



21 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

NEWSLETTER



Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

Welcome back

I would like to start by welcoming all our existing and new families of Malek Fahd Islamic School to an exciting 2021, in particular our students. Happy New Year to you all and may I start the first newsletter of this calendar year by thanking you for all your continued support, patience and understanding during this very challenging time. I wish you a very happy, healthy, successful and prosperous year.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our whole School community, I would like to remind parents to please adhere to the COVID-19 preventative measures the School implemented last year. These include:

- Maintaining **good hygiene practices** with regular hand washing, use of hand sanitizers and no sharing of food or drinks.
- Maintaining the **drop-off and pick-up only** process across the three campuses.
- Parents **are not allowed** to walk their child to the Office or assembly areas.
- Parents **must not** gather or socialise on School grounds.
- It is essential that all students are collected on time.
- Parents who wish to meet a staff member or an Executive must schedule a meeting outside drop-off and pick-up times. Telephone calls and emails are the preferred way to discuss your child with staff.
- I ask parents to speak to their children about avoiding close contact with their friends.

General Health Advice

If your child is unwell, even if they have mild symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, decreased appetite, fever, body aches, diarrhoea, headache, chest pain, difficulty breathing) they **must not** attend school. You must keep them home and away from others until they have been checked by a doctor. In some circumstances you may be asked to present a clearance letter from your doctor before your child can return to school.

Return to School

Please be advised all **Year 1 to 12** students will return to school to commence Term 1, 2021 on **Thursday, 28th January**.

Kindergarten Commencement and Orientation

To assist the settling in of students, **Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park** Kindergarten classes will commence on **Friday, 29th January**. Kindergarten students at **Greenacre campus will commence on Thursday, 28th and Friday 29th**. Due to the large cohort of Kindergarten students at Greenacre, classes are divided in two groups, three groups will attend on Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm, and the other three groups will attend on Friday, 30 January from 9:30 to 12:30pm. Greenacre parents will receive individual letters advising of your child's commencement day by the Head of Campus, Ms El-Ahmad. Listed below are Kindergarten Orientation times:

Beaumont Hills Campus: Friday, 29th January from 8.45am to 3.00pm

Hoxton Park Campus: Friday, 29th January from 10.00am to 2.00pm

Greenacre Campus: Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Please note, it is unfortunate but due to COVID-19, parents will not be allowed on campus. However, on the first day for Kindergarten, one parent may accompany the child and drop them off at the respective School Hall to meet their teacher.

Year 7 Orientation

The Orientation program for Year 7 students will be held at each campus at the beginning of 2021. The program will encompass School Structure, Subject Familiarisation, Study skills, School Discipline Policy, Anti bullying, Resilience, Team Building and more.

These will be held on the following days:

Beaumont Hills Campus: Thursday, 28th January 2021

Hoxton Park Campus: Thursday, 28th January 2021

Greenacre Campus: Held over two days, Thursday 28th and Friday, 29th of January. Normal lessons resume on Monday.

Staffing

Each year brings positive change. This includes several new additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome close to 25 new staff and look forward to working together as our School grows. We have two new Heads of Department joining us together with School Counsellors, English, Mathematics, Science, HSIE, PDHPE, Visual Arts and Primary teachers. Leading the English department will be Ms Rachel Palgan, and Mr Mahendra Naidu will lead the Technology department. Mr Darren Smith, Assistant Head of English will have specific responsibility for Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills campuses.

Over the coming days, you will receive a welcome letter from your child's Year Advisor, providing you with an email contact details and the opportunity to communicate with the Year Advisor as your need arises. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity. Below is a list of the leadership and wellbeing team.

Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning: Mr David Hamper

Deputy Principal Pastoral and Community: Mr Aiyub Ahmed

Deputy Principal Operations: Mr Stephen Lord

Secondary Curriculum Coordinator: Ms Tulin Bragg

Primary Curriculum Coordinator: Ms Hibba Mourad

Head of Wellbeing: Secondary (Boys') Mr Billal Khoder; Secondary (Girls') Ms Houda Kbbar

Primary (Boys') Mr Yaakoub Saddik;

Primary (Girls') Ms Rania Charmand;

Welfare Coordinators - Greenacre

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 7 Boys Mr Charles George
Girls Ms Fatma Mehana

Year 8 Boys Ms Mustafa Roubaie
Girls Ms Douha Sabbagh

Year 9 Boys Ms Mohammed Hanif
Girls Ms Alia Elmir

Year 10 Boys Mr Koray Kurt
Girls Ms Rihana Bashir

Year 11 Boys Ms Thamina Kassar
Girls Ms Fatima Jalloul

Year 12 Boys
Girls

Mr Ali Merhi
Ms Doha Adra

The School wishes to advise that, as of the end of the 2020 School Year, Ms Inass Khoder resigned from her role as Primary Co-ordinator at Greenacre Campus. Ms Khoder has been a long serving staff member of some 23 years at Malek Fahd Islamic School. During this time, Ms Khoder has given dedicated service to the education of her students in various roles and, through her role as Year Co-ordinator, has guided students' transition into secondary schooling.

Ms Khoder's engagement with parents over the years has been appreciated and I am sure they will join me in wishing her well. Ms Khoder's resignation will enable her to pursue other opportunities. In thanking Ms Khoder for her service to the education of our students, we wish her well for her future endeavours.

Student Leadership

For 2021 we welcome the leadership of Bilal El-Hamawi and Sara Hamze (Greenacre); Lydia Baker and Ayman Omer (Beaumont Hills); Shaheen Khalil and Mohammad Al-Jaboore (Hoxton Park). They have commenced this role extremely well leading each of the end of year presentation days with exceptional style.

2020 HSC Performance

Our sincere congratulations go to the HSC class of 2020 who received their final 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 99.75, an exceptionally high result.

Of particular note were the results in Mathematics, the Sciences and Legal Studies, areas that the School has typically performed very well in over recent years. In the Sydney Morning Herald Mathematics Performance Table, the School was ranked 25th in the state, one of the highest non-selective Schools. This measures the performance of students in the Extension and Advanced Mathematics courses - the most challenging courses. It was also very pleasing to note that the School also recorded improved performances across different subject areas, in areas that have not been

seen as traditional strengths of the School, for example in Modern History.

2020 marked the first year of Year 12 for Hoxton Park and we look forward to the continued growth of the Hoxton Park Campus. Courses such as Advanced Mathematics and Advanced English will be offered for the first time at this Campus in 2021 indicating its growing academic strengths. Equally for the first-time students have been selected for compression Biology at Beaumont Hills in 2021.

Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills Roadside works

Across the school holidays, the school has undertaken significant roadside works at these campuses. These essential works will improve the entry to and from each campus. Please note that there may be some changed traffic conditions as to how you enter the exit the school. Please look out for the schools traffic marshals who will direct you, and we appreciate the parents understanding.

Capital Works

Greenacre is in the process of repainting student classrooms throughout 2021. The Primary campus has been painted and works will continue in the coming terms for the Secondary girls' campus. A new Audio and Video System has been installed in the Mosque. The new sound system will have better sound quality for the downstairs and upstairs area. Two new projectors, four 4K TVs and a 4K camera have been installed to provide a video presentation of the Friday Sermon to the Girls' areas as well as the classrooms.

Hoxton Park has had a new extended bus bay built at the school to ease the traffic flow into the school. Additional classroom space has also been created to accommodate our students, in addition to the creation of a new sick bay area.

Beaumont Hills has had significant works undertaken during these school holidays. New curb side works are being carried out to better manage the traffic flow into the school. There won't be a right hand turn in or out of the campus. The existing school hall has been modified into additional office space and teaching areas, inclusive of a new sick bay. A new general purpose school hall has also been installed for the students use. Ongoing works to install additional staircase access to the classrooms is also being carried out. It is expected to have all work completed prior to the return to School.



Parent Portal

Last year the school commenced the migration of the school student management system across to the Sentral platform. Work has now commenced on activating a parents portal app that will allow parents to access numerous services online. Further updates on the release date if this exciting new feature will be provided when we are ready to launch it.

Textbook and Stationery Lists

Parents have been advised of the textbook and stationery list requirements for 2021. A list may also be found on the School website.

School Fees

The school will shortly be issuing the 2021 school fees statement. As with prior years the school fees are due for payment at the start of each term. The prompt payment of these fees will ensure the school is able to continue to provide quality education for the students. For families that have balances outstanding from last year we ask that these fees are paid in full immediately to bring your accounts in order. It is a condition of re-enrolment that fees are kept up to date at all times. The school thanks the parents in advance for their assistance in paying fees on time.

2021 School Term Dates

Please be advised 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

All parents are required to schedule appointments for their child's school uniform through the Midford online appointment link:

<https://Midford.as.me/MalekFahdIslamicSchool>

In order to deliver a personalised service and adhere to the current COVID-19 procedures, all visitors to the Uniform Shop including new and existing uniform fittings are **strictly by appointment only**. Students are to be accompanied at a fitting by no more than one parent. This is essential for the safety of both staff and customers.

Online Store

Parents are welcome to purchase through our online store via www.Midford.com.au

- Select Malek Fahd Islamic School Uniform Shop from the online School Shops tab
- Registering 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.

Enjoy the last few days of the holidays, happy Australia Day and look forward to seeing you next week.

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal