



MINARET COLLEGE

Islamic College of Melbourne South and East

28 November 2019

Dear Minaret Family

Assalam Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

InshaAllah this letter finds you in the best state of health and iman.

Again we find ourselves nearing the end of another academic year, and what an eventful year it has been! The year started with the opening of our new VCE and Administration building at Officer Campus and culminated in the recent announcement of a new Doveton Campus opening in 2021 InshaAllah. Recently, so many students and families joined us at our 2019 Open Day and I'd like to thank those who joined us to celebrate the achievements of our students. Despite the inclement weather, it was a wonderful day and I look forward to bringing everyone together again next year at Springvale Campus InshaAllah.

On the weekend, the College community celebrated the achievement of our 2019 graduates. While we wait in anticipation of their final results, I'd like to commend them for the commitment and consistency they've demonstrated throughout the year. We are proud of their efforts and humbled by their leadership and character. As we come to terms with their absence at the College, our happiness comes from trusting that each one of them will go on to realise their unique dreams and make a positive contribution to both the Muslim and broader community InshaAllah.

For students who will continue their studies next year, over recent weeks the College has been focused both on wrapping up the current year and planning for 2020. We've hosted many family information nights and invited students to participate in transition activities. Whether it be a student starting Foundation or moving from one school to the next, our teaching team work especially hard now to assist students make a smooth transition into the coming year. With secondary exams now completed, both primary and secondary teachers are now preparing reports for the end of the year. This letter is to share some important updates and reminders for 2020.

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2020 SCHOOL FEES

The College recently reviewed our fee structure. Consideration was given the economic position of many of our families, comparison to similar schools as well as operational costs of the College. As a result of the review, a modest increase of 5% will be applied to School Fees from 2020. This is the first increase in 2 years. Composite fees, building levy and application fees remain unchanged. Full details of our 2020 fee structure is available on the College website. A summary is included in the table below:

	School Fee Per Annum (first student)	International Fee Per Annum (per child)
Primary (Foundation – Grade 6)	\$2,310	\$18,500
Middle School (Year 7 – 9)	\$2,625	
Senior School (Year 10 – 12)	\$2,940	

We also remind our families of the range of discounts the College makes available including sibling discounts (local students only), a 7.5% discount for upfront payment of fees, a 5% discount for fees paid via direct debit and discounted fees available for families on concession or health care card. If you would like to review your circumstances and ensure the appropriate discounts have been applied to your fees, please make an appointment with a member of our finance team by calling Springvale Campus reception.

BUS SERVICE FOR 2020

Parents/carers are reminded that renewals for 2020 and new applications for the student bus service to and from College are required to be submitted online by 13 December (www.otobus.com.au/minaretcollege). As family circumstances can change from year to year, it is not assumed that current students will continue using the bus service next year. Therefore, if you intend to continue using the bus service, please register with Otobus by the due date to avoid disappointment. After registration, Otobus will keep families informed of the status of their request. Once a place is confirmed, pick up and drop off times will be communicated by Friday 24 January. For further questions, please contact Otobus directly or refer to the FAQ section on their website (www.otobus.com.au/mcfaq).

BOOKS FOR 2020 – ORDERING AND DELIVERY

Booklists have been distributed to allow for sufficient time to organise resources for the year ahead. We encourage parents to order via the Lilydale website or submit completed booklists at reception by Tuesday 10 December. If delivery to the College has been selected, books will be available at the College Start of Year Meet and Greet Day (details below).

START OF YEAR MEET AND GREET DAY

Last year we introduced a Start of Year Meet and Greet Day. The intent of the day is to start building positive partnerships between the College and parents even before students begin the year. The day is hosted by myself as Executive Principal alongside members of my Executive and Senior Leadership teams. You will hear an update on our progress and intentions for the coming year. It is also an

opportunity to meet teachers who will work closely with you and your child. For the convenience of our families, this year we have also organised for Lilydale Books to deliver books on the same day. Please join myself and my team at Springvale Campus on Wednesday 22 January and Officer Campus on Thursday 23 January. Details such as start time for each day will be announced via our Facebook page and website closer to the date.

SKOOLBAG – DECOMMISSIONED

As a result of feedback, we are streamlining the way we communicate with our Minaret Family and the broader community. The College currently uses various platforms and we recognise it can sometimes be confusing to know where to find current information. To start this process, from 2020, the SKOOLBAG app will no longer be used for communication. We encourage all families to like our Minaret College Facebook page for current updates – including important announcements and reminders as well as sharing photos from events at both campuses. Significant announcements are also regularly added to the Minaret website. In 2020 we will continue to simplify the way we communicate and I look forward to sharing these improvements with you in due course.

TERM DATES

Term dates for 2020 have now been confirmed and are outlined below:

Term	First Day	Last Day
Term One	Grade 1 – Year 12 – Tues 28 Jan Foundation – Wed 29 Jan	Fri 3 April
Term Two	Tues 21 April	Fri 26 June
Term Three	Tues 14 July	Fri 18 Sept
Term Four	Mon 5 Oct	Fri 4 Dec

Please note that moving forward, the College will be closed on the Day of Arafat. As a means of expiation of our sins for the previous and coming year, the Day of Arafat is a significant opportunity for every Muslim and the College would like to allow our students and staff to seek maximum benefit from this significant day in our calendar. The specific date will be confirmed closer to the time.

VCE STUDENTS AND HIGH ACHIEVERS AWARD

The College has rewarded our VCE High Achievers for many years and we recently reviewed the reward structure for this year's graduates and beyond. We also received feedback from students on often unanticipated expenses they incur when transitioning from College to further studies or establishing themselves at work. We therefore decided the most appropriate way for the College to support our high achievers is through cash rewards.

The High Achiever Award now rewards students as follows:

ATAR Score	Prize	Plus!
99.85 – 99.95	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regardless of ATAR score:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$1,000 reward for each perfect study score of 50○ \$500 reward for each study score of 45 – 49○ \$200 reward for each study score of 40-44• Umrah Package for the Dux of each Campus.• If a Year 11 student achieves a perfect score of 50, they will be recognised in that year.• A recognition board with the names and year of graduation for all highest achievers is displayed in the main office.• The dux also gets a personalised plaque at the beginning of the next school year, presented at the general assembly.
99.75 – 99.80	\$8,000	
99.70 – 99.70	\$7,000	
99.60 – 99.65	\$6,000	
99.00 – 99.55	\$5,000	
97.00 – 98.95	\$4,000	
95.00 – 96.95	\$3,000	
90.00 – 94.95	\$2,000	
80.00 – 89.95	\$1,000	

In conclusion, thank you to all our families for your ongoing support this year and the great things we've been able to achieve for our current and future students. It's been a productive time and my team and I look forward to sharing the progress of our students in upcoming reports. I also look forward to sharing the outcomes of our VCE students in the coming weeks. Whatever their final ATAR, we are proud of each one of their successes. We don't say goodbye; instead, we welcome them as part of our College Alumni and look forward to sharing in their success in the years to come.

On behalf of my team, I wish all our Minaret Family a safe and joy-filled break and we look forward to welcoming students and their families back to 2020 at the Start of Year Meet and Greet Days!

Kind regards,



Mr Mohammed Taksim
Executive Principal