



3 December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

NEWSLETTER



Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

This is the final Newsletter for the year and what a challenging year it has been for you all. I am sure it will become apparent to you what a really unusual year it has been for you and the School. Perhaps we should call it the COVID Year. By mid-March countries started to shut borders, close businesses, and cancel community events and we commenced preparation for the School to go into remote learning. By late March all students and staff embarked on remote learning until June. In November, Hoxton Park was closed for 14 days and again students and staff of Hoxton Park were forced to isolate, resorting again to remote learning.

There is no doubt COVID-19 has left an indelible mark on the world and on our lives, and indeed this is the case for MFIS. We were forced into remote learning, Hoxton Park Campus was closed for two weeks, Year 12 graduation dinner and formals were cancelled, as were a significant number of school excursions, sporting events, community service initiative, Iftars, Eid celebrations and Umrah. Yet our faith has ensured that we have come out of the pandemic stronger, with greater resilience, care, and compassion for each other. COVID-19 has meant that we learnt to do things differently. This included the delivery of lessons, meetings, drop-off and pick up times, Kindergarten and Year 7 Orientation Days as well as Year 10 Work Experience, and the list goes on.

The School's response to COVID-19 was of a very high order. It was a significant team effort from the entire staff, led by a very efficient, hard-working, and focused Executive team. We acted swiftly to a new way of teaching, learning, and communicating. Staff, students, and parents rose to the challenges presented to us. We adapted our communication by having lessons through Microsoft Teams, social distancing, hygiene, hand sanitizer, students accessing technology from home, new student routines, student self-regulation, organisation, and commitment to learning whilst learning remotely.

I am most grateful to staff for their swift adjustment to the demands of COVID-19, grasping the technology for remote learning with both hands and adapting their classroom environment to allow staff to teach from home.

IT staff played a significant role in preparing students and staff for remote learning, setting up Microsoft Teams for lessons to be taught virtually. The School was at no stage closed, however for safety purposes, staff were able, and encouraged to work from home. Teaching, communications, meetings, counselling, and Friday Sermons were all delivered on Microsoft Teams. Staff made regular telephone contact with students. Returning to normal operation itself was interesting and a challenge as we attempted to foster a normal school environment, including new drop off and pick up routines for all campuses.

Throughout this global pandemic our Year 12 Students and teachers toiled long, hard and very effectively. I congratulate our students who sat for their Higher School Certificate and achieved their goals. In particular, Hoxton Park, as this is the first Year 12 cohort to sit the HSC. It was wonderful that we were able to celebrate the achievements of Year 12, with their parents in attendance, at Stadium Australia, albeit with restricted attendance to 500 people.

NESA Registration

A significant milestone for the School was the NESA Registration and Accreditation inspection as the School has gained the full five-year Registration and Accreditation. This is the first time since 2012, Malek Fahd Islamic School, has received the maximum five-year Registration and Accreditation. Since 2012 there have been 19 NESA Inspections of the School. Staff are doing magnificent work in delivering our excellent educational program and ensuring our facilities and compliance requirements are at the highest standards.

Curriculum

In 2021 we will be expanding the curriculum delivery offering Opportunity (OC) classes for Year 5 students at the three campuses; additional streaming in Mathematics, English, Science, Arabic and Islamic Studies - Year 7 to 10. In this way students will be in the level of ability that best suits their academic needs. We will have Acceleration Programs for Mathematics and Science starting in stage 5.

With a focus on moving forward, this year there have been significant changes to enhance the operation of the School. This included the introduction of Deputy Heads of Campus, a separate Head of Department for HISE History and Social Science, Assistant Heads of Mathematics and English and Primary Stage Co-ordinators, as well as the appointment of a Director Professional Practice and Innovation and Compliance. In 2021, there will be further growth in the leadership of our school with Coordinator of Literacy and an Assistant Head of English who will lead the English Departments of Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills.

Islamic Pedagogy

In 2020 the School has embarked on working with Professor Abdalla of the Centre of Islamic Thought and Excellence (CITE) at the University of South Australia on the implementation of Islamic Pedagogy program in the School. We have embarked on professional development for all staff; short courses; a Graduate Certificate course; the prospect of a mentoring program; the review of the School's teaching and learning framework; as well as the logistics of engaging the School with this innovation.

Wellbeing and Counselling

Malek Fahd leads the way in counsellor and welfare support. Wellbeing initiatives and weekly homeroom bulletins used by primary and secondary across the three campuses enhance our students' mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing. I am delighted the staff are working hard behind the scenes to assist our students.

Community Service

Due to COVID-19, the planned events for the School and engagement in community services reduced significantly. Despite this a number of fundraising and awareness raising activities still took place and included: Jeans for Genes, NSW Cancer Council, Daffodil Day, Pink Ribbon Day, Food and Blanket Drive for Syria, Lebanon Crisis appeal, NAIDOC Week, Book Character Parades, Harmony Day, Hoxton Park Campus sponsoring four orphans, two Palestinian and two

Indonesian children through Human Appeal, as well as establishing and maintaining nine water wells in other parts of the world. Sport had blossomed beyond expectations during 2019 and much was planned for 2020.

Sporting

Despite COVID-19 many sporting activities and initiatives were still held. They include: Junior and senior boys and girls competing in the ISD Basketball Championships; Year 7 and 8 sports ran throughout the year with students participating in cricket, Australian Rules, basketball, Oz tag and football on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The formation of the Talented Athlete program which trained before school focusing on developing rugby league and Oz Tag skills.

In the final two weeks of Term 4, Years 7 to 11 volleyball competitions for girls and boys were held which allowed students to show off their competitive skill.

Student Leadership

I have been very impressed with the student leadership. In particular I wish to acknowledge our captains Issac Keany and Saja El-Dadoun, (VC) Ibrahim Chahine and Sarah Kak (Greenacre); Mohamed Omer and Muqaddas Butt (Beaumont Hills); Isaac Al Mohammad and Shaheen Khalil (Hoxton Park) for their leadership and assistance to others. 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.

Presentation Days

Over the past two weeks I have had the pleasure and privilege of attending end of year Presentation Days, 7 in all. During each of the presentations I have taken the opportunity to reflect on the academic year and provide an insight of the many directions, in keeping with the strategic plan, the School is moving for 2021. The Presentation Days have provided me with the opportunity to thank all the staff, teaching, administration and maintenance staff, curriculum, wellbeing and pastoral co-coordinators, Heads of Campus and Mr Dib, Ms El-Ahmad, Ms Khan and Ms Kassem, the Sheikhs at each campus, Executive Sheikh Fawaz, Mr Ahmed, Mr Aktypis, Mr Hamper, Mr Lord, Ms Cato, and Mr Nguyen for their dedication and leadership to ensure the best of education and care is

provided to our students. Due to COVID-19 restrictions all presentations were streamed to parents.



Year 6 Graduations

A special Graduation has been held for Year 6 students in each of the three campuses. They have been quite spectacular celebrations indeed with students proudly presented, dressed in academic robes as they received their graduation certificates. I thank the Year 6 teachers of each Campus for their preparation of this special day.



Facility Improvements

During the year we have undertaken significant improvements to the facilities at each of the three campuses. At Hoxton Park: installing a demountable Hall and three demountable classrooms; converted a classroom to office space and staff common room; sound-proofed office space; renovation of existing library for senior student study area; install blinds to all classrooms; fenced the School boundary; installed wall to separate server; refurbished counsellors room; two storerooms purchased and installed; developed new play area for students; upgrade of facilities to eliminate trip hazards; removed the large stockpile of dirt.

At Beaumont Hills: Resurfaced carpark; removed trees; laid turf with self-operating irrigation timer system; and at Greenacre Primary: Administration storeroom converted into office space for the Deputy Head of Campus; two existing Storerooms (level 2) converted into two new office spaces with A/C units installed; refurbished administration space; netting underside of the courtyard shade canopy to control birds.

Greenacre Secondary: three rooms have been constructed for Wellbeing and Counsellor meeting rooms; Head of Campus office divided to accommodate Deputy Head of Campus; opened male Math staffroom and storeroom to create a larger staffroom for male teachers. Curtains and tabs to be installed to main Hall; Boys Secondary: 11 Classrooms refurbished and painted; Girls Secondary Campus B Block Classrooms refurbished and painted; Secondary Administration: four new office spaces and a new meeting room were constructed; removed the trees in boys courtyard.

During the Summer Holidays the school will embark on significant works and improvements.

- Beaumont Hills: the installation of a large hall to accommodate 600 students and two office spaces. The existing hall will be converted into two classrooms, two office spaces and a male and female sick bay. An external staircase will be installed adjacent to the new building. Mungerie Road will be widened to accommodate the increased number of students at the campus;
- Hoxton Park: the commencement of the building of a second bus bay on Monday 7th December, the refurbishment of the administration block to a male and female sick bay, and the demountable hall will be

refurbished to accommodate an additional classroom. The removal of the very large mound of dirt will enable for the creation of new play areas

- Greenacre Primary classrooms to be painted and outside areas also painted.

School Reports

School reports, Kindergarten to Year 10 are being finalised and will be posted to families either at the end of this week or during the first week of the school holidays. Thank you to all staff for preparing your child's reports.

99 Names of Allah

Many of our Kindergarten students have successfully memorised the 99 names of Allah. During the final weeks at Greenacre Kindergarten these students were presented with a special trophy acknowledging this significant achievement. Congratulations to you all.

Textbook Lists

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

Year 7 Orientation

To help with the transition from Primary into Secondary schooling, an 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: Thursday 28th January and Friday, 29th of January. Normal lessons resume on Monday.

Kindergarten Orientation (Students Only)

The Kindergarten orientations provides our future kindy students a glimpse of formal school life. These are an important part of Kindergarten because it allows staff to gauge the learning capacity of the children. Teachers will also use their knowledge and skills to cater for the needs of students be it academic or social. Seeing the new students walk into the classroom and immediately engage with the planned activities impressed everyone. It is very important for parents to understand that teachers cannot be chosen for students, rather staff will use their observations and knowledge of the children to provide the best possible outcome for the students. It is unfortunate but due to

COVID-19, parents will not be allowed on campus. Students will be dropped off at the respective School Hall to gather a Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park campuses are holding the Kindergarten Orientations on the following days:

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. Parents will be advised individually of their particular day closer to the date.

Administration Office Hours of Operation

During the school holidays, the operational hours of the Administration Office for all campuses will be from 9am to 2pm. Each campus will be open on the following days:

Beaumont Hills Campus - next week, Monday 7th to Wednesday, 9th December. Staff will return to campus from 18th of January 2021

Hoxton Park Campus – next week, Monday 7th to Tuesday, 8th December. Staff will return on campus from 18th of January 2021

Greenacre Primary and Secondary – open till 18th of December. Reopen on the 4th of January 2021

Please note all offices will shut for the end of year break from Monday, 21st December to Friday, 1st January.

Parents of Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills campuses are able to contact the Greenacre Office regarding any administration queries outside the shutdown period of 2 weeks between the hours of 9am to 2pm.

Re-Enrolment Forms

All parents are reminded to submit their child/ren's Re-Enrolment forms to the Administration Office as soon as possible to secure their enrolment for 2020.

School Fees

The School year is quickly coming to an end. All parents are reminded that the final Term's School fees is now due. Please finalise any overdue accounts immediately. The Board has made the decision not to increase school fees for 2021 school tuition.

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

New Kindergarten and existing Year 6 parents are required to schedule appointments before the shop closes (DECEMBER 11th) 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.

Education is about lifelong learning. At Malek Fahd Islamic School it is about inspiring you to develop a passion for learning. It is about working hard, being a dedicated student, getting the best possible grades, engaging in sport and a variety of extra-curricular activities. Thank you to all students for your hard work this year. Your positive response and engagement is the best way to say thank you to our Staff who work hard for you.

There have been significant achievements for Malek Fahd this year. We cannot thank enough the continued hard work of the School Board for their excellent governance, wisdom and patience to steer the School. It takes a terrific team to run a dynamic and leading school. I thank the Executive, curriculum, welfare,

wellbeing leaders of each campus, our counsellors, technology, maintenance and administration staff across all three campuses.

A special thank you to our amazing teachers for what they do every day to meet the needs of the students in their care. Their professionalism, dedication and hard work is beyond measure, valued and appreciated. They have given countless hours before and after school, weekends and the holidays to support students. For this we are all very grateful and we are very grateful for the wonderful support from parents throughout the year. This year we will farewell a small number of staff, including Ms Margaret Grand who is retiring after thirty years of dedicated service to education, six years of which she has been at Beaumont Hills Campus. In thanking these staff for their dedicated service, we wish them every success in their future endeavours.

School Returns 2021

I wish you all a safe and happy family time during the holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back in the 2021 academic year on Thursday 28th January.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Rixon', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal