



25 January 2019

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB

Welcome back

Happy New Year to you all and a very warm welcome to 2019. I wish you a very happy, healthy, successful and prosperous year and thank you for your continued support.

January is always about fresh beginnings and positive change. I love the promise of the New Year and all the possibilities that it offers for our children here at Malek Fahd Islamic School and the potential for great achievement that each new year holds for their future.

John F. Kennedy was once quoted as saying, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future...". Apart from writing to welcome you and all of our students back to school for the new Term, I wish to let you know that we at Malek Fahd are fully committed to working with you, our parents, to create a better future for our children.

Return to School Days and Dates

Please be advised the following are the dates of schooling for 2019. Students return to school on **Wednesday 30th January 2019**. To assist the settling in of students, Kindergarten will commence on **Thursday, 31st January**.

Term Dates 2019

- Term 1 - Wed, 30th January to Fri, 12th April 2019
- Term 2 - Tue, 30th April to Fri, 5th July 2019
- Term 3 - Tue, 23rd July to Fri, 27th September 2019
- Term 4 - Mon, 14th October to Wed, 4th December 2019

Leadership Roles

In keeping with the School's Strategic Plan and the leadership structure, the School is near completing the recruitment for the Management Team. The positions of Deputy Principal Operations and Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning was widely advertised and drew interest from many excellent candidates from New South Wales and interstate. The process



was rigorous and a panel, including Board members and a Principal from another school, were inspired by the candidature of those shortlisted for interview. I am delighted to announce Mr Stephen Lord as Deputy Principal Operations and Mr David Hamper as Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning.

Mr Stephen Lord is a highly respected long-term staff member of Malek Fahd; as a teacher, as Acting Head of Campus, Hoxton Park and, most recently as Acting Deputy Principal Operations.

Mr David Hamper held a senior leadership role at International Grammar School for the past 12 years, since 2016 as the Deputy Principal Staff and Innovation. In this role, Mr Hamper has lead curriculum innovation, staff services and community relations. Mr Hamper has a background in Human Society and its Environment, with a particular passion for Geography. He has also held a number of roles in the tertiary sector and served on cross-sector committees for the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, the Association of Independent School, NSW Education Standards and other professional associations. Mr Hamper will commence his role at the start of Term 2.

I congratulate Mr Lord and Mr Hamper on their appointments. I know they will be warmly received into the Malek Fahd community as they take up these important and exciting new positions.

I also welcome to our management team IT Manager **Mr Vincent Nguyen** and IT Infrastructure Manager **Mr Aqeel Mukaddam**. They both have a significant role to play in the development of IT across each of the campuses. Mr Nguyen joined us on Monday 26th November and Mr Mukaddam on 16th of January. Mr Nguyen has spent the past 10 years in the corporate world, most recently at PwC as the Senior IT Manager and Portfolio Manager. Mr Mukaddam has extensive school experience, most recently from Al Faisal College with student management systems including Sentral, reporting and parent portals.

We also welcome Facilities Manager **Mr Charles (Charlie) Cataldo**. Mr Cataldo will oversee Facilities Management works at all three campuses. He already has undertaken a considerable number of tasks during the holidays. Mr Cataldo is a career tradesman and team leader with more than 25 years of experience of residential, commercial renovations, building maintenance, and the education sector. He has extensive experience in project management and supervising staff tradesmen, apprentices and sub-contractors. His skills will be of great assistance to the School.

We also welcome new staff, teachers, teacher aides and school counsellors who are joining us this year. They will formally be introduced next week.

Campus Developments during the Holidays

During the holidays, there was significant work undertaken across the three campuses. It includes new demountable classrooms at Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park, roadworks, fencing and additional play area at Hoxton Park; Greenacre Primary has an additional computer lab, an additional classroom adjacent to the music room, refurbishment of the classroom and offices in the Primary Hall that will accommodate our learning support program. We are upgrading the air conditioning system. There have been significant technology improvements across the three campuses, including the installation of 120-plus computers and the replacement of projectors and an interactive whiteboard. I thank all in the Facilities, IT and Administration teams who worked so hard to achieve all of this.

HSC Results

Our Year 12 students performed exceptionally well in the 2018 HSC with a cohort of 78. They achieved 64 Band 6s and 171 Band 5s. The School ranking only considers students scoring 90+ or a band 6. There were 30 scores of 88 and 89, just missing out on a Band 6 by 1 or 2 marks. Nineteen students (that we are aware of) scored ATARs of 90-plus. The Dux for 2018 is **Mahdi Zaman** with an ATAR of 99.55.

All our students will be able to make it to various universities around Sydney. All the teachers teaching Year 12 realised the maximum potential of the students and all the teachers, students and parents are commended for believing and soldiering on with the school. We have very experienced lineup of teachers and a robust curriculum with a variety of subjects this year on offer. As always, we will thoroughly analyse our results to see where we can continue to improve and hone our teaching and assessment practices.

Orientation of Year 7 Students – Greenacre

To help with the transition from Primary into Secondary schooling, an inaugural orientation program for Year 7 students will be held at the Greenacre Campus on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st of January. Normal lessons will begin on Friday as per the timetable. The program will encompass School Structure, Subject Familiarisation, Study skills, School Discipline Policy, Anti bullying, Resilience, Team Building and more.

School fees

School fees for 2019 will be posted this week. There will be a prudent increase close to the CPI. A fee schedule will be placed on the School website. A detailed letter will accompany the fee invoice. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Head of Campus or the Business Manager. Those who are experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact the Business Manager, **Mr Dennis Aktypis**, your Head of Campus or me.

School Photos

School photos will be taken early in Term 1. Please ensure students are in full school uniform and that haircuts comply with School policy. The dates for all campuses are as follows:

Greenacre Primary: Wed, 13th February 2019

Secondary Day: Thurs, 14th February 2019

Hoxton Park campus: Wed, 20th February 2019

Beaumont Hills campus: Wed, 27th February 2019

School Uniform Shop Appointments

Parents are requested to make an appointment for back-to-school 2019 and new enrolment uniform fittings. Call the Uniform Shop now on 0498 518 916 or email malek.fahd@midford.com.au to arrange an appointment. You are also welcome to purchase uniforms online at your convenience. Your order will be filled when the store is next open.

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

We look forward to a very exciting year ahead. Already so much work has been undertaken during the holidays to prepare for the academic year. I look forward to welcoming students on their return on Wednesday and the Kindergarten students on Thursday. I wish you a very Happy Australia Day!

Yours sincerely



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal