

MFIS NEWS



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At the start of Term 2, during the Staff Development Day, I presented on the topic of Prophetic Leadership as part of achieving Strategic Goal 4 which states: "Building the capability of every school leader to practice and model the ideals of Prophetic Leadership." The six theories that are strongly emphasised in leadership studies of Muslim schools include spiritual, ethical, servant, guardian, pedagogical and distributed leadership (Brooks and Mutohar 2018). The important tasks of leadership involve:

- leading with mercy (care and compassion)
- leading by example (share the work, exemplify expectations)
- leading the mission (set the vision and pursue the goals)
- leading the team (build follower rapport with respect, trust; and develop team synergy)
- leading the transformation of followers (Behaviour Change Plan)

"Leadership is second only to teaching among in-school influences on student success, and its impact is greatest in schools with the greatest needs" (Wallace Report, March 2022).

On 3rd of May, I was honoured to attend and sign on behalf of MFIS the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CITE and eight Islamic schools. The Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) at the University of South Australia, lead by Prof Mohamad Abdalla AM, has been building relations and collaborating with several Islamic schools across Australia. The former MFIS Board Chair, Sr Miriam Silva, who was instrumental in the School partnering with CITE also attended, and spoke at the event.

The MoU signifies a significant milestone in the collaboration and marks the beginning of a new era of partnership which will foster mutual growth and create new opportunities for CITE and partner schools.

Dr Zachariah Matthews



Vision:

All students of MFIS receive an education that inspires them to achieve their full potential, embrace the future and make positive contributions to the community.

Mission:

The mission of MFIS is to provide opportunities within an Islamic environment for its students to excel intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially, religiously, morally and vocationally, and become happy and successful citizens.

Motto:

Knowledge is Light and Work is Worship

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Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide a framework for making organisations safer for children.

Based on extensive research and consultation, the Standards provide tangible guidance for organisations to create cultures, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of children first, to keep them safe from harm.

Child Safe Standard 5:

People working with children are suitable and supported.

Malek Fahd Islamic School aims to ensure child safety is prioritised when we are selecting and managing our staff. All staff require a valid and verified Working With Children Check (WWCC) before commencing work.

Our stringent process for recruitment including advertising and screening, places utmost importance on child safety.

All staff recruited receive specialized training during the induction phase to familiarize with policies and protocols and are aware of their child safety responsibilities, including reporting obligations.

Feed the Fasting Fundraiser

We thank all our students and parents who generously donated towards this fundraiser during the month of Ramadan.

Alhamdulillah a total of \$9,500 was raised and provided to Zakat House to supply Ramadan food hampers to refugees in Lebanon.

ALUMNI EID DINNER

Alhamdulillah the MFIS Alumni Eid Dinner held in the first week of the term was a huge success! With over 160 alumni in attendance, it was a night to remember as old friends caught up and reminisced about their high school memories and journeys since. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal and speeches from notable alumni who shared their stories of success and inspired others to pursue their dreams.

Director of Faith, Sheikh Khaled Bouchafaa and the Principal Dr Zachariah Matthews spoke about the new strategic direction of the school and the importance of engaging with our community. The Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Community, Mr Aiyub Ahmed, encouraged alumni to support and mentor recent MFIS graduates.



TERM 2 NIYYAH UPDATE

We are delighted to share that the CITE (Centre for Islamic Thought and Education) team, led by Prof. Mohamad Abdalla AM, visited our campuses as part of the ongoing renewal journey in Islamic Education. The team's visit this term aimed to enhance our understanding of the Islamic worldview and reinforce our school's educational philosophy.

The campus visits focused on engaging educators in an enriching discussion about the Islamic worldview and its integration into our curriculum. Additionally, the team presented the process for developing a curriculum framework for English. Teachers from different stages and grades collaborated to embed the Islamic pedagogy framework, developing a comprehensive outline for a unit of work incorporating elements such as the Islamic worldview, learning intentions, Islamic values, and graduate qualities. The sessions provided a valuable platform for interdisciplinary collaboration and the exploration of diverse teaching approaches.

