

Weeks 7 - 8 Term 4 2021



CEO Message

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatu-Allahi
Wabarakaatuh

I am very excited to announce the creation of a new academic plan for our students to achieve their academic potential. We have titled it Unity Grammar's Roadmap for Academic Success.

The purpose of our roadmap is to ensure Unity Grammar has a consistent set of meaningful strategies to support our students in achieving their full academic potential in school, through to their HSC. It begins in the early years of education and each year builds on the skills required for academic success.

Our roadmap focuses on further developing the connections between Quality Teaching and Learning, Wellbeing and Community Engagement.

Our Quality Teaching and Learning section works towards goals in reading and interpreting data, raising academic standards, achieving clear HSC targets and every student achieving a minimum 12-months growth every year.

Wellbeing will focus on our students developing positive relationships with their peers and staff, and further developing their skills and capacity to be well-rounded, confident leaders within our community when they leave school.

Community Engagement focuses on further developing meaningful partnerships with our parent community, Alumni, externally with other like-minded schools and universities, and sustainable partnerships with various industries.

We have the experience to know what it takes for our students to achieve their potential and Unity Grammar's Roadmap for Academic Success identifies how this will be achieved. Our teachers are now preparing for the rollout in 2022, and next year we look forward to sharing with our students and parents how we intend on implementing the first stages of the plan.

On a separate note, congratulations to our senior school debating teams who have made their way to the finals. Our students have demonstrated great skill and tenacity to defeat competitor schools and we are proud of your efforts. Go team Unity!

Kind regards

Aaron Boyd
CEO Unity Grammar



Spiritual Message

Islam helps us achieve a constant state of gratefulness linked to Allah's promise in the Quran when He says: 'If you are thankful, I will give you more'. How beautiful is this promise, and how motivating?! In times of ease, you are grateful, which keeps you inspired; in times of difficulty, you are thankful and able to overcome a challenging situation. Being grateful gives you the positive spiritual energy you need to meet life's challenges.

Sh Arshad Khan - Head of Islamic Studies

Message from Junior School



Assalamu alaykum dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that only a few weeks remain of the school year. In reflecting on the year so far, it's clear that we've had to make a conscious effort to actively and intentionally contribute to our own and others' wellbeing.

In the Junior School, Wellbeing has been the priority, not only during lockdown, but also as our students transitioned back to school. In the weeks leading up to our return to face-to-face teaching, the Wellbeing Team and the Teaching and Learning Team partnered closely to develop a plan that would ensure our students' spiritual, social, emotional, behavioural and academic needs were addressed.

Throughout this term it's clear that this strategy has been hugely successful. Here are some ways we have done this:

Spiritual

In the absence of our usual morning assembly where we would normally do our Quran recitation and values, we have held virtual morning assemblies. It is absolutely wonderful walking through the corridors and listening to the children reciting together.

Social

We realised very quickly that our students needed to be given chances to reconnect with one another, especially after over 4 months of not seeing or playing with each other. Throughout the school day, students are given multiple opportunities to connect with their peers through structured wellbeing activities including circle time. During circle time, students share responses to prompts like, "What are you most excited about for next year?"

Emotional

There are many ways that we are attending to students' emotional needs each day. An example of this was when our counselling team ran a highly successful workshop with our Year 6 students about how they will prepare themselves to transition to Year 7. Students looked at strategies to address normal fears and anxieties that come up at such times.

Behavioural

Your child may have told you that we now have separate play and eating times for infants (Kindergarten to Year 2) and primary (Year 3 to Year 6). Students have more play space and are with their same age peers in their allocated space.

Academic

We have continued to ask ourselves the all-important question, "What matters most?" in teaching and learning. We knew it would be hugely disadvantageous to students to continue to pursue normal practices when students have had anything but a normal year. One example of this is how we've reimaged end of year exams. We've opted instead to do a series of formative assessments where students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. We've also spotlighted English and mathematics as these remain critical in the area of academic learning.

I would like to once again extend my appreciation and thanks to all parents and carers who partner with us to ensure our students have the best possible schooling experience.

Mrs Ola Issa
Head of Junior School

Junior School Highlights

All students were asked to complete the Premiere Reading Challenge. They had to read 20 books and upload them onto the website. I was impressed with the fast response, and so I awarded the 1st, 2nd and 3rd students that completed in grades 3-6. All students that completed got a small prize also.



Student Voice

Assalamuaialikum Unity family,

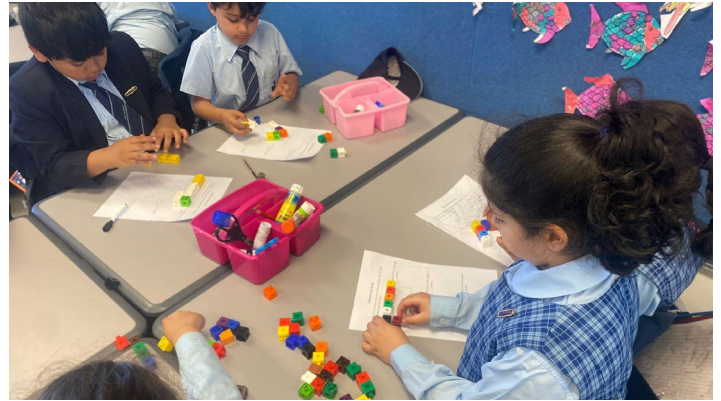
As a part of our science unit of work, stage 3 students have been very busy working on their kidpreneur projects. It has been really enjoyable yet challenging at the same time. A lot of deep thinking and collaboration among group members and our teachers have helped up build on our communication and prob-

lem-solving skills. Although we cannot have market day this year, we still have the opportunity to showcase our work to a panel of judges similar to "shark tank". Students whose projects reach the shark tank level have a lot to be excited about!

Faye Yakmour
Sports Prefect



Kindergarten received their class captain badges in a classroom presentation! Keep up the amazing work Kindergarten and InshaAallah next year will be a successful year for you all!



Year 1 is investigating the area of different shapes using connecting blocks.



Year 2 students worked collaboratively to explore, recognise and appreciate the history of famous Australian landmarks. They have been creating a scrapbook in relation to an Australian landmark.



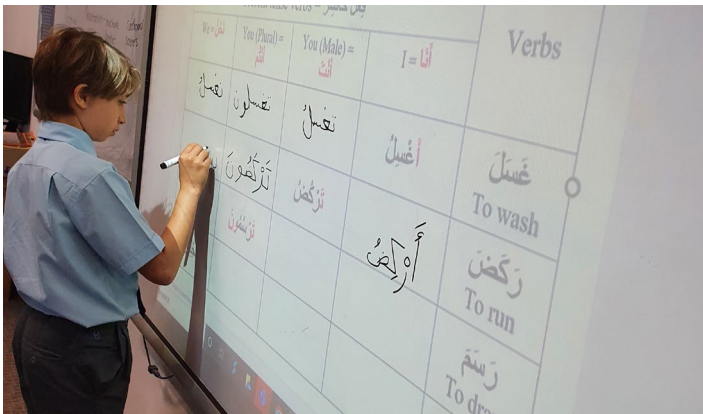
Students across Year 3 have immersed themselves in the study of Salaah, as a pillar Islam. The most acted upon pillar of Islam teaches us many lessons about our everyday lives and one that should be implemented very strongly. Students have also been learning about the stories of the Caliphs, Abu Bakr and Umar, May Allah be pleased with them.



This week, Year 4 students used interactive activities to learn about Arabic possessive pronouns.

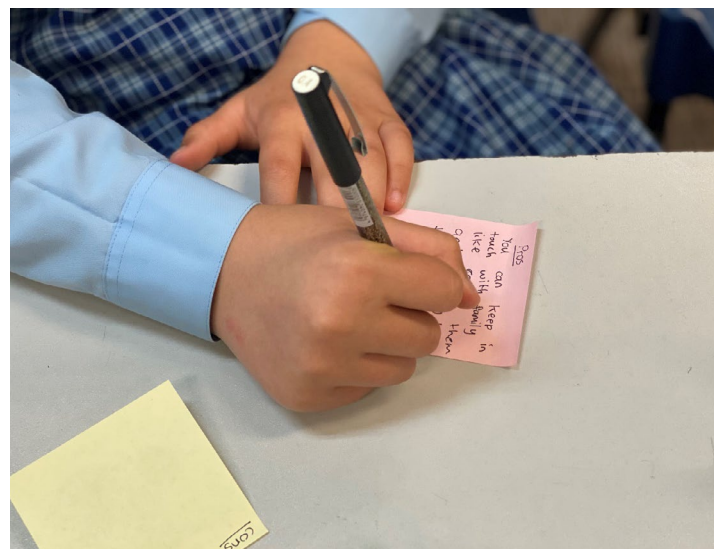


Year 5 students that have completed their Premiere Reading Challenge received a Merit Certificate plus a little gift. Congratulations to our little readers.



This week, Year 6 students used interactive activities to learn about Arabic present tense verbs.

Year 5 Islamic Studies



Year 5 are learning about using technology in an appropriate and Islamically acceptable way. They unpacked the positive and negative aspects of social media and how they can apply it in their life.

Message from Senior School



Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatu-Allahi Wabarakaatuh,

It is truly wonderful to be back, face to face with our students, seeing their eyes light up with as they connect to learning. Since we have been back, we have endeavoured to create many hands-on learning opportunities for our students. We have welcomed a new batch of Year 12s into Legal Studies and Business Studies, and we are excited to see them so motivated.

This Term has also seen our Stage 5 and 4 Debating teams continue online within the Islamic School Debating Competition. We are proud to say that both our teams have made it to the Grand Finals! With such tal-

ented and hardworking teams, we are certain that they will continue to make us proud.

This Term we also said goodbye to our Year 12 class of 2021 who are now sitting their last few HSC exams. It has been a very difficult year for Year 12's state-wide but it has allowed them to build a level of resilience which will surely be of benefit to them in the coming years. We wish them all the best in their HSC and in the years to come. They will be missed.

Mr Wassim Zoabi

Head of Senior School

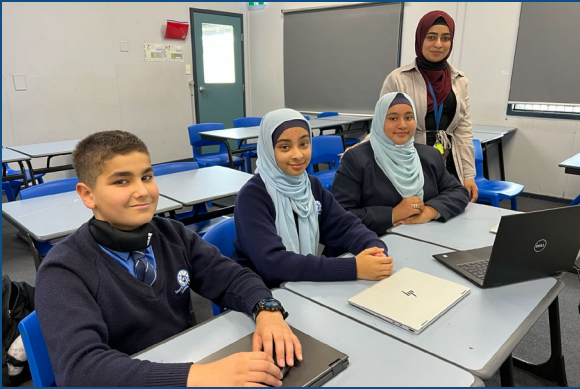


Experience
Brotherhood
in Years 11 & 12



**Enrolments
Now Open**

Senior School Highlight



Stage 4 and 5 Debating Teams have progressed to the Islamic Schools Debating Grand Final. Our students have tackled challenging topics such as International Relations, Law and Order, Politics and Social Issues. We are so proud of our students for their commitment and wish them the very best!

