



13 August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

NEWSLETTER



Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

Welcome you to the end of week five of remote learning. I extend my appreciation and thanks to all sectors of the school for the extra-ordinary effort during this difficult time to support the education of each child. The IT team, without whose efforts we could not undertake remote learning as we are, the Counsellors and Learning Support teams for their focuseed support with students, the Administration team, and of course the Teachers. It is the extra effort of phone calls to students and parents, reaching out to ensure the students are well that makes such a difference.

I am grateful to the very strong leadership of the School Executives, each Head of Campus, their Deputies and the Curriculum leadership teams. As the bylines of 2020 say *we are all in this together*, and *together we will get through this*.

Our staff are working hard to ensure the delivery of engaging and positive student lessons in a virtual environment. Alongside this learning, the physical and mental wellbeing of both students and staff remains a priority and I ask that you reach out to the School if additional support is needed.

As this newsletter was being prepared I received an email from the office of Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC who has prepared a video message to thank and encourage our School community as we navigate the current circumstances. I share the link with you.

To view:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wb6zr7ndvfng1bc/August%202021%20School%20Message%20Edit.mp4?dl=0>

To download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/t/i0BCddSLz1PEA6wE>

HSC Trials

We would like to wish all our Year 12 and Year 11 Compression students all the very best and keep them in our prayers as they commence the HSC Trial Examinations on **Monday, 16th August which will conclude on Monday 30th August**. In line with NSW Health orders, the HSC Trials will be undertaken remotely. Parents and students have received an updated HSC timetable and the protocols to be followed for remote examination. While our 2021 HSC cohort has been severely affected, they continue to rise to the occasion. We are very proud of them and continue to offer students and parents as much assistance as possible.

Year 12 Graduation and Presentation Ceremony

Sadly, due to the COVID-19 lockdown, the School had to postpone the Year 12 Graduation and Presentation Ceremony that was planned for Wednesday, 15th September until after the HSC examinations, similar to last year. I am hopeful to be able to hold this milestone event at the Quaycentre, Sydney Olympic Park on **Tuesday, 16th November 2021**. This event will also be livestreamed.

HSC Vaccination Program

The NSW Government HSC vaccination program was held throughout this week. Over 125 students of Malek Fahd students registered for the program.

Afternoon Break

The decision has been made to have a half-day break from formal lessons and meetings on Tuesday, 17th August from 12.00pm. Conscious of the intensity of remote learning, this short break is an important way for everyone to recharge – physically, emotionally and spiritually and allow the whole community to engage with remote learning with renewed vigour.

If students need to physically attend School on Tuesday 17th August, parents are requested to pick up their child at 12.00pm. Should parents not be able to collect their child at this time, the remaining students will be supervised in calming non-school based activities. Please note there will not be any scheduled lessons after 12.00pm on that day.

Should remote learning continue, the next half day break from lessons will be Wednesday 1st September.

Subject Selection Information Sessions

The Year 11 2022 Subject Selection Information Session was held on 5th August via Microsoft Teams. Mr Hamper and Mrs Bragg hosted the evening and provided quality information to assist student to make informed decision of what's right for them. The Year 9 2022 Subject Selection Information Session was held last night at 7.00pm. The depth of presentations by Ms Bragg for each year level is now on the School website. I was delighted with the attendance to each session. It is clear that the evening time and the presentation via MS Teams is the way forward for the future.

Weekly Assemblies

From this week remote weekly assemblies are being held across all campuses. I was delighted to join each assembly to greet the children and staff. These weekly events offer an important opportunity for students to connect with their Head of Campuses to say 'hello' and to provide important notices and messages.

Storytime with the Librarians

Primary students across all three campuses have the opportunity to join via Teams daily for storytime with the School Librarians. This is an optional program and students can log in through Teams and enjoy a story to end their school day.

Kindergarten Interviews

Kindergarten Interviews have been placed on hold. Parents will be advised in two weeks time on the way forward.

