

MFIS NEWS



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Alhamdulillah as we continue our journey of renewal in Islamic education, we focus on enhancing the capabilities of our leadership teams through ongoing training in Prophetic Leadership. Leadership is about making a telling contribution. Our leaders are asked to reflect on “What difference will you make?” “What is your mission at MFIS?” Two of the primary Prophetic leadership roles are service and guardianship—having a strong desire to be of service for good, and a commitment to protect those in our care.

In terms of care, at MFIS the dignity of our learners is to be honoured and preserved as the highest of priorities. We hold firm to asset-based views of learners – applying the principle of *husna-dhan* (holding a positive view and high opinion) of learners and their families as the basis of relationships, and engagement.

Our leaders are also expected to communicate and convey calmness—our ‘calmness’ is about clear, respectful communication. Calmness is communicating confidence as a teacher-leader and, conveying the sense that our learners can trust us to manage the teaching/learning environment.

Our MFIS team participated in the CITE-ISAA Conference on *Aafiyah* (Well-being) held last weekend at Minaret College, Melbourne. This event provided a significant platform for contemplation, education, and establishing connections. During the conference, our esteemed colleagues Thamina Kassar, Billal Khoder, and Samara Jalloul had the privilege of delivering a presentation on ‘Refining Behaviour Policies and Embracing Islamic Pedagogy: Nurturing Islamic Wellbeing in a Compassionate and Inclusive Educational Environment.’ They shared their journey and the obstacles encountered, aiming to engage and collaborate with fellow professionals within the Islamic education sector. [CITE—Centre for Islamic Thought & Education at the University of South Australia; ISAA—Islamic Schools Association of Australia.]

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 6:

Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused.

At Malek Fahd Islamic School, children are the priority when responding to complaints of abuse. The School's Complaints Handling Policy is easily accessible to the whole school community. The policy clearly outlines roles and responsibilities, approaches to dealing with different types of complaints, and obligations to act and report. All complaints are taken seriously and responded to promptly and thoroughly.

Our Child Protection Policy also clearly sets out staff responsibilities for child protection and processes that staff must follow in relation to child protection matters. These policies apply to all staff including contractors, practicum/professional experience students and volunteers.

Qurban Fundraiser Update

We thank all our students and parents who generously donated towards the Qurban Fundraiser. Alhamdulillah nearly \$5,400 was raised to provide Qurban meat to our Muslim brothers and sisters in Yemen.

SHEIKH ABU BAKR ZOUD'S VISIT TO MFIS

Malek Fahd Islamic School had the pleasure of hosting Sheikh Abu Bakr Zoud at the Greenacre campus. Sheikh Abu Bakr Zoud is a graduate of the Faculty of Quran from the Islamic University of Madinah, after which he continued his Qur'anic Studies in Egypt.

He received numerous ijazaat in Hafs including one from Sheikh Ali Al-Hudhafy, the Imam of Masjid An-Nabwi.

Sheikh Abu Bakr addressed the students on the importance of maintaining Taqwa and the potential risks of social media.

He is also a proud graduate of Malek Fahd Islamic School.



MFIS CHARITY RIDE/WALK

To help needy children around the world go back to their schools with ease, Malek Fahd Islamic School in partnership with Human Appeal Australia and Sydney Muslim Cyclists invites you to join the Charity Ride / Walk on **Sunday 27th August 2023** - 9am at Bicentennial Park, Homebush.

MFIS staff, students, and parents from all four campuses are invited to join the charity ride / walk to fundraise for the "Back to School" worthy cause.

Human Appeal Australia

MFIS

CHARITY RIDE POWERED BY SYDNEY MUSLIM CYCLISTS

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Education Ends Poverty

BACK School 2

For enquiries, contact:
P: (02) 8732 7800
E: admin@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Ⓜ Please note that in the case of rain, the event will be postponed

To donate, scan the QR code or contact:
www.hai.org.au | 1300 760 155

Please complete the registration form <https://bit.ly/3Ok5rYM> to confirm your attendance. We appreciate any contribution towards this worthy cause.

