

# ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Islamic College Of Melbourne

## ICOM'S TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY



**TERM 4:** ICOM Solidarity with Palestine, Year 10 Extended Investigation, ICOM Teacher Appreciation Day, Year 12 Last Formal Day, Important Dates, Reminders and more!

## Principal's Message



*Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.*

Dear parents, guardians and students,

As we pass the midpoint of Term 4, a period characterised by increased activity as things start to wrap up for the year, the sense of unity and shared purpose within our school has never felt stronger. Looking back over these past weeks, I take pride in the milestones achieved and the community spirit that unites our school. Alhamdulillah, the dedication of our students and the hard work of our staff continue to propel us forward, enriching our environment with both academic excellence and personal growth.

To start, Term 4 began poignantly as we celebrated two major events – the final day for our Year 12 Students and Teacher Appreciation Day. The entire school gathered to celebrate and bid farewell to our senior students during their final assembly, a rite of passage we all felt privileged to share. The school captains delivered heartfelt speeches, reflecting on their experiences and the journey ahead, while the announcement of the new captains marked a passing of the torch and inspired continuity for the coming year. The school also took a moment to acknowledge our dedicated teachers with a show of appreciation, presenting them with gifts in recognition of their impact and invaluable contributions to all students. This dual celebration of

both teachers and graduating students underscored the interconnectedness of the school community. It reminded everyone present that while we were preparing to send off our students into the future, we are also reinforcing the foundation of educational excellence and care that our teachers provide.

As our graduating seniors step boldly into the next chapter of their lives, we trust that the values of faith and knowledge instilled in them at ICOM will serve as a guiding compass, leading them not only towards personal success but also towards contributing positively to the communities they will become part of. We wish them all the best as they embark on their exam period and stand united in support of their efforts and aspirations.

In response to the humanitarian crisis currently unfolding in Palestine, the school organised Palestine Solidarity Day to show empathy and raise awareness for the people affected in the region. ICOM students showed their support dressing in a sea of Palestinian Kuffiyehs, participating in a successful bake sale and adding their handprints to an inspiring mural painting showcasing our school community's commitment to unite with empathy. Donation from our school-wide fundraiser totalled a combined \$62,000, with all funds raised going on to aid those currently suffering from the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The entire day served as a powerful demonstration of ICOM's shared dedication to expressing our solidarity with the Palestinian people. The ability to engage our student with these complex global issues with empathy and openness is a skill we deeply value, one that is essential for the leaders of tomorrow. These discussions are not always easy to explain, but they are necessary, as they shape our students into informed, compassionate citizens of the world. I am thankful to all students, teachers and staff who made this day a resounding success.

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This term, our school was also proud to host the SRC Forum with the sessions being delivered by the federal MP Joanne Ryan. The forum, designed to nurture the leadership skills of student representatives from schools across Wyndham, provided an unparalleled opportunity for these young leaders to interact, discuss and learn from one of the most experienced voices in federal politics. Two sessions were held, one each for primary and secondary students, and was instrumental in building connections and unity among student leaders from various schools. It was heartening to see students from different backgrounds, with diverse viewpoints, come together to find common ground and work towards a collective goal. Ms Ryan's involvement was also instrumental in making the SRC Forum a resounding success, one that we are confident will have a lasting impact on all students and their future endeavours.

As we look towards the close of the term and beyond, it is clear that the fabric of our school community is woven with threads of unity, empathy, and dedication. From the anticipation and support for our graduating students and appreciation of our educators, to our solidarity with global causes and the democratic spirit that enlivens our student body. Each thread is integral and every pattern reflective of the diversity and unity that we cherish. I am confident that together, we will create an environment where every student is encouraged to excel, to contribute, and to become an active participant in the global community.

With warm regards and unwavering support,

**Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine**  
College Principal



## Important Dates and Reminders

- Parents are reminded that in Terms 1 & 4 students are to be wearing the summer uniform, as per the Uniform Policy.
- Parents are reminded to install SEQTA Engage to access important messages sent from the College.
- Parents are asked to keep their details, including email address updated with the College. You may do this through SEQTA Engage.
- Parents must advise the College of any medical conditions their child may have, whether it is severe or just a mild condition.
- The College cannot provide medication to students unless it has been prescribed to them. This includes hay fever tablets and paracetamol. If your child requires medication your child's name and directions must be on the label before handing any medication to the College nurse.

**17 November 2023**

Foundation Concert

**24 November 2023**

Year 12 Graduation

**4 December 2023**

Year 6 Graduation

**5 December 2023**

Year 6 Big Day Out

**6 December 2023**

Last Day of Term 4  
for Foundation Students

**7 December 2023**

Last Day of Term 4  
for all Students (Year 1-11)

**7 December 2023**

2024 Foundation  
Orientation Day

**8 December 2023**

Secondary Awards Night

**15 December 2023**

Admin Office Closes



# ICOM Solidarity with Palestine

Recently, our dedicated staff at ICOM, along with our incredible students, came together in a special initiative to raise funds for our brothers and sisters in Palestine.

Our beloved teachers, after a long day at school, rolled up their sleeves and got to work in their own kitchens baking an array of delectable treats.

As a community, our school came together with open hearts and open wallets and the result was beyond our expectations raising a combined amount of \$62,000.

Primary students also showed their love and support by crafting a Palestinian flag with their handprints, as well as a series of artworks and posters created by Secondary ART department displaying unwavering solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Palestine. The flag and artworks proudly displayed on the school grounds reminding everyone the importance of unity.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our incredible teachers who went above and beyond, and to our students who demonstrated such beautiful solidarity. Their kindness, compassion and hard work are truly commendable. May Allah reward you all abundantly, for your selflessness.

Let's continue to pray and make dua for the well-being and for peace to our brothers and sisters in Palestine. Together we can make a difference one step at a time.







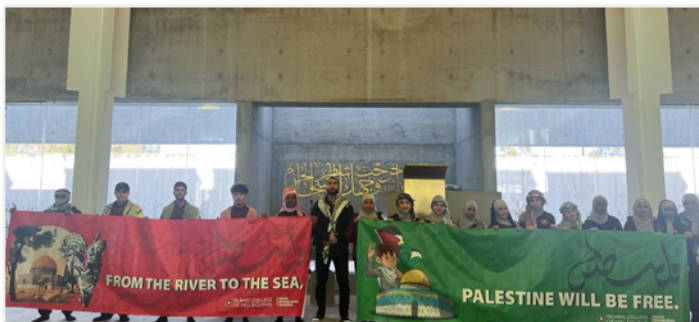
The 3rd of November was a day of true dedication and action. Our Year 10 LCPC students in coordination with the Australian Islamic Centre in Newport, organised a fantastic sausage sizzle event to raise funds for our beloved brothers and sister in Palestine.

After the inspiring Khutbah, the students rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Students had also created merchandise showing their solidarity with Palestine, including hats, keyring, and t-shirts.

We are beyond thrilled to announce that our dedicated students raised an incredible amount of \$16,290. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our community.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the AIC for giving us the amazing opportunity to make a positive impact. A massive thank you also goes out to all the teachers who played a significant role in making this campaign a reality.

May Allah reward you all immensely for your unwavering dedication and efforts in supporting our brothers and sisters in Palestine. Together you've shown that when a community comes together with a shared goal, incredible things can happen.





## Year 12 Last Day of formal classes

The 13th of October marked the last day of formal classes for our Year 12 students. To celebrate this milestone, the whole College came together for a special ICOM Assembly. Graduates paraded the red carpet in their gowns while the whole school cheered them on for the completion of their school studies.

Graduates then continued their Last Day of celebration with a banquet along with their peers, teachers and the College Principal.

Congratulations ICOM students on reaching your last day of Year 12! May you continue to flourish in the journey of Faith, Knowledge and Success.









# Teachers Appreciation Day

Teacher Appreciation Day is one of the most significant days on the ICOM calendar.

At ICOM, it is a rich opportunity to recognize the great efforts of our superstar teachers who embody the noble virtues our College upholds.

We truly appreciate our superstar teachers for their ongoing hard work, administering lifelong knowledge, utilizing a unique approach to education and establishing a beautiful teacher-student bond. Our College Principal Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine addressed the school community while ICOM Students Representative Council presented the Teacher Appreciation Day gifts to all staff as a token of appreciation and gratitude.

It was a wonderful heart-warming day with both the Primary and Secondary cohorts coming together to celebrate this significant occasion at a special assembly.

Thank you to all ICOM inspirational teachers. Remember the Prophet's words, "Whoever teaches some knowledge will have the reward of the one who acts upon it, without that detracting from his reward in the slightest."





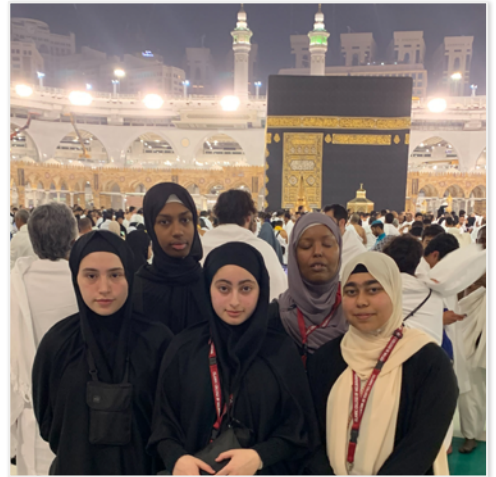
# ICOM Leadership Trip – Ummrah and Turkey

Visiting the holiest cities in Islam, Mecca and Medina will continuously infuse Iman, comprehension of our deen and an unforgettable experience in a Muslim.

AlhamdulillahAllah, ICOM Students and Staff are back, grateful for the knowledge and a lifetime experience of seeing the Kaaba, praying in the Mecca and Medina Harams, visiting the grave of Prophet PBUH and most of all developing great Leadership.

Students also visited Historic and rich Islamic sites in Istanbul, Turkey. Learning about the great Ottoman civilisation and visiting the greatest mosques of Turkey were an important part of the trip to Turkey, in particular the amazing Hagia Sophia Mosque, early morning walks to pray Fajr in the historical Fatih Mosque and the Grand Çamlıca Mosque, the largest mosque in Turkey.

MahsaaAllah, it was truly a rewarding trip.













# 2024 Debating and College Captains

The eagerly anticipated announcement of the 2024 College Captains sent waves of excitement through the student body.

After a rigorous selection process, two outstanding ICOM students, Sajad Mustapha and Wajeeha Raza were named 2024 College Captains.

Debating Captains: Nosayba Aljibaly, Khadra El Hawli, and Caliph Bempah-Marten were also announced for 2024. These three leaders have shown exceptional dedication and eloquence, setting a new standard for excellence within our debating team.

Their skills in persuasion and argumentation have not only brought prestige to their names but have also motivated their peers to aim for higher levels of intellectual discussion. Their commitment to fostering a culture of healthy debate and intellectual growth has set an example for future debaters.

Congratulations to our college captains and debating captains for their outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to lead all Secondary cohorts throughout 2024



## Debating and Public Speaking

The Junior Debating Program for Year 7 and 8 students at ICOM has commenced with great enthusiasm. Our training evening on the 11th of October set the stage for an engaging and thought-provoking series of debates, and the first round took place on the 18th of October. It was an honour to host teams from Al-Taqwa College and Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

The debate topic, 'Should the sale of non-food animal products be banned?' sparked intense discussions and showcased the remarkable skills of our debaters. Here are the results:

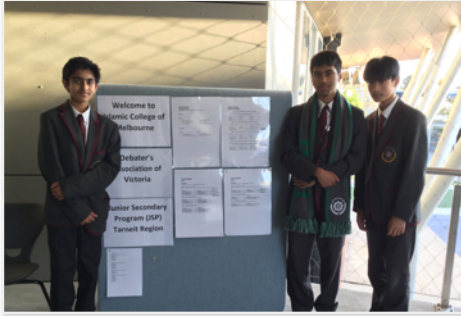
ICOM Team 1 put up a strong fight but unfortunately lost by a narrow margin of one point to Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Congratulations to ICOM Team 2 for securing a well-deserved victory by 2 points against Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Applause for ICOM Team 3 for their impressive performance, winning by 2 points against Al-Taqwa College.

Kudos to ICOM Team 4 for their outstanding performance, securing a convincing 4-point win against Al-Taqwa College.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the winners of the Best Speaker title in their respective debates: Mayesha Ahmed of 8E, Albaraa Aljibaly of 8C, and Hamza Faisal of 7C. Well done on your exceptional display of eloquence and critical thinking.



The SAP Public Speaking Competition, now in its third year at ICOM, stands as an annual celebration of the remarkable abilities possessed by our SAP students. It provided them the platform to address a wide spectrum of crucial social issues and convey their thoughts and ideas persuasively in front of their teachers and peers.

This event is a highly anticipated occasion within the academic calendar, as it showcases the eloquence and persuasive skills of the participating students. One of the most captivating segments of the competition, is the three-minute impromptu speech. During this segment, students were presented with a challenging task: they were given just four minutes to prepare and then speak on a topic they have never encountered before. The exercise not only tests their public speaking abilities but also their capacity to think on their feet and deliver a compelling argument under time pressure.

Well done to all the SAP participants for their hard work, dedication, and courage in showcasing their speaking skills. Their efforts are commendable, and they should be extremely proud of their achievements.





## Year 10 – Extended Investigation

*In a remarkable testament to their commitment, perseverance, and willingness to step out of their comfort zones, Year 10 students at the ICOM have undertaken university-level research as part of their VCE Extended Investigation (EI) studies. This year-long research journey has empowered these young researchers to delve into diverse topics of their interest, conduct academic literature reviews, collect primary data, analyse findings, and recommend strategies for addressing key issues identified during their investigation. The EI program has provided these students with a unique and transformative learning experience, allowing them to gain invaluable insights and skills that extend far beyond traditional classroom learning.*

*One of the remarkable aspects of the VCE Extended Investigation program at ICOM is the wide range of topics that students choose to explore. These young researchers have demonstrated a keen interest in understanding and contributing to various fields. Some of the interesting topics explored this year includes: factors leading to overrepresentation of Aboriginal youths in incarceration rates, scientific inquiry on the suitable storage conditions for Kiwi Fruit: Others turned their attention to more scientific inquiries, exploring the optimal storage conditions for kiwi fruit to prolong their freshness and quality, impacts of active participation in sports on youth memory skills, world of sustainable fashion, the impact of video games on young minds, managing global financial crisis, and transformative capabilities of martial arts programs.*

*The journey of these Year 10 students began with a rigorous academic literature review. They explored the existing research and academic theories related to their chosen topics, building a strong foundation for their investigations. With this knowledge, students went on to conduct primary research, which included surveys, interviews, and experiments, to collect original data. This hands-on approach allowed them to gain valuable insights and firsthand experience in conducting research, a skill often reserved for university-level studies.*





Once the data was collected, students embarked on the critical phase of data analysis. They used statistical tools, qualitative methods, and critical thinking to make sense of their findings. It was during this stage that they uncovered key issues related to their topics of investigation. With a deep understanding of these issues, they formulated recommendations and proposed strategies for addressing the challenges they had identified. This process required them to think critically, apply problem-solving skills, and demonstrate creativity in developing viable solutions.

Undertaking university-level research is no small task, especially for Year 10 students. The journey was undoubtedly a roller coaster ride filled with challenges and triumphs. These young scholars had to manage their time effectively, balance their academic responsibilities, and stay committed to their research objectives. As they handed in their 4000-word academic reports, they shared a profound sense of accomplishment and pride in their work.

The learning gained from the VCE Extended Investigation program at ICOM goes far beyond the confines of traditional subjects. Students not only acquired subject-specific knowledge but also developed critical research skills, honed their analytical thinking, and improved their ability to communicate complex ideas. These skills are invaluable, preparing them for the rigors of higher education and future careers.

As the students reflect on their Extended Investigation experiences, they unanimously express how transformative this journey has been. They've gained confidence in their research abilities and developed a passion for inquiry. Below are some of the reflections from 2023 EI class:

When talking about Extended Investigation, it genuinely deserves an entire series. The roller-coaster of emotions that happen throughout this journey is beyond imaginable, however its a memorable experience. From the tears shed from distress and agony to the tears of happiness and joy of the completion of Extended can never be done in any other subject. Through Extended you meet extraordinary people working day and night, fighting for change. For context, my research was on Aboriginal youth imprisonment, a challenging yet a topic that truly deserves more voices to speak out. I was able to interview His Honour Judge Matthew Myers AM, a judge in the federal court, the Acting Children's Commissioner Nicole Hucks from the Northern Territory and Hon Linda Burney MP, who is the Minister for Indigenous Australians and many other



academic professors in the field of criminology and Indigenous justice. Hearing their opinion and information gave me a deeper insight into the injustice that young Aboriginal youths our ages have to go through. -**Rukaiya Riyas Hashim -10B**

Extended Investigation included the skill level set that I was once intimidated by. I remember walking into the very first lesson - with that daunting feeling stirring up inside me. However, after these months I sit here today with the vast amount of skills that I have developed solely because of this subject. These skills involved me becoming an independent, critical and reflective thinker - it allowed me to develop key research project management skills which were applied to many subjects on a daily basis. From struggling to write an 800 word rationale to confidently submitting a 4000 word report, I can firmly see the phenomenal improvement in not only my writing skills, but external skills such as productivity and time management skills. The key highlight of this experience was the feeling of accomplishment that occurred when submitting that full 4000 word report. Throughout this entire experience, many learning experiences were acquired. One of them being the cliché concept of not giving up and obtaining perseverance throughout the whole investigation.





*I learnt that without hardships, no improvement will be formed. Overall, Extended Investigation was a subject that was worth everything due to all the amazing skills, accomplishments and opportunities that the subject provided. -Eishal Noor Tanooli -10D*

*Alhamdulillah, the Extended Investigation journey is almost ending and what a journey it has been, for me (and everyone else) it was most definitely filled with its ups and downs, highs and lows, moments of tears and moments of joy. The EI journey started with choosing our own research questions which to me was quite easy since prior to starting EI, I already made up my mind on what I was doing, though throughout the EI path I did change my research question ever so slightly a few times. To give a quick gist of the subject, EI is a subject where you choose your own research question to... research and produce a 4000 word report in the end and TRUST ME 4000 words isn't a lot when you actually reach that stage and I personally struggled to have LESS than 4000 words, we were tasked with justifying why we chose the topic we were doing and choosing research methods we would implement in our research and again justifying why we chose these methods etc and later conducting our own research via interviews or surveys etc and producing a report (the 4000 report I was talking about earlier) where your findings make up a good chunk of the report. Now it may seem easy and if I'm going to be honest, the task itself sounded easy but HOW to do it and doing the task was the real issue, the words were too technical to understand at times, doing certain portions of the task was a challenge and required a LOT of time, so yes expect burnouts and headaches, BUT once you receive your mark the real satisfaction hits in and your hard work definitely pays off. The beauty of the subject is that EI is your training ground for university because when you reach into the university stage Insha'Allah your professors will ask you to produce reports that are pretty much like EI, so this subject sets you up for university and ultimately success, EI has made me research topics in a way where I now, no matter what, always check for the validity of my source or whatever I am researching and this skill I developed in EI carries onto my other subjects and Insha'Allah it will for you too. EI is something I highly recommend you all to take up and try your 110% best in this subject, it is certainly something unique and definitely beneficial. -Mir Munstasir Ali -10C*



*I started Extended Investigation at the beginning of the year not really knowing what I was doing as it's a subject like no other, a completely new and different experience. Rather than having to memorise definitions and study for tests we were instead tasked with choosing a question we were passionate about and we investigated the nitty gritty of that question throughout the course of the year. Along with my classmates, we learnt important skills such as time management, decision making and problem-solving. Despite being a challenging subject, I've still had many great memories from EI this year, some of which including late night calls the night before a SAC is due and implementing feedback just before submitting the SAC. Extended Investigation not only improved my cognitive skills, but also helped me develop a strong sense of comradery with my classmates because as bad as it may sound, it was comforting to know that I wasn't the only one stuck on something.*



*This subject has allowed me to work both independently and in cooperation with classmates, and despite it seeming tough in the beginning, looking back at my EI journey, I don't have any regrets at all. -Arham Ali Mir -10C*

# Wellbeing Incursion – Puberty

Our year 7 and 8 students had a special incursion as they delved into a world of wellbeing and informative sessions around puberty with a unique focus on faith and teenage development.

Students had the opportunity to explore the physical, mental and religious responsibilities that come with puberty and adolescence. It is essential for them to understand these changes in the context of our faith and personal growth.

We were proud to create a safe and inclusive environment where students could ask questions, seek guidance and gain knowledge about their bodies and their changes.

In addition to a day of learning, our girls enjoyed a delightful high tea, savouring a variety of delicious treats where they got to enjoy not just the food but the company of their fellow friends and teachers.

On the other side, the boys enjoyed a feast of burgers, chips and donuts with their friends and teachers.

It was an insightful day for all, where every student walked away not just with gained knowledge but with a wellbeing sanitary pack including the essentials to maintain personal hygiene.





# ICOM SRC Forum

*ICOM had the honor of hosting the SRC Forum, run by Federal MP Joanne Ryan.*

*This incredible event brought together students from various schools in the Wyndham City Council area for a day of learning, collaboration and sharing ideas.*

*Students were tasked with analysing and discussing various topics related to their school community. The exercise allowed them to explore the problem, plan effective solutions, implement their ideas and most importantly, evaluate the results.*

*The day concluded, where each group presented their topic to the rest of the students. The array of ideas our students came up with during the SRC forum was truly remarkable.*

*We couldn't be prouder of our students for their active participation and enthusiastic engagement throughout the SRC Forum.*

*A huge thank you goes out to our Federal MP Joanne Ryan for all her efforts as well as to all the schools who attended and participated in this Forum.*



# Australian Mathematics Competition

*First run in 1978, the Australian Mathematics Competition is Australia's longest-running, largest, and most well-known Maths competition for school students.*

*Like all competitions, the AMC contains unique problems designed each year by leading educators and academics to challenge and extend problem-solving skills.*

*In the year 2023, 17,2791 students from 2,156 schools entered the competition. Alhamdulillah, 43 students from ICOM took part in this year's competition and achieved some excellent results:*

*1 High Distinction award - placed among the top 2%*

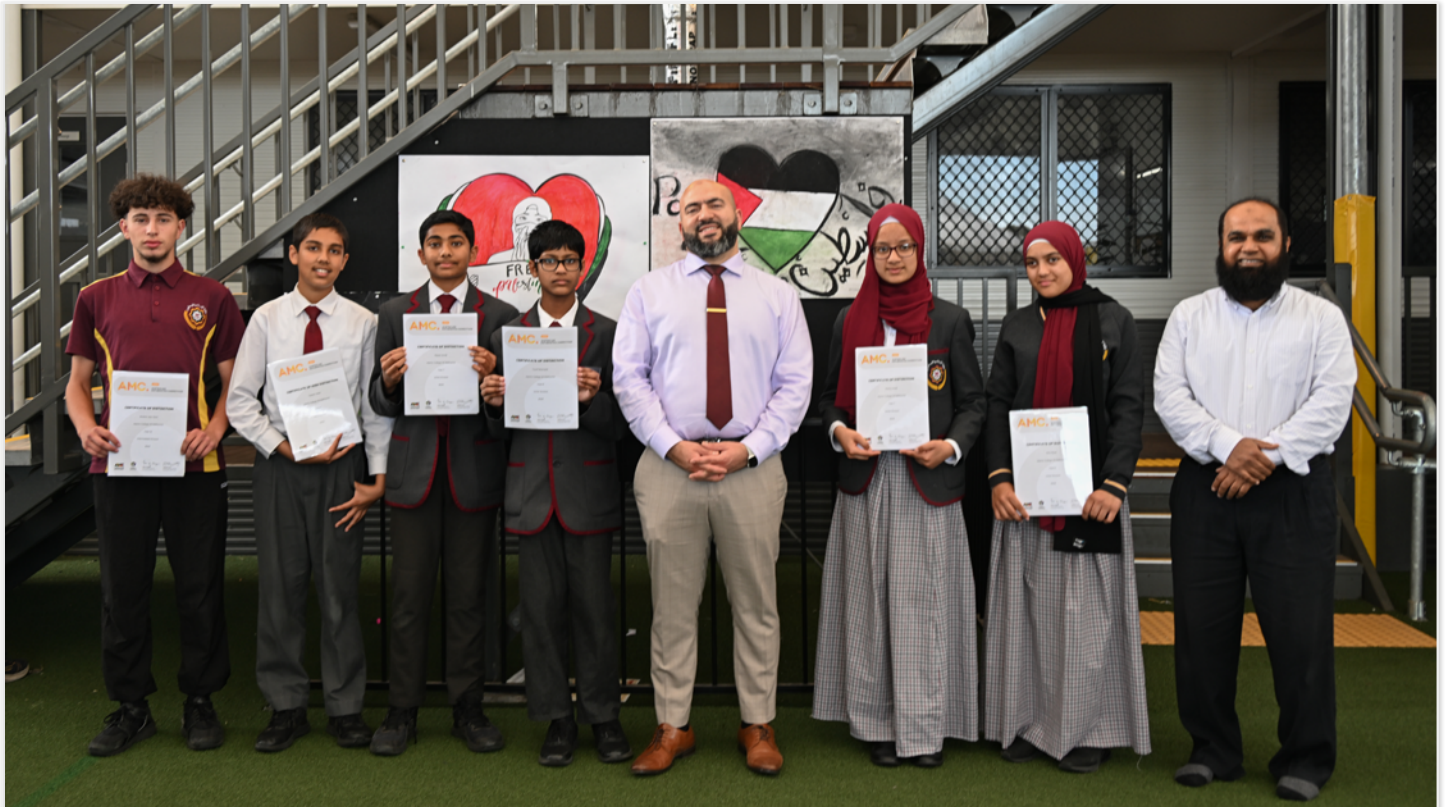
*5 Distinction awards- placed among the top 19%*

*11 Credit awards*

*18 Proficiency awards*

*8 Participation awards*

*We wish to congratulate our students for their brilliant effort and hope they have a bright future in Mathematics.*





## Year 2 Market Fresh Incursion

In our science classes, we have been investigating push and pull forces. Students have gained a better understanding of the role of forces in the world around them.

In Week 3 of Term 4, Grade 2 students participated in a Tool Incursion. They enjoyed using tools and hardware to create their own carts. Students had the opportunity to learn the names of tools and how to use them safely. It was a great hands on experience of learning an important life skill.

**Ms Hima Mamtani**

*Year 2 Teacher*





# Primary Library News



*Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,*

We have had a very busy time in the library recently, last term saw us embracing STEM week with a vibrant display outlining the different areas within STEM, with books on each subject available for the students to borrow. The library staff had a lot of fun talking to the primary students about their costumes and the inspiration behind them.

With classes on library skills being implemented this term, students are being encouraged to use their imagination and take advantage of what the library has to offer, this has seen an increase of student's visiting the library at recess and lunch to borrow, read, relax, colour and participate in the creative writing and drawing clubs.

The primary students are also keen to get involved with the daily running of the library and participate in our library assistant program, they are using their skills to successfully label books, tidy shelves and put books away in the correct spot. Their attention to detail has been amazing!

**Mr George Demetrios**  
Head Librarian

**Ms Amie Callaghan**  
Primary Librarian





# Secondary Library News



*Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,*

*During Term 4, our Year 7 and 8 students participated in English Skills Library Reading session pilot program.*

*Each class is expected to read silently for 20 minutes. After such time, students break up into small groups to converse over discussion topics.*

*The purpose of reading circles is to foster a deeper understanding of the book through shared perspectives and insights. Prompt questions are used to encourage student agency and adopt autonomy when facilitating reading circles.*

*Students have been excited to select titles from our new reading collection acquired specifically for our reading circles. From Car magazines to National Geographic, from action adventure to Enola Homes, the reading program caters to various student preferences and abilities.*

*The Reading Skills program has been designed to engrain reading for pleasure. A time and space are assigned for students to adopt 'reading for pleasure' and to provide an opportunity for readers to engage in literature in a more interactive and collaborative manner.*

**Mr George Demetrios**  
Head Librarian

**Ms Nadia Moosa**  
Secondary Librarian

