



AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SYDNEY

NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal

Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatu

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our students and families for the 2017 school year and a special welcome to our new students and parents. I hope that your time at the College will be enjoyable and that you will receive the quality of education, training and experience for which you joined us. I also extend a very warm welcome to the new teachers and wish you all the success in providing quality education to the children.

The last three years have been very successful in terms of providing high quality education. The College adopted more planned and evidence-based strategies to improve teaching and learning. We implemented many 'high leverage' instructional strategies that have learning and academic excellence at their core.

As a result we were successful in improving the overall standard of education and student achievements. In 2016, the primary school produced unsurpassed NAPLAN results; the high school also yielded unparalleled HSC results with our students scoring a higher than ever number of band 6's and band 5's in several subjects. Our college ranking also soared into the top 45% of schools in NSW. Most of our students also made very good progress in religious education.

All this has happened with the assistance and cooperation of the entire school community including teachers, parents, students and the Management Board. I would like to complement all parties for their efforts and team work. I have been the Principal of the Australian Islamic College of Sydney for the last three years. During this period of time, my team of teachers and I have introduced several changes aimed at improving student discipline and the overall standard of education at the College. The results of these changes have been very positive` as reflected in student behavior and academic results. I would like to thank all staff, students, parents and the Management Board for the advice and support given to me in implementing these changes and for the improvement of the institution. I am looking forward to your continued support and co-operation in successfully achieving our mission of making the Australian Islamic College of Sydney an institution of choice for all parents.

Wassalam

Dr Imam Ali

Upcoming EVENTS

- **Primary: Parent Information Evening- Wednesday, February 15th 5.30-7pm**
- **Secondary: Parent Information Evening- Wednesday, February 15th 6-7.30pm**
- **HSC Parent Information session-Thursday, February 16th 6-7pm**
- **HSC Student Information session-Friday, February 17th 9-10am**
- **Year 3-6 College Hall incursion- February 21st**
- **Year 5 Hyde Park Barracks excursion-February 23rd**

Executive Appointments

The College Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Scott Taprell as our Deputy Principal and Professor Mohammad Kamal as the Quality Control Manager. We welcome Mr Scott and Professor Kamal to the College as members of our executive team.

Backgrounds of new Executive staff

Deputy Principal

Mr Scott is a highly skilled educator who has over 30 years' experience in a variety of schools in Australia and overseas. He started his teaching career in Sydney, before moving overseas in 1996 where he worked in International schools in Turkey, Germany, Qatar, the UAE and China. In 2012 he moved back to Australia where he held senior positions in Perth and Darwin. During his time in education, Mr Scott has held a wide range of roles that includes Principal, Educational Consultant, curriculum designer and Humanities teacher.

Mr Scott is very much looking forward to working at our College and sharing his vast experience with both students and staff.

Quality Control Manager

Dr. Kamal has an extensive background in biochemical research and has lectured at Universities in Saudi Arabia and China. His work has been published in over 300 international journals. He has also presented numerous papers around the world. After moving to Australia with his family in 1998, Dr Kamal was awarded a Postdoctoral fellowship in 2000 by the University of Sydney.

Dr Kamal has previous experience working in a NSW school, where he taught ethics to secondary students. Having greatly enjoyed this role, Dr Kemal is looking forward to joining our school as our Quality Control Manager and Chaplain.

Starting and Finishing Times

Please note that the school day starts at 8.30a.m. with an assembly and prayer. We would like all children to arrive at the school by 8.25a.m. so that they could start the day with a prayer and participate in the morning assembly. Please note- children who arrive late miss the Morning Prayer as well as important daily announcements. They also disrupt other students at the assembly.

Finishing times are as follows:

Kindergarten	3.00 pm
Year 1	3.05 pm
Years 2-6	3.10 pm
Secondary 7-12	3.20 pm

Parents are requested to pick their children up from school starting from 3.00 pm so that we can avoid congestion between 3.15 and 3.30 p.m.

Parents' Visit to School

Parents are welcome at the school and are encouraged to come and discuss their children's progress and other relevant issues with their class teachers or executive staff. To do this, I request that parents to follow these procedures:

- 1. Contact the school office to make an appointment to see the class/subject teacher. The teachers are available after 3.30 p.m.*
- 2. Report to the office staff on your arrival.*
- 3. The office staff will inform the teacher of your arrival and the teacher will see you as soon as convenient.*

Please note- these procedures have been put in place to avoid any disruption to teachers' work and students' learning during the teaching day.

Meeting the Executive Staff

Parents wishing to see the executive staff regarding their children's school related issues are requested to observe the following procedure:

- Meet with the class teachers first to discuss the issue/s concerned.
- If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, meet with the Assistant Principals in Primary and Secondary and/or the Deputy Principal.
- If your concerns are not resolved after meetings with the Assistant Principals and Deputy Principal then make an appointment to meet with the Principal.

Safety of Children

Our school makes every effort to provide a safe and secure environment for all students. Any activity that presents safety risks to students and staff is quickly identified and steps are taken to minimize the risks. In this regard, people entering the school campus and entering the assembly and classroom areas has been a matter of concern for the school for some time. The Education Department regulations stipulate that visitors, including parents, are not permitted to venture into the school campus without permission.



As a result, we need to enforce this rule fully in order to ensure the safety of all our children and teachers. I request that all parents, guardians and visitors refrain from going beyond the school office when you come to dropping or picking up your children. If you come to school for any other business, please report to the front office and the office staff will attend to you. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Supervision of Students

Please note that the children who arrive before 8.15 a.m. and remain at school after 3.30 p.m. without the School's approval, are not supervised by the teachers. Duty of care for any child who arrives before 8.15 a.m. and remains at the school after 3.30 p.m. is the responsibility of the parents.

School Term Dates for 2017

Below are the term dates for the 2017 academic year:

	School Dates	Holidays
Term 1	Monday 23rd January 2017 –Friday 31st March 2017 (10 Weeks) <i>(Students start on Tuesday 24th January)</i>	Saturday 1st April 2017 – Monday 17th April 2017
Term 2	Tuesday 17th April 2017 – Friday 16th June 2017 (9 Weeks) <i>(Students return on Tuesday 18th April)</i>	Saturday 17th June 2017 – Sunday 2nd July 2017
Term 3	Monday 3rd July to Friday 15th September (11 Weeks) <i>(Students return on Tuesday 4th July)</i>	Saturday 16th September to Sunday 1st October
Term 4	Monday 2nd October 2017 – Friday 8th December 2017 (10 Weeks) <i>(Students return on Tuesday 3rd October)</i>	

Please note that our school term and holiday dates are not the same as that of public schools. This is because we adjusted the dates to ensure that a part of the month of Ramadan and Eid-UI-Fitr fall during the school holidays.

From the Secondary Assistant Principal

I would like to welcome you all back to the Australian Islamic College of Sydney and pray that you had a wonderful break. It has been a pleasure to see all the students energized for 2017 and ready for the year ahead.

The College has already initiated its student enhancement programs through our well-developed Literacy and Numeracy support network. As well as this, extra morning and afternoon classes for our HSC students are underway aimed at enhancing their skills and knowledge. Your support in ensuring your child attends these sessions is greatly appreciated.

I am pleased to announce three new staff members that have joined us in Secondary this year:

- Sadullah Eser who will be teaching Mathematics to the junior and Year 11 extension students;
- Phoebe Crocket who will be teaching junior Maths and Studies of Religion to Year 11;
- Marisa Behrens who will be teaching English to the Junior classes.

We are delighted to have them aboard and hope to gain a great deal from their experience and knowledge.

Over the next couple of weeks the following important events will take place:

- **Parent Information Evening**- Week 4- Wednesday, 15 February 2017 from 6pm-7.30pm in allocated rooms;
- **HSC Parent Information evening**- Thursday 16 February 2017 from 6pm -7pm in the hall;
- **HSC Student Information morning**- Friday 17 Feb 2017, 9- 10am;

Finally, we ask that all parents support the school in making sure that their child is punctual, well dressed and ready to engage in their learning experiences. I'm sure that together, we can make 2017 a highly successful year for all our students.

Mr Malik

From the Primary Assistant Principal

Hello and welcome to all students and their families, new and continuing at AICS Primary in 2017. What an interesting start to the year we have had with the weather! We have received many requests for information from parents about what happens in the Primary School when there is a hot day. If there is a forecast of greater than 38 degrees, Primary School students will have their recess and lunch break indoors.

This year, we look forward to working together and making this year an enjoyable year for learning for all. Over the past three weeks, students have begun their programs of learning in all subjects and have been working with their new teachers very well. Please, if you are aware of any student who is still away on holidays and will definitely be returning to our school would you please let us know? Students should have all returned from holidays now and be in classrooms learning, every day.

This year, we welcome a new teacher for Year 3, Ms Selina Sathiapal. Ms Sathiapal is the class teacher for 3A and has a wealth of experiences teaching in Australia and overseas. She is also familiar with working in an Islamic School environment, having left another Islamic School to work with us at AICS.

We also welcome our new Kindergarten students (and parents) who are now settling in to their Kindergarten routines; what an exciting time for them and their families!

The new Geography syllabus will be implemented this year as will our new Prime Maths program. I thank the teachers who have participated in the training and development of the school staff which has contributed to a smooth start to the year in both of these areas.

As is the usual process at the start of the school year, teachers are working with students on our four school rules, along with expectations. Our four school rules in Primary are:

- Follow Staff Instructions
- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be a Learner

Along with a daily emphasis on understanding and following these rules, we focus on a particular behaviour for each week. This is discussed with students at each morning assembly, in class and in the playground. Teachers look out for students who are following these rules so that those who are demonstrating them can be rewarded.

AICS Primary Staff would like to invite all parents to come along to a Parent Information Evening on **Wednesday 15th of February**. The evening will begin at 5:30pm and conclude by 7pm. During this time, each of the year levels will run two presentations in an allocated classroom. We encourage all parents to attend this valuable evening.

From time to time, we understand parents will want to meet with staff from the school to address a need. Like all large organisations, it is very difficult for those in charge to meet with everyone all the time. For these reasons, we ask that parents follow the protocols below:

Be in contact with your Child's teacher frequently. They work with your child every day and understand their needs and in almost all cases, will be able to address your concern.

Know your Stage Coordinator. Stage Coordinators are the 'managers' of grades in the school. They look after the day-to-day matters and if your Child's teacher can't help you, this is the person you speak to next.

- *Kindergarten - Ms Louise Grady*
- *Year 1 / Year 2 - Ms Aida White*
- *Year 3 / Year 4 - Ms Khatera Almazari*
- *Year 5 / Year 6 - Ms Verusha Pillay*

If the Coordinator can't help, ask to make an appointment to see the Assistant Principal. As the person who manages the overall Primary School, you can make an appointment to see Mr Warne. Please understand however that on some occasions, it might take 2-3 days to arrange an available time. Alternatively, you can send an email to primary.school@aics.nsw.edu.au

If your issue can't be resolved by Primary Staff, you can ask to speak to the Deputy Principal or Principal. In almost all cases though, you'll be asked to speak to a Class Teacher, Coordinator or Assistant Principal prior to meeting the Principal or Deputy. We thank you for being respectful of these protocols.

This year we will also be continuing to use Class Dojo as a means for you to connect with the class teacher. If you haven't received an invitation from your teacher yet, you should very soon. I encourage all parents to connect with this system. All staff will be making an effort to ensure information and updates are maintained through Class Dojo and our soon to be released Skoolbag system.

There will be many opportunities for involvement, growth, and learning for students in the Primary School this year and we look forward to working with you to support the success of all students. We welcome positive partnerships with students and families and encourage you to contact us with any questions or feedback that you may have.

Mr Warne