



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

18 November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

The HSC exams commenced on Tuesday last week. We know that the 2021 HSC year, with the challenges of learning remotely and with trial and HSC examination delays, has been a time of significant uncertainty for our students.

However, our teachers have done amazing work behind the scenes to ensure all HSC students were as best prepared as possible.

We wish our Year 12 students all the very best for the coming weeks ahead and beyond. You've got this Year 12!

NEWSLETTER



Niyyah Project Update

What is the Niyyah Project?

As you know the School formed a strategic partnership with the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) at the University of South Australia in late 2020. Our goal in forming this partnership was to imbue the principles of Islamic Pedagogy across all aspects of the School.

This partnership is known as the *Niyyah Project*. Niyyah means intention, and this name was purposefully chosen for the project as it reinforces the idea that through our work in the project, we will make intentional changes that are informed by the principles of Islamic Pedagogy.

Pedagogy commonly refers to the methods and practices of teaching. However, in our work with CITE, we are employing a broader, more cutting edge, understanding of pedagogy to refer to the educational beliefs and values that inform our practice. Therefore, through this project we are looking at the big picture of everything we do as educators to align with our school aspirations.

What's been happening in 2021 with the Niyyah Project?

Despite all the challenges that COVID-19 has placed in our path in 2020 and 2021 we have been able to make excellent progress with the Niyyah Project. Since February this year all our teaching staff have been engaged in professional learning sessions, conducted out of school hours by the CITE staff. These sessions give staff the opportunity to work with colleagues to begin to explore the foundational principles of Islamic Pedagogy and to consider examples of Schools from around the world that are on similar journeys to ours and those that are further down the path of implementation. In May this year our colleagues from CITE – Dr Nadeem Memon and Mr Dylan Chown were able to visit each campus, meet with parents, students, and staff as well as conduct lesson observations. This element of the project, known as the School Review, was a key milestone in



understanding where the School is currently at and in helping us plan our future directions.

Part of our relationship with CITE is the opportunity for our staff to engage in the more in-depth courses offered by the University. A large number of our staff have completed the 20-hour Culturally Responsive Pedagogies for Muslim Learners online course with CITE. This was done entirely in the staff member's own time and more of our staff continue to complete this training each semester.

Additionally, another group of staff are undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Education (Islamic Education) through UniSA/CITE. This is a minimum 12-month commitment from our staff and the course is a fully recognised tertiary qualification. Ms Houda Kbbar, Head of Wellbeing, is the School's first graduate of the course and more than twenty other staff are currently studying in the course and will graduate in coming months. By 2024 we anticipate that more than forty Malek Fahd Islamic School staff will become graduates of the course.

Recently more than thirty staff nominated themselves to join with colleagues from their campus to form Niyah Campus Committees. These committees have been hard at work drafting graduate qualities and the educational philosophies that underpin them. Graduate qualities are the academic, religious, moral, and social attributes that we aim for each of our students to embody by the time they complete their Malek Fahd Islamic School education. By revisiting these and carefully examining them through the lens of Islamic Pedagogy we are able to then determine what renewed practices our teachers may engage in to ensure that we achieve these goals for our students.

How you can contribute to the Niyah Project

The next exciting phase in this process will be to obtain feedback from our students, staff and very importantly parents. **In the coming weeks you will receive a short survey to complete to give us your ideas and feedback regarding the work of the Niyah Project.** This will be sent to the email address you recorded as the primary contact with the School. If the email address needs to be updated, please do so at your earliest convenience by contacting the school office.

Bullying Prevention Week – Beaumont Hills

Students at the Beaumont Hills campus wore Odd Socks on Monday 15th November. Odd Socks Day is a national event all about celebrating what makes someone unique. Students were encouraged to wear their favourite odd socks to symbolise that we are all different

and that children should be themselves, accepting of one another and celebrate difference. Well done to all students and teachers who participated in this event!



Strengthening Resilience and Mental Health

Our school is working hard to promote the mental health and wellbeing of our students and families. Our school counsellors have recently developed several school resources including tip sheets on managing uncertainty, developing good sleep habits, as well HSC and Test Anxiety tip sheets. Our Mental Health Month colouring competition winners and awards were recently presented across primary campuses. Thank you to all the creative and talented students who submitted an entry! We had over 200 entries and believe it was a great way to further raise awareness about mental health with our younger students! Some photos of the wonderful, budding artists who submitted exceptional entries are below.





This week, our School Counsellors facilitated an online parent information on “Strengthening Resilience and Mental Health” on Monday, which was well attended by families. We want to give a huge thank you to all parents who logged on and send our deep gratitude to our brilliant guest presenter (and former MFIS student!) Ms. Fatma-Nur Atan, Clinical Psychologist Registrar. A summary tip sheet of the session is attached. Families are encouraged to give feedback about the session by completing this quick survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/bFZE7UaD1y>

We are also eagerly working towards an exciting new initiative - the MFIS Mental Health Olympics! (To be trialed initially at Greenacre Secondary in Week 9 insha’Allah). The event is planned to be an interactive and fun learning experience for students (and teachers!) where they can engage in practical activities and challenges that promote positive mental health such as a “Sprinkle Kindness” challenge, mini-Poetry Slam, “Spin the Emotions” challenge, a “Chill-Out Space” and lots more! Please see flyer attached and encourage your child to volunteer and/ or participate! They can register by signing up at the office or by emailing counsellinggs@mfis.nsw.edu.au. More details coming soon, insha’Allah!

*Ms Fatima Masri
School Counsellor*

Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills Enrolment

We are taking enrolments now for K-12 and vacancies are limited. Please visit our website www.mfis.nsw.edu.au or call Hoxton Park campus

directly on 8783 5190 and Beaumont Hills campus directly on 8814 5282 for more information.

School Canteen

The School Canteens across all campuses will continue to operate with **orders only**. There **will not** be any casual purchases made by students or morning orders from parents.

Uniform Shop

All parents are requested to purchase uniforms online via <https://www.midford.com.au/school-shops-online> No walk in is allowed and payments are to be made online or over the phone. 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.

Kind regards,

Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal