



MALEK FAHD
ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Volume 3, Number 3

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MFIS NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Assalaamu Alaykum WRTB to all members of our learning community. May Allah (SWT) bless us with His endless mercy, forgiveness, and protection. We hold our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Sudan close to our hearts as they continue to endure hardship, loss, and devastation. May Allah (SWT) grant them solace, comfort, and relief from their struggles.

I am excited to share with you the inspiring activities and initiatives we have undertaken as part of our unwavering commitment to cultivating a dynamic and nurturing learning environment rooted in Islamic values.

At MFIS, we believe that engaging students in meaningful dialogue is a powerful way to deepen their learning. As Carla Garrett and her co-authors state, "The one doing the talking is the one doing the learning." We strive to ensure that our students' ideas, thoughts, and feelings are valued by both their peers and educators. It is through this active engagement that true learning and success are cultivated.

I am incredibly proud to share that at the 7th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference (AAISC7), held recently at the Islamic College of Brisbane, our dedicated MFIS educators presented insightful contributions on various topics deeply rooted in an Islamic worldview. This gathering of Islamic school educators from across Australia provided an opportunity to explore contemporary educational trends and practices, all within the framework of how Islam can support today's Muslim learners in excelling spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically and intellectually.

Keynote speakers included distinguished scholars such as Dr. Claire Alkoutli, Associate Professor Nadeem Memon, Dr. Farah Ahmed, and Dr. Samir Mahmoud. Attendees also benefited from a variety of breakout sessions, all centered around the conference's theme: Islamic Worldview: Renewing Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Assessment.



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

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**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 10:

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe.

Malek Fahd Islamic School has developed clear and comprehensive policies and procedures that prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children.

Our Child Protection Policy outline the school's commitment to preventing harm, including the identification and mitigation of risks, reporting mechanisms for concerns, and the provision of ongoing training for staff on child protection. Regular reviews and updates of these policies ensure they remain effective and in line with legal requirements.

Malek Fahd Islamic School has regular communication with students, parents, and staff about the school's child-safe practices and reinforces transparency and accountability, ensuring that everyone in the school community understands their roles and responsibilities in maintaining a safe environment for all children.

With thirty-one of our MFIS educators attending the conference, we were able to showcase the incredible talent and commitment of our staff. We eagerly look forward to sharing these enriching experiences and learnings with our colleagues in the near future.

We were especially honored to receive valuable insights from esteemed scholars like Dr. Claire Alkoutli and Dr. Farah Ahmed, whose perspectives resonate deeply with our school's Prophetic Leadership and Behaviour Education Frameworks. As educators, it is essential that we embody the holistic development we wish to cultivate in our students. This includes refining ourselves and embracing mentorship that is centered on love, patience, and loyalty. A powerful takeaway from Dr. Alkoutli's talk was her reminder that "We can't give what we don't have," urging us to pursue our own personal growth alongside that of our students.

Last week, we had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Farah Ahmed and Dr. Claire Alkoutli to our MFIS Hoxton Park campus for the Islamic Schools Association of Australia (ISAA) NSW Chapter and CITE Education Forum on "Teaching and Learning from an Islamic Worldview." The forum featured enlightening presentations from Dr.



Ahmed on learning from the Hadith Jibril, Dr. Alkoutli on transformative human development, and Sr. Samah Taki on renewing school and classroom practices.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended, as well as to the participating schools and the CITE team, led by Prof. Mohamed Abdalla, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadeem Memon, and Br. Dylan Chown.

Early in the term, we were also blessed to host Mr. Wadud and Mrs. Leiya Hassan from Muraqaba United States, who led engaging workshops for our Leadership and Wellbeing teams. Their HEART-centered framework for Prophetic Tarbiyah and Prophetic Leadership focused on three essential components: Muraqaba (awareness), Muhasaba (self-accountability), and Naseeha (growth through feedback). Wadud's teachings reinforced the importance of mindfulness, self-reflection, and nurturing our students with the Gardener's Mindset—guiding them to grow like seeds into beneficial trees.



Our team continues to benefit from these transformative approaches, integrating Islamic tradition with modern behavioural science. Together, we are fostering an environment where students can flourish academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Additionally, I am proud to announce the accomplishments of our staff, including Ms. Doha Adra, who achieved Highly Accomplished Teacher (HAT) Accreditation, and Mr. Ozan Angin, who completed his PhD.

Their achievements underscore the dedication to lifelong learning that we hold dear at MFIS.



Dr Zachariah Matthews, Principal

ANNUAL CHARITY RIDE/WALK



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We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming success of our annual Charity Ride and Walk event, held on Sunday, 11th August in partnership with Human Appeal Australia and Sydney Muslim Cyclists. Alhamdulillah, the weather was perfect for the event, and it was heartwarming to see nearly 200 MFIS students, parents, alumni, and staff come together in support of the fundraiser for Gaza and Sudan.

Through the dedication of our parent committee members and the remarkable generosity of our school community, we were able to raise over **\$12,000** for these critical causes. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the owners of The Last Slice at Sydney Olympic Park, whose generosity ensured that everyone enjoyed delicious pizzas at the conclusion of the event. We look forward to another successful event, bringing our community together for a day of unity, physical fitness, and, most importantly, giving back to those in need.

TERM 3 SENIOR EXECUTIVE WEBINAR

Thank you for participating in the Term 3 Senior Executive Webinar on Wednesday, 14 August 2024. Your engagement highlights our community's commitment to fostering positive partnerships through meaningful involvement, essential to our strategic goals. The webinar recording is available on the parent portal under Links/Online Webinar Video Recordings or via clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/4dsp78c> Your support is crucial as we strive to nurture our students' minds and hearts. We look forward to your continued involvement in future events and initiatives.

Staff Professional Learning

MFIS is committed to ensuring educators are equipped to support the holistic development of our learners. To this end, our staff had opportunities for professional learning including NESA accredited professional learning, teacher identified learning through AISNSW, Understanding Contemporary LGBTQ+ Narrative through Islamic Schools League of America, Arabic as a Second Language Workshop by Yarmouk University of Jordan and Teaching Quran by the Dawn Quranic Institute.

Accreditation

The school would like to congratulate Ms Doha Adra as the first MFIS teacher accredited at Highly Accomplished Teacher. She has achieved this remarkable milestone with a strong foundation in Islamic Pedagogy as a distinct educational philosophy.

Additionally, in the spirit of lifelong learning, we are pleased to congratulate Dr. Ozan Angin, who has recently completed his PhD research, graduating from the University of New England. His thesis is titled "Interrogating Moderate Islam: A case study in Australia and Turkiye".

Half-Yearly Reports

Kindergarten to Year 10 students received their Half-Yearly Reports in Week 2. Opportunities to discuss your child's progress was also welcome during the Parent-Teacher afternoons.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

As a faith-based school with a renewed educational philosophy, professional learning sessions are critical to empower our teachers. 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. The term's sessions, led by the team at Hoxton Park, explored the religious responsibility for self-assessment, differentiation for student's aptitude, pace and learning style, and the Islamic tradition of explicit teaching.



HSC Cohort

To support students with preparation for upcoming examinations, students at every campus had the opportunity to participate in a workshop covering study skills and exam preparation tips. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding HSC exam procedures, expectations, and post-school pathways.

In response to feedback from last year's HSC cohort, mock exams were scheduled during the second week of the Term 2 holiday break. These sessions allowed students to complete full-scale papers under standard examination conditions. The HSC Trials commenced with English Paper 1 on 16 August, with the last examination scheduled for 29 August.

The official HSC Examination timetable has been released, and all students have received an electronic copy. It is essential that students arrive on time at the Greenacre campus to ensure they receive the full allocated time for their exams. May Allah (swt) support our students to achieve their personal best Insha'Allah.

