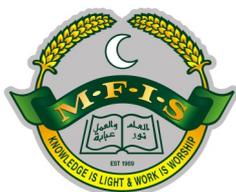




Greenacre Secondary NEWS



I hope students and parents have settled into the routines of the new school year. A warm welcome is extended to the new enrolments. Inshallah it will be a rewarding and prosperous year for you and your children. Greenacre Secondary has started full of energy, optimism, and enthusiasm. I look forward to working with staff, parents, and the community in providing the best possible educational opportunities for our students.

We are almost halfway into Term 1. Staff and students at Greenacre Secondary have had a busy month. The students have settled well, and many milestones have already been met. Much gratitude to the parents for their support of the Greenacre Secondary Campus and its staff.

Year 7 Orientation

To help with the transition from Primary into Secondary schooling, the orientation program for Year 7 students was held at the Greenacre Campus on Monday 31st of January. Normal lessons for Year 7 began on Tuesday 1st February as per the timetable. The program covered School Structure, Subject Familiarisation, Study skills, School Discipline Policy, Anti bullying and Cyber Safety, Resilience, Team Building and more. The feedback from the students, teachers and parents gave the program a big tick of approval. I would like to thank Ms Doha Adra and Mr Ali Merhi for the development and implementation of the program, assisted by Mr Khoder and Mrs Kbbar. I extend my gratitude to the rest of the wellbeing coordinators and Year 7 teachers for their assistance and guidance in facilitating the program.

Curriculum

Parent Information sessions will be held in the coming weeks. Parents are strongly urged to attend these online sessions. Letters will be sent out to parents detailing the agenda for these Parent Information sessions as well as the scheduled dates and times. All sessions will be streamed live through an online platform. (MS Teams)

Stage 4 Parent Information Evening Tuesday 15 March (approximately 45 minutes)

Stage 5 Parent Information Evening Thursday 17 March (approximately 1 hour)

Stage 6 Parent Information Evening Tuesday 22 March (approximately 1.5 hours)

The sessions will present on subjects offered, Home Room, sports program, assessments, teaching programs and many other important topics relating to our educational programs. The Stage 4, 5 and 6 handbooks and the slides used in the presentations of the sessions will be made available on the School website.

Year 9 and 11 students were given a trial period for elective subjects. Deadlines for changing elective subjects have lapsed. It is imperative that parents are involved and supportive in their child's subject selections and patterns of study. Students are given advice from their teachers and experienced heads of department reflecting the student's abilities and achievements to date. This advice is given with the aim of maximising the students' performance and in the case of Year 11 and 12 to give the student the best opportunity to achieve their academic goals. Student records outlining student subject choices will be submitted to NESAs in the coming weeks.

Vision:

All students of MFIS receive an education that inspires them to achieve their full potential, embrace the future and make positive contributions to the community.

Mission:

The mission of MFIS is to provide opportunities within an Islamic environment for its students to excel intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially, religiously, morally and vocationally, and become happy and successful citizens.

Motto:

Knowledge is Light and
Work is Worship

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Ph: 02 8783 5190
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CHESS CLUB

The Chess club is up and running with Mr Ahmad Shehabat. The club meets at lunch times. Students interested in joining must register.

ANASHEED GROUP

Anasheed group: Headed by the Islamic studies department. The group practices 2– 3 times per week at lunch times.

RUBIK'S CUBE CLUB

The Rubik's cube club is underway in 2022. Registrations please see Mr Charles George.

TERM 1 GREENACRE SECONDARY PUPIL FREE AFTERNOON

The first pupil free afternoon for Greenacre Secondary Campus will be held on Wednesday 2 March 2022. On that day classes will finish at 12:30pm. We kindly ask you to pick up your child/children by 12:30pm at the latest or arrange for them to make their own way home. If your child/children is unable to be picked up by 12:30pm or make their own way home, please don't hesitate to contact the Head of Campus, Mr Ali Dib, to make alternate arrangements.

Provision is being made for students who cannot be picked up early to be supervised at school. The professional learning of our educators in line with our strategic goal of "Ensuring that Islam is integrated comprehensively across policy, practice, curricular and co-curricular programs," will benefit our learners inshaAllah. We thank you for your understanding.

TERM 1: 31/01–08/04

NAPLAN 2022

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All NSW schools will sit NAPLAN online in 2022. Our school will be participating in NAPLAN between 10 and 20 May 2022.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will be participating in practice tests between 21 March to 8 April.

The practice tests give students an opportunity to become familiar with the test format, functions and tools of the online tests in a test environment. The practice tests are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not recommended. Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete NAPLAN as the tests are not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test is not about handwriting skills). Students can use the [public demonstration site](#) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in NAPLAN.

Please see the attached *Information for parents and carers – NAPLAN 2022* sheet for further information.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.

