

MFIS NEWS



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I write this message with a heavy heart given the current devastating crisis in Palestine. May Allah (swt) grant ease and protection, bringing an end to their pain and suffering.

As we reflect on the completion of Term 3, we farewelled our Year 12 students, culminating their educational journey here at Malek Fahd Islamic School with the last leg, the completion of their HSC examinations. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of them for their dedication and hard work over the past thirteen years.

The Year 12 Graduation Dinner, held on 22nd September, was a remarkable event, bringing together the Greenacre, Beaumont Hills, and Hoxton Park campuses to celebrate and recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our graduates. The evening featured heartfelt speeches from our Board and Executive members and inspirational messages from our School Captains. We have no doubt that they will continue to shine and positively impact the world, staying true to our school's values in the service of the ummah.

Transitioning into Term 4, our dedicated educators and colleagues came together for an enriching School Development Day. Throughout the day, our staff engaged in sessions covering various crucial topics, from developing child safe risk management plans, leveraging technology in the classroom to promoting collaborative behaviours and implementing an Islamic worldview in the learning environment. We extend our deepest gratitude to all staff members whose contributions made this day a resounding success.

As Term 4 unfolds, we continue our commitment to excellence and holistic development, keeping our core values at the forefront of all our endeavours to end the school year well.

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

Malek Fahd Greenacre Primary & Secondary

Ph: (02) 8732 7800
admin@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Malek Fahd Beaumont Hills

Ph: 02 8814 5282
admin_bh@mfis.nsw.edu.au

Malek Fahd Hoxton Park

Ph: 02 8783 5190
admin_hp@mfis.nsw.edu.au

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

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 7:

Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.

Malek Fahd Islamic School provides ongoing child protection education and training opportunities for all staff.

Regular in-house and external staff training is held to assist staff to understand child safe practices and what child safe policies and procedures exist within our school.

Recent School Fundraisers Update

We thank all our students, parents, staff and alumni who generously donated towards the Palestine & Afghanistan Fundraising Appeal and Back to School Charity Ride/Walk.

Alhamdulillah more than \$42,000 was donated towards Palestine and Afghanistan and more than \$4,000 was raised to support underprivileged children around the world.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

In celebration of World Teachers' Day, Malek Fahd Islamic School took the opportunity to honour our incredible educators and colleagues who tirelessly contribute to the growth and success of our students. On this special occasion, we hosted a heartfelt breakfast gathering to express our gratitude and admiration for their unwavering commitment to shaping young minds across our four campuses: Greenacre Primary, Greenacre Secondary, Hoxton Park, and Beaumont Hills. To all our esteemed educators, your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed. We express our sincerest gratitude for your continuous efforts, passion, and dedication to the noble cause of education. Your influence reaches far beyond the classroom, leaving an indelible mark on the lives you touch. May Allah (swt) reward you generously—jazaakumullahu khairun.



HONOURING MIRIAM SILVA AM

Miriam Silva AM is more than a name; she's an embodiment of commitment, leadership, and vision. Her impactful journey with MFIS and the school board is a testament to her unwavering dedication to education and the betterment of our community. Over the years, she has not only served as a role model but has also been a driving force behind the positive changes we've witnessed in our school.

In 2016, Miriam joined as the Chair of the school board during a challenging period, facing numerous governance and funding-related issues. Through her hard work and unwavering determination, Miriam orchestrated the formation of an interim board, comprised of experts, to address the immediate concerns.

We are immensely proud and honoured to announce the grand opening of the Miriam Silva AM Conference Room, a dedicated space designed to pay tribute to the remarkable contributions of Miriam Silva AM.

This conference room stands as a physical testament to her dedication, and it symbolizes a space where we will continue to build upon the strong foundation she has laid down. It will serve as a hub of inspiration, collaboration, and ongoing learning for the entire MFIS community, insha'Allah. The naming of this conference room is a small token of our appreciation.



CELEBRATING 3-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH CITE

This term marks the completion of a remarkable three-year partnership with the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE), University of South Australia. It has been an extraordinary journey, and we feel immensely honoured to have been an integral part of this collaborative effort, focusing on the advancement of Islamic Pedagogy.

Over the past three years, our focus has been on the Niyah Project, an initiative aimed at rejuvenating Islamic Education and steering it towards distinction, positively impacting the lives of students and educators at Malek Fahd Islamic School. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire team at CITE, led by Professor Mohamad Abdalla AM, for their steadfast commitment and unwavering passion. The milestone was shared with Islamic School Principals at a celebratory breakfast.

The conclusion of the partnership in its current format, signifies a springboard for the continued evolution of educational practices and standards at MFIS. We remain dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and the holistic development of our students. Thank you to our Niyah project team members and all those involved for their exceptional contributions, and we look forward to the ongoing positive impacts of our collaborative efforts in the years to come.



UMRAH TOUR 2023

Alhamdulillah, we welcomed back our MFIS students after their spiritually enriching journey to the sacred cities of Makkah and Madina for Umrah. Their dedication to this significant journey has inspired us, and we hope it has further strengthened their faith and connection with Allah (SWT). The post-Umrah special dinner held at our Greenacre Secondary campus was an opportunity to express gratitude to our students and their parents for their unwavering support, emphasising the exceptional dedication shown by our students on their spiritual journey.



We extend a heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors whose generous support made the MFIS Umrah 2023 possible: Tender Loving Care, Disability Services, MCCA Islamic Finance & Investments, Masnad Health Clinic, Fettaileh Foods, and Mr Kernal. Your support is deeply valued, and we anticipate continuing this incredible Umrah journey next year, inshaAllah.

MFIS National School Survey

Thank you to our school community for participating in the MFIS 2023 National School Survey conducted by the National School Surveys organization in Term 2, 2023. Your feedback and insights are invaluable in shaping the continuous enhancement of the education we provide.

We received a commendable 25% response rate from parents. The survey outcomes revealed an overall satisfaction score of 69%, which remains consistent with the 2021 figures and notably increased from the 62% recorded in 2015. The results also highlighted an increased approval rating in the perception of the school being well-managed, with a mean score of 67%, an improvement from previous years.

The survey results indicated strong support for instilling Islamic values, promoting personal growth, and ensuring adequate access to technology.

Areas for improvement primarily focused on behaviour management, enhanced parent-teacher communication, teacher consistency, school cleanliness, student leadership programs, and a desire for a wider range of extracurricular activities.

Based on your feedback, an action plan has been developed to address the areas recommended for improvement. This will be added to the current list of strategic projects.

We are committed to continuously improving the learning opportunities and experiences for the benefit of our students.

Message from School Chaplain

This message emphasizes the importance of unity and empathy within the community, drawing on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) that serve as a compass that directs us towards righteousness and communal harmony. Among these teachings is a powerful hadith that encapsulates the essence of our unity: Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "You see the believers as resembling one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness (insomnia) and fever. This hadith is not just a metaphor but a call to action. It implores us to view the Ummah not as a fragmented collection of individuals or communities but as a single entity bound by our faith of brotherhood and sisterhood.

The call to action extends to both local and global communities, stressing the need to consider and support those, like the people in Gaza, who are facing extreme hardships.

We are urged to not only empathise but also take practical steps in supporting those in need, whether through raising awareness, participating in fundraising, engaging in constructive dialogue, or volunteering for humanitarian aid organisations. It stresses that supporting others isn't just an act of charity but a fundamental part of being a member of the global Ummah.

The importance of embodying principles of empathy, justice, and compassion, in both small and large actions, encourages individuals to internalise the message of shared humanity and act upon it, acknowledging that the well-being of the Ummah depends on collective efforts. It inspires us to be agents of positive change by standing up for justice and embodying the true spirit of compassion.

Shiekh Fawaz Kamaz

MFIS REBRAND UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the launch of the new MFIS brand is scheduled for Term 1 2024 inshaAllah. The redesigned uniforms will be available for purchase from Midford early December 2023. Join us as we unveil the new MFIS brand and embark on this exciting journey together.

ACADEMY U PROGRAM

Alhamdulillah, we are delighted to share the exciting news of our partnership with Western Sydney University, enhancing opportunities for selected Year 9 and 10 students across our secondary campuses. The 'Academy U' initiative has been established to provide unique experiences and learning opportunities, igniting inspiration and supporting the high potential of our students to reach their fullest capabilities.

We proudly congratulate Leila El Kassar for securing second place in the Hackathon competition, demonstrating commendable dedication and innovative thinking. We are immensely proud of our students' enthusiasm and achievements, and we eagerly anticipate the growth and success of our future cohorts.



KAUTHAR ISA MARTIAL ARTS WORLD CUP 2023



We are thrilled to announce an outstanding achievement by one of our own!

On behalf of Malek Fahd Islamic School, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Kauthar Isa for her remarkable win at the Martial Arts World Cup tournament held in Liverpool recently! Her dedication, resilience, and unwavering pursuit of excellence have brought her the silver and bronze belts in a prestigious competition that drew over 1000 participants from around the

globe, representing countries like the US, Turkey, Greece, Mongolia, and more.

Kauthar's success is a testament to her exceptional character and commitment, recognized by all who know her. Not only is she a valued student at Malek Fahd Islamic School, but she also serves as our Vice Captain. We are immensely proud to have such a dedicated and accomplished individual as part of our school community. May Allah (swt) bless her and her family on this incredible journey.

We celebrate Kauthar's achievements and look forward to witnessing her continued success in the future.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

We are delighted to announce the successful completion of the 2023 Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations by our 168 Year 12 students. This dedicated group has persevered through 20 examinations, demonstrating resilience, commitment, and academic excellence as each one of them worked towards their personal best. As they await the release of their ATARs on 14 December 2023, we share in their anticipation and excitement for the next chapter in their educational journey.



In the spirit of unity and celebration, we are eager to reconnect with our 2023 alumni. We have scheduled campus-based morning teas during the second week of 2024. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to reunite and reflect on their remarkable achievements. Students are encouraged to register details at alumni@mfis.nsw.edu.au to stay informed about the latest alumni events.

The Yearly Exam period has started for other cohorts. Beyond mastering content, navigating examinations is a holistic journey requiring a balance of effective organisational skills and overall wellbeing. As discussed during the online Parent Partnership Webinar last week, a balanced and well-supported approach can lead to not only academic success but also the development of resilient and confident individuals. The dedicated team of Grade/Stage Coordinators, Year Advisors, Wellbeing leaders, Counsellors, and class/subject teachers can support students through this period.

Year 11 students have recently received their Yearly Reports, marking the completion of the 12 Preliminary Units. They have seamlessly transitioned into their HSC courses this term, with many confirming their pattern of study by embarking on 10 HSC units. This foundational step sets the stage for a focused and purposeful HSC year ahead.

Year 10 students have successfully selected their 12 Preliminary units, confirming their pattern of study starting in 2024. Year 8 students have chosen two electives from a diverse range, allowing them to delve into areas of interest and passion. As part of our commitment to their success, all students have been advised of the courses they have been placed into for the upcoming academic year. If there are any uncertainties or if your child would like further clarification on their course selections, we encourage them to reach out to their respective teachers.

We have embraced educational transformation this year with a curriculum reform, beginning with the introduction of the new K-2 English and Mathematics syllabi. As we stand at the threshold of a transformative journey, we are preparing for the implementation of the remaining Years 3-10 English, Mathematics, and Arabic syllabi in the coming year. Our dedicated educators have been actively engaged in professional development to foster familiarity but also to design well-informed programs aligning seamlessly with the mandated syllabus outcomes.

The 2024 textbook lists have been released on Five Senses Education. We recommend placing your orders early to ensure that students begin the year with the necessary resources. Students in Year 7-9 now have the option to purchase certain textbooks in both eBook and print formats, due to the availability of school-provided laptops.

We are excited to share that the campus-based transition programs are underway for our Year 6 students who will be embarking on their high school journey next year. These programs encompass a variety of engaging activities such as wellbeing workshops, scientific experiments, discussions on the ethical use of technology and team building exercises.

Participants in the Academy U Program have successfully concluded the induction program focussed on the Leadership in Complexity unit offered by the University of Western Sydney. This initiative aims to enhance familiarity with a university setting, cultivate academic writing skills, and create avenues for networking with peers. Additionally, participants have the chance to explore scholarship opportunities as part of the program.

Ms Tulin Bragg

Term 4 Senior Executive Webinar

We extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you who joined us for the fourth Senior Executive's Webinar on Wednesday, 1st November 2023.

The insights shared during the webinar by our presenters, Sheikh Khaled Bouchafaa, Ms Tulin Bragg, and Dr Zachariah Matthews, were invaluable. Their discussions on Role Modelling, Effective Strategies for Exam Preparation, and Prophetic Leadership were not only enriching but also provided a wealth of guidance for our collective journey.

Your attendance significantly contributes to the success of our initiatives, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

Important Dates:

Year 6 Graduation Dinners Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park

Friday, 24th November 2023

Greenacre Primary

Tuesday, 5th December 2023

End of Year Assemblies

Greenacre Primary

Monday, 4th December 2023

Hoxton Park Campus:

Tuesday, 5th December 2023

Greenacre Secondary

Wednesday, 6th December 2023

Beaumont Hills Campus

Thursday, 7th December 2023

Term Dates for Students

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

Be More!

Principal's Address to Graduating Class of 2023

Be more!

More than the addictive algorithms
More than the obsession with likes
More than the airbrushed smiles

Be more!

More than the filters that fool
More than the mindless memes
More than the senseless viral videos

Be more!

More than the dopamine hits
More than the six packs to impress
More than the Gucci bags

Be more!

Be free, free from the puppet strings
Be the highs and lows that make you,
you
Be the light that brightens the dark

Be more!

Be the kindness that warms hearts
Be all that you can be
And more than that,
"kun ma'allah", be with Allah!

Dr Zachariah Matthews

Prophetic Leadership

How to build credibility?

- Be honest
- Have ethical principles and standards by which you live
- Be forward-looking (visionary)
- Be inspiring (passion, energy)
- Be competent (ability to get things done to a high standard)

Prophetic Guidance

"The Prophet (s) did not hit children. He never raised his hands to hit anyone, except in combat."

"Child abuse is unequivocally impermissible. Islam teaches us to be merciful to children."



"If you aren't careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."

— Malcolm X