



MINARET COLLEGE

Islamic College of Melbourne South and East

17 January 2020

Dear Minaret Family

Assalam Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

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

Welcome to 2020! I hope all our families have had a relaxing break over recent weeks. More importantly, in light of recent bushfires, I hope it has also been a safe period for all. We look forward to welcoming students back to the College on **Tuesday 28 January** and first day for Foundation students on **Wednesday 29 January**. The purpose of this letter is to provide important information and reminders for the start of year.

2019 VCE Achievements

In my end of year letter last year, we were patiently waiting to hear of the successes of our VCE students. Alhamdulillah we were pleased that the hard work of our graduates translated into impressive study and ATAR scores. Notably, 14 of our 92 graduates achieved an ATAR above 80 (15% of students) and 5 students achieved an ATAR above 90.

Our congratulations go to all our graduates including Nour Refae (Dux of Officer Campus) achieving an ATAR of 97.65 and Omer Nafady (Dux of Springvale Campus) achieving 93.35. Nour also achieved a perfect study score of 50 for English (EAL). A perfect score is a prestigious achievement and the College is pleased that Nour is our second student to achieve such success MashaAllah. Additionally, Mustafaa Ali and Maryam Ferdous (both at Springvale Campus) also achieved outstanding results with a study score of 48 in Informatics and 49 in Visual Arts respectively. Congratulations to all our students, their families and teachers. It's wonderful to see the outcomes of positive partnerships translating to the success of our students.

Book Pick up and Meet and Greet – This week!

For families who have ordered books for delivery to the College, Lilydale will be at **Springvale campus on Wednesday 22 January and Officer campus on Thursday 23 January**. Start and end times for pick up is 11am until 2pm.

The Meet and Greet day has been moved to **Friday 24 January**. The Meet and Greet day is an opportunity for families to meet the Academic team who will be teaching our students in the year ahead. Opening lines of communication from the start of the year results in improved teacher-parent relationships and consequently, the success of our students. We hope our families are able to join us for the below scheduled times:

Springvale Campus Only:

- 12 – 1pm - Cyber-bullying information session

Both Campuses:

- 1.30 – 2.15pm – Jummah
- 2.15 – 4.15pm – Whole School Meet and Greet Session

Study Samurai

At Minaret College we prioritise both the academic performance and wellbeing of our students. To support students achieve their learning and life goals, the College has subscribed to a service named Study Samurai. Study Samurai provides students and their families with online resources for both study skills and wellbeing. Resources include online modules and videos. The content is largely designed for secondary students however we encourage all families to review the content and benefit from this valuable resource. A leaflet has been included with this letter with an outline of available content.

Study Samurai can be accessed at their website <http://www.studysamurai.com>. The below username and password can be used to login:

- Username: minaret@studysamurai.com
- Password: goodtgreat

Hifz Program

This year our Hifz program will commence its third year. The program will run for students from grade 3 to year 7 who have a goal to memorise The Holy Quran. Enrolment requires substantial commitment from both the College and students, with classes running from 7.30am each week day. Assessments for new students will be conducted in the first few weeks of term one so if you are interested in enrolling your child in the Hifz program please contact the relevant Head of Senior Primary at each campus (Sister Ayesha Farooq for Springvale Campus and Sister Imrana Roomi for Officer Campus).

New Canteen Menu – Springvale Campus

A new year brings a new menu for our Springvale Campus. As per the changes made at Officer in 2019, Minaret Café will open to serve our students and staff at the start of the year. The change will introduce a new menu as well as the ability to order online via the FlexiSchools app. The café is establishing the online account and details will be sent to Springvale families when orders can be submitted online.

Term dates for 2020

As a reminder, term dates for 2020 are as per the table below. If a student needs to be absent from school for more than three days within the term, please contact our Admin team to submit a leave application form. Completed forms should be submitted to the college 5 working days before intended leave dates to allow for assessment and decision making.

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

In conclusion, we've wrapped up 2019 with wonderful results and we carry that positive momentum into 2020. Myself and my team are looking forward to another productive and successful year of student learning and growth InshaAllah.

Kind regards,



Mohammed Taksim
Executive Principal



KEEP
CALM

AND BE

PREPARED

STUDY SAMURAI LIBRARY



Learn more about study skills, mindset and well-being so you can reduce the stress of school and achieve your personal academic best. Login at studysamurailibrary.com

USERNAME:

PASSWORD:



THE STUDY SAMURAI LIBRARY

1. THE ELES ONLINE STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK WEBSITE

Working Better At Home Units

1. Home Study Environment
2. Organisation and Filing
3. Time Management Skills
4. Managing Workload
5. Dealing with Distractions
6. Overcoming Procrastination
7. Developing Motivation
8. Goal Setting
9. Lifestyle and Balance
10. Managing Stress

Working Better At School Units

1. Will we ever use this?
2. Using Classtime
3. Asking for Help
4. Dealing with Conflict
5. Groupwork Skills

Improving Your Skills Units

1. Reading Skills
2. Writing Skills
3. Mathematical Skills
4. Science Skills
5. Foreign Language Skills
6. Assignments Skills
7. Research Skills
8. Presentation Skills

