



Meet Your 2024 School Captains!

We counted your votes and the results are in! These are your student leaders for 2024. Here's a chance to get to know the people behind the faces and names you will see often during the school year

Captains

Officer Campus

Farjad Safwan, 11A



Hobbies: Playing sports and video games.

What makes you a great school captain:

I love listening to my fellow schoolmates and I want to be a voice for all of us. I also like to work with different people, and I am excited to bring together students, teachers, and parents to work in harmony as a community of Minaret College.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where each student's unique talents are nurtured, and yet, our sense of identity as Australian Muslims are maintained. There would be open communication and students will feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas with their teachers.

Yousra Alekozai, 11B



Hobbies: Travelling and reading.

What makes you a great school captain:

I am a very dedicated person, and I am committed to foster a sense of belonging and unity amongst the students. I strongly feel that I have the ability to lead and inspire others in our Minaret community. I also possess the ability to effectively communicate with others.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where every student can thrive and reach their full potential in an inclusive and nurturing environment. I also envision a school where diversity is celebrated, and every voice is heard. To achieve this, I will work on ways to improve on collaboration within our school community. I will strive to improve on extracurricular activities and make them accessible to all.

Springvale Campus

Iiman Jama, 11D



Hobbies: Reading, painting, and teaching.

What makes you a great school captain:

some attributes that make me a great captain is my ability to be socially and emotionally available to others. As well as being able to set things straight.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where we celebrate not only our triumphs but also the path that brought us there. A place where we are not afraid to admit our mistakes, but rather, use them as catalysts for growth.

Ibrahim Muhammad Bhangar, 11A



Hobbies: Playing soccer.

What makes you a great school captain:

I'm studious, I think ahead and look at the bigger picture. I make quick and good decisions in pressured situations. I try my very best to influence my peers in a positive manner.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where everyone tries to the best of their ability and aims to be like the prophet Muhammad (saws).

Vice-Captains

Officer Campus

Yousif Al Dekhil, 11B



Hobbies: Playing soccer, talking to my friends and reading.

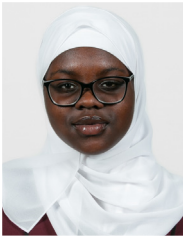
What makes you a great school captain:

In times of need, I am able to step and take charge. I believe in having good communication skills to bring people together, and I feel that this is my strength.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where everyone feels included. I strongly believe in the importance of establishing a cooperative community where the voices of teachers and students are heard regardless of their backgrounds.



Habiba Seidu, 11B



Hobbies: Reading and cooking.

What makes you a great school captain:

I strongly believe in the importance of communication as it is core to expressing ideas and concerns within our Minaret community. Additionally, I consistently uphold integrity and will ensure that my decisions and actions are guided by principles of honesty and fairness in every situation.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where each individual feels not only welcomed but equally valued and included as those amongst them. I aspire to create an environment where culture and diversity acts as a binding force fostering togetherness, rather than divisions. Students should be empowered to engage, learn and grow with the help of one another. I see a school where students are more than just learners; but mentors, motivators and molders of their future.

Springvale Campus

Kehan Korcari, 11A



Hobbies: Playing soccer and hanging out with friends.

What makes you a great school captain:

I believe I am charismatic, approachable, and well spoken.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where students are influenced by the right examples which can help them make a positive impact in society.



Kameela Ahmed, 11A



Hobbies: I recently got into journaling, and I also like spending time with my family.

What makes you a great school captain: I enjoy talking to all different types of people and helping them in any way I can.

As a school captain, my dream is to have a school where everyone can be able to tell their problems to me or any of the other captains so that we can all work together to improve the school.



Friendship Games



In a great display of camaraderie and sportsmanship, Minaret College (Officer Campus) and Berwick Grammar came together for an inaugural Friendship Games, which included volleyball, table tennis, and cricket. The Games started with a gripping cricket match, which was interrupted by heavy downpour, and the match was declared a draw. In table tennis, the spirit of friendship shone the brightly, with Berwick Grammar edging out Minaret College in a closely contested match. The games culminated with an intense volleyball match, where Minaret College emerged victorious. As a gesture of friendship, a Challenge Shield was awarded to the school with the highest accumulated points across all three sports. Berwick Grammar emerged as the overall winner. Thanks for being gracious hosts at your beautiful school, and we look forward to the next round of games.



Abdullah ibn Mas'ud reported: The Messenger of Allah (saws) said, "You must be truthful. Verily, truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man continues to be truthful and encourages honesty until he is recorded with Allah as truthful. And beware of falsehood. Verily, falsehood leads to wickedness and wickedness leads to the Hellfire. A man continues tell lies and encourages falsehood until he is recorded with Allah as a liar. Sahih al-Bukhārī 6094

4 Things You Can Do For a Smooth Transition into 2024

#1 Put in your order for schoolbooks by **Fri, 15 Dec 2023**, to be able to collect it at your respective campuses on **Thu, 25 Jan 2024**.

#2 Ensure your laptop payments have been made before the start of term to avoid any disruptions.

#3 Familiarise yourself with these updated policies:

1. [Student Code of Conduct](#)
2. [Suspension and Expulsion Policy](#)
3. [Student Discipline Policy](#)
4. [Student Social Media Policy](#)

#4 The week before the start of school, check that your schoolbag has all you need, your device is charged, uniforms ready and you've got all that positive energy and smiles ready for the start of Term 1.

See you back in school on Tue, 30 Jan 2024!

Honesty & Integrity



Executive Principal Mohammad Taksim with Billy Dib, a distinguished speaker and former World Boxing Champion, when he visited Springvale Campus.

Assalamu alaikum dear parents and students

In the past months, we have witnessed the world change in unimaginable ways. A lot of it has been hard to see, and as we watch from across the globe, we pray earnestly for our brothers and sisters in Palestine. In a hadith, our beloved Prophet (saws) said, "The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." This is why we cannot let our duas for the ummah in Palestine falter. Oh Allah (SWT), bestow ease and calm upon our brothers and sisters in Gaza, protect them and bestow peace and security to Palestine. Ameen.

As a community that values compassion and unity, fundraising events will be held across our campus to provide essential aid and support to Palestine. I hope you support and encourage your child's participation in giving back to the community and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

This term's theme is 'Honesty and Integrity' and as Muslims, it is important that we uphold these values, especially in these difficult times. In school, students were reminded that being truthful, sincere and kind in our speech, actions and thoughts are values that are integral to our deen.

This term, we have also reviewed several of our school policies to ensure that they are up-to-date and effective. It is important that our policies clearly outline our expectations of student behaviour and the consequences if these expectations are not met. You will be able to find the list of updated policies in the column on the left.

I am also happy to announce that in the coming days, we will be launching a new and improved Minaret College website. The new website features refreshed photos, with clearer navigation and easy to digest information. Do drop by and have a look around. Also on the subject of new things, you may have noticed that our newsletter now has a new name - Akhbar Al Manarah أخبار المنارة - which means the News of Minaret. This name was coined by our very own Sheikh Abdul Rahman Zyka, to reflect our Islamic and Arabic foundations.

The end of year is always bittersweet for me. As we say farewell to the graduating classes, I realise that it is such a great honour to have had the chance to watch them grow, recognise their potential, and take flight. Graduating students, I wish you all the best in whatever lies next for you. I hope you carry the Minaret torch burning brightly in all you do and that your life choices always be guided by the Islamic values that have been instilled in you. You will always be a part of the Minaret Family, and I encourage you to continue to connect with the College and your peers via the Alumni Network.

As we head off for our breaks, I'd like to congratulate both our students and parents for putting in the hard work to make this a fruitful school year. I hope you spend some quality time with family in the holidays, and that we see you ready for a fresh start next year, InshaAllah.

Mohammed Taksim, Executive Principal



Helping Hands Fundraiser Raises \$5,000

The Helping Hands Fundraiser at Officer Campus proved to be a shining example of how our collective efforts can make a positive impact on the world. While we managed to raise \$5,000 for a water well project, what unfolded on that day was nothing short of heartwarming.

On the morning of the fundraiser, our campus was transformed into a colourful and bustling marketplace. There was a range of stalls, each brimming with enthusiasm and student creativity. We had our sweets and tea stalls, facepainting stall, henna stall, the surprise dip, and the crowd favourite candle stall, with vanilla-scented candles, handmade by students.

The Helping Hands Fundraiser wasn't just about raising funds; it was a reminder that, as a community, we possess the ability to be the driving force behind transformative change, one well, one small act of kindness at a time.

Our Sporting Stars

You've probably seen them running around on the school oval or representing Minaret College in tournaments and competitions. But did you know they play with other clubs outside of school? Here are just some of many sportsmen and sportswomen amidst us who are making a mark across Victoria, and beyond!



