



30 January 2020

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

Welcome Back!

I hope you have enjoyed your holidays immensely. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start the 2020 academic school year. I am delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

A special welcome to our new students and teachers to our wonderful school.

Commencement of School Year 2020

It was wonderful to greet and speak at the assembly to all Year 1 to Year 12 students across the three campuses on Wednesday and to greet our Kindergarten students today (Thursday) at each of the three campuses. This year we have adjusted the timetable for Greenacre secondary students from a weekly timetable to a two-week timetable. The reason for this adjustment is to assist greater flexibility in the offering and timetabling of subjects. Past practice has been for students to remain in a classroom and the subject teacher will move from one room to the next. This year we have introduced the practice of staff having a dedicated subject room which will mean students move classrooms at the end of each period. At the end of day one I was delighted to hear the positive comments of students to this change and that they have embraced this adjustment.



Coronavirus Update

In the interest of prioritising the health and welfare of our students and our community, please refer to my letter sent on Tuesday, 28th January regarding Coronavirus. This letter states the protocols that is in place to safeguard our School community. It also includes an Information sheet from the Australian Department of Health.

I encourage parents/guardian to read the advice from the Commonwealth Department of Health regarding the Coronavirus <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus>. The NSW Health also has comprehensive information available on its website at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Orientation Programs for Year 7 Students

To help with the transition from Primary into Secondary schooling, orientation programs for Year 7 students across the three campuses will be held this week. 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. Thank you to the coordinators of each Campus, Ms Elmir and Mr Roubaie (Greenacre); Ms Rahim (Hoxton Park) and Mr Shameem (Beaumont Hills) for developing and leading the programs.

5th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference and Forum

I am delighted to announce that the 5th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference and Forum will be held in Sydney on the 3rd and 4th July 2020. The Centre of Islamic Thought and Education, University of South Australia is hosting the Conference and Forum. The focus this year is on Wellbeing.

Malek Fahd Islamic School is honoured and excited that the conference will be held at the Greenacre campus.

To assist with the facilitation of the conference it will be necessary for **Friday, 3rd July to be a pupil free day**. It will be a Professional Development Day of Islamic Pedagogy for all our staff.

At Malek Fahd Islamic School every child matters. As such, Wellbeing has been a focus in the development of our curriculum, classroom and pastoral care programs. In a very practical way, we have demonstrated this with a significant allocation of staff to lead the welfare and pastoral care program as Year Coordinators, Welfare Coordinators, Heads of Wellbeing, the role of Deputy Principal overseeing Pastoral Care, the introduction of Homeroom and the significant number of Welfare initiatives undertaken by

all years across the three campuses. Certainly, the School is leading the way in the pedagogical approach from an Islamic perspective in the pastoral care of our students and I welcome the planned 5th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference to further assist our staff in the fostering of our student's wellbeing.

The last day of school in term two for students will be Thursday the 2nd of July.

Textbook and Stationery Booklist

All Textbook and Stationery lists can be found on the School website. As with previous years, we have organised for all your child's exercise and textbooks for the year as a complete pack to be ordered with Five Senses Education. Much care and consideration has been taken amongst your child's teachers to ensure they are equipped with the necessary books and equipment for the school year. As a result, the **bookpacks are compulsory to be purchased in their entirety**. Five Senses Education have collaborated with the publishers to provide the parents of our School with competitive and discounted prices. Online purchase of the bookpacks is via the Five Senses website and choosing Malek Fahd Islamic School <https://www.fivesenseseducation.com.au/booklist>.

Reading and Writing – a key to success

Well-developed literacy skills are a key to success for our students. This year, for the whole school reading and writing will be a key focus. Late last year we formed the Reading Taskforce – a special group of skilled and interested teachers who are working collaboratively to enhance the reading skills of all our students. At our end of 2019, teachers provided excellent insights through a reading forum into our students reading and the strategies teachers are using in classes.

We know that when students have highly developed reading skills they achieve across all areas of their schooling. Reading for understanding is a key part of this and there has been a considerable focus in staff professional development on this. Regularly reading greatly assists students in their learning and we encourage all our students to read extensively at home. Reading as a past time is a fantastic way for students to grow their vocabulary, expand their imagination and develop their overall literacy.

Parents can play a key role in facilitating and supporting the School in this by encouraging their students to read. For parents of primary aged children a wonderful way to support your child's reading is to have your child read aloud to you and enjoy some time

reading together. Asking children questions about what they have read and discussing the books they are reading is a very productive strategy to support your child.

Writing is the other core element of good literacy. In our recent staff day this year, all our Primary staff engaged in working together examining writing scripts and developing strategies to support our student's writing. Similarly High School teachers will continue to undertake professional learning in this area with reading and writing being whole of school goals for all staff in 2020.

We look forward to sharing more with you on our work in literacy as the year progresses.

2020 Term Dates

Please be advised the following are the dates of schooling for 2020. These dates have also been published on the school website.

Term 1 - Wed, 29th January to Thu, 9th April 2020

Term 2 - Tue, 28th April to Thu, 2nd July 2020

Term 3 - Tue, 21st July to Fri, 25th September 2020

Term 4 - Tue, 13th October to Fri, 4th December 2020

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: **Beaumont Hills Campus:** Wednesday, 12th February 2020, **Greenacre Primary:** Thursday, 27th February 2020, **Greenacre Secondary:** Friday, 28th February and **Hoxton Park Campus:** Wednesday, 11th March 2020.

Campus Developments

During the holidays, there was significant work undertaken across the three campuses. It includes a Hall and three new demountable classrooms at Hoxton Park, resurfacing of the carpark and refurbishment of rooms across the Beaumont Hills, Greenacre and Hoxton Park Campuses. I thank all in the Facilities, IT and Administration teams who worked so hard to achieve all of these works.

2020 Umrah Trip

As Muslims, our children should reconnect with the two most holy cities of Medina and Mecca, Medina being the location of The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and his mosque and Makkah being the location of the *Kaaba*. For the past three years we have invited parents as well as students in Years 9, 10 and 11 to join Malek Fahd Islamic School on the annual journey to the Holy land to perform Umrah. If you would like to embark on this spiritual journey this year please register your child's details as soon as possible as places are limited. Girls will only be permitted to attend if they are accompanied by a *Mahram* (male guardian).



Students who have taken part have seen a positive change in their spiritual wellbeing as well as their conduct in school and outside of school as mentioned by their parents. Once again we welcome you all to take part *Insha Allah* to perform Umrah with us in 2020 which will be during the Term 1 School holidays. Exact dates and further information will be sent to all parents in the near future.

School Chaplain, Sheikh Fawaz

School fees

School fees for 2020 will be posted out shortly. There will be a prudent increase close to the CPI. A fee schedule for 2020 has been placed on the School website. 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 Uniform

Parents are requested to make an appointment for fittings and uniform purchases by calling Midford directly on 0498 518 916 or by emailing malek.fahd@midford.com.au. You are also 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>

Kind regards,

Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal