



24 June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

NEWSLETTER



Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

On Tuesday, 22nd June the School Chair, Dr John Bennett, AM announced my intention, after 43 years in education, to retire at the end of this year. The announcement letter was forwarded to each family.

I am honoured to have been Principal at Malek Fahd leading an impressive team of teachers, administration, IT, and maintenance staff. It is a privilege to have such a wonderful executive team who support me in the delivery of the school vision.

Much has been achieved in the short four and a half years, and there is still more to be undertaken. I am committed to complete the year well and have a sharp focus on completing the master plan at Beaumont Hills, completing Stage 3 build at Hoxton Park, review the pastoral care structure for Kindergarten to Year 12, across the three campuses, ensure a strong foundation is laid for Dr Matthews as he commences his role as Director of Faith and Australian Islamic Identity, secure a strong foundation for the incoming Communication and Marketing Manager, oversee the rebranding of the school and the commencement of the new web design, and the commencement of the 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan.

I am most grateful to Dr Bennett AM, and the School Board for their ongoing support and guidance and look forward to working closely with them throughout the year. Later in the year I will provide an update of achievements in the past few years. I know in leaving, I have left the School in a better space and am confident that I always gave my best efforts. I thank each and every one for all you are doing for the children and the School.

Dr Bennett AM awarded Member of the Order of Australia

Congratulations to Malek Fahd Islamic School Chairman, Dr John Bennett AM on being awarded

Member of the Order of Australia. This is outstanding acknowledgement for service and exemplary achievements in education. We thank Dr Bennett AM for all he is doing for our fine School.

Graduating from the STEM Academy at University of Sydney

Vandana Karan (Stage 3 Coordinator at Beaumont Hills), Samar Chahal (Kindergarten teacher at Hoxton Park) and David Hamper (Deputy Principal Teacher and Learning) graduated from the STEM Teacher Enrichment Academy at the University of Sydney on Monday. In February 2020, the three, along with Greenacre Primary teacher Shaakira Essop (who is currently on leave), embarked on their STEM journey. Working together across the campuses they have been designing, trialling and implementing authentic STEM based learning activities with students.

Although their projects were disrupted by COVID-19 and remote learning they persisted and on Monday presented their work at the 2020/2021 STEM Academy Showcase. Their next task will be to present to the School's primary staff at the Term 3 Staff Day and support their colleagues as they work to implement STEM across all classes.



A Partner School of

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

STEM Teacher Enrichment Academy

Stage 3 Hoxton Park Campus

We are very excited to report that the Stage 3 building work at Hoxton Park campus commenced this week. This new building will provide additional quality learning spaces at Hoxton Park, including two new

Science Laboratories. It is scheduled to be completed by mid-November ready for the 2022 school year.



Important Information for Parents of Year 12 Students

Year 12 parents will have received information via email regarding the year 12 Mock Trials. These are non-assessable but critical tasks for all Year 12 students to complete providing them with valuable experience at examinations and an opportunity for feedback ahead of the actual Trial Examinations. Parents are asked to please support the School by ensuring that students attend the scheduled mock examinations. Normal classes will run at other times and students are expected to have full attendance. Attendance at this time is critical as students will still be covering important content needed for their final HSC examinations.

A number of special masterclasses have been planned to assist the revision of students during the upcoming holidays. All students have been provided with a schedule of these classes which will take place on each campus. We encourage students to access these classes to support their revision programs.

The Trial Examinations will commence in Week 5. During the examination period students will only be required to attend School for their scheduled exams. After the conclusion of the Trial Examination full attendance of all Year 12 students is required. Year 12 parents must support the School and your children's teachers in ensuring that students attend. The weeks following the Trial are a time of invaluable revision which is best done under the guidance and direction of your child's teachers. Even if your child informs you that they study at home this will not be as effective as the targeted revision, focussing on specific content areas and question types that teachers will be doing during the post-trial time. In some courses final areas of content may also be covered during this time. Your support in this regard is very important in ensuring the best outcomes for your child in their final HSC examinations.

Homework Help Hub

Our Secondary Homework Help Hubs have been operating to great success. The Hubs will operate again in Term 3 on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and I encourage students to make use of this excellent service to support their learning.

Biggest Morning Tea

Did you know that the daffodil is the international symbol of hope for people affected by cancer? Or that one in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime? Cancer touches all our lives, and your support will be greatly appreciated. On the 23rd of June, Malek Fahd Greenacre Secondary held the Biggest Morning Tea to support the Cancer Council. The event was organized by Ms. A. Elmir, Ms. Saddik, Ms. Taiba, Ms. Husari and Ms. Adra and the senior girls. The turn out to the event was impressive and the food on offer was absolutely delicious. The guest speaker, Ms Renae Kanj and our own two students, Tasfia Hossain and Afra Kabir spoke candidly about how they have been personally touched by cancer. A live auction was held and all donated items on offer were sold to help raise funds. The invited guests also really got into the spirit by donating generously to a such an important cause.





A similar event was held at Hoxton Park Campus. Parents, teachers, and Year 12 students all extended their support and helped raise funds by participating in the auction.

The students of Kindergarten to Year 12 participated in the event by wearing yellow and donating a gold coin to help support the cause. We thank the Deputy Mayor, Mazhar Hadid and the Cancer Council Representative, Kamal Hadid for attending the event. The campus raised over \$2,500 for this very important cause.



The Beaumont Hills Campus held their Biggest Morning Tea this morning. Regretfully though we could not have parents attend this event due to the new COVID-19 precautionary guidelines announced by NSW Health. The event did go ahead with only the students and staff attending. We are excited that parents were able to attend the event virtually.



All proceeds from the event will go towards funding the research needed to help find a cure for cancer. A special thank you to all staff and students who worked tirelessly to make this event a huge success once again. Also, a huge thank you to all the local businesses for sponsoring the event.

School Uniform

MFIS strongly supports the wearing of full school uniform by students and the upholding of high standards of dress. Part of being a student at MFIS is to wear the school uniform with pride during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

Students must arrive at school each day in full School uniform. Now that the winter season has started, all students must be in their green School jumper and blazers. A School tie is compulsory for the boys and the girls must only wear the plain white hijab. The hijab must be pinned and worn appropriately. Boy's top button must be done up and tie pushed up into the collar. Socks for all students must be above the ankle. Please ensure your child is in full School Uniform every day.

Parents Parking at Greenacre

During the afternoon pick up of children I need parents to take great care in and around the school grounds and on Waterloo Road. Some cars are parking in the bus bay, double parked and holding up the flow of traffic. I ask that all parents take special care at this time to ensure the maximum safety of our children. Management of Suttons Chullora and EWE Global Express Transport Group have requested that no parents block their driveway 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.

School Fee Reminder

A reminder to our parents and carers that School fees for Term 2 is now overdue. We request that all outstanding fees are paid in full immediately to bring your accounts in order. The school thanks the parents in advance for their assistance in paying fees on time.

Term 2 Holidays and Commencement of Term 3

Last day of School for Term 2 will be Friday, 25th June. During the holidays, School Administration Office will be operating with reduced hours. Please contact each campus to confirm hours. The Staff Professional Learning Day will be held on Monday, 12th July. Consequently, students will return to school to commence Term 3 on **Tuesday, 13th July.**

WELLBEING CORNER

Supporting student safety on social media

Given the online world and social media are important to teens and to their friendships, the best gift we can give them is to show them a mindful balancing act. If we want them to engage in conversations with us about the negative impacts of social media, then we are more likely to gain their trust, respect and

attention if we also acknowledge its importance in their lives.

Below are tips for ways to help teenagers increase the positive impact of social media use and lower the risk.

1. Curate your feed

Chatting with them about content that triggers feelings of anxiety or inadequacy versus content that leaves them feeling uplifted, inspired, or informed can be a far more productive conversation than simply complaining about how much time they spend on their phones.

2. Model a mindful use of social media

Although young people are the most prolific users of social media, concerns about its potential impact on mental health apply to everyone. According to a recent survey by ReachOut, one in three parents is spending between one to five hours on social media every day. Supporting a healthy use of social media also means modelling mindful behaviour. Not carrying the phone around in your hand, and constantly using an app shows you're not dependent on it.

3. Report and block bullies

On a more positive note, the ReachOut survey also indicated that cyber-security campaigns are working, with 86 per cent of parents saying they are having conversations with their teens about social media use including topics such as cyberbullying, protecting personal information and acceptable online behaviour. However, teens need constant reminding about this

4. Suggest to teens to try moving apps away from the home screen and into folders to avoid mindless overindulging

Encourage your teens to take charge of using an app when they consciously decide to, rather than because the psychology behind the features of the app is designed to constantly get them to check it.

5. Apply designated time limits to social media use

If losing time to social media use is a problem, suggest to teens to try giving themselves a regular time for checking social media (eg between 6pm and 8pm on certain days, etc). Suggest they turn off notifications for specific apps in the settings, so they are not constantly tempted to open apps or get sucked into a social media vortex when they

are doing other things. Alternatively, turn off data or switch the phone to airplane mode.

6. Set aside time for non-screen time hobbies

There are plenty of hours in a day and week, so pick a screen-free hobby and commit to spending a specific time on it. It could be a yoga class or practising an instrument, it could also be reading a book or walking a dog – anything that will be a solid break from the screen. During hobby time, switch the phone to Do Not Disturb mode or turn it off, to avoid distraction.

7. Apps that help manage our use of screen time

Ironically, there are apps to help all of us manage the use of screen time. Forest app allows you to set a period when you commit to not using your phone. During that time, a digital plant will grow in the app. If the phone is used at this time, Forest sends a notification to get off the app or the plant will die.

8. Protect your sleep and social time

Make a rule for teens to leave the phone outside the bedroom and turned off during dinner. Sharing a bed with a bright shiny phone is a guaranteed way to interrupt your sleep. Likewise, placing the phone on the dinner table, or table at a restaurant is a sure way to be distracted from properly connecting with our significant others.

Ms Houda Kbbar, Head of Wellbeing

2021 School Term Dates

Please be advised following are the remaining Term dates of schooling for 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 via: <https://Midford.as.me/MalekFahdIslamicSchool>
Online Store

Parents are welcome to purchase through the online store by:

- Selecting 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.

Thank you for a wonderful term of education, pastoral care of the students and fundraising for those who are in need of our practical assistance.

I look forward to seeing all students on Tuesday, 13th July. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal