



03 September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## NEWSLETTER



Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

### Year 12 HSC Trial Examinations

This is a special time for our Year 12 students who complete their HSC Trial on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September. For our Hoxton Park students, it is significant as they are the first cohort for that campus to complete Year 12. Over the coming weeks it will be very important that all students, from each campus, not stay home, but rather they must come to school to receive their Trial results and gather feedback from their teachers. Students who continue to work hard during this period invariably are well rewarded in their HSC examination. I will be writing to Year 12 students, and their parents to congratulate them for reaching this milestone, encourage them to remain strong, to focus on the end game, and remind them that their teachers are available to assist them until they complete each of their HSC examinations. It is important that students take rest breaks, exercise and return to their studies without the distraction of telephones, TV and social media.

NESA website: [www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au) has a wealth of resources including past papers, multiple choice questions, examination reports and general advice.

The Governor of NSW, the Honourable Margaret Beasley, AC, QC., has written to Year 12 students acknowledging their resilience, perseverance, and fortitude, and wishing them success in what has been a very challenging year. I fully concur with The Governor's sentiments. I will arrange for this letter to be posted personally to each Year 12 student.

### Vaping

The experimenting with **vaping** at school is becoming a significant concern. Children, as young as 10 years old, and in Years 4 and 5 are bringing them to school and smoking them in the toilets.

Children are being supplied with vapes by their older siblings, and in some instances, they are being purchased at their local stores or petrol station. Vapes, along with smoking is listed as a drug and is banned from the School. To engage in this practice on the School grounds can result in expulsion.

Vapes contain nicotine, flavorings (such as apple and strawberry), and dangerous chemicals and they are considered an illegal substance for children under the age of 18 years. Vaping is the inhaling of a vapor putting nicotine into the body. They can have up to twice the dosage of nicotine to cigarettes and the implications on the children's health is of great concern. Health experts are reporting serious lung damage in people who vape, including some deaths.

Nicotine is highly addictive and can:

- slow brain development in teens and affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood
- irritate the lungs and may cause serious lung damage
- increase the risk of other types of addiction later in life

The Vape, also known as Juul, look like a flash drive and can be charged in a laptop's USB port. It makes less smoke than other e-cigarettes, so some teens use them to vape at home and in school. The Juul pod's nicotine levels are the same as in a full pack of cigarettes.

It is so important parents understand and are aware of the significant risks associated with vaping. It is very important for you to educate your children on these matters, and that all parents support the School with its zero tolerance of vaping and any other drug use. I have asked the Sheikhs to speak to students about the risk of vaping and School Chaplain, Sheikh Fawaz is a key point of contact for parents.

## **R U OK?**

Next week the School will run R U OK? week. While we should be thinking of others on a daily basis, R U OK? Day / week provides a unified time across Australia for us to stop, reflect and purposefully consider others and checking on them to see if in fact if they are well and OK. R U OK? week from campus to campus may have a slightly different approach, however in the main there will be a series of discussions through Homeroom and conversation corners, physical activities, Friday Sermon, geared for awareness of others and team building. School Counsellors and the School pastoral team will be on hand for student support, should they feel the needs to 'open up'.

A Gratitude Wall will be used at Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills, where students can send positive messages to others who may be doing it tough. Greenacre Primary and Secondary will be creating a "post it" wall with a similar theme. Mr Ziyad Serhan from EduAid (Mental Health Education and Support Service) will present a half hour talk along the lines of "Looking after your wellbeing as a Muslim young person and ways to do this".

A "R U OK?" bench, painted yellow will be installed at Greenacre Primary. The bench will serve as a visual reminder for students in the primary and be a space where students can go if they feel like they need to talk to someone (to be placed in a space where teachers can monitor and provide support). A 'thank you morning tea' will be provided to staff at each Campus. The Counsellors, under the leadership of Ms Masri, along with the Heads of Wellbeing and Welfare team, have guided this year's R U OK? plan and program.

## **School Canteen**

Each canteen has now special serving screens installed. However, for the remainder of the term, the School canteens across all campuses will continue to operate with orders only. This will help to ensure social distancing practices are maintained. Consequently, there will be no casual purchases by students or morning orders from parents.

## **Kindergarten and Year 7 Orientations**

Given the increasing concerns of COVID-19, Kindergarten and Year 7 orientations will be postponed until further notice.

## **Co-Ordinator of Literacy and Head of English**

Literacy, across all subjects and sectors, Primary and Secondary, of the School has been identified as area of focus for the School as it has an impact on all areas of learning. Over the past 12 months Mr Hamper, Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning) commenced addressing literacy with the introduction of a Literacy

Committee, which comprises of staff from the three campuses. We have seen the need to have a dedicated person, with the specific skills, to lead this initiative. I have appointed Ms Susan Naser, currently Head of English, as the Co-Ordinator of Literacy.

Ms Naser will vacate the role Head of English in order to take on this new role. I have commenced advertising, both internally and externally, for a new Head of English for commencement in 2021.

In congratulating Ms Naser on her accepting her new role, I thank her for her work as Head of English.

## **School Uniform**

Parents are requested to make an appointment for fittings and purchase of uniforms by calling on 0498 518 916 or email [malek.fahd@midford.com.au](mailto:malek.fahd@midford.com.au). You are also welcome to purchase uniforms online at your convenience.

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

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon  
Principal