Nur Syadiyah binte Mohammad Shah, 7A, Officer Campus

Syadiyah is an all-rounded sportswoman. She came to Minaret College earlier this year, from Singapore where she was a Multi Sport Academy student athlete in Singapore Sports School. There, she also excelled in swimming and floorball. She currently plays on the Casey Cannons Under 14 Hockey Team, and never misses a chance to play any other sport.

Years playing hockey: 5 Highest hockey achievement:

Champions in Active Singapore Under 12

"I think that different types of sports help to work and develop in different motor skills. For example, the shooting and dribbling in basketball develops hand-eye coordination, and badminton improves agility, while swimming works on the core strength. Playing a variety of sports has allowed me to hone different skills sets, improve my stamina and keeps me fit. It also trains me to focus, while I'm engaged in play, as well as in school."



Seif Saleh, 9A, Springvale Campus

Seif's outstanding achievements and dedication to tennis have earned him a spot on the international stage, as he proudly represents the Muslim community and Australia. This included being invited to represent Australia in the Junior Wimbledon Tennis Open United Kingdom, which is an extraordinary accomplishment for a young athlete. He however made the choice to sit the competition out, as his family had contracted COVID-19.

Years playing tennis: 7 Highest tennis achievement:

Coming in 5th Representing Australia for Hardcourt Worldwide Championship Sept 2022.

"My parents are my heroes, always cheering me on and inspiring me to do my best. They support me through thick and thin, motivating me to strive for excellence in everything I do. Their belief in me is my driving force, pushing me to improve and reach for my goals. I look up to them not just as role models but as true heroes in my life, shaping the person I want to be. My dad always tells me, 'It's better to train in harder conditions so when you play in easy conditions, you'll perform so much better.' This wisdom underscores the value of resilience and preparation, emphasising that challenges in training pave the way for remarkable achievements in more favourable circumstances."



Ali Emin, 11D, Springvale Campus

Ali is as well known on the Springvale Campus field as he is among his footy mates in the Noble Park Bulls.

Years playing footy: 5 Highest hockey achievement:

Grand finals with the Noble Park Bulls in 2023 for Eastern Football Netball League (EFNL) under 16 Division B; awarded the title of Best Player under 9 years old for Noble Park Bulls.

"This sport has taught me to be resilient in the face of challenges, both on and off the field. Whether it's a tough game or a setback in life, footy has helped me bounce back and keep going. The best thing about footy, in my opinion, is the thrill of competition and the sense of camaraderie within the team. The adrenaline rush during a game, the support of your teammates, and the satisfaction of working together to achieve a common goal are all incredibly fulfilling aspects of this sport. My favorite inspirational quote is 'To see results you have never seen, you have to put yourself where you haven't been'. This quote reminds me that growth and success often require stepping out of your comfort zone and taking on new challenges. It's a mantra that keeps me motivated in both sports and life."



Malik Ghazal, 7C, Officer Campus

Malik plays soccer for Berwick City, but enjoys playing any sport that is made available to him in school, from footy to basketball and track and field.

Years playing soccer: 6 Highest hockey achievement:

Making it to the NPL and being one of the best players there.

"My hero is Jude Bellingham because he was really good at soccer from a very young age, and was already playing for a big club. The best thing about soccer is that it's fast paced, very intense and there're a lot of aspects to the game."



Our Shining Hifz Stars



We are delighted to shine a light on the outstanding accomplishments of some of our dedicated students in the Hifz (Qur'an Memorisation) program. These young individuals have shown exceptional commitment and determination, MashaAllah, and we are proud to share their achievements with you.



Yousef Abuelroos, Springvale Campus

Yousef has been a part of our Hifz program for just three years, and his progress is nothing short of extraordinary. He has already memorised half of the Quran! His dedication and hard work are truly commendable. Yousef's journey serves as an inspiration to all, proving that with steadfast determination, even the most challenging goals can be achieved.



Abu Bakar Gesod, Springvale Campus

Abu Bakar is another remarkable student in our Hifz program. He has successfully memorized 13 Juzz of the Qur'an, and his recitation is both beautiful and moving. Abu Bakar's unwavering enthusiasm for learning is truly impressive. He constantly seeks to expand his knowledge and deepen his connection with the Qur'an.



