

26 July 2022

College Principal's Message

As-Salaamu Alaykum Respected Parents, Carers and Families,

I hope this message finds you in the best of health and spirits.

Alhamdulillah it's great to be back on campus with our precious students and staff after returning from my maternity leave.

At Mt Hira College we are blessed with a noble Vision:

"Mt Hira College's vision is to strive for excellence, in both academic and spiritual development, with continuous progress to develop confident students, proud of their Muslim identity, who are committed, compassionate and hard-working citizens and are ready to contribute positively and productively to Australian society."

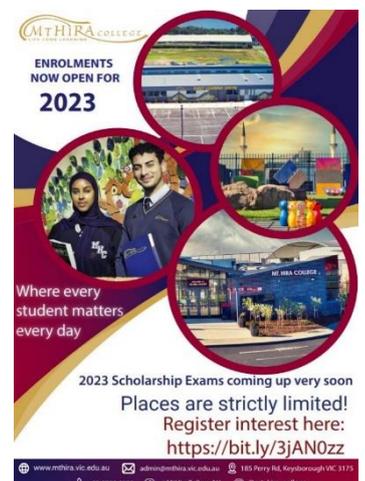
<https://www.mthira.vic.edu.au/our-school/our-vision-values/>

To achieve excellence requires a collective effort towards the pursuit of our common goals. Every member of our College community has an important role to play to ensure the best outcomes for our students. The College is committed to providing excellent facilities, resources and a great school environment where students can thrive and learn the knowledge, skills and values necessary for their success. Likewise, we expect our students to be responsible, give their best effort and always uphold the College values. We also expect our parents/carers to share our vision and to support their children's learning and development by working in partnership with College leaders, teachers and staff to achieve our collective goals.

As our valued partners, I kindly request our parents/carers to regularly reinforce our College values and policies at home. Policies that cover, for example, students' use of mobile phones, wearing the correct uniform, taking care of College property including laptops and devices, treating others (including elders and peers) with respect, attending all classes on time and completing all set homework and tasks, are in place to benefit our students and to maximise their wellbeing and learning. Your support in these areas is greatly appreciated.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mr Tim Campbell who kindly took on the responsibility of overseeing our College operations as Acting Principal while I was away. Term 2 was not an easy term due to a range of factors and I am extremely grateful to Mr Campbell for his hard work and efforts.

Although I've been away physically, I have been working on various College initiatives and matters while on leave. One of these initiatives is our recent enrolment advertising campaign. Alhamdulillah over the past two years, demand for enrolment at our College has increased dramatically, as there are many families who share our great vision. However, available places at the College are strictly limited, so families must apply early to avoid disappointment.



ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN FOR 2023

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2023 Scholarship Exams coming up very soon
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<https://bit.ly/3jAN0zz>

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As mentioned, Term 2 was indeed very challenging. Schools throughout Victoria and Australia faced major staffing shortages due to a range of factors. At Mt Hira College, in Term 2 we experienced our highest level of teacher absences due to covid-19 than at any other time during the pandemic. Whilst most staff and many students have now already contracted covid, there is a growing rate of reinfection. As such, the Department of Health currently strongly recommends the wearing of masks indoors, although this has not been mandated.

I am highly optimistic that Term 3 will be much better than Term 2 insha Allah. Despite the ongoing staffing shortages across Victoria, we have been very fortunate to recruit several additional high quality staff members who have commenced this term and who will provide support in a range of areas.

Further, our new Middle School Building is well on the way to nearing its completion insha Allah, which is very exciting for all our Middle School students for next year. We have also recently received preliminary approval for a major funding grant to assist towards the completion of Stage 2 of our state-of-the-art VCE Centre.

The future continues to look very bright for our College insha Allah and we are so pleased for our parents/carers, students and staff to be on this exciting journey with us.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

I pray for a safe and outstanding term for the whole College community.

Kind regards,



Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie
College Principal