Daily Islamic Reflection

There are daily inspirational messages and Islamic reflections at 1.15pm provided by our Director of Faith, Dr Zachariah Matthews and our School Chaplain, Sheikh Fawaz. An invitation to join Teams has been sent to students. The Friday sermons will also continue to be presented online at 1.15pm. I encourage all

students to join each day for this time of prayer and inspirational messages.

Wellbeing, Counsellors and Welfare

I remind parents that the Wellbeing team of Counsellors, Welfare Coordinators, Heads of Wellbeing and Year Advisors, Coordinators as well as your child's class teacher are available to support your child in all aspects of their educational and emotional needs. Students will receive phone calls from their classroom or homeroom teachers to check in. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Counsellors on the emails below:

Greenacre Secondary: counsellingGS@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Greenacre Primary: counsellingGP@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Hoxton Park: counsellingHP@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Beaumont Hills: counsellingBH@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Going through a hardship or learning that someone else is experiencing a difficult time, may be distressful and upsetting. Attached is a **factsheet** produced by our Counselling team on responding to distress. A huge thank you to our great team for this very useful factsheet.

School Remains Open

I remind parents that the School remains open. However, the advice of NSW Health is to wherever possible please continue to have your child complete their learning at home through our remote learning programs. Should your child need to attend school for on-campus learning, skeleton staff are rostered on for supervision. Administration Offices of each campus are attended to between 8.00am and 4.00pm. As per the NSW Health orders, parents must not attend the campus. The only exception is the drop off and pick up of students at Greenacre Primary campus. We will continue the usual drop off and pick up of students. Parents who come onto any of the campus sites must wear a mask. For any enquiries, please contact the School via phone or email. We ask for your patience as call volumes are considerable during this time.

Attendance

Student attendance is taken daily by our staff. Should your child be unwell and unable to participate in remote learning please inform the School office.

Wearing of Masks: Due to the nature of the Delta variant the NSW Department of Health requires that every student in Years 7 to 12 who attends school in this lockdown period (and school staff) must wear a

mask. There are some circumstances where staff who are restricted in the delivery of content have the capacity to remove their mask for that period of time. Parents of students who fail to wear masks will be asked to come to school and take their child home.

Social distancing: It is a requirement that we continue with social distancing. The four-square metre limit will be in place at school.

QR Codes and Check in: Any parent coming on site to any campus is required to check in via the Service NSW QR Code, which will be displayed around the school campus. Please ensure that you check out on departure.

Food and Canteen: Please note, the canteen will not be operational during this lockdown period.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is currently closed. You are welcome to purchase uniforms via Midford online store: <https://www.midford.com.au/school-shops-online> For online purchase:

- Select Malek Fahd Islamic School Uniform Shop from the online School Shops tab
- Register a new account - the unique school pass phrase: Malek1989 will be required.
- Add your personal information, create a username and password

Should you require further information or details, please feel free to contact 0498 518 916.

Free parent support is available through various Muslim and community organisations, including:

- **24/7 COVID-19 Hotline:** 1800 020 080 (to triage people with respiratory symptoms and those who are concerned about contact with the virus).
- **Call 13Health (13 43 25 84).** (Any time for practical medical advice and assistance).
- **Parent Line NSW: 1300 130 052.** (9 am-9 pm Monday to Friday, 4 pm-9 pm weekends)
- **Lifeline:** 13 11 14

Useful Online Links:

- **School TV** (useful info on a range of wellbeing issues) <https://schooltv.me/>
- **headspace** (info on mental health and COVID-19) <https://headspace.org.au>

- **Raising Children Network** (Range of information on parenting, mental health and COVID-19 info) <https://raisingchildren.net.au>

Free Muslim counselling services include:

- **UMA Counselling & Psychology Services** (Free 12yrs+ Males: 0430 329 224 Females:0415 747 837.
- **LMA AMAN PSYCH Support Clinic** 0416 937 425 or lma.org.au (Free 16+ No referral required. Closes 5pm.

Thank you one and all for your resilience and support as we continue to work together during this very difficult period. Attached is Malek Fahd Islamic School's guide to remote learning that was sent out to parents earlier.

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal