



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

5th February 2021

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB

I would like to welcome our students back to school. A warm welcome is extended to the new enrolments. I welcome parents to Inshallah a promising and prosperous year for you and your children. The Greenacre Secondary School has started full of energy, optimism, and enthusiasm. I look forward to working with staff, parents, and community in providing the best possible educational opportunities for our students.

HSC 2020

Our sincere congratulations go to the HSC class of 2020 who received their results in mid-December. Despite the incredibly challenging year the students faced with COVID-19 restrictions our students demonstrated great resilience and performed very well overall. More than 1 in 5 of our students received an ATAR score greater than 90 and a record number of our students received early offers into university. In 2020 the top ATAR scored by an MFIS student was from Greenacre Secondary Campus; 99.75, an exceptionally high result.

Much credit and applause must be given to all HSC teachers in having guided each student to achieve best individual results. As always, we will thoroughly analyse our results to see where we can continue to improve and hone our teaching and assessment practices. We will continue to focus and strive for excellence in academic performance across all KLA's.

Staffing

Each year brings positive change. This includes several new additions to our staff. Greenacre Secondary is delighted to welcome our new recruits. Based in Greenacre; leading the English department will be Ms Rachel Palgan, and Mr Mahendra Naidu will lead the Technology department. Joining the English department- Mr Levent Sahin, Mr Andrew Segelov, Mr Ray Lo, Ms Kholoud Hamad; Mathematics Department- Ms Joanna Rankins, Mr Abdullah Trad; Visual arts/Music: Mr Ben Haddow, Mr Alper Karabork; Science- Ms Poonam Pesic; HSIE- Mr Alexander Pleunik; Counsellors- Ms Semanur Tanas, Ms Assala Sayara.

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 Thursday 28th and Friday 29th of January. Normal lessons for Year 7 began on Monday 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 Fatma Mehana and Mr Charles George for the development and implementation of the program. I express my gratitude to Mr Khoder, Ms Kbbbar, Mrs Parker, Ms S Jalloul 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. 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 in the Greenacre Secondary School Hall. They will also be streamed live through an online platform.

Year 9 and 11 students have been given a trial period for elective subjects. Deadlines for changing elective subjects will lapse very soon. 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 goals. Student records outlining student subject choices will be submitted to NESA in the coming weeks.

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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.**

Upcoming Events

Cyber Bullying Workshop

We have been in contact with the police liaison officer (PLO) to facilitate a cyber-safety and cyber-bullying workshop to assist in facilitating a workshop around the issue of social media usage. Issues involving social media and online bullying generally arise in the year 7 and 8 grades at the beginning of the year which is why it is imperative to keep the workshops relevant with the theme of February about social connectedness, digital citizenship and family and friends.

Healthy Lunch Box Week

Nutrition Australia founded Healthy Lunch Box Week, which in 2021, is the 7th - 13th February. Research shows that what we eat (particularly in the foundational years) impacts not only our physical health, but also our mental health and wellbeing. Healthy eating helps children and young people cope more effectively with stress, better manage emotions, and have better sleep, all factors that also impact on a child's learning at school. Greenacre Secondary students will be visited by the MFIS Counsellors. The counsellors will be distributing some fresh free healthy fruit and student factsheets to Secondary students across all campuses throughout the week to promote the Counselling Service and how healthy eating impacts on mood, mental health and learning.

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 \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/back-to-school-how-to-help-your-teen-get-enough-sleep) provides some excellent advice to parents and is well worth a few minutes of your time to read.

School photos

School photos will be taken during week 6. Please ensure students are in full school uniform and that haircuts comply with School policy. The date for **Greenacre Secondary: Tuesday, 2nd March 2021**. The option of siblings taking a family photo will be on Tuesday February 9th, 2021.

General-School Rules/Protocols

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.

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, 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 a suspension. The device will also be confiscated, 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.

Prayer

Performing the Zuhr Prayer together as a school is one of the most important parts of the school day. Students are to implement 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 late to school three times per term, he/she will be placed on an Afterschool detention.

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 Nachar. 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.

Welfare and Year Advisor Team at Greenacre Secondary

Welfare Coordinators

Years 8, 9, 10 Boys Ms Bahija Elmir

Years 7, 9, 11 Girls Ms Nasheen Parker

Years 7, 11, 12 Boys Ms Samara Jalloul

Years 8, 10, 12 Girls Ms Hanade Saddik

Year Advisors

Year	Boys	Girls
7	Mr Charles George	Ms Fatma Mehana
8	Mr Mustafa Roubaie	Ms Doha Sabbagh
9	Mr Mohammed Hanif	Ms Alia Elmir
10	Mr Koray Kurt	Ms Rehana Bashir
11	Ms Thamina Kassar	MsFatima Jalloul
12	Mr Ali Merhi	Ms Doha Adra

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%1fapply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/Replace)<https://sstsapply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/ReplaceCard.html>

I look forward to your support, wishing everyone a successful and prosperous year.

Yours Sincerely

Ali Dib
Head of Campus Secondary