Student Voice



Assalamu Alaikum,

My name is Lujeyn Ahmad, and I am honoured to have been elected for the role of Community Service Prefect. When I joined Unity Grammar in 2020, I was delighted to discover that my new to how a school could feel like my second home. I applied for the position because I believe that our school has the potential to excel in community service and create a harmonious environment for the Muslim community to showcase the beauty of our faith and the abundance of kindness, we are willing to share with the people around us. I am generally quite a shy and reserved person, which is why applying for the role was such a significant milestone in my life, as I wanted to prove to myself that not only was I a capable individual but also, I had the Unity Grammar family to support me through all my endeavours and give me confidence to strive and achieve excellence. I am grateful for being given this opportunity to highlight the beauty of Islam and grow our community engagement with generosity and a smile!

Kind regards

Lujeyn Ahmad
Community Service Prefect

What's new in English



The English faculty has been busy working on ways to improve student use of their devices and have recently completed their Semester 2 exams online. Upon reflection and feedback, the overall comments were great, and we could see great success in its implementation. We plan, moving forward, to use both forms of assessment (online and written) to meet the needs of all students.

Year 10 Directives Workshop



Year 10 students participated in an HSC Directives workshop during week 8. They were provided with information on how to answer different questions depending on the directive being used. Students were provided with the HSC key words glossary to ensure they are prepared for stage 6 learning. Year 10 students were given the opportunity to work in groups and assist each other in answering higher-level questioning.

Year 10 Modern History Source Analysis Workshop



Students attended a Modern history workshop to begin their journey to stage 6 HSIE. Students have been learning source analysis from year 7, however we used the workshop to go into methods of analysis sources using TOMAC PRU and included HSC directives for source questions. Students needed to use their Directives knowledge and source analysis method and implement them into their answers. Students were given the opportunity to work in groups and assist each other in creating a structured answer.

Community Engagement

In what has been a very busy fortnight, the service-learning team has been very busy on a number of projects to bring goodness to individuals and communities both near and far to us. This includes

Homeless run with Brothers In Need

Our service prefect for 2022 Bilal Fahda and the Sakar family contributed food hampers which were distributed to over 200 of the homeless community in Sydney with Brothers In Need. We also welcomed the collaboration of Imam Skopljakovic and the Bosnian community at Penhurst Mosque who assisted with food hampers and volunteers. We look forward to returning with our students once current Covid restrictions are lifted.

Orphan Fund

The Unity Grammar orphan fund continues to support 65 orphans with Human Appeal Australia across 15 countries. We reached our target of \$10000 for the term, \$10 from each family will ensure our orphans will continue to receive shelter, food, healthcare and an education through the holidays and into the new year.

<https://www.humanappeal.org.au/unity-grammar/>

Cambodia 2021 Campaign

Covid may have prevented our students, staff and alumni travelling to Cambodia to deliver our aid this year, we are however still excited to support aid projects in Cambodia once again. Help us change lives by supporting our humanitarian campaign in Cambodia to distribute food packs, medical packs, build water wells, provide kit homes for those who are homeless living in makeshift shacks. We were able to visit AusRelief with our alumni leader Abdul Hamid Hamdache



Mr Osman Karolia
Head of Community Engagement

Leave a legacy through your charity, find a way to help someone no matter how seemingly small <https://ausrelief.org/fund-raising/unity-grammar-2021-cambodia-campaign>

We look forward to returning in 2022 Insha'Allah

Georgetown University, Washington DC Interfaith Event

Our school was able to briefly mention the ground-breaking work we do in a recent webinar featuring Professor John Esposito a leading global expert on interfaith dialogue and facilitated by ISRA Australia/Charles Sturt University

Lighthouse Community Support

Unity Grammar was pleased to host the team from Lighthouse Community Support including Janah Rima from our alumni to book in events in 2022 promoting wellbeing, safe driving, healthy lifestyle choices and much more. A feature will be participating again after disruptions from Covid with our friends from Holy Spirit Lakemba in the Wise Up program led by Gandhi Sindiyan from NSW Police and other program partners including SES, Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs, West Sydney Giants and other community groups.





UNITY
GRAMMAR

Fortnightly
Newsletter

70 Fourth Ave, Austral, NSW 2179

www.unitygrammar.com.au

1800 4 UNITY