Academy U

Academy U is a 4-year program designed to successfully transition high achieving students to university by exposing them to different career pathways, challenging content, and opportunities to connect with academic staff. A new cohort of ten MFIS Year 9 students have been selected to complete a first-year unit at Western Sydney University and obtain academic credit towards a corresponding course.



This journey includes online learning modules as well as programs designed to develop a range of essential soft skills to enhance leadership, problem-solving, time management and effective communication. Our Careers Advisor, Ms O'Connor, students and their families attended a Welcome ceremony on 20 August at Western Sydney Parramatta South campus.

2025 Subject Selections

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 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Curriculum Coordinator at your campus.

NAPLAN

We are pleased to inform you that the NAPLAN results have now been distributed. You should have received your child's individual report, which provides insights into their performance in key areas of literacy and numeracy. We encourage you to take the time to review the results with your child, celebrating their successes and discussing any areas for improvement. NAPLAN is just one of many measures of your child's learning. It is a snapshot of their performance on specific days and should be considered alongside their day-to-day work, classroom assessments, and overall development.

Tulin Bragg, Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

HIJRI—ISLAMIC NEW YEAR

As we have recently welcomed the Hijri New Year, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the profound significance of this event in Islamic history. The Hijri calendar, established over 1,400 years ago, marks a pivotal moment when the Muslim community embarked on a journey that led to the establishment of a more connected and spiritually aligned society. The Hijri calendar, named after the migration of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from Mecca to Medina represents a turning point in Islamic history. This migration was not just a physical journey but a spiritual and communal transformation. It signified the beginning of a new era where the young Muslim community could freely practice their faith, establish justice and build a society grounded in the principles of Islam.



The first Islamic government was established in Medina under the leadership of the Prophet Muhammad. This government was based on principles of justice, equality, and mutual respect—values that continue to resonate with us today. The Hijri calendar therefore, is not merely a system of tracking time, it is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the early Muslims and the enduring legacy of their commitment to building a just and compassionate society. Before the Hijra, the Muslim community in Mecca faced severe persecution and marginalisation. They were disconnected from the broader society, often practicing their faith in secrecy to avoid oppression. The move to Medina was a significant shift as it allowed Muslims to form a community where they could openly practice their faith, connect with one another and establish a society reflecting the teachings of Islam.

The Hijri New Year now past, serves as an annual reminder of the importance of fostering strong, supportive relationships within our communities, rooted in mutual respect and understanding. Just as the early Muslims built a connected and spiritually vibrant society in Medina, we too are called to build connections that strengthen our faith and support our communal well-being. With the start of this new Hijri year, we are reminded of the lessons of the Hijra. It is a time for renewal both spiritually and communally. We are encouraged to reflect on our own lives and communities, and to strengthen our commitment to the principles of justice, compassion, and faith. As we continue through this new year, may we all strive to be more connected spiritually, communally, and with our Creator. May we draw inspiration from the Hijra and work towards a world where justice, compassion, and faith guide our actions and our communities.

Wishing you all a blessed and spiritually fulfilling year ahead.

Sheikh Fawaz Kamaz, School Chaplain

Staff Wellbeing Survey Summary

An independent survey conducted by Source, an HR company, was tailored to our school's specific context and ran for three weeks in Term 2. With a 52% response rate, 152 staff members participated, answering 36 rating scale questions and 4 open comment questions. Outsourcing ensured confidentiality, addressing concerns about access to responses.

Key strengths emerged, including Involvement & Belonging (75%), Growth & Development and Safety (71%), Trust and Future Vision (68%), and Communication (67%). However, **areas for improvement** were highlighted, particularly in Engagement (64%), Quality (56%), Recognition (53%), Survey Credibility (50%), and Culture (47%).

To enhance staff wellbeing, the school has developed action plans targeting these areas. These include improving engagement through feedback, recognition, workload management, and the integration of Islamic values, and bolstering quality by reducing class sizes and expanding professional development. A recognition program will be implemented, alongside initiatives to boost transparency and staff-driven wellbeing efforts. The leadership and social committees will work closely to foster a more supportive, engaging work environment.

Right to Disconnect

Malek Fahd Islamic School supports work life balance for staff and advises that employees are not expected to reply to emails, telephone calls, or text messages from parents (or other members of the School community) which are outside of ordinary work hours (other than in the case of a genuine emergency).

Important Dates

Year 12 Graduation Dinner

Thursday, 26th September 2024

Term Dates for Students

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 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.

Ms Miriam Silva AM
Interim Business Manager

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>

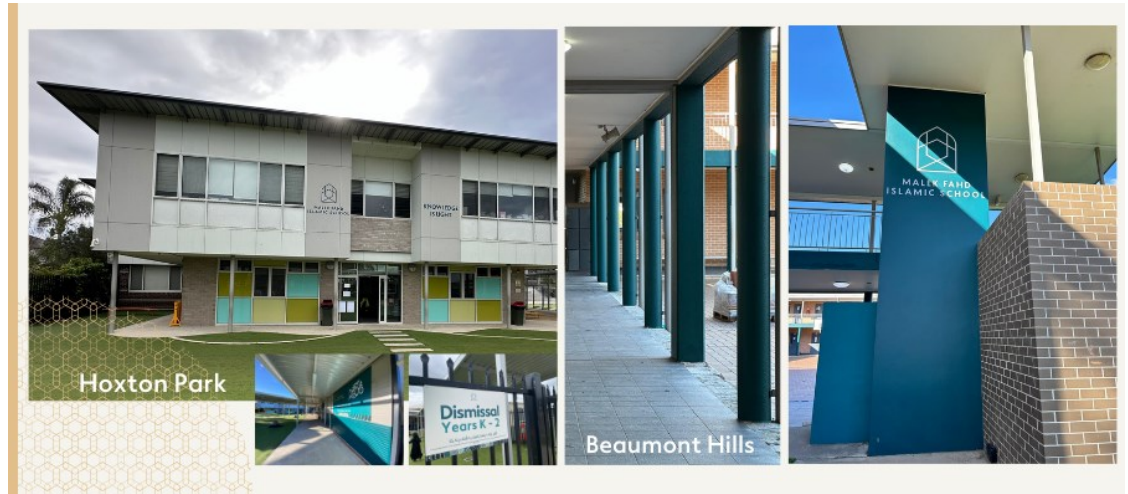
LinkedIn:
<https://bit.ly/3HzcAS1>

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

BRAND REFRESH UPDATE

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh,

I'm excited to share that we continued our MFIS brand refresh during the Term 2 break, introducing our vibrant new "teal" colour scheme at both the Beaumont Hills and Hoxton Park campuses. At Beaumont Hills, we revitalised the exterior with a fresh coat of paint, installed new street signage, and proudly displayed our new logo, giving the campus a modern and inviting appearance. Meanwhile, at Hoxton Park, we refreshed the front of the campus with our new logo and signage, ensuring a cohesive and polished look. These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing the campus environment for our students, staff, and visitors.



YEAR 6 SPORTS POLO

Our Year 6 students across all campuses—Greenacre, Hoxton Park, and Beaumont Hills—are proudly sporting their newly designed sports polo shirts, showcasing our refreshed MFIS branding. These vibrant polos are more than just uniforms; they embody our MFIS graduate attributes, such as collaboration and confidence. The front design features a lighthouse, symbolising our motto, "Knowledge is Light." This imagery represents the confidence we cultivate in our students, allowing them to shine brightly, demonstrate school pride, and work together as a team. It's inspiring to see them embrace these values, proudly representing the strength, unity, and spirit of our school community.

Mr Houssam Bizri, Marketing & Communications Manager



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