



19 October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

NEWSLETTER



Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

Welcome students and parents to Term 4, the shortest and perhaps the busiest Term. I hope you have enjoyed your holidays immensely. The year has been a very difficult for everyone and the holidays have been a wonderful time to pause and refresh.

Year 12 HSC

Higher School Certificate Examinations for all Year 12 students in NSW, and our Year 11 Mathematics and Biology Compression students on Tuesday. English is the first examination this week. This year students from the three campuses will undertake the HSC. It is the first year for students from Hoxton Park. Our dua's are for the students for a clear mind, focus, resilience and persistence as they undertake each of their examinations. The final examination is on 11th November. Best wishes and good luck.

A significant number of Year 12 students have already received advance offers to University. This is exciting news for them and the School.

Staff Professional Development Day

It was a delight to see all staff back last week. Due to COVID-19, it was the first full Staff Meeting, since the commencement of the year. The positive energy throughout the day was wonderful. Staff are looking forward to working with the students for the remainder of the Term. We were honoured to have the Grand Mufti, His Eminence, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, as our guest speaker.

Dr Ibrahim spoke about raising our children with morals and instilling spirituality in them, so they become well rounded citizens. He inspired our teachers with his words of encouragement and wisdom. Dr Ibrahim emphasised instilling in the student the need of balance of the heart and the purpose of education.



Islamic Pedagogy

The School has embarked on a three year program of Islamic Pedagogy with the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education, based at South Australia University. I have been working closely with Professor Mohamad Abdalla, AM, Director of CITE, on the establishment of the program.

The program includes presentations for all Staff during their Professional Development Days, a four week Short Course program, Graduate Certificate Course, as well as mentoring of staff. Currently six staff are enrolled in the Graduate Certificate Course, 27 staff have completed the Short Course and a further 11 staff have enrolled in the Short Course. Mr Hamper, Ms El-Ahmad and Ms Cato have been working closely with the course presenters, Dr Nadeem and Mr Dylan Chow, on the content of the course. We are finalising the selection of the next six candidates for the Graduate Certificate course. This is a very important direction for the School, and I am delighted staff are giving up their

time and embracing each component of the courses being offered.

Review of Curriculum Subjects

Consistent with the School's philosophy, we continue to review curriculum courses across the three campuses. These current courses being revised are Islamic Studies and Arabic. The Islamic Studies review will examine the program, the teaching and learning strategies used in its delivery, classroom management and the hours of student contact per week.

The review panel will include Mr David Hamper (Chair), Sk Khaled Bouchaffa (GA and Head of Islamic Studies); Ms Janine Ghamraoui (GA Primary); Sk Youssef; Sk Khalil (BH); Sk Abdul Salaam (HP) and Ms Zeitone (HP) and Sheikh Fawaz. The review of the Primary and Secondary Arabic curriculum commenced late Term 3. Primary Arabic review is being undertaken by Mr Hamper, Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning), Ms Mourad (Primary Curriculum Coordinator), in conjunction with Sheikh Fawaz and the Primary Arabic staff and examining the option of the introduction of a textbook. The findings and recommendations of the Review will be brought to the Executive and then to the School Board.

Holiday Maintenance

A significant amount of work across the three campuses was undertaken during the holidays. All rooms were sanitised, and carpets steam cleaned. The oval at Beaumont Hills was graded removing rocks, and turf was laid. At the Greenacre Campus the secondary girls classrooms were repainted, trees in the boy's play area were removed for safety purposes, and the pavement was retiled. Netting for bird control to the underside of the courtyard shade canopy in Primary school was installed and the former Mathematics storeroom was opened up to become a larger male staffroom.

Passing of Mr Hafiz Malas

Last Wednesday one of our former School Chairman, Mr Hafiz Malas passed away. He was a very active Board member and then became the Chairman of the School Board. Mr Malas had a deep passion for and understanding of Islamic education. During his time develop the school at Greenacre Campus and had vision for the development of Hoxton Park Campus. May Allah have mercy upon him and grant him Jannah for all what he has done for the Muslim Community.

Leadership Roles

Over the past weeks an extensive process of interviews has been undertaken for the Head of English and Head of Technology. The pool of applicants was strong. With the growth of Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills the decision has been made to increase the leadership group within English by adding a second Deputy Head of English who will have direct oversight of Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hill, based at Hoxton Park Campus. I am delighted to announce Ms Rachel Palgan has been appointed as Head of English, (based at Greenacre Campus, with oversight of the entire department of all campuses), and Mr Darren Smith, a current staff member, as Deputy Head of English (based at Hoxton Park). The Head of Technology will be Mr Mahendra Naidu.

As we head forward, I would like to remind you to please adhere to the COVID-19 preventative measures the School has implemented.

Again, best wishes and good luck to our Year 12 and Year 11 Compression students in their HSC Examinations.

2021 School Term Dates

Please be advised the following are the dates of schooling for 2021. These dates have been published on the school website.

Term 1 - Thu, 28th January to Thu, 1st April 2021

Term 2 - Tue, 20th April to Fri, 25th June 2021

Term 3 - Tue, 13th July to Fri, 17th September 2021

Term 4 – Wed, 6th October to Fri, 10th December 2021

School Uniform Shop

Parents are requested to make an appointment for fittings and purchase of uniforms by calling on 0498 518 916 or email malek.fahd@midford.com.au. You are also welcome to purchase uniforms online at your convenience and your order will be filled when the store is next open.

Website: <https://schoolshop.midford.com.au/login/>
passphrase: malek1989

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal