



27 March 2020

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

We now end the first week of our delivery of online learning and what an amazing week it has been for everyone. I wish to thank staff for their hard work and commitment as they adjust to this new world of teaching. Today I held a combined staff meeting, all three campuses, with Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills joining through Microsoft Teams. Sadly, it will be perhaps the last time we meet face to face for some time. At this meeting I took the opportunity to congratulate staff on how quickly they have adapted to this enormous change, in what is uncharted and unfamiliar waters. They have undertaken this change while, they too, are dealing with their own families concerns through this crisis. They are doing an amazing job in supporting our students and your child.

At Malek Fahd Islamic School it is business as usual ... it is just that the education is being delivered in a different way. We are committed to the same care and wellbeing of all students and we have a special focus on Year 12 students as they prepare for their HSC. It is early days and we ask parents for your patience and understanding as we continue to develop and work through the establishment phase of this new era.

### Friday Sermon

Friday sermons will commence today with year 12 students through Microsoft Teams with Sheikh Fawaz, Sheikh Khaled and Sheikh Yousef. This will be made available on the school website later this afternoon. There will be regular inspirational messages and sermons throughout the week provided by each of the Sheikhs. We are looking to developing our own YouTube channel where we can upload messages and sermons and other announcements.



### Communication and Microsoft Teams

The preferred platform for the delivery of lessons, work and homework is through Microsoft Teams. This platform enables a free flow between the class teachers to students. We have now set up Microsoft Teams for all students from Year 3 to Year 12. Staff have commenced training. The IT Staff are in the process of setting up online instructions for students and parents to use the Microsoft Teams platform. Teachers will gradually use Microsoft Teams from next week for all Year 3 to 12 students.

Microsoft Teams provides a number of advantages including the distribution and return of work directly to the class teacher. It has an added benefit of capturing students into class groups, homeroom groups, faculty groups and learning support groups to deliver Multi-Lit, whole Year groups, and the like.

To assist parents and students to have direct contact with their class teacher, teacher's school email addresses will be placed on the School Website.

I wish to caution students on the use of any electronic platform. We will be following the discipline process for students who engage in inappropriate comments or behaviour on Microsoft Teams via email. We have had a small number of instances of inappropriate usage. Parents and students were contacted, and the email account was suspended for a period of time. While students are learning remotely, the discipline policies stand. If found warranted, poor and inappropriate use of the internet and communication platforms may lead to suspension. Any incident will be recorded on Sentral, there may be a suspension of the email service and a warning letter will be issued. I ask parents to be vigilant in their child's use of the electronic platforms and communication avenues.

### iPads

The school has supported parents with children in Years 7 to 12 who have either no devices or are sharing a device. We are unsure of the needs for Primary students, Years 3 to 6 and I have asked Heads of Campus to look into this matter. We may be able to assist parents, depending on the availability of the device. Please feel free to contact your Head of Campus if there is a need for an iPad. The expected ratio is 1 iPad between 3 students. Parents will be required to sign for the iPad accepting full responsibility if it is damaged.

## Emails

We aim to have the opportunity for parents to have clear communication with the class teacher of their child. The email address for your child's teacher has been placed on the School Website. It is important that parents, and students, use this form of communication to their teacher appropriately. Please remember that your teacher is teaching and preparing lessons, as such parents should not expect an immediate response to their email. The email system is an alternative way for student work to be returned.

## Wellbeing, Counsellors and Welfare

We are very aware that students will be missing the voice of their teacher and some may be concerned with the issues of coronavirus. I remind parents that the Wellbeing team of Counsellors, Welfare Coordinators, Heads of Wellbeing and Year Advisors as well as your child's class teacher are available to support your child in all aspects of their educational needs. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Counsellors on the details below:

Greenacre Secondary:

[counsellingGS@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:counsellingGS@mfis.nsw.edu.au)

Greenacre Primary: [counsellingGP@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:counsellingGP@mfis.nsw.edu.au)

Hoxton Park: [counsellingHP@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:counsellingHP@mfis.nsw.edu.au)

Beaumont Hills: [counsellingBH@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:counsellingBH@mfis.nsw.edu.au)

The ReachOut.com online community provides a safe space for young people to discuss topics related to their mental health and wellbeing.

## Resources to support young people

It's really hard to predict what life will look like in the coming weeks and months. Students will be feeling anxious about what this means. This collection of content from ReachOut.com will help students build their coping skills and address their wellbeing needs: [Resources for students](#)

## Talking to your teenager about COVID-19

We know this is a difficult time for parents to support teens around physical distancing and study stress. Check out our tips to help parents and carers support their teenagers during COVID-19: [Tips for parents](#)

Should parents have financial concerns in paying for school fees, please feel free to contact Greenacre Campus Administration and Mr Aktypis will respond in due course to your concerns.

I remind parents that School remains open. This means of course that the Administration Office is open at each Campus.

As of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, we will have a skeleton staff at each Campus.

As of Monday, the Canteens at each of the three campuses will be closed.

The Uniform Shop is now closed. You are welcome to purchase uniforms online at your convenience. Your order will be filled when the store is next open. Website Address: <https://schoolshop.midford.com.au/login/passphase: malek1989>

## Year 12 Practice Examinations

As you will know from my previous messages our Year 12 practice exams will continue as planned but will now be done by students at home. The practice HSC exams are scheduled for weeks 10 and 11 and week 1 of Term 2. These exams will be sent to your child on the scheduled days.

## Remote Learning Parent Concerns

Please email any concerns you have to the staff member indicated in the tables below. Staff email addresses are found under the MFIS Portal tab on the School Website.

### Primary Students

Concern	Staff member responsible
Class work and assessment concerns	Class Teacher
Pastoral care and wellbeing concerns	Class Teacher
IT misconduct Years 3-6	Deputy Head of Campus → Head of Campus
IT connection and access issues Years 3-6	ITsupport@mfis.nsw.edu.au
Islamic ethos concerns	School Chaplain fawaz@mfis.nsw.edu.au

### Secondary Students

Concern	Staff member responsible
Class work and assessment concerns	Subject Teacher
Pastoral care and wellbeing concerns	Homeroom Teacher
IT misconduct Years 7-12	Deputy Head of Campus → Head of Campus
IT connection and access issues Years 7-12	ITsupport@mfis.nsw.edu.au
Islamic ethos concerns	School Chaplain fawaz@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon  
Principal