All donations can be made through Human Appeal <https://bit.ly/44QA1jK> via webpage. Or scan the QR code on this flyer.

For enquires, contact our admin office P: (02) 8732 7800 -

admin@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Please note that in the case of rain, the event will be postponed.

TERM 3 NIYYAH UPDATE

Our partnership with the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) at the University of South Australia continues to build momentum, with an enriching journey of professional growth held in week 4 across all campuses. Educators were inspired by profound insights from the esteemed Professor Mohamad Abdalla AM, who delved into the transformative power of a worldview in shaping teaching practices.



The impact of an Islamic worldview on education was thoughtfully explored, sparking new dimensions of understanding, and fostering a more holistic approach to learning. I spoke on our renewed educational philosophy underpinning our dynamic learning programs.

Given the rollout of new syllabuses requiring the development of new teaching and learning programs, these sessions ignited a collective flame of innovation and inquiry, empowering our educators to embark on a collaborative journey, where knowledge is seamlessly interwoven with values. This powerful synthesis allows us to nurture students not only academically but also spiritually and ethically.

MFIS EID FESTIVAL—A SUCCESS!

Malek Fahd Islamic School's Eid Festival, held at Parry Park in Lakemba on Friday 30th June, was an absolute hit, bringing together over 4000 parents, staff, students, and alumni for a day filled with joy and celebration. This was an opportunity for the entire school community to come together to make this event unforgettable. From thrilling rides to mouth-watering food stalls, exciting challenges to engaging games, and even a delightful petting



zoo and jumping castles for the little ones, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Seeing the smiles on everyone's faces and witnessing the strong bonds of friendship and unity that were forged on the day, truly exemplified the true spirit of Eid. It was heartwarming to witness people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures coming together to celebrate this special occasion in the Islamic calendar.

We look forward to similar events in the future, strengthening our bonds as a Muslim community.

Uniform Update

The school administration is pleased to announce that the redesigned uniforms will be available for purchase from November 2023 Insha Allah.

To facilitate a seamless transition, the year 2024 has been designated as a transition year, during which students can choose to wear either the current or the new uniform. This arrangement offers parents sufficient time to acquire the new set of uniforms for their children, considering any necessary adjustments.

A special discount of 50% is available for the purchase of the current uniform stock until the end of the current year. Midford offers an online school shop at <https://www.midford.com.au/school-shops-online>.

To register a new account, you can use the unique school pass phrase "Malek1989."

Important Dates:

MFIS Student Umrah Trip

Wednesday, 27th September to
Wednesday, 11th October 2023

Year 12 Presentation Assembly

Hoxton Park Campus:

Tuesday, 19th September 2023

Greenacre Campus

Wednesday, 20th September
2023

Beaumont Hills Campus

Thursday, 21st September 2023

Year 12 Graduation Dinner (All Campuses)

Friday, 22nd September 2023

Term Dates for Students

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

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

Term 3 Senior Executive Online Webinar

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents who joined us for the third Senior Executive Online Webinar, which took place on Wednesday, 2nd August.

During the webinar, we were privileged to have esteemed speakers addressing crucial topics. Sheikh Khaled Bouchafaa, our Director of Faith, shed light on the significance of self-awareness. Ms. Samara Jalloul, our Head of Wellbeing, provided insights into the implementation of the Behaviour Education Program. I also had the honour of discussing the concept of Prophetic Leadership and its potential to bring about positive change.

Your participation and engagement added depth and value to the discussion, making the webinar an enriching experience for all involved. We appreciate your commitment to staying informed and involved in your child's educational journey.

School Fees

The school would like to thank all parents/carers who have paid Term 3 fees on time. For families who have balances outstanding, we ask that these fees be paid in full immediately to bring your accounts up-to-date. Unpaid fees may be handed to debt collectors for recovery.

Fees can be paid on Sentral Pay via the Parent Portal, EFT via phone or in person and Cash payments in person at the Admin Office.