Additional resources:

[Public demonstration site](#)

[NESA NAPLAN website](#)

[NAP parent/carer support page](#)

[Watch a video that explains tailored testing](#)

Email Accounts for Secondary Students

Your child should have their own School email address and computer login details to use School computers for learning purposes. New students will be issued with accounts by the IT department. They need to activate their accounts and change their password at their first login. **The School's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Email Policy and Agreement should be read by all parents and students.** We expect appropriate and acceptable use of Malek Fahd Islamic School computer facilities, internet, and email for the purposes of fostering educational activities at School. **New enrolments will need to read, sign, and return the Policy to the school. Student email and login will not be provided to students until this form is completed and signed by both the students and parents.**

Students Online-Year 10, 11, 12

Year 10, 11 and 12 students have access to Students Online where important information is found. Students will need to activate their personal Students Online account using their school email address and password by visiting <https://studentonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au/go/access/>. This will enable access to personal details, including enrolment and exam timetable details as they become available.

Students should check their confirmation of entry to ensure name, courses, address, email, and phone number are correct. If there are issues activating the account, or any information is incorrect, please contact the Secondary Curriculum Coordinator (bragg@mfis.nsw.edu.au).

It is also possible to download an eRecord and/or RoSA/HSC/VET credential PDF free of charge in the Certificates/eRecord section.

Year 12 Elevate Study Skills workshops for Year 12 went ahead as scheduled on Friday 11th February during Periods 1-2. These high impact workshops are designed to help students improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build confidence, and lift exam performance. Elevate's study skills seminars also aim to achieve behavioural change amongst students.

“Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise.”

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)

REPORT ON YEAR 11 BIOLOGY EXCURSION TO LONG REEF ROCK PLATFORM.

The Year 11 Biology and Year 10 Accelerated Science students undertook a full day excursion to the Long Reef Rock Platform. This excursion is a mandatory component of Year 11 Biology. – Ecosystem Dynamics. Students had an opportunity to investigate and determine relationships between biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem, including

- the impact of abiotic factors (ACSBL021, ACSBL022, ACSBL025)
- the impact of biotic factors, including predation, competition and symbiotic relationship (ACSBL024)
- the ecological niches occupied by species (ACSBL023)
- predicting consequences for populations in ecosystems due to predation, competition, symbiosis and disease (ACSBL019, ACSBL020)
- measuring populations of organisms using sampling techniques (ACSBL003, ACSBL015 and
- analysing the role of human-induced selection pressures on ecosystems.

Upon completion of the field activities, students process and analyse the data collected and present a scientific report as part of their Depth Study Investigation.

The Power of Sleep - David Hamper – Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning

As school resumes students need to reestablish good routines. Getting a good night's sleep is one of the critical routines our students need in order to come to school ready to learn each day.

Teenagers should be getting at least 8 hours sleep a night (8-10 hours is the recommended amount) and this must be uninterrupted to be most effective.

Unfortunately for too many students this is simply not happening. Modern technology, especially mobile devices, such as Smart Phones, have brought many advantages but one of their great disadvantages has been their impact on sleep patterns. Research shows that many students have access to their mobile devices in their bedrooms and that this acts a constant source of distraction that interrupts sleep, and this impacts greatly on a teenager's ability to learn.

Taking simple steps like ensuring that students place their mobile devices on charge in a space other than their bedroom, such as the living room, at least 30 minutes before they go to bed is a highly effective strategy. A recent article in the journal *The Conversation* located at the following link [Back to school: how to help your teen get enough sleep \(theconversation.com\)](#) provides some excellent advice to parents and is well worth a few minutes of your time to read.



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COVID-19 Update

The NSW Premier and Minister for Education announced further updates regarding COVID-19 school settings for Term 1. Some measures are being relaxed while others are kept in place to give students, staff, and parents more freedom to enjoy school life while keeping the school community safe.

Core COVID Smart measures will remain in place, including enhanced cleaning and maximising natural and mechanical ventilation in line with health advice.

The easing of some restrictions include:

From Monday 28 February: Rapid Antigen Home Testing moving to 'symptomatic testing' only

From Monday 28 February, staff and students will move to 'symptomatic testing' as required, instead of surveillance testing on Mondays and Wednesdays. This means, you only need to complete a RAHT test on your child/ren if they are displaying symptoms. Each child and staff member will receive 8 additional RAHT kits. The next supply of RAHT kits will be sent home with your eldest child in the coming weeks. You do not need to test every Monday and Wednesday, only if your child displays symptoms (unless you would like to continue this routine as a safety precaution). If your child returns a positive RAHT result, please inform the school via email below: Greenacre Campus: covidstudentga@mfis.nsw.edu.au

TERM 1: 31/01–08/04

General-School Rules/Protocols-Students

Home Room

The Home Room was introduced in 2018 as part of the school's wellbeing initiative. During Home Room time, civics and citizenship, character building activities, study skills workshops and peer to peer communication sessions are run. All activities are underpinned by Islamic values and teachings. We will be continuing with the program and hope to build on the success of this initiative from previous years.

Afterschool Detention

As per our Discipline Policy, Afterschool Detentions will run from 3:35 to 4:20pm every Thursday afternoon. Parents will need to arrange suitable transport if their child is issued with an Afterschool Detention. Afterschool detention begins in week 5.

