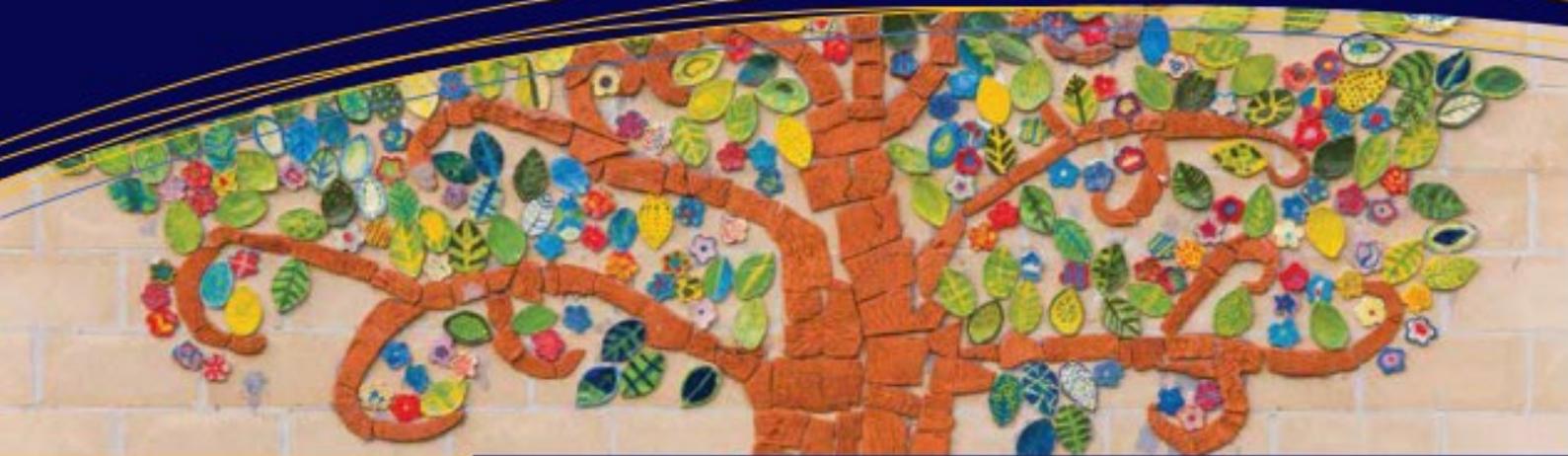


MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Monday 3rd October

Term 4 Starts

Monday 24th October

Year 9 Camp

Tuesday 1st November

Public Holiday

Friday 11th November

Remembrance Day

Monday 5th December

Term 4 End Date

As-Salaamu Alaykum & Greetings Dear Parents, Students, & Community Members,

It was wonderful to be back on campus to see our precious students learning and thriving this Term, after being away for Term 2 on maternity leave. A big thank you to Mr. Tim Campbell for taking on the role of Acting Principal during my absence. I am also very grateful to our whole Leadership Team and our staff for their outstanding efforts during what was a tough Term 2, affected by staffing shortages and high absences due to covid.

Term 3 was filled with fun, beneficial and memorable activities for our students and staff. These activities reflect how special Mt Hira College is and make me proud to lead one of the most progressive educational institutions in Australia.



Our Term 3 activities included visits by Year 10 students from two Roman Catholic schools, Avila College and Emmaus College, for a Mosque tour, presentation and interfaith dialogue. Our Mosque Imam Abdurrahman Sahin informed our visitors about the history of our Mosque and cultural centre, and I presented the five pillars of Islam (Testimony, Prayer, Charity, Fasting, & Pilgrimage) and the six articles of faith (Allah (God Almighty), Messengers, Books/Scriptures, Angels, Divine Decree, and Day of Judgement), as well as answering questions from the audience.

We also had an Islamic Science Symposium, which was run by our Year 11 students for our Senior School. Our student presenters demonstrated outstanding oratory skills, excellent historical knowledge, and an evident sense of pride in their faith and the contributions of our predecessors to modern civilization.



We also had a joint AFL and R U OK? Day where the College provided a free BBQ for staff and students. Our Health & PE Department and Wellbeing Team, along with our teaching and support staff, ran a range of fun activities aimed at celebrating Victoria's football teams and to support our students' wellbeing. Our Year 12 VET



Hospitality students did their final service, where they served professionally-made and delicious food and beverages to staff and students. Our students displayed key Hospitality knowledge and skills that will serve them well in the workplace, as well as in their everyday lives.



Our Junior School team conduct our annual Junior School Concert, which focused on current events that impact human lives, animal lives, plant life and the planet itself. The atmosphere at the Junior School Concert was amazing, and the performances were well planned, entertaining and informative! The part I enjoyed the most was seeing the joy and excitement on our students' faces on stage throughout the evening!



As Mt Hira College's reputation goes from strength-to-strength elhamdulillah, the demand for enrolment at our College in 2023 has already far exceeded the number of places available. Sadly, this means we have had to decline a very large number of enrolment applications for next year. Moving forward, in August each year, we will be asking all our existing families to confirm their children's enrolment for the following year, otherwise places cannot be guaranteed. This will ensure that the places of families who are changing schools, moving overseas, or not returning for any reason, can be offered to other candidates.

While 'on leave' during Term 2, I was still very busy working on various school-related matters, particularly recruitment to bolster our staffing levels, as staffing shortages have affected schools Australia-wide. The addition of new staff has brought a welcomed relief in Term 3 and has placed us in good stead for Term 1 of 2023. In addition to recruiting several new staff, we also have two new Vice Principals joining our team in Term 4. I am very pleased to introduce Ms. Adele Agha-Masri, our new Vice Principal (Curriculum) and Mr. Cihan Karahan, our new Vice Principal (Administration). Ms. Agha-Masri and Mr. Karahan will be working closely with Mr. Campbell and I on our College's strategic goals and to ensure the smooth operation of day-to-day activities, as well as implementing strategies to promote quality teaching and learning at the College.

Finally, our brand-new Middle School Building (Years 7, 8 & 9) is well on the way to completion and will be open for the 2023 academic year. As such, our upper Junior School classes (Years 3-6) will be moving into our existing Middle School building next year. This means that our Year 6 cohort in 2023 will be re-absorbed into our Junior School structure and they will become the leaders of Junior School once again. In recognition of their senior status and to support their transition into Middle School the following year, our Year 6 students will continue to wear the secondary school uniform and will continue to follow the hybrid primary/secondary teaching model where they have one teacher for English and Humanities, and one teacher for Mathematics and Science, as well as specialist teachers for all other subjects.

There are lots of exciting events coming up in Term 4, including World Teachers' Day, Year 12 Celebration Day, Türkiye Republic Day, Year 9 Camp, Remembrance Day, VCE HeadStart Program, 2023 College Captain Elections, Years F-11 Awards

Ceremony and Activity Day. A massive thank you to all our students, parents/carers and staff for your ongoing efforts, contributions and support!

Kind regards,

Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie

College Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Well done to all of our students on their achievements across a very busy Term Three! As is always the case, life at the College is always on the go! Some of the key events that have occurred over the term are;

- The Hajj Simulation (thank you to all of the participants and the College Religious Education team for overseeing this event)
- Parent Teacher Interviews (online - thanks to parents who attended, though we would love more to participate)
- The VCE Information Expo for our Year 9 and 10 students
- Year 7 Camp at the Ranch in Cape Schanck was well attended and the students had a fantastic time!
- Book Week and Science Week
- AFL Day (it was a great experience getting to observe the parade and reward some of the Junior School Classes for their efforts)
- Multiple Interschool sports events – including our Yr.6 boys getting very close to being state champions for Soccer
- The Year 12 Trial examination period (occurred in Week 10 in preparation for the upcoming VCAA examinations)
- Lastly, the term will conclude with the Junior School Concert for our Foundation-Year 5 students!

In line with the College's focus on growth in the area of academic achievement and excellence more than 60 students made the effort to apply for a College Scholarship for 2023. Whilst unfortunately less than half of these students have been successful in this endeavour, it is an excellent opportunity for our students to get used to working under pressure (during the examination) or how to improve their communication skills (during the Scholarship Interview). Successful scholarship applicants will have been informed of their results at the conclusion of Term Three.

The main focus from myself in Term Four will be following up on overall student attendance. There is a clear link between high attendance and improved performance and social outcomes. For this reason, please ensure you endeavour to have your child attend school whenever they are healthy enough to do so.



In order to help with communication and working together, we strongly encourage all parents to ensure that you have access to Compass. This is the College attendance and pastoral care management system. It will enable you to better track your child's attendance rates, notable performances and achievements, areas requiring improvement and also functions as a communication tool for parents. If you do not have Compass access, please contact the College office or get in contact with myself and we will help to ensure your account is active.

This message regarding Compass has already previously been communicated but it is very important to provide a reminder, as we have noted that because many parents do not have Compass, they have not yet viewed their Child's 2022 Semester One Report. The information included on your child's reports are essential for their continued academic growth and development. Parents must view their children's reports so you are aware of their progress and what you, as a parent, can do to support and assist them. Please contact the College office if you need support with Compass and a member of the College will provide you with information. We can very easily re-send login information if you require this.

We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday period and thank you for your support during Term 3.

Tim Campbell
Vice-Principal (Administration)

Term Three was an exciting and eventful term for students and staff. Students participated in a large range of excursions, most of which revolved around sports. Middle School Students focused on expanding their knowledge in their focus areas for Semester Two.

Our focus for Term Three was respect, which I believe our students were able to embody. Students displayed their College Value of Respect in all aspects of their schooling. I am truly proud of the efforts of all the students in Middle School as they were able to flawlessly execute the value of respect. It is important for the College to help instil the value of respect as it is something that is deeply embedded within our Islamic faith. Students would display the College Value of Respect when interacting with their teachers and their peers.

Our Year Five and Six Interschool Sports Soccer Team had a busy term. Lead by Mr. Eskin, they experience great success in placing in at 3rd place at the Regional Finals. Our team of soccer players had to face off against the winning teams of the northern, eastern and western regions of Victoria. I am extremely proud of their efforts and look forward to awarding them at the assembly, which will be held in Term Four Week One.

We were fortunate enough to celebrate the end of Term Three with our annual AFL Day. The school generously provided over 800 sausages for all students and staff to enjoy on the day. Our Head of PE, Mr David Tudor, was assisted by our dedicated Year Nine students who organised, prepared and ran all the activities for the combined R U OK Day and AFL Day. The Year Nine Students were positive and outstanding role models for our Junior School Students. They ran activities both in and outside the classroom, focusing on AFL skills and messages of kindness and anti-bullying messages for R U OK Day.

I hope to see all Middle School Students continue to work hard throughout Term Four. May you all have a blessed break and may Allah (SWT) bless you and your families.

Mr. Serdar Eroglu
Head of Middle School

Dear students, parents, and careers,

As we come to the end of Term Three it is a great chance to reflect on the achievements of the students.

All Year Ten students have begun their initiation into the VCE program, as early in Term Three the College ran the annual VCE Subject Expo. During this event students and their families were provided with an outline of what the VCE certificate entails and the subjects available at Mt Hira College. It marks the first time in their schooling journey where students have been able to select every subject they will complete (with English being the only compulsory one). It has been a great experience working with students, seeing their excitement in being able to take control of their own learning program and helping them pick the subjects that will suit them best.

In a rite of passage, this term the Year Eleven cohort conducted a design competition for the Year Twelve jackets with several different styles being presented by the students for considerations. After a passionate debate and vote, the final style of jacket was selected, which was created by Muazzam and Amaani. We look forward to distributing these during Head Start later this year to help officially mark the students transition to Year Twelve.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our Year Twelve students on navigating (surviving) an intense and difficult term.

The students have shown great resilience and dedication in completing several assessment tasks within a short period, whilst also beginning studying for their examinations. My final advice for the Year Twelve students is to use this holiday period productively. Take a small amount of time to refresh and recharge after Term Three, but also set yourself a study schedule to ensure that you make the most of this break to consolidate your key skills and knowledge for the upcoming exams. As always, the teachers are available to help so please feel free to email them and ensure that you attend the VCE holiday classes. If you need anything over the next few weeks please let me know.

Mr Jack Franklin

Head of Senior School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

During Term Three, the English Domain was proud to celebrate National Book Week. There were several events and competitions taking place, and we were pleased to see many students keen to participate.



The Year Eight cohort was fortunate enough to experience a visit from an Australian author,

Tristan Bancks, the writer of 'Detention', which is on our Year Eight English text list. Tristan engaged students with an interactive talk and students had the opportunity to get their books signed.

The most exciting part of book week was dress up day. Students were invited to dress up as a book character of their choice and many of the students put in a lot of effort to create amazing outfits!

With the VCAA English Examination on the horizon, we wish all of our Year Twelve English students the best of luck in completing this huge examination.

Ms. Megan Barling
English Domain Leader



My name is Michelle Sant Angelo, and I am the new Head of Mathematics for Middle and Senior School. For 2022, our Mathematics Team at Mt Hira College have focused on developing our student's problem-solving skills. As part of this philosophy explicit teaching and teaching for understanding is essential. A thorough understanding of the mathematics provides the foundations for building strong problem-solving skills.

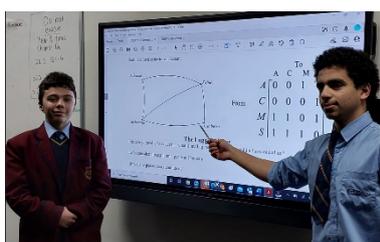


You may have noticed this year the Mathematic Department has developed booklets. These booklets clearly outline the learning intentions for each lesson. The booklets provide well thought out examples to scaffold the students understanding within and across topics. They are also designed to allow our students to listen to their teacher and peers, whilst having a skeleton of effective notes to add to and annotate, therefore providing increased accuracy, less time note taking and more time **thinking**, which is essential to developing problem solving skills!

We also use various videos, activities, and online platforms to develop a deeper understanding of Mathematical concepts. For instance, our students have access to Mathletics, Jacplus and Edrolo. This allows students to explore various approaches to a problem and to think more deeply about the topic.



Finally, we are introducing the students to more worded or real-life application problems. Students are encouraged to use the learnt mathematical concepts and apply them to a new context. For example, in the Year 8 Advanced Mathematics class in the Indices Topic, we have solved various real life problems involving valuations, depreciation, investments, population and bacteria growth. In Year 10 General Mathematics we have been looking at transportation networks and movement of luggage at airlines in our matrix's topic.



In summary our focus is to develop our students' problem-solving skills. We are using various techniques to achieve this outcome. Such as, explicit teaching with the use of our booklets, exposing students to real life application questions and using various online platforms and resources. Overall, the students have responded well to the challenges that our curriculum has offered them. It has been a pleasure to work with the students and see them enthusiastically engaged.

Warm regards,

Ms Michelle SantAngelo

Secondary students participated in a range of engaging activities to celebrate Science Week from Monday 15th of August until Friday 19th August.



Activities included a daily science quiz and an amazing Professor Bunsen incursion for our Year Seven to Ten students.

Our students were also given the opportunity participate in a range of lunchtime activities which included a bridge building, the psychology perception challenge and the designer laboratory coat competition. The middle school corridor was decorated with science models created by our students.



There was a light window display which featured an Earth hologram and prism wheel. The week concluded with an inspiring Science Symposium in which some of our Year Ten and Eleven students crafted and delivered some amazing presentations themed around scientific contributions by Muslim scientists.

A huge thank-you to the hard-working Science Team and the Religious Education Team for their amazing contributions to Science Week this year.

Year Twelve Psychology Dax Gallery Excursion

"The Year Twelve Psychology excursion, was incredible. First we went to the Dax gallery in which we observed the artwork done by individuals with mental illnesses. It truly allowed us to immerse ourselves in the mind of a mentally ill person as part of our study into Mental Health and Mental Illness. It exposed us to the artistic capabilities that are released when one is in a tragic situation. We then later visited Artvo w

here we took amazing illusion pictures that reviewed our understanding of Visual Illusions. The ArtVo part of the excursion allowed us to bond and take lots of photo. It was a wonderful experience and we will recommend it to everyone."

Suni M and Esra O (Year Twelve Psychology Students)



Ms Adele Agha-Masri
Science Domain Leader



Term Three has been a busy term for our humanities students. We have been exploring Business and Economics to help our students to understand the flow of money within Australia. On 2nd August, the Year Sixes participated in an incursion on Market Manoeuvres. Students explored the differences between needs and wants. They encountered opportunity cost and trade-off situations and learnt about the personal and societal benefits of work and trading.

Students participated in interactive games in which they purchased, produced, and sold materials and goods to investigate the role supply, demand and government have in setting market prices. All students were entertained and enjoyed the hands-on activities!



On Thursday 1st September, the Year Seven students had an opportunity to attend a Business and Economics Excursion to the city. They participated in a two-hour tour which students explored places in the city centre of the historic and contemporary economic stories showing Melbourne's global economic events over time. Students learnt about the economy journey from our traditional owners to colonisation to gold rush to war and affluence to today's global economy. We were fortunate enough to have beautiful weather and the students had an amazing time!

Thank you to our amazing VET and Unit 1 and 2 Business Teachers, Mr. Juan Yoong and Ms. Ramisa Azim for organising such a successful and fun day of "Business Stalls."

The VCE and VET Business Management students, as well as the Year 9 Business class, created their own stall and products that they believed students at Mt Hira would enjoy. A great practical experience and atmosphere to induce learning.



We hope everyone has a restful break over the September holidays and returns rejuvenated for Term 4, 2022!



Year Eleven VET Business students started the term learning about using inclusive work practices in the workplace by exploring strategies to overcome language barriers, utilising different communication styles, and accommodating diversity and people with disabilities. They went on an excursion to the Immigration Museum to expand their knowledge on the history of migration patterns and social attitudes in Australia. Furthermore, they joined a tour in Chinatown as well as ate lunch at Bowltiful, a Chinese beef noodle restaurant to build upon their cross-cultural understanding. During the second half of Term Three, students trained in using a wide array of



Excel features and functions by using data to create a variety of spreadsheets for workplace purposes.



Year Twelve VET Business

Year Twelve VET Business students improved their skills in workplace communication by presenting to the classroom on various workplace policies and initiatives, such as a company's code of conduct, social media policy, guidelines for cross-cultural communication and communication for people with disabilities or special needs. They also engaged in two customer service role plays which required them to exercise judgement and discretion when handling customer complaints, as well as provide technical advice and support to customers.



The Year Twelve VET Hospitality class hosted La Café's 2022 Farewell Service on Wednesday 14 September that was attended by 20 seated guests of staff and VCE students.

Students were involved in every stage of the set up for the event including the design of menu, the selection of offerings and the transformation of the science lab into a simulated restaurant environment. The students made coffees as trained baristas, used their newly acquired skills to create a variety of juices and shakes, and

presented a selection of desserts. The event showcased students' competence as end-to-end hospitality staff as they ushered people to their tables, recorded and fulfilled orders, cleared tables and farewelled their guests.

The La Café's 2022 Farewell Service was a celebration of students' vocational skills gained from their two year nationally recognised qualification of the Certificate II in Hospitality.

Term 3 saw a host of successful outings in the Middle school. Our year 6 boys won the Keysborough District soccer competition... then the Dandenong division! Unfortunately, they just fell short in making it to the state finals.

Our year 7 girls also competed in the Southern Metro finals after winning the Dandenong Division in term 2. Our year 7 boys won the indoor futsal competition. They are the Dandenong champions as well. Our students are proving that the 'world game' is alive and well at Mt Hira!



Year 8 students went on 2 exciting excursions to 'Bayside Rock climbing' and 'Bounce Inc.' to put their newly learnt gymnastics skills to the test. Students climbed and jumped outside of their comfort zone in a mature display of skill and determination!



Year 9 students participated in a self-defence incursion run by instructors from 'LiveSafe'. Students learnt strategies to deescalate potentially threatening situations and skills to free themselves from an attacker and make an effective escape. It was very intense, and our students loved it!

Year 10 students participated in a program run by the Bachar Houli Foundation called 'The A game'. Each week 2 members of the Foundation have come to the College to run sessions on embracing their Muslim identity, creating positive mindsets for success, gratitude and AFL based activities. Week one of term 4 we are expecting our final session to be run by Bachar Houli himself which the students are eagerly anticipating!

Mr David Tudor
Health and PE Domain Leader



We had a messy Term 3 in the Art classroom, full of creating clay sculptures. Each year level focused on a different topic and expanded their clay skills through etching, carving, slab building and glazing. Each year level did the following:

Year 6 – Clay Portrait

Year 7 – A Pip & Pop inspired sculpture

Year 8 – Clay Mug or Cup

Year 9 – Clay creature

Year 10 – Yayoi Kusama inspired sculpture

Each student used their creativity and imagination to create their own individualised creation.

Year 8 Drama & Design Technology

This term, Year 8 students used the 'Design Process' to create their own design for a Tote Bag. Once they had chosen their most favourite of their designs; they then created the Tote Bag. Students used a range of textile techniques to create their bag from sublimation printing, hand sewing and painting. Students all learnt to hand sew using a range of embroidery techniques; a valuable life skill to learn!



VCE Studio Arts

As a part of the VCE Studio Art Curriculum, students must visit two different art galleries. The students embarked to Heide Museum of Modern Art, Bulleen, and Walker Street Gallery, Dandenong. The students were spoken to by the Curators of the Galleries about how they take care and install artworks. It was a great day out and was very successful. The students have completed their final artworks. Well done to all the VCE Studio Art students!

Ms Taylah Eid

Senior Art Co-ordinator



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Term Three came to an end successfully. We have already started planning for the academic year 2023. Our VCE Arabic and Turkish students are getting ready for their oral and written examinations under the supervision of their teachers, Ms Ninette Bebawi and Ms. Sebnem Sahal. In Term Three the focus was on motivating students to take more interest in learning Arabic and Turkish languages. To engage students better we added the following additional interactive platforms to our classes:

1. ArabicPod101.com
2. <http://www.happychild.org.uk/freeway/arabic/index.htm>)
3. <http://www.happychild.org.uk/freeway/Turkish/index.htm>).

The students had many opportunities to practice reading and writing in class. To motivate the students, we added different units to the planned activities like a visit to the city with Year Seven students, the International Day for Women, Science week projects with Year Ten students. Students had the opportunity to learn more vocabulary related to these units and write short and long paragraphs. As we are striving to teach our students a second language in Mt Hira, we request the parents to help at home as much as they can and assist their children by being curious about what they learn at school.

Ms Sebnem Sahal

30 AĞUSTOS ZAFER BAYRAMI

Year Six to Year Nine Turkish and VCE Turkish students wholeheartedly celebrated the August 30 Victory Day, which this year marks the **100th anniversary of the Great Victory**. Our fight for independence started under the leadership of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Samsun in 1919, ended in a decisive and lasting victory with the Battle of the Commander-in-Chief. It was proclaimed to the entire world with the August 30 victory that these lands are our eternal homeland. This victory is the proclamation of the re-emergence on the stage of history and the rise from its ashes of a nation sought to be buried in history. We commemorate with respect Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic and the Commander-in-Chief of the Great Offensive, and his brother-in-arms.

VCE TURKISH

Language education and cultural maintenance are very important elements to families who wish to give their children an added advantage, another lifelong skill. Mt Hira College encourages and works hard in promoting education of languages. There are many advantages to studying a language. It will assist students to gain access to other peoples' ideas and ways of thinking. They will become interested in and respectful of other cultures. Through their studies, students will develop social and cognitive skills that will help them in other areas of the curriculum. Further studies in other languages also improve VCE ATAR scores, greater access to selected universities as well as future employment and economic opportunities. In VCE Turkish classes we focus on the four literacy skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and on developing an awareness of culture. Turkish culture is very unique. Through its rich and exciting history, Turkey has a lot of traditions and customs. And the only way to truly understand them is to speak Turkish. The VCE Turkish language students are again the first soldiers to face the VCAA exams of the year. Though we have had

lots of stress throughout this very long year, the students have been working very hard with their teacher Ms. Sebnem for the exam and they are feeling mixed emotions between concerned and excited. We wish them all the very best and we all want them to remember "you are all great!"

**Kind Regards,
Dr Samir Dorhmi
LOTE Domain Leader**

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,
Esteemed Parents/Carers and Students,

During Term Three, the annual Mt Hira College Hajj Simulation Program was successfully completed Thursday 14th of July 2022 in the College Gymnasium hosted by our Year Seven students. Students from Early Learning Centre (4 Year old's) to Year Six had an opportunity to experience the acts of worship required during Hajj. The students also gained an understanding of the first revelation revealed to Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) which is IQRA-READ.

It was great to see the students partaking in this event dressed in garments which represent the Hajj season otherwise known as "ihram". Over 100 parents observed their child's experience. The following were some of the stations that formed the Hajj simulation circuit: Police Customs - Passport control, Introduction to Arabia, Preparation Hajj Kit - what items are needed during Hajj, Kaaba cloth from Mecca, Kaaba maquette - students will circumambulate around the Kaaba, Safa and Marwa, Arafat, Muzdalifah, Mina, Jamarat, Sacrifice, The serving of Zamzam water.

The Building Bridges Program aims to help Year Ten and Eleven students of different faiths, religions, cultures and values to build bridges of trust and friendship through learning key skills of dialogue and sharing personal experiences of their lives that have shaped them, as a foundation to negotiate, respect and engage with each other's differences and commonalities. These are important qualities for leaders of our country into the future.

Our selected Year Eleven students attended the 'Central Region Building Bridges Program' at Melbourne Grammar School and Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) with myself and our Religious Education teacher Mr Fadil Fachni. The students shared a meal together with other schools and had the opportunity to experience firsthand information about the College.

Selected Year Ten students attended Killester College and Mt Hira College (Host) to partake in the Building Bridges Program with myself and Mrs. Sirina. It was an opportunity to convey the Islamic faith to other students and listen to different experiences, cultures, and traditions.

Another successful event was the Islamic Science Symposium hosted by students from Year 10 and Eleven cohort. The program commenced with the soothing Qur'an recitation by Imam Abdurrahman Şahin, continuing with Ceyda Şahin: Muslims Contribution to Science, Omar Daknach: Al-Khawarizmi and Ibn Sina's Contribution to Science, Amaz Ahmed and Mujtaba Khan: Al-Battani's Contribution to Science, Mikall Duman: Mimar Sinan, Muazzam Abbas: Famous Inventions by Muslims.

Mr Muhammed Sezgin
Head of Religious Affairs/RE Domain Leader

