

SEMESTER ONE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- July 15th**
Start of Term 3
- July 17th-19th**
Year 7 Camp
- July 24th**
Annual Qur'an Competition (Qualifying Round)
- July 26th**
VCE Expo
- 2nd August**
Annual Qur'an Competition (Final Round)
- 20th September**
Term 3 Ends

I'm very proud to have been able to serve the College Community in my role as Acting Principal throughout Term Two. Thank you to all staff, parents, and students for their support during my time (so far) in this position. I've felt the support as have the rest of the College leadership team and we are very grateful for this.

It does seem that Term Two is always a really challenging one for staff, students, and all College stakeholders. There are many reasons for this such as the length of the term (11 weeks is a long one!), preparation for Middle-Senior School examinations, Semester One Reports, Interschool sports events, school photos, the College café's continued operation and increasing themed events (like Cevdet and the Hospitality Teams Burgers), incursions, excursions, Hajj Simulation event (with camels!), Year 11 Retreat and Year 5 Camp, our House athletics/sports events, teaching staff completion of student individual learning plans and assemblies. These events have all occurred in addition to the general teaching and learning that takes place at Mt Hira College, so it is fair to say that we have achieved a lot this term.

Looking ahead to Term Three we want to continue to provide opportunities for our students to demonstrate our College values of respect, responsibility, honesty, fairness and excellence. At our next Middle/Senior assemblies we will have the opportunity to distribute a number of College Values Badges to a small group of students who have been able to consistently exceed expectations in the areas of honesty, responsibility and respect. We at the College are very excited about this ongoing recognition program and look forward to acknowledging those of our students who go above and beyond what the College expects.

We also look forward to Term Three events such as the annual College Quran competition, Year 7 Camp, our VCE Expo, Islamic Science Symposium, Book Week, Harmony Day, Year 10 Work Experience, R U OK Day, AFL Day, Year 12 Trial Examination Period, Concert Practice and Parent Teacher Interviews on Friday 16th August.

In addition to the above events in Term Three the College Scholarship period will open and for those Secondary school students (Gr.6 and up) who wish to pursue this opportunity they will have the chance to complete the Scholarship examination (Friday 9th August) and to go through the process, including an interview and analysis of their 2024 performance. Best of luck to any students who are applying for a 2025 Scholarship.

Thanks to parents for their ongoing support as our school continues to grow and refine the way that we operate. The best outcomes will continue to be achieved or reached through our ability to communicate and work together. In order to help with this 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.

Tim Campbell
(Acting) College Principal
tim.campbell@mthira.vic.edu.au

VICE PRINCIPAL (CURRICULUM) REPORT

Mr Nader Abouzeina

Assalamu Alaikom

Dear College Community,

As we conclude the first half of the academic year, I am delighted to share with you the progress and achievements at Mount Hira College. Our commitment to fostering an environment of innovation, personalized learning, and student-centered growth has continued to thrive through Terms One and Two, paving the way for an exciting Term Three.

A Leap Towards Future-Ready Education

The professional development sessions for our teachers at the start of Term One have laid a strong foundation for integrating cutting-edge technology and artificial intelligence into our teaching, learning strategies, and assessments. This has not only enhanced our educational standards but also equipped our students with transferable skills crucial for their ongoing educational journey and future endeavors.

Cultivating Independent and Lifelong Learners

We are witnessing the fruits of our initiatives as more students take charge of their learning. It is inspiring to see our young learners harness the skills imparted to them, carving out paths for success that reflect their personal aspirations and capabilities. This shift towards fostering independent and lifelong learners underscores the essence of our educational philosophy at Mount Hira College.

Towards a Student-Centered Classroom

Our transition to student-centered classrooms has marked a significant milestone in our educational journey. In these spaces, the spotlight shines on our students, allowing them to showcase their talents, creativity, and the practical application of their knowledge. This approach not only enriches the learning experience but also empowers our students to become confident, creative, and innovative thinkers.

ICAS Competition: Pushing Boundaries

Looking ahead to Term Three, we are excited to announce our participation in the ICAS competition for Mathematics and Science. We have selected excelling students across various year levels to compete in this prestigious international competition, which includes millions of students from around the world. This initiative is designed to push our gifted students beyond the curriculum, challenge them with more complex tasks, and improve their academic standing. Our students will be thoroughly prepared for the competition, and we will celebrate their achievements as they represent our school on an international stage.

Professional Development: Elevating Our Educational Practice

Continuous professional development remains a cornerstone of our mission to create a dynamic learning environment. By staying abreast of the latest developments in the field of education, our teachers are not just educators but innovators, crafting learning experiences that resonate with our students and inspire them to reach new heights.

Looking Forward

As we move forward, our focus remains steadfast on enhancing our educational practices, ensuring that Mount Hira College remains a beacon of innovative and personalized learning. We invite our entire school community to join us in this exciting journey towards creating a future where every student is equipped to navigate the challenges ahead with confidence and skill.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared vision. Here's to a term filled with growth, innovation, and success.

Warm regards,

Nader Abouzeina
Vice Principal of Curriculum

Dear Mt Hira Community,

Welcome back for the 2024 academic year, it has been an extremely busy but fruitful Semester One for the Senior School. We have also welcomed Ms. Jumana Hallak into the Senior School team, who has been working with our VCE students in a pastoral care role.

In one of the great traditions, the Year 12 students took a short time away from their studies to revive the Student Vs Staff rivalry. The Boys started the series in a game of basketball. Whilst they had some great plays, the staff team proved far too strong for the Year Twelves and cemented a comfortable win. After the game the Year 12 boys were heard saying "just wait for Futsal". Overall, the match was a great way to break up the pressure associated with completing Year 12. Looking forward to Term Three we look forward to hosting the Year 12 BBQ at the end of Term.



The Year 11 students have adjusted well to their full-time entry into the VCE program and have an exciting time ahead. During Week 4 of Term 2, all Year 11 students attended the Retreat at Allambee Camp. Azra and Talia have kindly provided us with their recollections of the trip:

Our first morning after we arrived consisted of settling in and having our lunch. We then explored the camp site until it was time for our first study session- where we snacked more than studied. Our first activity was called the vertical challenge, but we decided to challenge it even further by doing it BLINDFOLDED. After the activity we watched the sunset. Later that night Mr Franklin hosted a trivia night we will never forget. We all went to sleep that night, not one of us succeeded in the iconic camp all nighter. The following day Began with Ms Pilcher pushing us out the cabins to pray. We were all bundled up in our oodies and blankets; it was FREEZING. Due to our high maintenance, the electricity ran out. We got it back and running in time for our delicious breakfast with cheese twist. We headed down to the flying fox, the flying part was so fun but making our way up the hill was incredibly tiring. Next was the Giant swing, it was so fun seeing everyone encouraging each other including our friend Rachel the Alpaca. After another study session, someone from Elevate gave us a talk about our study habits. On our night walk we all took in the scenery and bonded while eating Bilal's sunflower seeds. After dinner we gathered around the campfire to roast marshmallows. A few of us split up into groups to play a very intense game of charades, while some of us watched black panther. We gathered around the bonfire and damaged everyone's eardrums with our singing. The last day, we were all exhausted and ready to go home. We had our last study which was equally as unproductive as the rest. After packing up, we had our Friday prayer. Mr Samir gave us a beautiful and very timely Khutbah. Year 11 Retreat was a memorable experience and the memories we made will last a lifetime.



With the beginning of a new academic year, we have also welcomed a new group of students into the Senior School. The Year 10 students have adapted well to the demands of Senior School. This includes a large number of students starting their first VCE subject. The feedback from their teachers is that this Year 10 cohort have performed to a high standard in their first semester.

The Year 10 students all participated in mock interviews during Term Two, where volunteers came in and ran practice job interviews for the students. This experience was invaluable and will assist students in applying for their work experience placements, which will run in Week 10 of Term Three.

Jack Franklin
Head of Senior School

Head of Middle School

Mr Serdar Eroglu

Dear Mt Hira College Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we dive into another exciting semester filled with learning, growth, and opportunities. As we progress through the academic year, I am delighted to share some updates and initiatives tailored to enhance our students' overall experience here at Mt Hira College.

A heartfelt thank you to all students who participated in our Secondary Soccer Program held every Wednesday after school. Your dedication and enthusiasm truly made the sessions enjoyable for everyone involved. We value your feedback, so please don't hesitate to share any thoughts or suggestions with our front office team.

For our volleyball enthusiasts, don't forget that our Volleyball Club meets every Friday from 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm. It's a fantastic way to stay active, build teamwork skills, and have fun with friends. A special acknowledgment goes out to our dedicated teachers who generously give their time to run our lunchtime clubs. Students, I urge you to explore the

diverse range of clubs we offer and get involved in activities that interest you. It's a fantastic way to pursue your passions and connect with peers who share similar interests.

Our Think Tank Homework Support Club is back in full swing for the year 2024. This valuable resource provides students with the assistance they need to excel academically. I encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity as we continue to prioritize academic excellence.

I'm pleased to announce that each student from Year 7 to 9 now has access to our Essential Assessment programs for both literacy and numeracy. This new initiative is designed to support your academic journey, so please make the most of it. Should you have any questions or require assistance, our teachers are here to help.

To foster a love for reading and enhance literacy skills, students in Year 7 and 8 are encouraged to read 10 pages a day from Monday to Friday. Your dedication to this program is commendable, and I applaud each one of you for your commitment. Remember to utilize the AR Reader program to log your books and stay tuned for exciting prizes as you achieve specific milestones. Parents, please continue to emphasise the importance of reading at home, as it plays a vital role in your child's academic success.

Our students have successfully completed their Semester One examinations, with overall strong performances. Special commendation goes to our Year 7 students, who tackled their first set of exams with determination and perseverance. Despite the challenges of this new experience, they demonstrated commendable effort and adaptability.

The Year 7-9 Girls Volleyball competition was held on our school's synthetic courts. Our teams played exceptionally well, showcasing their skills and teamwork. Although we did not have standout individual achievements to report, the collective spirit and performance of our girls were commendable and a source of pride for our school community.

The ARDOCH Wellbeing Incursion, aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of our Year 7 students, was a resounding success. Conducted over four weeks, the sessions focused on crucial life skills:

- **Week 1: Communication Skills**
- **Week 2: Study Skills**
- **Week 3: Stress Management**
- **Week 4: Self-Awareness**

We would like to thank Dylan and Kristy for their amazing efforts with our amazing Year Sevens. Feedback from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the incursion's impact on enhancing our students' wellbeing and life skills.

Congratulations to our Year 7 Girls Soccer team for winning their division! They will proudly represent the Greater Dandenong District at the Southern Metropolitan Competition. While we await the specific dates and location for this competition, we are confident in their abilities and look forward to cheering them on as they compete.

A gentle reminder to our Year 7 students and their parents about the upcoming camp at Ace High Ranch, Cape Schank, from the 17th to the 19th of July. This camp promises to be an exciting adventure, with activities such as horse riding and various other engaging experiences. Please ensure all necessary preparations are made, and do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or assistance needed.

As we move into the second half of the year, I want to thank all students, parents, and staff for their continued support and dedication. Together, we make our school a thriving and nurturing environment for our students.

Kind regards,

Serdar Eroglu
Head of Middle School

Year 7 & 8 Coordinator

Mr Faiq Amiri

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Assalam u alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu

We are delighted to share some exciting highlights and positive developments from our Year 7 and 8 students here at Mt Hira College.

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been exemplifying outstanding behaviour and maintaining a positive attitude throughout their time at school. We have witnessed remarkable displays of kindness, respect, and collaboration both inside and outside the classrooms. We commend all students for their commitment to upholding our school values.

We want to express our appreciation to Year 7 and 8 students for consistently adhering to our school uniform policy. Your neat and tidy appearance contributes to the overall sense of pride and unity within our school community.

Recently, our Year 7 students had the incredible opportunity to visit Parliament House and the Melbourne Museum. These enriching excursions provided students with firsthand experiences to deepen their understanding of civics and history. We extend our gratitude to the teachers and staff who organised these educational trips.

Additionally, our students participated in the 'Sticks and Stones' anti-bullying excursion, where they engaged in interactive workshops and discussions promoting kindness, empathy, and inclusivity. Such initiatives are integral to fostering a safe and supportive school environment.

We look forward to continued growth, learning, and success for our Year 7 and 8 students. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in nurturing our students' academic and personal development.

Warm regards,

Faiq Amiri
Year 7 & 8 Coordinator

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we near the midpoint of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the progress and upcoming events involving our Year 9 students here at Mt Hira College. It has been a pleasure witnessing the growth and development of our Year 9 cohort. Their dedication to their studies, involvement in extracurricular activities, and commitment to upholding the values of our school community have been truly commendable. As part of our ongoing efforts to provide holistic education and opportunities for our students, we have several exciting initiatives and events planned for our Year 9s in the coming months.

These include:

Lunchtime Clubs: We are thrilled to extend an invitation to our Year 9 students to participate in our diverse range of lunchtime clubs at Mt Hira College. These clubs offer invaluable opportunities for our students to explore their interests, cultivate new skills, and forge lasting friendships outside the traditional classroom setting. Our lunchtime clubs cover a wide spectrum of interests and passions, catering to the varied tastes of our student body.

Leadership Opportunities: We encourage our Year 9 students to take on leadership roles within the school community. Whether it's through participation in core leader program, clubs, or volunteering initiatives, we believe in nurturing their leadership potential and instilling in them the importance of service and responsibility. The core leaders meet on a regular basis and have had the opportunity to present during form class every Wednesday in front of their classmates, covering a topic of discussion.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: We value the partnership between parents and teachers in supporting our students' educational journey. We encourage you to actively participate in parent-teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress, areas of improvement, and any concerns you may have.

Camp: We are excited to announce that our Year 9 students will be embarking on an unforgettable adventure during Term 4 Week 4! From October 30th to November 1st, our students will be participating in an immersive and enriching camp experience at The Summit, located in Trafalgar. This camp presents a fantastic opportunity for our students to step out of their comfort zones, build resilience, foster teamwork, and create lasting memories. At The Summit, they will engage in a variety of thrilling activities designed to challenge them both mentally and physically, including high ropes courses, team-building challenges, and outdoor adventures.

We are delighted to announce that our Year 9 students have successfully completed their NAPLAN assessments. These assessments are a significant milestone in their educational journey and provide valuable insights into their progress and areas for growth. We commend our students for their dedication and hard work during the testing period. Their commitment to their studies is truly admirable and reflects their determination to excel academically.

We believe that by working together as a community, we can provide our Year 9 students with a rich and fulfilling educational experience that prepares them for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education.

Warm regards,

Asib Mohammad
Year 9 Coordinator

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We have made an exciting and wonderful start to the 2024 school year. We are getting back into some of our usual activities, learning, incursions, excursions, and special days. It has been great to see the joy and excitement on students' faces when taking part in some of these experiences they have had this term.

This semester it was great to see so many of our students eager to learn and challenge themselves with many different learning tasks. I am proud to see many students receiving Values awards and being proud to demonstrate Mt Hira Values. It was also wonderful to see students in Year 6 enjoying reading and receiving reading awards for their enthusiasm to read. In our assembly students have been learning about the importance of listening and to ensure that this key skill is utilised in all learning environments including when at home. Students have also been learning about what makes a good friend to help them build healthier relationships with their peers. They were also reminded that if they are being bullied in any way to speak to their teachers and seek help so that they feel safe and comfortable to attend school.

We are ensuring that students are reminded constantly about the Mt Hira School Values. Our Values make us who we are and play an important role in our development as people. Therefore, as a school, we are proud of our five core Values: Excellence, Responsibility, Fairness, Honesty, and Respect. We want all of our Junior School students to ensure they are demonstrating these key values consistently in the classroom, out in the playground, and at home.



Our Foundation students have been working on having a routine and structure at school. To help with these key skills, our Foundation students have been involved in a buddy program with our Year 6 students to help support them and guide them in the school environment.

Foundation students had a wonderful special event for all mums, the Mother's day morning tea. Foundation students performed on a beautiful Mother's Day song and also created a craft with their mums. Both students and parents greatly appreciated this event. Throughout the semester Foundation students have also been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. Students also worked on learning how to write a recount and continued to work on their phonics and reading skills.



In Year One, students have thoroughly enjoyed their rhythm and movement incursion during term one. They have also spent a great deal of time learning about characters in a story and even independently described and created their own characters. This has given the Year One students a great opportunity to build on their writing and imaginative skills. Students in Year One also learnt about addition and recapped addition skills that they learnt in Foundation. The Year One students also gained good insight about light and sound through their sound and light incursion.



Year One's have had another great learning experience this term. They have been learning about full stops and commas and how to use these in various sentences and in their writing. Students have also been exploring and learning analogue time which they have found extremely interesting. In Art they have been using clay to create some unique sculptures and have had an enjoyable experience using clay. Students have also been exploring various strategies for mindfulness to assist them to be calm and more focused in their learning. Students also went on an excursion to Science Works and discovered how only three ingredients create all weather! They learnt how water, air, and heat create lightning, rainbows, clouds, and rain had an amazing experience at the interactive 30-minute show in the Lightning Theatre.

In Year Two students had the opportunity to learn about writing a procedure and continued to work on independent reading skills. Students have also begun to learn about sharing in Mathematics to develop their skills in division. They also learnt how some Indigenous Australians make mixtures for paintings in their Integrated learning. The Year 2 students also enjoyed making slime for their Science lesson when they learnt about mixtures and found this a really fun and engaging lesson to learn from.



Our Years 2 to 5 students had a great opportunity to be part of the swimming program for 2024 and enjoyed learning about water safety and other important key swimming skills, which will be of benefit to them forever.



During their integrated sessions, our Year 2 students have been learning about how living things grow and change. They learnt about invertebrate animals and their life processes. In Mathematics, they also worked on solving worded problems using various strategies. The Year Two students have been enjoying their music and drama sessions where they have been learning about how to use their voices to portray various characters.



In Year 3, students have been working on fact and opinion and looking at fiction and non-fiction texts in class. They have also been looking at addition and subtraction strategies to assist them with solving various worded questions in class.

Our Year 3 students have also been learning about the main idea within a text and also learnt about contractions and how they can be used in writing. In Digital technology students have been working on understanding that an algorithm is a set of instructions that solve a problem. They used blocks in Scratch to create a simple program and experimented with different ways of describing a set of instructions.

The students of Year 4 have had another fun filled semester, full of a variety of engaging learning opportunities and experiences that took place. Our Year 4 students explored a range of strategies to work on improving their narrative writing skills. The students have also learnt about different angles and shapes in Mathematics. Students thoroughly enjoyed their excursion to the Islamic Museum of Australia where they deepened their understanding of migration patterns, cultural diversity, and the experiences of Muslim communities throughout time.

In English, students focused on understanding the structure of an explanation text. Students have also been exploring Area and Perimeter in Mathematics and participated in many hands-on activities to gain a deeper understanding of this topic. The Year 4 students also had an incursion on their Science topic Weather and Weathering. During this incursion they engaged in guided activities and discussions that deepened their understanding of weather and weathering, Earth's water cycle, and the rock cycle. The hands-on activities allowed students to explore Earth science. They also had an opportunity to undertake in wind and water erosion activities, as well as investigate PrimeSCI rock collection.



In Year 5, students have been completing many Essential Assessment tasks to build on their Literacy and Numeracy skills. Year 5 students have worked on division strategies and in Integrated, have been exploring solids, liquids, and gases. In Math, they learnt about how to add and subtract Fractions. They also practiced comparing of fractions. In English, students understood the features of persuasive writing and how to use them effectively to persuade readers to take actions to help the planet. This not only enhanced their writing skills but provided students with good insight on what the current environmental issues are that facing planet Earth.

Our Year 5 students had an adventurous time at camp. They attended the camp called Adekate Camp in Ballarat and participated in many fun filled activities like archery, the flying fox, the giant swing and many more. Through these activities students gained fundamental life skills like teamwork, being responsible for oneself and independence.



In Term One our Year Six students focused on various topics for Humanities and Science. They covered the topic of Democracy and Parliament. Students were involved in various activities that engaged in an interactive federal election and learnt about preferential voting and absolute majorities. In Science, students learnt about cyclones, how they are formed, and how to prepare when a cyclone affects their state or city. They were also actively involved in class discussions that involved them to think critically. During English lessons, students have been writing narrative stories and are now looking into persuasive writing. Students are conducting class debates on various topics. In Mathematics, students have been working productively through the core content of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students have also been introduced to various games that involve different topics. During Health sessions, students have learnt about healthy food and their benefits for a healthy lifestyle.

The Year Six students also thoroughly enjoyed their Parliament Process incursion where they participated in hands-on activities to explore the Parliament Process and participate in an interactive federal election, voting role-play, and engage in a House of Representatives debate. Students also gained great knowledge about extreme weather and geological changes through their Hands-on Science Natural Disasters Incursion.

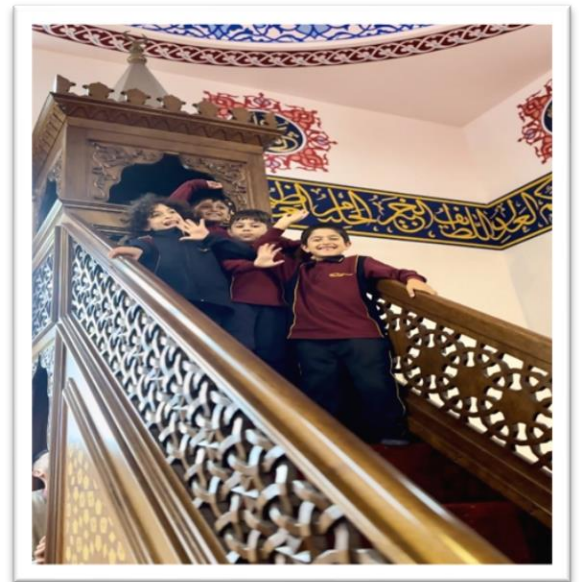


The Year Six students also have been exploring migration and its effects in Australia and its history. On the 15th of May, the Year Six students participated in an incursion related to the topic of Migration. Students investigated the immigration process to Australia. They learnt the reasons why people immigrate to Australia from other countries, and they understood the contributions immigrants have made to Australian society. Students participated in hands-on activities to explore the concept of global citizenship and they examined international responses to refugees. They learnt the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizenship and appreciate the diverse and multicultural make-up of Australian society.



We also had many other fantastic events like the Hajj Simulation where students had an opportunity to experience the acts of worship required during Hajj. Additionally, this year we had all of our students from Year Two to Year Six, take part in a 'Camel Riding' experience. Students thoroughly enjoyed this and had some memorable moments. Our students from F-2 also had a wonderful experience to visit the Mt Hira Mosque in their RE classes and learnt valuable and insightful knowledge about the Mosque. On the 11th of June 2024 all students from Years 2-6 participated in the annual Athletics day event and enjoyed participating in various fun activities like shot put, discus, long jump, track events and many other enjoyable team activities. Students enjoyed this day and are looking forward to next year's Athletics' Day.

I am really pleased to see that our students have had so many wonderful learning experiences and are growing and developing in many skills and values. I do hope that each and every student continues to be successful and enriched this year.



Wishing everybody a safe, restful, and warm term break.

Ms. Natasha Padayachee
Head of Junior School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to 2024!

The English Domain has been pleased to welcome several new teachers to our team over 2024: Ms. Hilal Kirmizi, Dr. Youcef Sai, Jumana Hallak and Ms. Susan Keel.

This year, Middle School students will continue to participate in a literacy program called '**Accelerated Reader.**' There are prizes available for avid readers and classes will compete to read the most books throughout the year. We would also love for parents to encourage their children to continue reading at home, as one of the best predictors of success in English is how much a student's reads during their leisure time. I would like to congratulate the following students for the impressive amount of reading they have completed so far:

- Zara Ahmad-Azhan who read 764,050 words.
- Muna Adam who has read 512,958 words.
- Jeyda Aziret who has read 374,597 words.
- Zafira Cole who has read 310,324 words.
- Hamza Tog-Dheer who has read 203,004 words.

The students have engaged in a range of different learning activities this semester, to help enrich our English program. Below are a couple of highlights from Semester One:

Jeyda Aziret from Year 7H, provided the following summary about Year Seven English:

In the Year Seven English classes this term, we have been looking at diary entries and their structures. Once we familiarised ourselves with the topic, we were given an assessment task. This assessment task required us to go on a website that had testimonies from the stolen generation. After we had taken notes from the videos, we had to write a description of their lives. We then created three diary entries from their point from their point of view. I chose Lorriane McGee-Sippel who was taken from her loving mother at 6 weeks old and was put with a white couple who couldn't have children. For her whole life, she was lied to about how many siblings she had and the race of her mother and father. This topic was very sad, but we still enjoyed taking on the person's persona.

The Year Nine students practiced using and refining their comprehension skills, apply them to clues in an escape room activity. They all became detectives and had to solve the escape room crime scene in order to leave the English classroom – chaos ensued!

We have also had a **Year Nine Debating Team** competing against other schools, which is being led by **Ms Annisa Mohamed**. The first debating competition has already taken place, with several Year Nine students attending as speakers and supporters. The first team to complete included *Aleeza Bakhshi, Saara Mezensof and Meriem Bekiroski*. These girls did a fantastic job and were narrowly defeated by two points by the home team.

In Term Three we look forward to hosting the annual Book Week, which will include a range of competitions.

Mr. Jack Franklin

Head of Senior School & English Domain Leader

Dear Mt Hira Community,

Semester one has been a dynamic and productive period for our mathematics department, with students across all year levels engaging in various educational activities and preparing for their exams. Here's a summary of some of the things that happened this semester.

We are excited to announce the introduction of an extension class, a first for Mt Hira, designed to accommodate high ability selected students from Year 9 and Year 10. This class currently operates for one hour a week. In this extension class, we delve into topics from both Year 10 Advanced and Year 11 Math Methods, exploring numerous challenging questions to stimulate intellectual growth. We are delighted to report a positive response to this program, with many students demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies in hopes of joining. The atmosphere within the class is truly uplifting, with students feeling motivated, engaged, and empowered to apply critical thinking skills to solve complex problems!



Year 7 students have also engaged in KAHOOT class quizzes to practice NAPLAN style questions. Working through practice questions isn't just about doing well in NAPLAN – it's about building and refining essential math abilities needed for future studies. We're proud of how hard our students have been working to prepare, and we're excited to see them continue to succeed InshAllah.

Congratulations to the Year 7 students who completed the first semester of high school! This term, Year 7 focused on developing essential mathematical study skills, including self-guided learning, decoding word problems, and presenting their work clearly. We are pleased to see Year 7 students working collaboratively and effectively completing their classwork with guidance. We look forward to their continued success in Semester Two.



Moreover, Year 8 students have been exploring the world of real numbers, with a particular focus on decimals and fractions. To reinforce their understanding, they embarked on a mathematically infused game: Bingo! Using their skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals and fractions, they tackled the Bingo board with confidence. This enjoyable activity not only enhanced their grasp of real numbers but also refined their mental math skills.

Object	Circumference	Diameter	$\frac{C}{d}$

What do you notice about the results of $\frac{C}{d}$?

Circumference

- Wheel: 14.45cm
- Cookie: 8.85cm
- Clock: 10.65cm
- Dartboard: 18.22cm
- Slice of orange: 11.82cm
- Bangle: 19.37cm

Wheel, Clock, Slice of orange, Cookie, Dartboard, Bangle

Year 8

students have had a productive term exploring percentages, probability, and measurement through engaging hands-on activities. A highlight was their investigation into the relationship between circumference and diameter using objects like wheels and plates. Working collaboratively or independently, they measured diameters, calculated ratios, and discovered the constant π (pi). This activity sparked lively discussions and enhanced their understanding of geometry, measurement, and data analysis. It was a success in fostering both individual learning and teamwork.

Year 9 students had a busy term covering a wide range of topics while preparing for their semester examination. They utilised various revision materials, including online programmes like Mathletics, class revision games, and collaborative sessions. Their dedication and hard work in preparing for exams has been commendable, and we are proud of their progress and achievements.



Progress in completing General Mathematics Unit 3 in Semester One is on schedule. Congratulations to the students who have successfully completed the unit. To prepare for the end-of-year examination, we regularly integrate past exam questions into our lesson plans. It is heart-warming to see students actively engaged in classwork and effectively collaborating. Despite the challenging topic of Financial Mathematics, students are making significant strides and demonstrating improvements. We are looking forward to a productive Term 3 as we embark on Unit 4.

Across all levels, our focus remains on nurturing a deep understanding and appreciation of mathematics through engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and collaborative projects. We are proud of all our students' efforts and look forward to their continued success and improvement.

Warm regards,

Rim Chatila & Amy Moneer
Maths Domain Leaders

SCIENCE DOMAIN REPORT

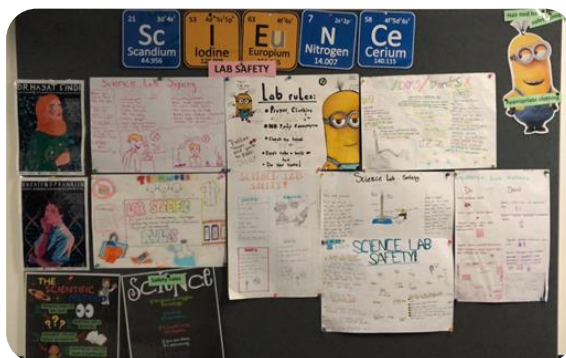
Mr Osman Bicer

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We've been very busy learning about science skills this semester. Students from year 7 and 8 focused on developing their skills in the science laboratory. The Year 7 students worked on understanding and classifying the different strands of science. They also focused on revising over laboratory safety procedures by designing their own posters in groups, with a major focus on how to use a Bunsen Burner appropriately.



The Year 8 students strived to make the most efficient parachute by researching how they are designed for maximum efficiency. They then implemented their findings while working in their own constructions. Students competed with one another by dropping parachutes with eggs attached from a height, where the winner had the longest airtime of just over 5 seconds and the egg in perfect condition!

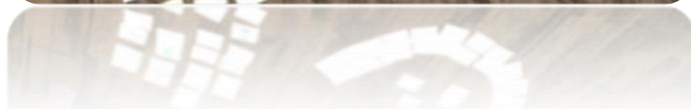


Students in the Year 9 Biology pathway elective examined the relationship between cell size and the rate of material exchange. The objective of this experiment was to investigate the impact of cell size on how quickly substances can move in or out of them via diffusion. In this experiment, agar jelly simulated the function of cells. By varying the size of these agar model cells, students observed how the rate of exchange of materials such as nutrients and waste changed based on cell size. This experiment assisted students to understand the limitations and advantages related with cell size in biological systems, shedding light on factors that influence the efficiency of molecular transport and nutrient/waste exchange within cells.

"Litter, Litter Everywhere" Incursion: Making a Difference Together!

We are pleased to share the experience of our recent "Litter, Litter Everywhere" incursion. Students learned about litter decomposition rates, the harmful effects of plastic pollution, and bioaccumulation in our food. Did you know a plastic lid can take more than 400 years to decompose? This knowledge has empowered our students to act.

During the incursion, students conducted a litter audit on school grounds, identifying areas with high levels of litter. Based on their findings, we strive to implement new litter prevention measures, including more bins and educational campaigns. We encourage parents to support these efforts at home by reducing single-use plastics and properly sorting waste. Together, we can foster a culture of sustainability in our community.



Year 11 Biology Kidney Dissection

The students in Unit 1 VCE Biology are examining the different tissue types by dissecting a cow's kidney. This practical investigation is linked to the Key Knowledge - specialisation and organisation of animal cells into tissues, organs and systems with specific functions: digestive, endocrine and excretory - covered in Area of Study 2.



Year 12 Chemistry Electroplating

Electroplating is a process used to cover objects with a thin layer of metal, which is important for many products. Our students studied how changing the concentration of copper sulfate affects the coating of copper on a metal during electroplating. This information can help improve how we use electroplating in industries. This project gave students the chance to use what they've learned in class in a real experiment. They designed the tests, collected data, and analysed the results, gaining valuable scientific skills.



Kind Regards

Mr Osman Bicer
Science Domain Leader

Year 6 Humanities - On Wednesday the 21st of February both Year Six classes were involved in an incursion that covered the topic of Democracy and Parliament Process. Students examined the democratic process in Australia. They learnt the roles of the three levels of government and how the Australian Federal Parliament relates to the Westminster system. Students engaged in an interactive federal election and learnt about preferential voting and absolute majorities. They participated in a Federal Parliament role play, to illustrate how bills become laws. Students formed political parties and added their own opinions to the debate, allowing their creativity to flourish.



On the 15th of May, the Year Six students have participated in an incursion related to the topic of Migration. Students investigated the immigration process to Australia. They learnt the reasons why people immigrate to Australia from other countries, and they understood the contributions immigrants have made to Australian society. Students participated in hands-on activities to explore the concept of global citizenship and they examined international responses to refugees. They learnt the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizenship and appreciate the diverse and multicultural make-up of Australian society.



Year 7 Humanities – During Term One students have covered content on Parliament and how Australia functions democratically as a non-secular society, we also learnt about indigenous culture and the key rights and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen. A highlight of the term was the excursion to Victorian Parliament House and also to the Melbourne Museum.

During Term Two students have covered content on Ancient Egypt. A highlight of the term was the students completing their Ancient Egypt Model – there were some particularly fantastic ones!



Year 8 Humanities – Students have focused on developing their understanding of Democratic processes, how laws are made and what happens when they are broken along with the structure of the Victorian courts system. During term two Students learnt about the Vikings and Medieval Europe. The students completed a poster demonstrating their understanding of the Vikings and in Week 10 also got to participate in a really engaging and fun Medieval Incursion.

Year 9 Humanities – Students have learnt about criminal and civil law and have also been responsible for completing research on global citizens and their influence on the world. In the second term students have learnt about the Industrial revolution and also visited the Shrine of Remembrance during the Term (see the video on our Social Media!)



Year 10 Humanities – In Term One students have developed knowledge on humanitarian crisis, the importance of protection of the rights of citizens, international treaties and have examined the constitution and the role of the high court. In Term Two students have learnt about the experiences of War and also examined the role of a significant First Nations Individual.

Mr Tim Campbell
Humanities Domain Leader



We are thrilled to start off the year by introducing our students to the state-of-the-art kitchen facilities in Food Technology. As part of our curriculum, students have explored the principles outlined in the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, teaching them to make well-informed and nutritious food choices.

Throughout the semester, our students have engaged in hands-on learning experiences, starting with roast vegetable toasties made with homemade garlic aioli. Additionally, the students have explored a variety of dishes including a wholesome quinoa and corn salad, Asian-inspired honey soy noodles, and even baking, making dinner

rolls from scratch. One standout moment in our food tech journey has been the creation of mini burger sliders, where our students took on the challenge of crafting every element from scratch.

Hospitality Year 11 VET

In our Year 11 Hospitality class, we've been delving into the importance of workplace hygiene and cultivating safe work practices. Our VET students have had the opportunity to apply these crucial skills in the kitchen environment, where they've crafted dishes ranging from cheese toasties and pretzels to refreshing smoothies. The students have also been actively engaged in learning how to complete incident reports and identify potential hazards in the kitchen. Our next unit will prepare the students for making espresso-based beverages as they begin working at our student-run school café. The students are very excited to start acquiring skills to help prepare them for hospitality work outside of school.

Hospitality Year 12 VET

The Year 12 VET students have kicked off the year with great momentum, taking charge of the café operations. They have successfully mastered the POS system, contributed to stocktaking, and actively participated in menu development. As they refine their skills during peak service times, they are learning to think quickly on their feet, communicate effectively with their peers, and remain composed under the pressures of a busy service. We've begun the theory components with the introduction of the first scored unit, "Prepare and Serve Non-Alcoholic Beverages," where students will explore a range of drinks, from mocktails to teas to iced beverages. Alongside beverage preparation, they will also acquire essential skills for upholding cleanliness standards in all hospitality areas.



Ms Nicola Glanville
VET Coordinator



Middle/Senior HPE

This term has been full of amazing sporting opportunities for our students to participate in. Interschool sports has been a major hit with our students participating in some of their favourite sports. This has included soccer, badminton and netball. Our Year 7 girls won their competition and will now be competing in the next stage.

Our middle and senior school students got to compete in the first ever Mt Hira House Sports day where they had the opportunity to represent their house in various sports. Green house walked away with the win!!



Our middle and senior school PE classes ran a fitness unit which has provided students with the opportunity to learn different ways of keeping fit which they can do outside of school. We have also been running a net/wall sports unit with our year 8-10 students. This unit has provided them with an opportunity to enhance their volleyball, badminton, and tennis skills.



Our Year 7 students have had the opportunity to participate in an ultimate frisbee program run by sporting schools. This has provided students with an opportunity to learn skills from professional coaches. The Year 9 and 10 boys Futsal team won the Islamic cup for the 3rd year! Well, done boys!

Senior and intermediate interschool sports kicked off our events with students competing against other schools in the Dandenong region in volleyball. We have also sent out a team of Year 8 students to represent us in volleyball in week 8.

The ELC students started their Gymbaroo program which has enabled them to develop their fundamental movement skills.

F-1 students have been exploring their fundamental movement skills through their participation in a variety of PMP activities and minor sports games. F-2 students have also been working towards achieving a values nomination in their PE class. Students have been given the opportunity to add their name to our PE values wall and be recognised for their ability to display our college values in our PE class time.

Year 2-5 students got to attend the swimming program where they enhanced their aquatic skills. Students learnt about water safety and what to do if they find themselves in a dangerous water scenario. On the last day of the program students got to participate in a water safety session. Year 2-5 students also got the opportunity to create their own team based or minor sports games. Students were able to express their creativity and leadership capabilities by running their own games.



Every Thursday our Year 5 and 6 students have been participating in an interschool sports competition against other local primary schools. Our students were able to pick and compete in netball, AFL, soccer, and rugby tag. Our Year 6 boys soccer team made it into the finales which will be happening next term.



Ms Antonia Barbalace
HPE Domain Leader

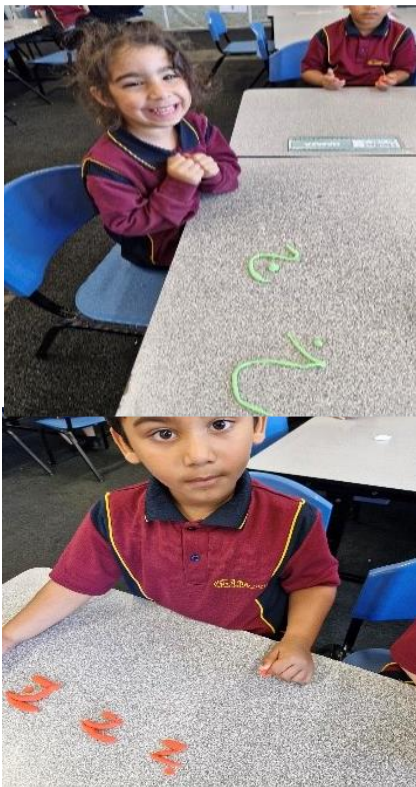
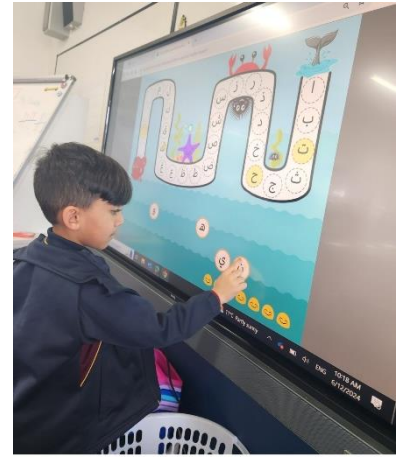
Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

The Arabic team members would like to welcome you to the new academic year 2024. We are glad to announce that we settled in the new year and students are engaged positively in their learning.

The Arabic team this year is composed of five teachers and two support staff who are very experienced and professional in their approach. The Arabic team is as follows: Ms. Ninette, Ms. Manal, Ms Hanan, Ms. Rania and Dr Samir are teaching both, in the Junior and the secondary schools. Ms. Wahba and Ms Linda serve as support staff to the Arabic team.

The Arabic domain teachers use different techniques and strategies in class to motivate students to appreciate learning a second language. We use multiple resources including electronic ones to encourage students to learn to the best of their ability. The activities in all classes are custom-tailored to the needs of our students. The following is a list of the major resources we use in the department:



www.arabilicious.com: It is a free Arabic resource online. It is a portal for both Junior, Middle and Senior students.

www.alefbata.com: It is a comprehensive online resource by subscription. The college purchased it to support the learning of Arabic. Your child has received a username and password to use it both inside and outside the classroom.

www.fluentin3months.com/online-arabic-classes: It is an online portal with several languages to learn. It has Arabic lessons that cater for different levels of proficiency.

www.studystack.com: It is an online resource with many activities that we also use in Arabic.



In addition to these resources, we train our students to use the Arabic keyboards to learn how to type and how to translate using google translator. Youtube is another resource students use to do their revisions online and practise songs in class or at home. We will also use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance our teaching.





Ms Manal's Year 1 group were engaged in hands-on activity as a whole class. They were required to sound-out the Arabic letters while arranging them in order from the right to the left. In addition, students had to say a word that starts with the letter of each card they hold. This activity aimed to work with students on their phonological awareness."



I would like to request the parents to encourage and support their children to learn a second language as it has many benefits and may open doors for them in the job market in the future.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Samir Dorhmi
Arabic Domain Leader

THE ARTS DOMAIN REPORT

Ms Guldane Yenilmez

In art this term we have been focusing on our fine motor skills from Year 3 to Year 10. Students have experimented with various art forms and have created their art finals using numerous materials like oil paint, Ebru Sanati, Quick dry clay, papier Mache, digital art, free hand drawing and lino cut.

Students have spent vast majority of the term focusing and researching ways in which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders art could relate back to their identity and how they can incorporate the traditional custodians of the land into their work. We have had excellent results with senior school art finals and how they have related their cultures and aspects of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders traditions which is evident in their work.



Whilst focusing on fine motor skills, our primary cohort had the opportunity to learn about dissecting an image to its finest core detail to understand the meaning behind what it portrays. Students are now aware that all art forms they see have a deeper meaning than 'just a painting' or 'just a picture'. We have learnt to break down an art piece and look for a meaning that relates back to yourself. There is no right or wrong answer in how you interpret an artwork, it is how that piece has connected with you that has brought your interpretation out.

As Ramadan was fast approaching, we put alongside our finals and got to preparing decorations for our school community to get into the Ramadan spirit early. From primary to middle to senior school, all cohorts helped in decorating, writing notes and inspirational quotes for our Ramadan walls displayed all around the school.

We have overall had an amazing start to the year and cannot wait to see the amazing art works our students will create in semester two.

May you have a safe and wonderful holiday,

Miss Guldane



WELLBEING TEAM REPORT

Dear Mt. Hira Community,

We are pleased to report that the year 2024 has started off on a positive note here at our school. Our students have settled in quite well, and we have been busy preparing them for any emergency situation through various drills.

In February, our students in years 7 to 9 had the opportunity to participate in a workshop conducted by Brainstorm. The workshop focused on the important topics of anti-bullying and cyber/safety, providing our students with valuable knowledge and skills to navigate these challenging issues.

Additionally, our school counsellor has been working diligently to support our students in resolving conflicts and promoting restorative care. Group sessions have been held to address these issues and provide students with the necessary tools to effectively handle conflicts in a positive and constructive manner.

We are proud of the efforts that have been made to ensure the well-being and safety of our students, and we look forward to continuing to provide a supportive and enriching learning environment for all.

Please feel free to reach out for support or resources. We are here to assist and are dedicated to collaborating as a community to ensure the best possible educational experience for our students.

Thank you for your consistent support and involvement in our school community.

Wishing you a safe and happy break

Ms Rose Bogarts
College Counsellor

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I would like to introduce myself, I am the new Junior Counsellor, Farzana Qasimi. I will be working closely with our students to provide support in various aspects of their lives, including social, academic, and emotional well-being. It is our priority to ensure that our students have the resources and help they need to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

As a school, we recognize the importance of early intervention when it comes to mental health and well-being. I will implement strategies and programs to assist students in developing healthy coping mechanisms and resilience in the face of challenges. We are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment where all students feel valued and heard.

As always, we are here to support our students in any way we can. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Together, we can create a positive and nurturing environment where all students can thrive.

Ms Farzana Qasimi
Junior School Counsellor



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm thrilled to provide an update on our recent endeavours aimed at enriching the student experience and fostering a sense of belonging within our school community.

Last term, we embarked on the exciting journey of creating a sensory room, and I'm delighted to share that our vision has now become a reality. After months of diligent planning and resource gathering, we've transformed this space into a serene oasis where students can unwind, explore, and engage their senses. The addition of the sensory room has already proven invaluable, offering our students a much-needed retreat for relaxation and sensory stimulation. Furthermore, I'm excited to highlight the success of our lunchtime crochet clubs.

These sessions have not only provided students with a creative outlet but have also encouraged socialization and the forging of new friendships. It's been truly inspiring to witness students come together, learn new skills, and support one another in this inclusive and welcoming environment. As we continue to prioritize student wellbeing and community building, I look forward to further initiatives that will enhance the overall school experience for our students.

Mrs Hatice Karatas
Wellbeing Officer



The Crochet Crew - Bring your yarnspirations and a hookitude!

Purpose: "To foster creativity, skill-building, and friendship through crochet."

About Us: "We're 'Hooked on Stitches,' a club for crochetchusiasts of all levels. Join us for fun, learning, and crafting connections!"

Year 7 and 8 students only!

Join us for regular sessions to learn new stitches, techniques, and patterns every Monday at lunch time in the Sensory room located in the library.



See you all there!

HEAD OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORT

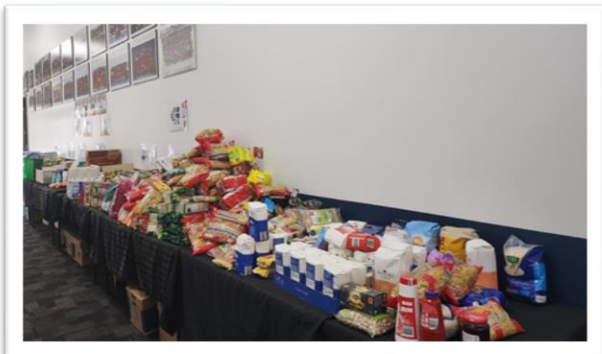
Mr Muhammad Sezgin

Dear Parents/Carers,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh (May peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you),

In the Holy Qur'an, our Almighty Lord (swt) states, "And spend [in the way of Allah] from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, 'My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous.'"

Infaq entails offering to others from the wealth and blessings Allah (swt) has bestowed upon us. It signifies safeguarding and supporting those in need, thereby nurturing both the body and soul. Infaq also plays a vital role in fostering societal harmony, peace, unity, and solidarity. As mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, "And from their properties was [given] the right of the [needy] petitioner and the deprived."



This semester has been a fruitful time for our College community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Ramadan Food Drive Campaign, held from February 20th to March 4th, 2024. Students actively participated in packaging and distributing donations, and you can view a video of the event on our social media platforms. We also had our Year Seven, Year Nine, Year Twelve and staff Iftar.

Our annual Mt Hira College Hajj Simulation Program took place on May 30th, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the College Gymnasium, hosted by our Year Seven students. Students from the Early Learning Centre (4-year-olds) to Year Six had the opportunity to experience the rituals of Hajj. This year, we were delighted to include a 'Camel Riding' experience for all students from Foundation to Year Six, with over 200 parents attending.

During the simulation, students managed various stations, including Police Customs - Passport Control, Introduction to Arabia, Preparation of Hajj Kit (items needed during Hajj), Kaaba Cloth from Mecca, Kaaba Maquette (circumambulation), Safa and Marwa, Arafat, Muzdalifah, Mina, Jamarat, Sacrifice, and serving of Zamzam water.

In Term Two, we organised a free dress day to raise funds for a water well project, and alhamdulillah, we raised \$800.00. We sincerely thank the College Community for their ongoing support.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting event planned for Semester Two: our Qur'an Competition will be hosted in the gym on August 2nd, 2024. More details will follow soon.

Kind Regards,

Muhammed Sezgin
Head of Religious Affairs/ RE Domain Leader

CAREERS REPORT

Ms Rihab Abou - Zolf

Mt Hira Careers Department striving to guide and support our students towards their future pathways & goals.

A busy and enriching Term for the Mt Hira Careers Department

As we wrap up another term at Mt Hira College, we reflect on the diversity of programs, events, and sessions that have kept the Careers Department bustling. It has been an incredibly productive period, full of enriching experiences for all our secondary school students.

Year 7 Well-Being Program

Our Year 7 students were deeply engrossed in a four-week Well-Being Program. This initiative was designed to equip them with essential life skills, study techniques, and a variety of well-being activities. The program focused on fostering resilience, effective study habits, and overall well-being, ensuring our students are well-prepared for the challenges ahead. Activities ranged from mindfulness exercises to team-building games, all aimed at promoting a positive and balanced approach to both school and personal life.



Year 10 Work Experience Preparation

The Year 10 cohort were enlightened with an extensive Work Experience Information Session. This session provided all the necessary details to prepare students for their upcoming work experience placements at the end of Term 3. The session was highly interactive and informative, offering students a comprehensive understanding of what to expect in the workplace. Topics covered included workplace etiquette, communication skills, and the importance of punctuality and professionalism. Students left the session feeling well-prepared and excited for their work placements.



Year 12 Monash University Clayton Campus & Deakin University Burwood Campus – Tours & Presentations

Our Year 12 students had an enjoyable term filled with informative and interactive excursions. These included presentations and tours of Deakin University in Burwood and Monash University in Clayton. Additionally, they attended the VCE Expo at the Melbourne Showgrounds, which was a highlight for many. These excursions provided students with valuable insights into future pathways and courses available to them. They learned about the requirements and what to expect when transitioning from school to university life.



Year 12 VCE & Careers Expo – Melbourne Showgrounds

The VCE & Careers Expo was particularly impressive, featuring an abundance of stalls from universities, football clubs, TAFEs, emergency services, major Australian companies, exam support services, VTAC, and more. This event gave students the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from various institutions and industries, gathering crucial information and resources to aid in their career decision-making process.



Looking Forward

As we look forward to next term, the Careers Department is excited to continue providing our secondary students with outstanding guidance and support. We have many more exciting careers events planned, designed to inspire, and inform our students about their various future pathways. At Mt Hira College, we remain committed to helping our students navigate their career journeys with confidence and clarity.

Thank you to all the staff and students who have made this term a success. We look forward to more enriching experiences in the coming terms.

Rihab Abou Zolf

Careers Coordinator

Mt Hira College Careers Department