



Our Qur'an Champions

Alhamdulillah, the Minaret College Qur'an Competition 2024 drew some fierce competition, which gave the judges much to deliberate on. It was an amazing way to encourage our young students to get closer to the book of Allah. The competition brought together students who have worked hard to perfect their recitation and deepen their connection to the Quran.

Students from both primary and secondary schools across all

three Minaret College campuses showcased their dedication and love for the Quran.

Congratulations to all the participants for your effort and commitment. Your recitations were truly inspirational, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Your hard work, passion, and love for the Qur'an have truly shined through. May Allah (SWT) increase all of us, in our love and connection to the Qur'an, Ameen.

Level 1 – Grade 1

- 1st Yusuf Rahmati - Officer
- 2nd Alman Mohammed - Springvale
- 3rd Aabir Muhammad Sattar - Springvale
- 3rd Ainul Shuhadah - Doveton

Level 2 – Grade 2

- 1st Sudais Hafzi - Springvale
- 2nd Abdul Rahman Ashna - Doveton
- 3rd Hamza Elzouby - Officer

Level 3 – Grade 3

- 1st Raees Hussein Peerboccous - Officer
- 2nd Rukaya Masri - Springvale
- 3rd Mustafa Azizi - Springvale

Level 4 – Grade 4

- 1st Fayyadh Bin Muhammad Nur Hakkim - Officer
- 2nd Mohamed Aboukhdr - Springvale
- 3rd Umar Bin Ahmad Zaki - Springvale
- 3rd Saffan Hussain Zafar - Officer

Level 5 – Grade 5

- 1st Fatima Hassan - Springvale
- 2nd Mohamed Elzouby - Officer
- 3rd Syahmi Lokman - Springvale

Level 6 – Grade 6

- 1st Saif Mohammad Haidar - Officer
- 2nd Muhammad Uzair Khan - Officer
- 3rd Umar Farouq Ardo - Springvale

Level 7 – Surah Ar-Rahman

- 1st Yaqub Mohammed - Officer
- 2nd Faiza Alam - Springvale
- 3rd Yarra Elhati - Officer
- 3rd Alesha Asmi - Officer

Level 8 – Surah Ya-seen

- 1st Abid Abdu Salam - Springvale
- 2nd Hami Kaleem Mohammed - Officer
- 3rd Malik Ghazal - Officer

Level 9 – Surah Al-Baqarah

- 1st Talha Khan - Springvale
- 1st Muiz Musadiq - Springvale
- 2nd Tuqa Abdel Khalek - Officer
- 3rd Isra Abdulaziz Musa - Springvale

Level 10 – Hifz (Primary)


- 1st Abubakar Khatri - Doveton
- 2nd Asiya Keshtiar - Officer
- 3rd Yousef Abuelroos - Springvale

Level 11 – Hifz (Secondary)

- 1st Abubakar Gesod - Springvale
- 2nd Khadija Keshtiar - Officer
- 3rd Zaeem Khan - Springvale



Little Stories, Big Ideas!

In the first semester, our literature students were encouraged to participate in national literary competitions to broaden their literary horizons. We are incredibly proud to announce that one of our talented students, Nadhira Kuswoyo from 10D at Springvale Campus clinched 2nd place in the Little Stories Big Ideas competition in the Senior (Year 10-12) category! 

Here's what the judge had to say about Nadhira's work: "Nadhira's entry offers an emotional exploration of how our past shapes our tomorrows. The contrast between the formation of early memories and their subsequent loss due to trauma brilliantly illustrates how our future can be dramatically altered in an instant. The language at the end hints at a tomorrow defined by medical terminology and loss, while the questioning final line leaves us pondering the impact of personal connections on our future selves."

Please join us in congratulating Nadhira on this incredible achievement and recognition. May her success pave the way for many more literary accomplishments at Minaret College!



ERASED BY NADHIRA K

Today, a Memory.

"she's doing it, her first steps!" a tender voice exclaims.
Everything still a blur, still the strokes of an unfinished painting
as my hippocampus forms.

"Have fun on your first day of prep!" a voice says, her words
mismatching the strain in her voice.

I glance at her.

And just like that, the last stroke of the world was formed.
I could see and understand as much as a 6-year-old could.

Tomorrow, dissociative Amnesia - "trauma response".

The sight of the world is accompanied by adult feelings.

"...reduced bilateral hippocampal."

I wonder

Was it the loss of you?



Responsibility and Accountability

Assalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh
Minaret Family

Alhamdulillah, we find ourselves at the end of Term 3, with just a short nine weeks in the final term ahead of us. These next few months are critical for our VCE students, who are racing toward a huge milestone in their schooling years. They are digging in and putting in all they have in preparation for the upcoming VCEs, even during the upcoming term break. VCE students, you have all our support and duas. May Allah SWT provide you ease in understanding and retaining what you have learned, strength and endurance as you put in the hours, and guidance and confidence as you sit for the exams. Ameen.

The theme for this term, Responsibility, reminds us that we are accountable for our actions and decisions we make in life. Our Prophet Muhammad (saw) exemplified an acute consciousness of his responsibilities towards others. One of many examples is how he shortened a prayer out of consideration for a mother whose child was crying. In the same way, we should constantly be aware of our words and actions, and be mindful of the effect they may have on those around us. I take this as a reminder first to myself, that we should always be kind in our actions and words, and speak up if we see an injustice, as these are our responsibilities upon those around us.

And speaking of kindness and grace, this term we witnessed a great loss of a dear sister and Minaret College staff member, who was generous with her cheerful smiles and salams. and was known for her kindness. Sr Nor'Aishah Shariff was a valued member of our team for almost 15 years. She was a sister with utmost integrity and encouraged students to approach everything with ihsan.

Sr Nor'Aishah provided numeracy support but perhaps more importantly, she assisted students with Qur'an and taught many Junior Primary students how to take wudu and perform salat. We ask that these deeds weigh heavily on her scale of good deeds and may they be a source of sadaqah jariyah (ongoing charity) for her. Ameen

I hope you all have a restful break, and return rejuvenated to end the academic year with renewed energy. See you in Term 4!

This term's theme is Responsibility. What does the Qur'an say about responsibility and personal accountability?

قُلْ أَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ أَدْعَى رَبًّا وَهُوَ رَبُّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَلَا تَكْسِبُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ إِلَّا عَلَيْهَا وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ
وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ تَمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

"Is it other than Allah I should desire as a lord while He is the Lord of all things? And every soul earns not [blame] except against itself, and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you concerning that over which you used to differ."

Surah Al-An'am, Ayah 164

Resilience, friendship and respect



Our School Counsellors organised a Resilience Workshop for Year 5 and 6 students at Officer Campus. They learned that in Islam, resilience is closely tied to faith (Iman), patience (Sabr), and trust in Allah SWT (Tawakkul). Believers are encouraged to face life's trials with perseverance, understanding that challenges are tests from Allah SWT to strengthen their character and faith. The Quran frequently reminds Muslims that with hardship comes ease (Quran 94:6), emphasising that difficulties are temporary and often lead to personal growth. Students participated in fun activities, and prepared a sharing on what they learned about resilience at the end of the workshop.

For our Year 3 students, counsellors held a workshop on friendship and respect, focusing on honouring each other's dignity, avoiding harmful words or actions, and upholding trust. Islam teaches that true friendship should be based on love for the sake of Allah SWT, meaning that friends should help one another grow closer to Him, fostering a bond that transcends worldly interests. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) emphasised the importance of choosing friends who inspire positive behaviour and strong moral values. Through a series of games and activities, our young students learned valuable lessons in treating those around them with gentleness and respect.

May all our students benefit from the workshops InshaAllah.



School Counsellor, Br Noor Asrik, shares why resilience is important for our children

Resilience is vital for children today because they face numerous challenges and pressures that can impact their development and mental health. Whether it's academic stress, social media pressures, or personal issues, resilience helps them adapt and bounce back from difficulties while maintaining a positive outlook.

It provides them with the tools to manage stress, overcome obstacles, and persist through tough times, which is essential for thriving in a rapidly changing world. Developing resilience also boosts their emotional strength and confidence, preparing them to handle future challenges more effectively.

What parents can do to instill resilience in children:

- Show them how to approach challenges with a positive mindset.
- Encourage problem-solving and a growth mindset to help them view obstacles as learning opportunities.
- Provide positive feedback and promote independence to build their confidence and self-reliance.
- Introduce coping techniques like mindfulness to equip them to manage stress effectively.
- Support their efforts and persistence through tough times to reinforce the importance of perseverance.



PROFILE

Meet Asrik



He used to be an emergency responder, and a counsellor to fellow firefighters. But today, School Counsellor Br Noor Asrik Bin Masahlan sits in quite a different office in the Officer Campus, and spends his days helping Minaret students overcome challenges, build confidence, and acquire new skills.



Describe your journey towards becoming a counsellor

In 2006, I was appointed as the HazMat Deputy Rota Commander with the Singapore Civil Defence Force, overseeing a team of 45 firefighters. During this period, I occasionally experienced burnout and found it challenging to cope. I then decided to be a paracounsellor, to be able to provide psychological support to others, and trained at the Singapore Armed Forces Counselling Centre. I then started supporting frontline units and trainees, and attended to ad hoc cases to provide care for the staff or the next of kin during a crisis emergency or incident.

Throughout the years, I attended various courses and workshops to continue to hone my competencies as a paracounsellor. As both a counsellor and an emergency responder, assisting others is an integral part of our role. My work often brings me into contact with people at their most vulnerable, and responding with compassion and urgency has become second nature.

What does a typical day as a school counsellor look like?

As a school counsellor at Minaret College, I start my day with checking in with Wellbeing Coaches and reviewing student referrals or concerns that need immediate attention. I often begin by meeting with students in scheduled sessions to discuss issues like academic stress, emotional well-being, or personal challenges. These sessions may be one-on-one or involve group activities focused on building social skills or improving peer relationships.



Throughout the day, I collaborate with teachers and coaches to ensure students' emotional needs are addressed, discussing behavioural patterns or academic performance linked to underlying concerns. The counselling team may also conduct workshops on topics like mental health awareness, mindfulness and self-care to promote a positive school environment. During breaks, students often drop by for informal chats, seeking advice or just to have a safe space to talk.

Each day varies depending on student needs, but the main focus of my work is creating a supportive environment where students feel heard, understood, and empowered to handle their challenges. Apart from being a school counsellor, I am still an emergency responder. I will often help students and staff in rendering first aid as a certified CPR and First aider.

What do you wish to achieve with every student you counsel?

In my counseling role, I aim to offer emotional support to each student, ensuring they feel understood and validated. My focus is on helping them develop effective coping skills and strategies for managing stress and personal challenges. I work to increase their self-awareness, assisting them in recognising their emotions and strengths, which supports their overall growth both academically and personally. I also strive to promote a positive outlook and improve their communication abilities, empowering them to make informed choices and lead a balanced, fulfilling life.



What are the biggest challenges you face?

Initially, I had a hard time remembering students' names! But that has improved after spending time talking to the students.

What do you find most rewarding?

The most fulfilling part of being a school counsellor is seeing the positive difference I can make in students' lives. It's incredibly rewarding to watch students overcome challenges, build confidence, or acquire new skills. Building trust with students and helping them through their emotional and academic journeys is also deeply gratifying. Knowing that I've contributed to their growth and success, and supported them during tough times, makes the role truly meaningful. I have learnt the importance of staying calm and developing the mindset to always expect the unexpected. Prioritise self-care, listen more, be patient and always remember to be empathetic towards others.

What is one advice you would give to your 12-year-old self?

If I could offer advice to my 12-year-old self, it would be to embrace curiosity and not fear making mistakes. Growth often comes from exploring new things and taking risks, even if things don't always work out perfectly. It's important to be authentic, follow your passions with energy, and view challenges as chances to learn and grow.

Bachar Houli Footy Cup

Our Year 7 & 8 boys from the Officer Campus had an incredible time participating in the Bachar Houli Footy Cup! This fantastic event is part of a national schools program delivered across five states, specifically designed for Islamic primary and secondary schools.

The program provides a unique opportunity for our Muslim students to engage in an organised interschool sports football competition. Our boys not only enjoyed themselves immensely but also had the honour of meeting Br Bachar Houli, who graciously signed autographs and shared inspiring words.

Br Bachar reminded our students about the importance of living a balanced life, emphasising that school and studies should remain their top priority. He also highlighted the value of sports as an outlet to stay physically and socially active, encouraging them to be good role models for the Islamic community. Masha Allah.



Our Budding Eco-warriors

Did you know that a “ZERO” waste experience can be fun and inspiring? Our Year 2 students had an amazing time at CERES, learning all about sustainability and how to care for our planet. The future is in good hands with these eco-warriors! The young eco-warriors returned with hearts full of inspiration and left no waste behind. Their future is looking green!



Doveton Campus' New Kitchen Garden

The Kitchen Garden Project at Doveton Campus was officially launched by our Executive Principal Br. Mohamed Taksim on Friday 9th August. Eager students and our Senior Leadership Team planted seedlings of different varieties such as the Australian indigenous Tucker Bush, lettuce, leek, parsley and many more. The Kitchen Garden, which is equipped with sustainable features such as a timed irrigation system and water recycling capabilities, will be tended to by our students on a fortnightly basis. Students will use compost collected from food waste to provide nutrients to the soil in the garden beds. We look forward to seeing the garden flourish in the coming years, InshaAllah.



Year 4 and 5 Camp at CYC Forest Edge

Doveton Campus had its inaugural camp on the 26th and 27th of August, Alhamdulillah! What an adventure our Year 4 and 5 students had at CYC Forest Edge! From scaling new heights on the climbing wall to soaring through the air on the flying fox, they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and courage. The archery sessions were a hit, with everyone aiming for and hitting their targets! To top it all off, the bushwalking trails offered a perfect blend of exploration and discovery. Here's to more outdoor fun and learning!



Year 8 & 9 Camp at Forest Edge



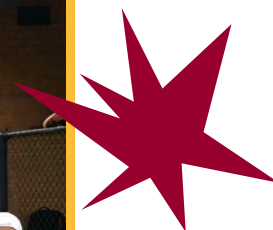
Our Year 8 and 9 students Officer Campus had an unforgettable experience at Forest Edge Camp! 🌲🔥 From challenging outdoor activities to team-building exercises, our students embraced every moment. A big thank you to our dedicated staff and the amazing camp facilitators for making this adventure a success!



Greater Dandenong District Track and Field



Minaret College's Springvale Campus made a remarkable comeback after 3 years at the Greater Dandenong District (GDD) Track and Field event. We are delighted to announce that Minaret College clinched 5th place overall, with a total of 405 points out of the 11 schools that participated. A special shoutout to Elsina Elmazovski, who brought home four podium finishes in 800m, Shot Put, High Jump and 17-year-old relay, making her the most decorated athlete of the day for Minaret College. Our students not only excelled on the track but also conducted themselves with grace and integrity, reflecting our school's Islamic ethos and values. Their respectful demeanor and encouraging spirit were as commendable as their athletic achievements. Alhamdulillah.



Samuel Souprayen Visits Minaret!



Minaret College was delighted to host professional footballer Samuel Souprayen of Melbourne City FC for a special assembly at our Springvale Campus. The visit included a heartfelt sharing on his career, the challenges he had to overcome, and the importance of Islam in his life. His reflections on faith and resilience were particularly inspiring

for the students. Following the assembly, Br Samuel conducted an exciting football clinic for our primary school students. The day was both motivational and memorable, leaving a positive and lasting impact on our students.



Fire Rescue Victoria



Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) conducted a Fire Education program for our Springvale Campus Foundation students. The program featured engaging sessions on essential fire safety topics, including identifying good fires and bad fires, practicing the “Crawl Low in Smoke” technique, understanding the importance of safe meeting

places, making emergency calls to 000, and learning the “Stop, Drop, Cover, and Roll” procedure. The highlight for many students was the opportunity to explore a real fire truck, making the experience both educational and memorable.



Important Term 4 2024 Dates

Mon 07 Oct
First day back at school

Mon 04 Nov
Student-Free Day

Tue 05 Nov
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Fri 06 Dec
Last day of school

Term Dates 2025

Term One

Starts Tue 28 Jan 2025
Ends Fri 28 Mar 2025

Australia Day Holiday - **Mon, 27 Jan**
Ramadan - **Fri, 28 Feb - 30 Sun,**
March (TBC)

Labour Day Holiday - **Mon, 10 Mar**
Eid ul Fitr Holiday - **Mon, 31 - Wed,**
2 April (TBC)

Term Two

Starts Wed 23 Apr 2025
Ends Fri 04 Jul 2025

Easter Monday - **Mon 21 Apr**
Anzac Day Holiday - **Fri, 25 Apr**
Day of Arafat - **Thu, 5 June (TBC)**
Eid ul Adha Holiday - **Fri, 6 - Sun,**
8 June (TBC)
King's Birthday Holiday - **Mon, 9 June**

Term Three

Starts Tue 22 Jul 2025
Ends Fri 19 Sep 2025

Term Four

Starts Mon 06 Oct 2025
Ends Fri 05 Dec 2025

Student-free Day - **Mon, 3 Nov**
Melbourne Cup Holiday - **Tue, 4 Nov**

You've Got This, Beloved VCE Students

As you approach the final lap of your journey at Minaret College, we're keeping you all in our daily duas. Put in your best effort, and Insha Allah, you will be rewarded.

Here are some duas you can recite:

Dua before studying:

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي وَاخْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

"O Sustainer of my Life! Open my heart and make my work easier for me, and untie the knot in my tongue so people can completely comprehend what I'm saying."

Dua to reduce anxiety:

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَهُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ

"Allah is sufficient for me. There is none worthy of worship but Him. I have placed my trust in Him. He is the Lord of the Majestic throne."

Dua before exams:

اللَّهُمَّ لَا سَهْلَ إِلَّا مَا جَعَلْتَهُ سَهْلًا وَأَنْتَ تَجْعَلُ الْحَزْنَ إِذَا شِئْتَ سَهْلًا

"Allah! Nothing is simple except what you have simplified. You can make the tough simple if you want."



For the Love of Books

All the three Minaret College campuses were bursting with imagination and creativity as all our beloved book characters came to life for our primary school students during Book Week! From the classics to modern tales, colourful dress ups to storytelling and special performances, our students and teachers shared their love for reading with great joy and enthusiasm. Here are some fun snaps from Book Week!

