



MALEK FAHD
ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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MFIS NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As we embark on another year of growth and new opportunities, I warmly welcome back our returning students, staff, and families, and extend a special greeting to those joining our school community for the first time.

Ramadan Mubarak to all our Malek Fahd Islamic School community! May Allah (SWT) grant us the strength to observe this sacred month of Ramadan with sincerity and devotion, and may He bless us all with His Mercy and Forgiveness.

We begin the year with a renewed commitment to academic excellence, character development, and fostering an environment of God-consciousness (taqwa), where holistic education is at the heart of everything we do—nurturing the soul, instilling strong moral character (*akhlaq*), and striving for excellence (*ihsan*).

This year, our focus in our renewal journey is on 'performing', embedding pride in our school community, enacting our Educational Philosophy, and strengthening academic rigour through the Teaching & Learning Framework. We are also committed to leadership development, integrating the Coaching Approach: Irshad & Growth principles to empower leaders to systematically enhance the self-efficacy of their teams. Through Teacher Mentoring, Prophetic Leadership Practices, and Technology & AI Integration, we aim to elevate both teaching and learning experiences. The introduction of Wednesday Early Dismissals will further support professional collaboration and continuous improvement.

In preparation for the academic year, our staff have engaged in meaningful professional development to ensure a strong and purposeful start. The Senior Executives participated in insightful First Nations cultural awareness training, a first for MFIS. It provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen our understanding and commitment to inclusivity and respect. Additionally, our wider leadership team engaged in professional development that reinforced teamwork and collaboration, setting a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Furthermore, we had the pleasure of welcoming our newest educators to MFIS through a comprehensive induction program. Our Executive team provided valuable insights into our school's mission and expectations, ensuring our new staff are well-prepared to contribute positively to our school community. We look forward to the impact they will have on our learners and their academic journey.



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.

Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in MFIS organisational leadership, governance and culture.

Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously at MFIS.

Standard 3: MFIS families and communities are informed and involved.

Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account for all children at MFIS.

Standard 5: People working with children are suitable and supported at MFIS.

Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused at MFIS.

Standard 7: MFIS staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.

Standard 8: MFIS 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.

Standard 9: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved at MFIS.

Standard 10: Policies and procedures document how MFIS is child safe environment. Child Protection Policy outline the school's commitment to preventing harm, identification and reporting.

With the dedication and preparedness of our staff, we are confident that this year will be one of growth, success, and achievement for our entire school community, InshaAllah.

AISNSW Visit

We were honoured to host AISNSW Chief Executive, Margery Evans and Associate Chief Executive, Douglas Melrose-Rae at our Greenacre Campus, followed by a visit from Ms. Caraline Cloke and Ms. Vanessa Collins. These visits provided valuable opportunities to showcase our vibrant learning environment, engage in meaningful discussions, and strengthen our collaboration within the independent school community. In particular, the Special School consultation allowed us to explore ways to better assist students with moderate to high learning support needs, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive education. We look forward to building on these discussions and sharing further developments with our community.



MFIS Alumni

We reconnected with our Class of 2024 graduates at MFIS Alumni Breakfast held at each campus. This event celebrated their HSC achievements and provided them with an opportunity to engage with our growing alumni network. We are incredibly proud of our graduates and look forward to seeing them succeed in their future endeavours.

We also had the privilege of hosting Sheikh Abu Bakr Zoud, another MFIS alumnus, who delivered an inspiring talk to our Greencare secondary learners on the concept of Ghayrah (honour and protective jealousy in Islam). His

engaging discussion encouraged students to uphold Islamic values and use social media responsibly, making a lasting impact on our learners.

Facilities Update

During the school holidays, our dedicated Facilities & Maintenance team worked tirelessly to ensure our campuses were ready for Term 1. Their hard work and commitment have significantly enhanced our learning spaces, creating a safe, functional, and welcoming environment for our students and staff. Key projects completed were classroom furniture changeout, fencing, basketball court roof replacement and toilet refurbishment. Thank you for your contribution.

Term 1 is off to a wonderful start, and I encourage all students, staff, and families to actively participate in upcoming events and initiatives. Your support and engagement are what makes MFIS a thriving and dynamic learning community.

"Knowledge is Light." Together, we illuminate the path to success and service.

Dr Zachariah Matthews

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Welcome to the 2025 Academic Year!

We were delighted to welcome 238 of our youngest learners in kindergarten as they embark on their educational journey on 5 February. At the other end of this journey, we have our largest-ever HSC cohort, growing from 180 students in 2024 to 222 this year. We are committed to supporting all our learners and encouraging each one to strive for their personal best. This year, our staff professional learning will focus on the Instructional Practice domain of the Teaching and Learning Framework. This domain emphasizes providing clarity on the deeper purpose of educational content, followed by strategies such as explicit teaching, progressing towards collaborative and ultimately independent learning.



Celebrating the Success of Our 2024 HSC Cohort

Congratulations to our 2024 HSC cohort, who undertook 20 conventional courses and 2 acceleration courses, completing the same programs and assessments across three campuses. Their outstanding results reflect their dedication and perseverance, with 55 Band 6 and 211 Band 5 results. Notably, two students earned a place on the HSC All-round Achievers List, having achieved the highest band across all 10 units, and the top ATAR reached an impressive 99.4.

Academy U—Leadership in Complexity cohort

The Academy U program offered through the University of Western Sydney equips students for a smooth transition to university while introducing them to new study and career paths they might not have previously considered. This year, for the first time, selected MFIS students in Years 9-12 will engage in this enriching academic and personal experience. Students who are high achieving are chosen for the program at the end of Year 8. Please reach out to the Careers Advisor if you would like further information.



National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

NAPLAN will take place from Wednesday, 12 March to Monday, 24 March. Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will need to bring their own headsets, which were included in their book packs ordered through Five Senses. Year 7 and Year 9 students must also bring their own headsets and ensure their devices are fully charged. Students have had opportunities to practice on the online platform to prepare for the tests.

Please note that wireless headphones or earbuds (e.g., AirPods) are not suitable for the test. As an adaptive online assessment, NAPLAN tailors questions based on student responses, providing a personalised test experience that offers a more accurate measure of achievement and deeper diagnostic insights. If you have any questions regarding the test schedule, please contact the Head of Campus.

Year 12 Parent-Teacher Afternoons

Year 12 parents attended Parent-Teacher afternoons in Week 4, providing timely opportunities to discuss their child's progress and learning needs. Parents are encouraged to maintain open communication with subject teachers to ensure students receive the necessary support and resources to succeed.

The Year 12 Half-Yearly Examination schedule begins on Friday, 28 March. To support revision, students are encouraged to consolidate their content knowledge by working through past exam papers provided by teachers. Additionally, the campus library offers a selection of hardcopy past papers and ATAR Notes, available for students to access during study periods.

Enhancing Our Reading Culture

Reading is a key indicator of academic success, and we are committed to fostering a strong reading culture across all campuses. Our libraries remain open during recess and lunch, providing students with opportunities to borrow books and explore a diverse selection of reading materials. In addition to library borrowing, primary classrooms are stocked with a rotating collection of 30 books, refreshed monthly, ensuring students have daily access to engaging literature. In secondary, Year 7-10 students have a dedicated literacy and numeracy period every fortnight, reinforcing essential skills to support their learning.

Feed-the-fasting fundraiser — Extended until Friday 14 March 2025

Our Feed-the-Fasting fundraiser is an opportunity for our school community to come together in the spirit of generosity and compassion. Running from Monday, 3 March to Friday, 14 March 2025, this initiative encourages students, with the support of their families and friends, to contribute towards providing Iftaar (dinner) and Suhoor (breakfast) for families in need overseas. Each student is encouraged to raise at least \$10, with donations submitted in a sealed envelope labeled with their name, class, and amount, and handed to the administrative staff at each campus.

Contributions can also be made online via Zakat House fundraiser page: <https://zakathouse.org.au/feed-the-fasting/>

As a token of appreciation, the class that raises the highest amount at each campus will receive a special prize. May Allah (SWT) accept our efforts and bring barakah to all those who give.

Senior Executive Webinar

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who attended our final Senior Executive webinar of the year on Wednesday, 26th February 2025.

To access the webinar recording, simply log in to Sentral Parent Portal, click on Links and then Principal's Webinar.

Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) Update

The PAT testing window took place in Week 4, providing students with experience in an online testing environment similar to NAPLAN. These adaptive tests in Maths and Reading not only help students develop confidence in digital assessments but also prepare them for the increasing shift towards online exams. With the HSC Enterprise Computing and Software Engineering exams moving online this year, it is expected that more HSC subjects will follow this transition. PAT results, along with other internal and external assessment data, will play a key role in the selection process for Stage 5 Acceleration courses and some Stage 6 courses. This data helps the school determine learning starting points and refine targeted teaching strategies. A second round of PAT assessments will take place in Term 4, serving as an additional measure to monitor students' academic progress.

Tulin Bragg, Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

BLESSED MONTH OF RAMADAN

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh,

As we welcome the blessed month of Ramadan, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on its significance and the values it instills in our hearts and communities. Ramadan is not just a time of fasting but a period of spiritual growth, kindness, and unity. One of the greatest virtues of Ramadan is its association with the revelation of the Quran. Muslims believe that during this month, the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as guidance for all of humanity. Allah states in the Quran:

"The month of Ramadan is that in which was sent down the Quran, as a guide to mankind, with clear signs for guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong)." (2:185)

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is an obligatory act of worship for all eligible Muslims. From dawn until sunset, they abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs, cultivating self-discipline, patience, and empathy for those less fortunate. Beyond its physical aspects, fasting serves as a means to cleanse the soul and refocus on faith. A unique aspect of Ramadan is the belief that during this month, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"When Ramadan begins, the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are put in chains." (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim)

Among the last ten nights of Ramadan is Laylat al-Qadr, known as the Night of Decree. This night is described in the Quran as being "better than a thousand months" (97:3). Muslims dedicate these nights to increased worship, seeking Allah's mercy and blessings. Ramadan is also a time of generosity and giving. Acts of charity (sadaqah) and the obligation of Zakat al-Fitr remind Muslims of their duty to support those in need. The communal spirit is further strengthened through shared iftar meals, nightly prayers (Taraweeh), and fostering bonds of kindness and compassion.

As we observe Ramadan, let us embrace its spirit by showing kindness, patience, and understanding towards one another. Whether fasting or not, we can all participate in acts of generosity, reflection, and gratitude. Let us use this month to strengthen our bonds as a community and support each other in acts of goodness.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Ramadan.

Sheikh Fawaz Kamaz, School Chaplain



RECYCLING FOR A GREENER FUTURE AT MFIS

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh,

Malek Fahd Islamic School has launched a campus-wide recycling campaign as part of our commitment to environmental stewardship and service learning. This initiative reflects the Islamic principle of Khidmah (service to others)

"And do not waste extravagantly. Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils."(Surah Al-Isra 17:26-27)

Yellow recycling bins have been placed around the school, making it easy to dispose of recyclables properly. To encourage active participation, learners are reminded about this initiative during Homeroom.

Give Back Through Recycling!

As part of this campaign, we are collecting bottles and cans for recycling, with all funds raised going towards sponsoring orphans in need. This is an incredible opportunity to care for the environment while supporting a meaningful cause.

This initiative is supported by the Well-being Team from each campus, ensuring that our learners stay engaged and informed about the importance of sustainability and giving back to the community.

To further reinforce this initiative, we have:

- Branded posters displayed across campus
- Digital screen reminders in classrooms
- Awareness campaigns to educate and engage our learners

By working together, we can make a real difference—one recyclable at a time!

Mr Houssam Bizri, Marketing & Communications Manager



2025 Term Dates for Students

Term 1 - Tuesday 4th February to Friday 11th April

Term 2 - Tuesday 29th April to Friday 4th July

Term 3 - Tuesday 22nd July to Friday 26th September

Term 4—Tuesday, 14th October to Thursday, 11th 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 Sentral Pay via the Parent Portal, EFT via phone or in person and Cash payments in person at the Admin Office.

Mr Matthew Rylands
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>



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