



MALEK FAHD  
ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Volume 3, Number 1

11 March 2024 / 26 Sha'ban 1445 AH

# MFIS NEWS

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Ramadan Mubarak to all members of our learning community. May Allah (swt) bestow on us His Mercy, Forgiveness, and Salvation. I reach out to you with a heavy heart as the people of Gaza endure ongoing hardship, facing loss and devastation. May Allah (swt) grant them solace and comfort, bringing an end to their anguish and despair.

With immense gratitude, I welcome our returning students, families and staff as well as those joining our school community for the first time. Whether you are beginning your educational journey with us or continuing on the path of growth, recognise that you are an integral part of our school community.

The year 2023 saw significant progress in key strategic projects, particularly in Behaviour Education, reinforcing our commitment to fostering a compassionate and inclusive educational environment. Our team actively participated in the CITE-ISAA Conference in Melbourne, sharing insights on refining the Behaviour Education Program and embracing Islamic wellbeing more comprehensively.

Our collaboration with the Centre for Islamic Thought & Education (CITE) at the University of South Australia played a crucial role in enhancing our educational philosophy and journey of renewal in Islamic Education. Despite the ongoing challenges caused by the national teacher shortage, our focus this year will be on implementing the newly developed Teaching & Learning Framework.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the MFIS Class of 2023 for their remarkable Higher School Certificate (HSC) results which demonstrated significant achievements especially in Bands 4 to 6. Notably, two students achieved Band 6 in all 10 units, showcasing exceptional all-around performance. The highest ATAR scored was 99.6. A Thank You Morning Tea was held at all our campuses for the 2023 graduates early in this term.

Significant progress was made in infrastructure projects across campuses, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing the overall school environment. Campus enhancement works relating to the much anticipated rebrand launch was carried out over the break. Other projects included completion of the new carpark, undercover walkways and synthetic grass fields at Beaumont Hills; creation of the new Counselling and Wellbeing Hub, renovation of the library, installation of windows in classrooms, and renovations of toilets at Greenacre Secondary; and allocation of additional offices in Greenacre Primary.

Dr Zachariah Matthews  
Principal

KNOWLEDGE  
IS LIGHT

**Vision:** The leading school for Islamic education in Australia

**Mission:** Empower every learner to achieve their full potential through an Islamic education

**Core Values:** Faith | Excellence | Service

**Motto:**  
Knowledge is Light

**Malek Fahd Greenacre Primary & Secondary**  
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**Malek Fahd Beaumont Hills**  
Ph: 02 8814 5282  
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**Website:**  
[www.mfis.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mfis.nsw.edu.au)

**Follow our journey**  
**@MalekFahd.Official**



Malek Fahd Islamic School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

## 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 8:

Malek Fahd Islamic School aims to identify the risks associated with physical and online environments and ensures to minimise the opportunity for abuse or other kinds of harm to occur.

A comprehensive risk assessment is conducted for both physical and online environments within the school. Emergency drills are conducted each term to ensure staff and students are familiar with emergency response procedures.

The School continuously reviews and implements necessary modifications to the physical environment to reduce potential risks (e.g. secure entry points, protocol for one on one meetings, student supervision and protocols for opposite gender interactions).

The School conducts cyber security workshops to keep staff, parents and students updated on the latest safety measures.

Malek Fahd Islamic School aims to create a secure and protective environment for all students, both in physical spaces and online platforms, fostering their well-being and educational development.

## RE-BRAND LAUNCH

In February 2024, MFIS officially launched the new re-brand at all four campuses (Greenacre Primary, Greenacre Secondary, Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills). In the leadup, several activities took place such as the new uniform rollout, the launch of the new website, re-branding of social media touch points, re-branding of printed materials and stationery, the re-branding of two major entry points, namely Greenacre Secondary and Greenacre Primary buildings and major paint refurbishment to the Greenacre Secondary Boys area using the new colours.



2024 - Online Uniform Catalogue - <https://bit.ly/41beOzZ>

I encourage all parents, students, and esteemed educators to visit the school's new website and provide your feedback, suggestions, and any future improvements you would like to see. Please send all feedback to [marketing@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:marketing@mfis.nsw.edu.au).

For more information on the rebranding launch, please refer to pages 6 and 7.

Mr Houssam Bizri  
Marketing & Communications Manager

### TERM 1 PRINCIPAL'S WEBINAR

On behalf of the MFIS community, I extend my sincerest gratitude for your valuable presence at the Principal's Online Webinar held on Wednesday, 21 February 2024. Your attendance played a pivotal role in enriching the experience and success of this significant event, which is an integral part of our Parent Partnership Program.

InshaAllah you found Sheikh Khaled Bouchafaa's discourse on Graduate Quality 4, Mr. Houssam Bizri's presentation on the Malek Fahd Islamic School Re-brand Launch, and my reflection on Prophetic Leadership enlightening.

Your active participation underscores the strength of our community's commitment to fostering positive family and community partnerships through dedicated and meaningful engagement, a cornerstone of our strategic goals. The recording of the webinar is available to view on parent portal via Links/Online Webinar Video Recordings. Your support is indispensable as we continue to strive for excellence in nurturing the minds and hearts of our students. We look forward to your continued involvement in future events and initiatives.

## RAMADAN

As we enter the holy month of Ramadan, we are reminded of the profound spiritual journey that awaits us. A time of fasting, prayer, and reflection, Ramadan offers us a unique opportunity to draw closer to Allah (SWT) and strengthen our faith.

At the heart of Ramadan is the fast, a practice ordained by Allah (SWT) as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. From dawn till sunset, we abstain from food, drink, and marital relations. This act of self-discipline purifies the soul, teaches empathy, and brings us closer to those in need. It's a powerful reminder of the virtues of patience, perseverance, and gratitude.

Ramadan is much more than abstaining from food and drink; it is a time for inner reflection and spiritual renewal. We are encouraged to increase our recitation of the Quran, engage in extra prayers (Taraweeh) and seek forgiveness. This sacred month offers a chance to cleanse our hearts and renew our commitment to our faith.

Among the nights of Ramadan, Laylat al-Qadr stands out as the pinnacle. Known as the Night of Decree, it commemorates the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Worship during this night is more valuable than a thousand months. It is a time to seek Allah's mercy, forgiveness, and blessings. Ramadan also strengthens the bonds of community and family. The shared experiences of fasting, and prayer unite us in spirit and purpose. It is a time to give generously to those less fortunate, embodying the spirit of compassion and charity that is central to our faith. The rewards of Ramadan are immense. Allah (SWT) promises forgiveness of sins and a renewal of faith for those who observe this month with sincerity. It is an opportunity to attain Taqwa, or God-consciousness, guiding us in our daily lives.

As we embark on this blessed month, let us make the most of this opportunity for growth and reflection. Let's strive to enhance our spiritual practices, strengthen our community bonds, and reach out with compassion and generosity. May this Ramadan be a source of peace, enlightenment, and spiritual growth for all of us. Let us remember the true essence of this holy month and carry its lessons beyond this month.

Ramadan Mubarak!

*Sheikh Fawaz Kamaz (School Chaplain)*



## RAMADAN DISMISSAL TIMES

Please take note of the adjusted Ramadan dismissal times starting from Monday, 11th March.

Campus	Dismissal Times		
	2.10pm	2.20pm	2.30pm
Greenacre Primary	K-2	Y3-6	
Greenacre Secondary			Y7-12
Hoxton Park		K-6	Y7-12
Beaumont Hills		K-6	Y7-12

## FEED THE FASTING FUNDRAISER

The Feed-the-Fasting fundraiser will commence on Monday, 11th March, running for the first week of Ramadan. We encourage students, with the support of their families and friends, to collect funds for this worthy cause.

Our goal is for each student to gather at least \$10 by Friday, 15th March. Please place the collected money in a sealed envelope with the student's name, class, and amount clearly written on the front. Submit the envelope to the administrative staff on each campus.

The funds collected will be sent through a local Muslim charity overseas to provide iftaar (dinner) and suhoor (breakfast) to needy families, inshaAllah. Families affected by the Gaza crisis will be prioritised. The class that raises the most funds on each campus will be awarded a prize.

As stated in the Quran, *"Indeed the virtuous give food—despite their desire for it—to the poor..."* (Q76:8). The Prophet (S) further emphasised the rewards of helping others during Ramadan: *"Whoever helps break the fast of a fasting person will have the same reward without decreasing anything from the reward of the fasting person"* (Tirmidhi).

## NAPLAN 2024

NAPLAN 2024 will take place from Wednesday 13 March to Monday 25 March. It is a requirement that your child brings their own headsets.

All Year 7 and Year 9 students will use their school-provided devices and will need to ensure these are fully charged.

Please contact the Head of Campus if you have any queries regarding the NAPLAN test schedule. Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students.

One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. These platforms enable personalised test pathways determined by student responses, giving a more precise picture of student achievement and even greater diagnostic power.

## PAT

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school has been undertaking activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. This term, our students sat the ACER Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) for both Maths and Reading. These tests are also adaptive, helping students to be better equipped with online assessments. With the new HSC Enterprise Computing and Software Engineering exams to be online from 2025, the government is expected to pilot more HSC exams online.

## CURRICULUM UPDATE

Welcome to the 2024 academic year. It is a particularly exciting year for the school community given the release of the MFIS Teaching & Learning Framework. Built on Islamic pedagogy as a distinct philosophy of education, it provides a structured approach to guide teaching practices and student learning. Consistency, coherence, and alignment across the curriculum, teaching methods, and assessment practices will ultimately enhance teaching effectiveness and student outcomes Insha'Allah.

This pioneering initiative came after more than 18 months of commitment by teachers, under the expert guidance and support from the CITE team at UniSA. It is a home-grown document, incorporating Islamic pedagogy to enhance the engagement and relevance of learning experiences. The aim is to nurture holistic learners who are developed intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. The domains in the framework will be progressively unpacked, with our first opportunity taking place during the Niyah PLP afternoons.



## 2023 HSC Results

Congratulations to our 2023 HSC students, who sat through 20 conventional courses including 2 acceleration courses studied across three campuses. Students continued to perform well in Mathematics, and there was a notable improvement in Advanced English results. Other courses where students performed above state average included Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Studies of Religion 1 Unit. The 2023 HSC results demonstrated that many of our top performing students have continued to perform at the highest levels, with a combined 72 Band 6 results and 281 Band 5 results. Two students were included in the HSC All-round Achievers List after achieving results in the highest band for all 10 units and the highest ATAR was 99.6. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers for their tireless efforts in supporting our students throughout their challenging HSC journey.

## Reading Focus

Reading plays a crucial role in academic success. Research consistently highlights reading as one of the main indicators of academic achievement. Therefore, we are actively implementing whole-school strategies aimed at enhancing our reading culture, which will also nurture critical-thinking skills, creativity, and empathy. Libraries in all our campuses will be open during recess and lunch to encourage students to borrow books or to peruse the shelves. In addition to borrowing from the library, primary classrooms are also equipped with a rotating collection of books, replenished monthly, facilitating daily access to a diverse range of reading materials for each student. Secondary students have the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) program during Home Room. Year 7-10 students also have one period per fortnight timetabled for literacy and numeracy classes. These school-wide initiatives foster reading skills and nurtures a deeper appreciation for literature.

Ms Tulin Bragg, Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

# RAMADAN—MONTH OF THE QURAN

**Make your intention clear.** Make your intention clear and concise for your own benefit and map out your goals. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: “Actions are buy by intentions.” This Ramadan, read the Quran several times everyday, with understanding.

**Make your goal reasonable.** If you have no knowledge of the Arabic alphabet, do not make it your goal to recite the entire Quran in Arabic in a single month! Start slow, and start sure. Read the translation instead and learn to read Arabic from a qualified teacher.

**Plan in advance.** During Ramadan, plan your engagement with the Quran according to your energy levels during the day. For example, reading Quran after Fajr is the best time. And reading Quran after Maghrib in preparation of the Taraweeh salah helps.

**Make a clear schedule, and stick to it.** One of the best pieces of advice is to divide your goal for the month into daily segments—how many verses or pages will you study each day. And then stick to this goal every day without fail.

**Reminders to maintain motivation.** How do we deal with loss of motivation after the first few days? We all tend to lose momentum and must find ways to increase in determination as the month progresses—with an increase in taqwa (God-consciousness), our strength will increase likewise.

**Find a buddy to share the journey.** There is power in numbers for sure, but there is also power in feeling obligated to share your progress with someone—either a spouse, sibling or friend.

**Make sincere dua.** If you slip a little, don't give up! Take a deep breath, and know that Allah (SWT) is aware of what's in your heart and He knows how much you try. Dua (supplication) is a way to have a conversation with Him, so when you're feeling discouraged, ask Him to guide and strengthen you.

**Tweak your goal as needed.** Again, you know your limitations better than anyone! Your intention is not a signed and sealed contract—there is always room for adjustments.

*Alhumdulillah*, Ramadan is here. Whatever your goal is during this month, the Qur'an is a fundamental part of our faith. May these tips be of benefit to you.

May Allah (SWT) enable all of us to be guided by His Words this Ramadan, living as best we can in His obedience, seeking His Pleasure . Ameen.

## Important Dates

### Ramadan/Early Dismissal Commences

Monday 11th March

### Feed the Fasting Fund-raiser

Monday 11th to Friday 15th March

### NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7, 9 Commences

Wednesday 13th March

### Eid-ul-Fitr Holiday TBC

Wednesday 10th to Thursday 11th April

### Eid Festival

Friday 12th April

### MFIS Student Umrah Trip

Saturday 13th to Sunday 28th April

## Term Dates for Students

**Term 1**—Thursday 1st February to Friday 12th April

**Term 2**—Tuesday 30th April to Friday 5th July

**Term 3**—Tuesday 23rd July to Friday 27th September

**Term 4**—Tuesday, 15th October to Thursday, 12th December

## School Fees

The school would like to thank all parents/carers who have paid Term 1 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 **Senral Pay** via the **Parent Portal**, EFT via phone or in person and Cash payments in person at the Admin Office.

Aiyaz Ali,  
Business Manager



**QURAN COMPETITION  
1445 / 2024**

**COMPETITION RECITALS START FROM  
TUESDAY 26TH OF MARCH 2024 AT 10 AM**

The chapters for this year's competition will be

1	Juzz Amma
2	Juzz Tabarak
3	Open

Malek Fahd Islamic School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Read, in the Name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists)

Al-Alaq 96:1

## Campus Environment

### Re-Branding

As part of the rebranding initiative and in preparation for the February launch, extensive efforts were undertaken during the summer break to enhance our campus facilities. The school's new logo is now prominently displayed at the entrance of Greenacre Secondary Campus. Additionally, the Greenacre Primary library building has been adorned with the new school logo, aligning with our refreshed identity. Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills will be next inshaAllah.

Other significant improvements include the repainting of the Greenacre Secondary boys' area as part of stage 1, featuring our distinctive custom "Dark and Light Teal" colors. The project also encompassed relining parking spaces, crossings, speed bumps, and enhancing outdoor spaces.

Significantly, Beaumont Hills and Greenacre Secondary have received playground upgrades, including the installation of artificial grass, to provide more vibrant environment for outdoor activities. These refreshments not only beautify our campuses but also reflect our commitment to providing an enriching and engaging learning environments.



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## MFIS INDIGENOUS ARTWORK AND POLO GIFT

As part of the MFIS Rebrand launch in February, and in celebration of this special occasion, the school management commissioned Indigenous Artwork and presented all our dedicated staff members with distinctive, branded polo shirts available in both short and long sleeves. Watch the YouTube video to find out more.

Staff members were also presented with a gold pin featuring the school's new logo, branded lanyard. The polo shirts were well-received, and we thank everyone for their support during the launch week.



KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT



**Aleerah Baker**  
Artist & Owner

I am proud Olkolo/Kutjala woman passionate about sharing my Indigenous culture through my artwork. I have always been creative, loving colour and having a natural artistic flair, but I only found my true outlet through my Indigenous art. I use a wide range of modern colours in the diversity of my artworks and hope to inspire joy and connection to country and family.



YouTube

Visit our new YouTube channel and find out more about our new Indigenous Art and Polo initiative .

URL: <https://bit.ly/49ZpHbf>

### Social Media

Follow MFIS Journey on our dedicated official social media channels.

Visit our new website:  
<https://mfis.nsw.edu.au>

**Instagram:**  
<https://bit.ly/42dxmjw>

**Facebook:**  
<https://bit.ly/47MoO1v>

**LinkedIn:**  
<https://bit.ly/3HzcAS1>

**YouTube:**  
<https://bit.ly/3vRNkEd>

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