Improving How You Study

1. Summarising
2. Active Studying
3. Preparing for Exam Blocks
4. Test-Taking Techniques
5. After Tests & Exams

Extra 'general' mini-units

1. Starting Secondary School
2. Becoming a Senior Student
3. Bullying: Issues and Strategies
4. Managing Part-Time Jobs
5. Your Brain and Memory
6. Live Your Best Life
7. Educational Kinesiology
8. Living Across 2 Houses
9. Travel: A Motivator to Learn
10. University: A New Adventure

Extra 'technology' mini-units

1. Technology Tools
2. Basic Computer Skills
3. Be CyberSmart
4. Useful Apps for iPads
5. Microsoft OneNote

2. THE HUMAN CONNECTIONS ONLINE WELLBEING RESOURCE

Working Better At Home Units

- Module 1: What is stress?
- Module 2: Stress and peak performance
- Module 3: Positive Psychology, what determines happiness
- Module 4: Quick relaxation & wellbeing tips
- Module 5: Learning how to relax, progressive muscle relaxation
- Module 6: Meditation
- Module 7: Mindfulness
- Module 8: Stress and the way you think
- Module 9: Changing your thinking
- Module 10: Turning negative thinking into positive thinking
- Module 11: Breathing techniques
- Module 12: Changing your focus

- Module 13: Pressure points to help you relax
- Module 14: Physiology, nutrition and sleep
- Module 15: Time management
- Module 16: Self-image beliefs
- Module 17: How to create positive habits

- Bonus Module 1: What is the Tapping Technique
- Bonus Module 2: How to use The Tapping Technique
- Bonus Module 3: How to start Tapping
- Bonus Module 4: Research Tapping
- Bonus Module 5: Anxiety

3. 75 VIDEO LESSONS (20-30 MINS EACH) FROM TWO EXPERTS DR PRUE SALTER & ROCKY BIASI

PERFORMANCE:

ACHIEVE PERSONAL BEST PERFORMANCE

- Neuroplasticity (ROCKY)
- Brain Rules (ROCKY)
- 7 Motivation Strategies (ROCKY)
- What Drives Human Behavior (ROCKY)
- How to Set Goals (ROCKY)
- Maximising Classtime (PRUE)
- Practice Methods (ROCKY)
- Mental Practice (ROCKY)
- Practice Principles (ROCKY)
- Getting in the Flow (ROCKY)
- Your Brain and Memory (PRUE)
- Finding Help (PRUE)
- Aligning Goals To Values (ROCKY)
- Model Masters (ROCKY)
- Sustain Progress Develop Mastery (ROCKY)

STUDY SKILLS:

KNOW HOW TO MAKE LEARNING EASY

- Study Notes 1 (PRUE)
- Mind Maps (PRUE)
- How to Study (PRUE)
- Test-Taking Techniques (PRUE)
- Common Study Mistakes (PRUE)
- Study Notes 2 (PRUE)
- Learning Preferences (PRUE)
- Improving Reading Skills (PRUE)
- Improving Handwriting (PRUE)
- After Tests & Exams (PRUE)
- Study Notes 3 (PRUE)
- Subject Specific Study (PRUE)
- Advanced Memory Techniques (PRUE)
- Preparing for Exam Blocks (PRUE)
- Essay Writing Skills (PRUE)

TIME MANAGEMENT:

BECOME ORGANISED, EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE

- Home Study Environment (PRUE)
- Organisation and Filing (Paper) (PRUE)
- Organisation and Filing (Digital Resources) (PRUE)
- Independent Learning (PRUE)
- Managing Workload (PRUE)
- Time to Allocate to Schoolwork (PRUE)
- Creating Afternoon Routines (PRUE)
- Dealing with Technology Distractions (PRUE)
- Dealing with Other Distractions (PRUE)
- Overcoming Procrastination (PRUE)
- Prioritising Techniques (PRUE)
- Managing Workload 2 (PRUE)
- Planning Holiday Study (PRUE)
- The One Thing (ROCKY)
- 80/20 Rule (ROCKY)

MINDSET:

DEVELOP A GROWTH AND SUCCESS MINDSET

- When will we ever use this? (PRUE)
- How Winners Think (ROCKY)
- Identity Beliefs (ROCKY)
- Fixed and Growth Mindset (ROCKY)
- Vision and Purpose (ROCKY)
- Senior School Mindset (PRUE)
- How to Change Negative Thinking (ROCKY)
- Problem Solving Questions (ROCKY)
- Mental Mindset of Champions (ROCKY)
- Focus (ROCKY)
- Keeping Things in Perspective (PRUE)
- The Power of Failure (ROCKY)
- 5 Steps To Get Your Head Right For Senior School (ROCKY)
- Changing Your Thinking ABC (ROCKY)
- Strategies for a Growth Mindset folder (ROCKY)

WELLBEING:

HAVE ENERGY AND MOTIVATION

- Lifestyle Factors (PRUE)
- Power Poses (ROCKY)
- Positive Psychology (ROCKY)
- Starting Your Day For Success (ROCKY)
- Creating Positive Habits (ROCKY)
- Sleep and Study (PRUE)
- Stress and Anxiety Relief with The Tapping Technique (ROCKY)
- Accessing The Emotions You Want (Anchoring) (ROCKY)
- Asking Better Questions to change your mental focus (ROCKY)
- Healthy Mind Platter (ROCKY)
- Nourishing Body and Brain (PRUE)
- Meditation and Mindfulness (ROCKY)
- Happiness Advantage (ROCKY)
- Wellbeing Factors (ROCKY)
- Progressive Muscle Relaxation (ROCKY)