Mobile Phones

I would like to remind parents about students accessing their mobile phones without authorisation from staff. The 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's stance is 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. If the same student is repeatedly caught using a mobile phone this will lead to a detention, and may result in the student receiving a suspension.

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.

Prayer

Performing the Zuhr Prayer together as a school is one of the most important parts of the school day. Students are to practice the best of behaviour and manners in the "Mosque". Parents are asked to reinforce these expectations with their child.

Bell times in the morning

The first bell rings at 8:25am. Lessons begin at 8:30am. Please ensure your child is not loitering in Chullora Marketplace after 8:15am. If your child is persistently late to school, parents will be contacted. A plan will be devised in partnership with parents to help rectify the lateness.

Lateness

It is important that parents take responsibility for ensuring that their children are on time for school. Being prompt contributes to a sound educational, well-organised environment for their children on a daily basis.

Being punctual also helps to instil a proper attitude towards school and minimises disruption. Parents teach consideration for others and promote a positive attitude by assuring their child's promptness. Children who arrive late disrupt the learning of classmates as well as the efforts of the teacher.

A student with persistent lateness will have their parents contacted and be asked to come in for a meeting with the Head of Campus, Mr Dib or Deputy Head of Campus, Mrs Parker. The purpose of this meeting will be to resolve this educational problem.

Students taking unapproved leave during the school term is highly discouraged and negatively impacts on your child completing curriculum requirements. Please refer to our policy on this aspect.

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Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)

COVID-19 Positive Cases

Any student or staff member who tests positive to COVID-19 is required to follow NSW Health requirements. Currently, the requirements are:

isolate for 7 days following the positive test

leave isolation after 7 days if no symptoms (sore throat, runny nose, cough or shortness of breath)

if there are symptoms after 7 days, then remain in isolation until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

Staff and students who return a positive RAHT result must register it on the Service NSW app or service.nsw.gov.au website as soon as possible.

Masks no longer mandatory in Secondary schools

From Monday 28 February masks will no longer be mandatory for Secondary staff and students.

From Monday 7 March:

Masks no longer mandatory in Primary schools

From Monday 7 March, masks will no longer be mandatory for Primary staff. This staggered approach recognises the lower vaccination rates in primary school aged students.

While masks are no longer mandated from 7 March, staff and students may continue to choose to wear a mask.

Wearing of masks continue to be **mandatory on all public transport** for students aged 12 and over.

It is pleasing that some restrictions have eased to allow for a return to a 'normal school life.' We will, however, continue to prioritise the safety of our students and staff by implementing all necessary safety measures.

Wellbeing and Year Advisor Team at Greenacre Secondary

Wellbeing Coordinators (Year Group allocations for Term 1)

Mrs Houda Kbbar: Mina Girls (Head of Wellbeing)	Year 12 Girls/Year 10 Girls
Mr Bilal Khoder: Safa Boys (Head of Wellbeing)	Year 12 Boys/Year 10 Boys
Ms Samara Jalloul: Marwa Boys	Year 7 Boys/Year 11 Boys
Ms Hanade Saddik: Marwa Girls	Year 11 Girls/Year 8 Girls
Mr Mustafa Roubaie: Mina Boys	Year 9 boys/ Year 10 Boys
Mrs Bahija Elmir: Safa Girls	Year 7 Girls/Year 8 Girls
Mrs Thamina Kassar: Medina Boys	Year 8 Boys/Year 11 Boys
Mrs Alia Elmir: Medina Girls	Year 9 Girls/Year 10 Girls

Year Advisors

Year	Boys	Girls
7	Mr Ali Merhi	Mrs Doha Adra
8	Mr Charles George	Mrs Rana El Ali
9	Mr Fawzi Afiouni	Mrs Douha Sabbagh
10	Mr Mohammed Hanif	Mrs Abir Abu Samen
11	Mr Koray Kurt	Mrs Rehana Bashir
12	Mr Ahmad Shehabat	Mrs Khadija Taiba

Reminders

Please make every effort to abide by traffic rules when dropping off and picking up your child from School. Please show due respect to all Staff on duty at these times. We are all working together to keep all children safe.

Please note Suttons, Chullora management would appreciate no parents blocking their driveways whilst dropping off or picking up children in the morning or afternoon. Parents need to be aware that cars and delivery trucks need to use their driveways throughout the day, and this is why it needs to remain clear. Council rangers will be notified to fine any parents parking illegally on their property.

Please be aware EWE Global Express Transport Group will be operating out of the industrial complex next to our school. Their management would appreciate no parents blocking their driveway whilst dropping off or picking up children in the morning or afternoon. Parents need to be aware trucks will be using their driveways throughout the day.

Bus Services have requested that I inform parents and students of the importance of having School Opal cards. Students need to tap on and off when they travel to and from school. Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students do not tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.

If your child does not have a School Opal card or their details have changed then please visit www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/. Damaged or lost School Opal cards can be replaced by completing the form found at <https://ssts%1fapply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/Replace> <https://ssts-apply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/Replace Card.html>

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