Mr Aiyaz Ali, Business Manager

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Our partnership with the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) at the University of South Australia continued this term with staff professional learning focused on the Islamic worldview. As a faith-based school with a renewed educational philosophy, these sessions are critical to empower our teachers with innovative and effective teaching strategies to make learning more meaningful and relevant to our students. Islamic pedagogical approaches help our learners foster a stronger sense of Muslim Australian identity, inclusivity, and diversity as they navigate challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.



MFIS 2022 alumni, who have excelled in their academic pursuits, started tutoring current Year 12 students during release periods last term and continued this term ahead of the HSC Trials. This program enables HSC students to explore core academic areas with recent graduates in small groups, providing an approachable and relatable resource for academic support outside of regular class hours. Insha'Allah our students are inspired by our alumni tutors as we hope to continue this cycle of support by inviting 2023 HSC students to tutor our 2024 cohort.

Kindergarten to Year 10 students received their Half-Yearly Reports in Week 1. I would like to emphasise the significance of thoroughly reviewing your child's report and teachers look forward to discussing how we can work together to support the best interests of your child during Parent-Teacher Afternoons scheduled in Week 7.

NAPLAN results were released in July. Results are now reported against four levels of achievement, not the previous ten "proficiency bands". The four levels of achievement are "exceeding", "strong", "developing" and "needs additional support". NAPLAN allows parents and carers to see how your child has performed in literacy and numeracy against national standards. Your child's achievement can be compared to the national average of all students in the same year and against the levels of achievement.

Year 12 students commenced the HSC Trial Examination period on Thursday 10 August with English Paper 1. The Trials will run until Monday 28 August, with normal classes also resuming on this day. During Week 7 and 8, the normal timetable will be followed. Feedback from Trial examinations will be provided, and teachers will continue with remedial work based on the data analysis of Trial results. Campus-specific masterclasses for Year 12 are scheduled during their final fortnight at school. This will involve expert teachers who will cover notes from the 2022 HSC Marking Centre, followed by specific as well as syllabus content to improve understanding and competence in the application of skills. The HSC Arabic Continuers - Oral Exam was held on Saturday 19 August at Liverpool High School. The written exams will start on Wednesday 11 October. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our HSC cohort well in all their assessment tasks.

The Preliminary Examination timetable starting in Week 8 has been released to Year 11 students. The results from these assessments contribute significantly towards their grade for the Preliminary course. As the HSC is based on the best 10 units, Year 11 students will have the opportunity to keep their best 10 units. We recommend students discuss their pattern of study with the Secondary Curriculum Coordinator to help them make informed decisions aligning with strengths and goals when confirming their HSC pattern of study.

EXAM DUA



اللَّهُمَّ لَا سَهْلَ إِلَّا مَا جَعَلْتَهُ سَهْلًا وَأَنْتَ تَجْعَلُ الْحَزْنَ إِذَا شِئْتَ سَهْلًا

Allahumma la sahla illama ja-'altahu sahla
anta taj 'alu al hazana eza ma shi'ta sahal

"Oh Allah! Nothing is easy
except what You have made
easy. If You wish, You can
make the difficult easy."

Subject Selection Information Sessions were held for Year 8 and Year 10 students and parents across all campuses. Year 10 students have selected 12 Preliminary units and Year 8 students have selected two electives for their pattern of study in 2024. Enrolment in these courses will be confirmed by the end of this term insha'Allah.

Ms Tulin Bragg
Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning

MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh,

Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers, and Students,

In this newsletter I would like to introduce and delve into a profound concept known as 'Ihsan'. Originating from Islamic teachings, 'Ihsan' is a term rich with layers of meaning. Translated, it often denotes "excellence" or "perfection", but there's so much more to it.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) explained Ihsan during an interaction whereby he was asked and responded: "Ihsan is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you do not achieve this state of devotion, then (take it for granted that) Allah sees you." (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari). This profound statement touches on the core of Ihsan – to act with the acute awareness of not just the presence of the Divine but also with a consciousness of our actions and their implications.

For students, the essence of Ihsan is especially pertinent. This stage of life is filled with growth and the moulding of character. Embracing Ihsan can inspire students to strive for excellence, not just for recognition, but for the intrinsic value of doing one's best.

Moreover, another Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is, "Allah has prescribed Ihsan (perfection) in all things." (Sahih Muslim). This teaches us that Ihsan isn't limited to worship alone; it extends to all facets of life. For students, this means giving their best in academic endeavours, treating peers with respect and kindness, and even perfecting hobbies and skills.

So, how can you, our dear readers, incorporate Ihsan into your lives?

Mindful Reflection: Take moments in your day to connect with your inner self. This could be in the form of a short quiet reflection.

Strive for Excellence: Whether it's in your studies, sports, or other activities, do it with dedication and to the best of your ability.

Acts of Kindness: Small gestures can make big differences. Help a classmate, volunteer, or simply lend a listening ear to a friend in need.

In conclusion, Ihsan is the journey of seeking excellence in all aspects of life, driven by the inner compass of moral and spiritual awareness. For our students, you're at the threshold of many life-changing experiences, and understanding Ihsan can offer a guiding light, making these formative years more meaningful.

Sheikh Fawaz Kamaz, School Chaplain



Mobile Phones

When should children be given a mobile phone?

Most kids today want a phone. But when is the right time and what should parents think about before giving a child one?

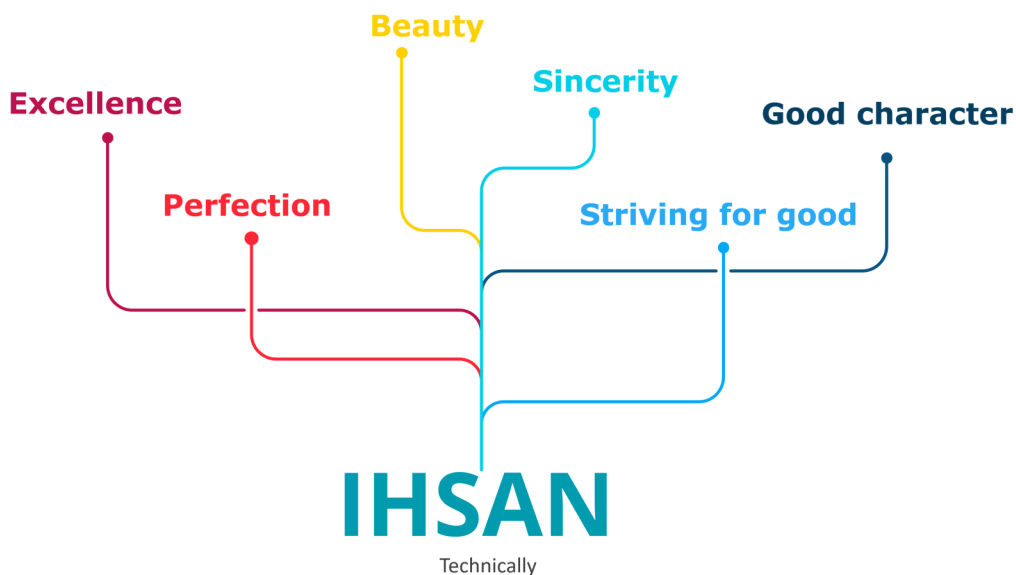
It's not just about your child's age or whether their friends have phones. "An immature 15-year-old may not be able to handle the responsibilities that go with a phone. That includes understanding everything from how charges can add up to how access to social media will affect them. Will they know how to handle cyberbullying? Will they follow the limits you put on phone use?"

"Putting limits on phone use is important. It's important that a "no phone" zone be enforced at family meals and until homework is done. And limits on social use of phones is key." (childmind.org)

If you give your child a phone, as a parent you are still in charge. You need to know the phone's password. You should regularly monitor how they use it. And your child needs to know that their phone privileges could be taken away if they don't follow your expectations and standards.

Parents should use monitoring apps such as Family Zone. The home router could also be set to turn the WiFi off at 10pm for example.

Considering the impact that phones are having on the learning environment for students at school, we ask parents to keep their child's phone at home.



Qustodio | family zone

Family Zone has joined forces with Qustodio to help give parents better visibility of their children's online activities and balance screen time.

Trusted by 5 million users worldwide, Qustodio helps children grow with a healthy approach to technology and protects them from online risks.