance, a Director of Faith and Australian Islamic Identity, Curriculum Coordinators, Counsellors, Information Technology and Facilities Managers and imminent appointment of a Director of Communications and Marketing
- Regaining Commonwealth funding to enable Board's Strategic Plan and vision

Mr Rixon initiated curriculum and operational reviews, including Technology, Library, Literacy, Islamic and Arabic Studies; oversaw the implementation of sound policies and compliance practices; and initiated significant activities in Islamic Pedagogy, a joint venture with the

University of South Australia's Centre of Islamic Thought and Education headed by Professor Mohamad Abdalla AM. A review of the pastoral care needs for Kindergarten to Year 12 students also soon will be completed.

As you all will be aware, his term of appointment coincided with what was an incredibly turbulent period for us all. Throughout, parent belief in the vision of the School did not waver, as evidenced by an enrolment growth 750 students over the past five years. To accommodate this growth, Mr Rixon managed the upgrade of facilities across the three campuses, including a suite of information technology improvements and new buildings and much needed infrastructure at both Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills. His efforts will soon see the finalisation of major building plans for Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park.

Wellbeing and academic development of each student also took centre stage. This is evident in subject offerings, the expansion of Learning Support for students at the three campuses, more School Counsellors and a restructure of student welfare at Greenacre Secondary.

For the next six months, Mr Rixon will lead the School to further realise the School's vision with one-to-one computer program, rebranding of the School, a new School website and the Board's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

The Board acknowledges Mr Rixon's contribution and thanks him for his dedication. We will have opportunities later in the year to celebrate his service and say farewell.

Mr Rixon's five years at Malek Fahd Islamic School cap a 43-year career in education, with 15 years as a principal. I understand he intends to wind back but stay involved with education as a consultant in what might best described as semi-retirement.

The Board shortly will begin its search for a new Principal. We look forward to keeping you informed of a smooth transition to our next Principal.

Yours



Dr John Bennett AM

Chair

Malek Fahd Islamic School Ltd