Safura Azadzo, Officer Campus

Safura is a shining example of dedication and resilience. She is undoubtedly the most committed and hardworking student in her age group. Safura's passion for Hifz is evident in her progress. What sets her apart is her unwavering commitment to continue her Quranic studies next year in grade 11. Safura's determination and love for the Quran serve as an inspiration to her peers and mentors alike.



Abu Bakar Khatri, Doveton Campus

Abu Bakar Khatri, like his peers, has shown remarkable dedication to the Hifz program. His consistent efforts and commitment to memorising the Quran are truly commendable. He is making steady progress and serves as a role model for those who aspire to embark on a similar journey.

The accomplishments of these students are testament to their unwavering dedication and the quality of our Hifz program. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these young individuals for their remarkable achievements. They are a source of inspiration for all of us, reminding us of the power of determination and the beauty of connecting with the Quran.

At Minaret College, we are committed to nurturing the spiritual growth and academic success of our students, and we are excited to see the continued growth of our Hifz program. We thank our students, their families, and our dedicated educators for their unwavering support.

Our Amazing Public Speakers



We're incredibly proud of our brilliant speakers, Rihaab Afzal of Year 6B, for securing the 2nd prize and Izzah Atirah from 6C for receiving a well-deserved consolation prize at the interschool Public Speaking competition for primary schools, organised by the Rotary Club Pakenham! Their confidence and impressive oratory skills were truly remarkable, showcasing the excellence our school fosters. Let's applaud their hard work and determination. Congratulations to both our winners!



Parent letter

Dear Minaret College Staff,

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the support and encouragement you have provided to my daughter, Rihaab Afzal, during her time at school.

It gives me great pleasure to share the news that she recently won an award in the field of public speaking.

I am truly proud of her accomplishment, and I know that it wouldn't have been possible without the nurturing and educational environment that Minaret College has created. Your dedicated teachers and staff have played a pivotal role in fostering her skills and confidence, and for that, I am immensely thankful.

I want to extend my gratitude to her teacher, Sister Saadiah Rahim, and the entire faculty for their guidance and mentorship. Your commitment to excellence in education has had a significant impact on my daughter's growth and development.

Winning this award has not only boosted her confidence but also instilled a passion for public speaking and communications. I am excited to see her continue to thrive and grow as a result of the exceptional education and support she receives at Minaret College.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to nurturing young minds and for providing an environment where students like Rihaab Afzal can shine. We are grateful for your contributions to her education and personal growth.

Thanks,
Muhammad Afzal

Proud Minaret Graduates

Our beloved Year 12 students celebrated their graduation at separate ceremonies for each of the two campuses. Proud family and friends, teachers, school leaders and College board members were in attendance, as students reflected on some of the most exciting years of their lives at Minaret College. School leaders shared words of wisdom and reminded our graduates that as they go forth and make their mark in the world, to always embody Islamic values and draw strength from their faith.

May Allah (SWT) keep them steadfast and grant them success in this life and the next. Ameen.

Congratulations class of 2023!!!



TechTigers Shine in Debut Competitions

The TechTigers and TechTigers Juniors embodied the spirit of exploration, learning, and collaboration, in their first ever competitions, setting stellar examples for young minds in the world of STEM.



TechTigers Juniors took center stage at the First Lego League Explore Festival hosted by the University of Newcastle on November 19, 2023. In the spirited event, our young innovators presented their exceptional team model to a panel of three judges, standing tall among 20 other enthusiastic participants.

Their dedication and creativity were met with well-deserved recognition as the team clinched the "Excellent Award." This accolade not only acknowledges their outstanding efforts but also celebrates their commitment to teamwork, innovation, and the core values of the FIRST LEGO League. Congratulations to the entire team for this excellent achievement, and may this be just the beginning of many more successes in their journey of innovation!



In their debut First Lego League Challenge at Swinburne University, our TechTigers aced their Project Innovation and Robot Design presentations, earning an outstanding rating for communication. In Robot Missions, they nailed second place with 225 points, stepping it up to a whopping 250 in the final round, to clinch the prestigious Rising All-Star award! Let's celebrate their dedication, fun spirit, and stellar performance in the world of robotics!

Term Dates 2024

Term One

Tue, 30 Jan - Thu, 28 Mar

(Foundation students start on Wed, 31 Jan for half days for three days)

Public Holidays:

Fri, 26 Jan - Australia Day

Mon, 11 Mar - Labour Day & Ramadan (TBC)

Tue, 9 Apr - Eid ul Fitr (TBC)

Term Two

Tue, 16 Apr - Fri, 28 Jun

Public Holidays:

Thu, 25 Apr - Anzac Day

Mon, 10 Jun - King's Birthday

Mon, 17 Jun - Eid ul Adha (TBC)

Term Three

Tue, 16 Jul - Fri, 20 Sep

Term Four

Mon, 7 Oct - Fri, 6 Dec

Public Holidays:

Mon, 4 Nov – Student Free Day/
Staff PD Day

Tue, 5 Nov – Melbourne Cup

Parents are reminded to plan for holidays only during the stipulated term breaks. Students are required to attend school regularly, unless a legitimate reason is provided by parents/ students and accepted by the respective Head of School. To be considered for automatic promotion to the next year level, students must attain an attendance rate of 90% or above under normal circumstances.

A walk down memory lane

It was a nostalgic afternoon for 28 ex-Minaret College students, who came together to celebrate a meaningful milestone - it's been 20 years since they graduated from Minaret! The Mohammad Hassan Hall was abuzz as 130 alumni, their families and staff exchanged greetings and stories from yesteryears. The event kicked off with a tour of the Springvale campus. Exclamations of "oh wow" were heard throughout the tour, as they were shown the many upgraded and modern facilities Minaret students of today enjoy. After a welcome address by Br Salifu Baba, a familiar face to the alumni, a sumptuous lunch was served. Perhaps the most joyous segment of the event was the quiz, which consisted of questions that were nostalgic for the alumni. It was amazing to see that the bonds between Minaret students never fade. Alhamdulillah, it was a meaningful event, filled with joy and fond memories.

If you are Minaret College Alumni, reach out to us so that we will be able to keep in touch and inform you of alumni events. Email newsletter@minaret.vic.edu.au

PROFILE

Meet Shaakirah



A familiar face at Officer Campus, Sr Shaakirah was recently shortlisted as one of the top five teachers Australia-wide, for a Teacher Award for Excellence in Primary English Teaching

Sr Shaakirah Khan has been with Minaret College for the past three years, and is currently in the last lap of the Teacher Excellence Program with the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Education. We find out what drives her and how she keeps her passion for teaching burning.

Was it always your dream to become a teacher?

No, it wasn't a career I had dreamt of, but I have always loved children. I had my own children when I was young, but got the opportunity to study to become a teacher when my youngest daughter went to childcare.

What are some principles you carry with you as you walk into your classroom each day?

I always remember to treat others with respect and to treat them the way I would want to be treated. Secondly, I always give 100% into everything I do.

How would you describe your job?

My main task is to provide support students who need it. But if asked to describe my job, I would say it's highly rewarding, but it is hard work. We do so much more than teach the students the curriculum -- we nurture them, watch them grow each year and help them to become confident individuals. The best

part is seeing the look in their eyes when have completed or understood the class work.

What do you like to see in your students? Independence, trying their best, making good choices, and being able to understand and express their emotions appropriately. But the number one for me is kindness to one another.

Describe the most rewarding experience. One experience I can never forget is when I was a Year 3 teacher. The students were constantly in conflict, especially during their lunch time soccer games. I decided to work really closely with these students to help them improve their behaviour. And then at some point in that school year, we had an end-of-year movie screening and these students wanted me to sit with them. They even got me a drink and popcorn, so I asked praised their kindness. They said, "Mrs Khan you taught us kindness, by being kind to us".

"Mrs Khan you taught us kindness, by being kind to us". <3



Of Beginnings and Ends

While our Year 12s bade goodbye to their beloved campuses before they headed off to study for their VCE Exams, we also helped our Year 6 and Foundation students ease into the next stage in their schooling life

Last day for Year 12 Students

It was bitter sweet as our Year 12 students celebrated their last day of classes. The halls were filled with joyous voices as the students dressed up in colourful costumes for the parade, while our younger students lined the halls to wish them well.



Year 7 Information Sessions

To ensure a seamless transition into Year 7, Information Sessions were held at both campuses to give parents insight to life at Minaret, the curriculum offerings, our educational approach and student wellbeing. It was a promising start to an exciting journey of education and growth.



Transition Day for Foundation Students

Officer Campus hosted the first Transition Day for students starting Foundation year in 2024. The excited students were engaged in exciting and meaningful activities, to get them familiarised and comfortable with their peers and surroundings. Our Year 5 students were assigned as buddies to help the younger ones feel more at ease.

