



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

25 March 2020

Remote Learning Update

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

We now enter the second day of our delivery of online learning. All students have received the work to be undertaken each day.

It has been a steep learning curve for students and staff in the preparation and delivery of teaching material. I'm sure students too, will take time to adjust to this new mode of education. I am sure they miss connecting with their friends on a daily basis.

Staff are working extremely hard to prepare lessons currently, lessons and booklets are delivered to parents and students via email, and in the case of year 11 and 12 students, via Microsoft Teams.

Communication between Students (Parents) and Teachers

Our IT department are developing and implementing a process where students from Year 3 to Year 10 will soon be able to use Microsoft Teams. This process will enable students and parents to return work directly to their class teacher for feedback. To further assist communication between teachers and their students, and parents, the email address for your child's teacher will soon be sent to you. It is my understanding that some students and parents already have their teacher's email address.

I have asked Primary class teachers to make regular telephone contact with children in their class. This will be undertaken through contacting with parents and then speaking directly to the child. The purpose of the call is to make sure parents and students are able to ask questions of the teacher to assist your child with the work that has been sent to them. This is a whole school initiative across the three campuses to ensure we can support remote learning and the school community at this unusual and extraordinary time. We feel that it is important the class teacher talk with all their students, through the parents, at least once every week for between 10 to 15 minutes. Class teachers will check on students as to how they are working at home and their general wellbeing. A communication log will be written for every conversation.

I have asked Learning Support Teachers, both Primary and Secondary, and School Counsellors, to make regular, at least weekly, contact with students in their care. Teacher Aides will make contact with Kindergarten students, also through the parents. I am sure that such communication will be valued by students and parents and provide the necessary support student learning.

It was exciting today to witness a number of "live" lessons, with teachers directly engaging with their students, as a class, using the Microsoft Teams platform. This will not occur for every lesson, but its use will continue to grow as we widen the use of Microsoft Team across the School. Tomorrow, I will be addressing all Year 12 students in a remote Year Meeting to inform them of the latest updates from NESA regarding 2020 Higher School Certificate. This follows on from a full staff meeting that was held on Monday, were all three campuses met, remotely, and simultaneously across the Microsoft Teams Platforms. This week we have at least daily meetings with Senior Staff remotely across the three campuses.



Information and Tips for Parents

General notes:

- This is remote learning, not home schooling, but we do ask for parents to assist us in monitoring their child's learning and reinforcing the need to respect their teachers and peers when using the on-line system;
- Be prepared to be patient and flexible – this is new territory for all of us;
- Teachers will also be facing their own family or personal concerns at this time or may be supervising their own children at home whilst simultaneously providing learning for your child. But we are still a community, and we are all in this together.

You can support your child's continued learning in the following ways:

- Help them establish a comfortable and organised learning environment at home;
- Ensure emails from the School are regularly checked and reviewed;
- Parents should regularly check with their child about how they are going with schoolwork. Your interest in their learning will help them maintain interest and focus;
- If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please follow the normal channels – contact their class teacher first, then the Faculty Leader/Junior School Curriculum Coordinator, or raise concerns about your Primary child with their teacher when they telephone you; this has begun taken place;
- Discuss appropriate uses of technology:
 - Remind your child about the School's protocols around the use of technology;
 - We strongly suggest no phones or laptops in the bedroom, especially at night;
 - suggest periods of not accessing social media or news to have a break from the noise and support positive mental health;
 - consider installing social media blockers on browsers to minimise distractions during school hours;
 - encourage physical activity, healthy snacks, and time away from tech
- Instead of asking closed ended questions like, "What did you learn today?" say "Tell me one thing you learned today that was interesting/different/made you think/helped you see things differently."
- Encourage positivity by asking each evening, "What is one thing you have to be grateful for?"

Your child can develop skills, pursue interests and enjoy learning beyond traditional academic disciplines. Consider directing them towards:

- TED Talks

- Exercise apps and routines
- E-books and audio books available via the SPC Libraries or other online sources
- Completing modules in the Study Skills Handbook
- Read! – fiction, non-fiction, human interest
- Board games
- Drawing, painting, creating anything
- Journaling, meditating, reflecting, prayer

Expectations of Our Students during Remote Learning

- Students are expected to act and participate in online environments in the same way as a normal classroom environment – be active, participate, be ready to learn and do your best.
- Students are expected to treat each other, and their teachers, with respect at all times.
- Students are expected not to breach established School rules regarding use of social media platforms. This applies to cyber bullying, posting of images, etc.
- Students are not to screen capture images or video of teachers or course materials without the permission of your teacher. Normal School consequences will apply for breaches of this expectation.

2020 Higher School Certificate School

Yesterday the Board of NESA met and confirmed that the 2020 Higher School Certificate would continue. There will be some modification to the assessments and assessment tasks. Detailed information was sent to Year 12 students today.

MFIS Counsellors Are Here To Support You!

The outbreak of Coronavirus may be stressful for many students and it's common for one to experience a wide range of thoughts, feelings and reactions. Fear and anxiety about the virus can be overwhelming and everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. However, healthy coping skills can assist to manage stress during these difficult times. **Attached is a Student Tip Sheet** on managing worries around Coronavirus.

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

Greenacre Primary: counsellingGP@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Hoxton Park: counsellingHP@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Beaumont Hills: counsellingBH@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Wellbeing Platform - SchoolTV

SchoolTV is a world first, wellbeing platform featuring Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. It addresses the modern day realities faced by schools and parents who increasingly need clear, relevant and fact-based information around raising safe, happy and resilient young people. Attached link <https://schooltv.me> is an online resource designed to empower parents with credible, sound information with realistic and practical strategies.

Kind regards



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