We express our gratitude to Prof. Abdalla AM and the CITE team for their invaluable guidance and support throughout these sessions. The collaborative efforts of our educators exemplify our commitment to providing a holistic and enriching Islamic education for our students.



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

In the blessed rhythm of our Islamic life, we continuously encounter opportunities to deepen our understanding and enhance our practice of religion. Today, I wish to direct our collective reflection towards a significant act of worship—Hajj/Qurban. These traditions not only define our religious identity but also embody profound principles of unity, faith, and generosity.

Hajj, the esteemed pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, is a central element of our religion. It represents the physical and spiritual journey that Muslims worldwide undertake, provided they are physically and financially able. As pilgrims perform a series of rites, including the circumambulation of the Kaaba and the symbolic stoning of the devil, we are reminded of the struggles and sacrifices of our noble Prophets, their unwavering dedication to the path of righteousness, and their unfaltering commitment to Allah's commands.

The culmination of Hajj brings with it the heartfelt celebration of Eid-al-Adha, or the 'Festival of Sacrifice'. This festival commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) ultimate act of obedience, his willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail (AS) at Allah's command. The ritual of Qurban, or animal sacrifice, is central to this occasion. As we distribute the sacrificial meat among our family, friends, and those less fortunate, we bring to life the Islamic virtues of sharing, compassion, and charity, thus nurturing our community's spirit and furthermore manifesting our faith in practical and impactful ways.

These rich Islamic traditions serve as powerful reminders of our shared faith. They stress the importance of unity among us, selflessness in our dealings, and empathy for those less fortunate. As we navigate our educational journey at Malek Fahd Islamic School, let's hold these values close to our hearts, promoting an environment that fosters understanding, respect, and compassion.



Sheikh Fawaz Kamaz

QURBAN FUNDRAISER

During blessed month of Dhul-Hijjah, Muslims around the world observe the Festival of Sacrifice (Qurban or Udhiya) as part of the celebration of Eid-ul-Adha. This significant occasion allows us to reflect on the profound devotion of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of Allah (SWT). However, just as Prophet Ibrahim displayed his submission, Allah (SWT) mercifully substituted a ram in place of Ismail. Hence, Eid-ul-Adha is commonly known as the Festival of Sacrifice.

To uphold the spirit of giving, our school will once again organise a Qurban Fundraiser. The purpose of this initiative is to gather funds for the distribution of Qurban meat to those in need overseas. Last year our school community generously donated \$13,200 to provide meat to the Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh. We plan to raise more money this year to provide meat to our Muslim brothers and sisters in Yemen inshaAllah.

Students are encouraged to collect donations from family, friends, and neighbours until Friday 23rd June. The money should be placed in a sealed envelope, with the student's name, class, and the amount collected written on the front. The envelope should be handed in at the Admin office on campus. To further encourage student participation, a prize will be awarded to the class that collects the most money on each campus.

May Allah (SWT) shower His blessings upon all those who generously contribute and share in this sacrifice for His sake. By participating in this Qurban Fundraiser, our students will not only engage in a virtuous act of charity but also develop the qualities of taqwa (God-consciousness) and empathy.

Term 2 Senior Executive Online Webinar

Thank you to our parents who attended the second Senior Executive Online Webinar held on Wednesday, 10th May.

Ms Bragg (Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning) provided an update on the Niyah Project and Dr Matthews (Principal) spoke on Prophetic Leadership (as applied to parenting).

The webinar was well attended and is an important part of our Parent Partnership Program as our key strategic goal of "Building positive family and community partnerships guided by a commitment to respectful and meaningful engagement."

Kindy Enrolments

In April this year, the School's enrolment policy was revised—the new policy is available on our website. One of the changes for Kindergarten enrolment included that the child must turn five on or before 30th of April in the year of enrolment. The previous requirement was for the child to turn five on or before 31st of July. The change was made based on good evidence linking older age with improved school readiness and learner engagement.

Important Dates:

Eid School Closures:

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th June (To Be Confirmed)

Eid Festival: Friday 30th June (To Be Confirmed)

Term Dates for Students

Term 2—Wednesday, 26th April to Friday, 30th June

Term 3—Tuesday 18th July to Friday 22nd September

Term 4—Tuesday, 10th October to Thursday, 7th December

Uniform Update

As you may recall, we conducted a uniform redesign survey in November last year, giving students, parents, staff, and community members the opportunity to share their valuable feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with 83% of the respondents expressing their agreement with the shift to a more comfortable and functional uniform for our students. Significantly, 74% of respondents said yes to a hooded sweater for secondary students. We truly appreciate your participation in shaping the new school uniform.

Based on the feedback, we have been working to redesign the uniforms. The results from the survey served as a valuable foundation for this process. We are pleased to announce that the new uniform will be available for sale later this year.

In order to facilitate a smooth transition, we have designated the year 2024 as a transition year with students able to wear the current and new uniform. This means that parents will have ample time to purchase the new set of uniforms for their children. We understand that this may require some adjustments, and we want to support you in this process.

To assist with the transition, we have collaborated with Midford, our uniform supplier, to offer a special discount. All current uniform stock will be available for purchase at a 50% discount until the end of this year. This presents a wonderful opportunity to acquire the current uniform at a reduced price, with students permitted to wear it until the end of 2024.

<https://www.midford.com.au/school-shops-online>. To register a new account - the unique school pass phrase is Malek1989.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Year 12 Half-Yearly Reports, including reports for Year 11 students studying the Acceleration Program, have been published and can now be accessed through the Parent Portal. These reports provide a comprehensive overview of the completion and quality of assessment tasks based on content covered during 2022 Term 4 and 2023 Term 1. Parents are encouraged to communicate with subject teachers if there are any concerns. A Year 12 Schedule outlining important dates has been provided to support students with managing workload and staying on track with studies.

Year 11 and Year 12 students from Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park campuses joined their peers at Greenacre Secondary campus for the MFIS Careers Day on Friday 19th May. This was an opportunity for the cohort to get direct access to universities and speak to professionals to establish critical network and connections.



MFIS has partnered with the University of Western Sydney to support high achieving Stage 5 students through the Academy U Program. This program supports students to transition to university successfully with on-campus experience as they have access to state-of-the-art facilities and the chance to connect with academic staff and industry partners. Students will have the opportunity to complete their first-year unit at University of Western Sydney, obtaining academic credit towards a corresponding course. Students will also have access to all online learning modules, masterclasses, and University of Western Sydney events.

Year 10 students at each campus have attended Stage 6 subject selection information sessions. These sessions provided students with realistic understanding and guidance about content coverage, workload, and possible pre-requisites for entry into courses. These sessions support students to make informed decisions as they plan their academic journey. Similarly, subject information sessions have been held for Year 8 students, who also have the opportunity to select two electives in Stage 5, complementing the mandatory courses.

This year has seen the implementation of new K-2 English and Mathematics programs in line with the recently updated syllabuses. NESA has released the new Years 3-10 English and Mathematics syllabuses for implementation next year and our staff have had professional development opportunities to familiarise with the syllabus. Programs for the new syllabuses have a conscious focus on meeting syllabus outcomes through an Islamic worldview. As outlined in the Parent Webinar, changes in the syllabus are perfectly timed as we develop a purposeful synthesis of tradition and contemporary education to achieve best practice in Islamic schooling.

The Niyyah Project continues to support MFIS to implement Islamic principles of teaching based on a distinct model of education based on Islamic pedagogy, driven by holistic aims and curriculum. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Hibba Mourad, Ms Doha Adra, Ms Rania Charmand, Ms Jinane Ghamraoui and Ms Samara Jalloul for the invitation to join the prestigious Golden Key Honour Society, following the completion of the Graduate Certificate in Education (Islamic Education) through the University of South Australia. Membership into the Society is by invitation only and applies to the top 15% of graduates. This is an extraordinary achievement which reflects exceptional dedication and outstanding academic performance.

Ms Tulin Bragg, Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning