



Farewell & Congratulations Graduating Year 12 Class of 2023

With their formal schooling coming to an end, ICB would like to celebrate the graduating Year 12 Class of 2023.

We want to reflect on their individual journeys, recognise their achievements and reminisce about the wonderful memories and legacy they've created for our community.

While it was sad to see our 69 Year 12 students together for the final time, it has been an honour and a privilege to witness these remarkable teenagers grow into resilient, wonderful young men and women.

In partnership with their families, ICB has provided the fertile foundations for them to confront any challenges the future might bring – and build on the phenomenal success achieved by previous cohorts at tertiary institutions.

University of Queensland data reveals our students are setting new benchmarks – with our admissions doubling since 2019 to a commendable GPA average of 5.2, that surpasses the UQ average.

While Year 12 has technically come to an end, it also marks an exciting new chapter in their lives – and they should be secure in the knowledge that ICB will always be there to help guide them on their next step into adulthood.

Our Vision: *Best School; Best Learning Journey*

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Reflecting on Three Humbling Years at ICB

In 2023, I paused to mark my third year as the CEO of the Islamic College of Brisbane (ICB) – and was deeply humbled by our collective journey.

Our milestones include:

Student Growth: Our community has blossomed from 1277 students in 2020 to 1600 bright minds in 2023.

Academic Excellence: Our NAPLAN results have consistently remained above average, showcasing our students' dedication.

Higher Education: A remarkable 99% university enrolment rate was achieved in 2022.

Vocational Pathways: VET enrolments surged from 34 in 2020 to 137 in 2022.

EBA Negotiation: Successfully finalised the EBA in early 2023.

Compliance and Governance: Navigated a comprehensive compliance review, upholding our school's integrity.

Curriculum Expansion: High school subject choices grew from 14 to 26.

Strategic Vision: Crafted a promising five-year strategic plan for ICB with the board's guidance.

Innovative Learning: ICB's recognition as the first distance education Islamic school.

Tech Integration: Pioneered the introduction of Artificial Intelligence in education, earning positive media attention.

Islamic Pedagogy: Collaborated with University of South Australia's Centre of Islamic Thought and Education to enrich our curriculum with Islamic ethos.

Extracurricular Growth: Doubled our extracurricular programs from 8 to 16, proudly introducing a cutting-edge robotics program among others.

Recognition: Our students and staff shone at Crescent Wealth's Islamic schooling awards, bagging numerous accolades.

Community: SBS's *#TheSwap* saw tremendous success, especially in the education fraternity, building bridges, overcoming prejudices, and establishing long-lasting ties.

Transitioning our school's culture, especially in behaviour management, from punitive to restorative, has been a profound learning experience for all of us.

I owe a world of gratitude to our Board, dedicated staff members, supportive parents, and especially our students. Without your unwavering support, trust, and effort, these milestones would have remained dreams.

Here's to many more years of success, growth and resilience at ICB InshaAllah.

ALI KADRI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Our Mission Statement:

We believe every student has an inherent potential to achieve great results.



Plans approved for new \$10m 16-classroom block

To cater for unprecedented growth in our community, the ICB Board is delighted to announce it has approved plans for our new \$10m 16-classroom block to help “future proof” our college.

An application will soon be lodged with the Queensland Government to partly fund some of the new classrooms, which will provide accommodation for an extra 400 students in the first quarter of 2026.

The college, established in 1995, already supports a record 1600 students, which represented a more than 50 per cent increase since 2013 – meaning this new investment will take the total number to 2000.

This new infrastructure sets in concrete our foundations for implementing the Board’s 2023–2033 infrastructure vision.

Through our Master Plan, the Board is building the facilities that our students need to help ensure they achieve the best success in life – while at the same time not impacting ICB’s financial ability to provide quality, affordable education.

Work is expected to start on the new classroom block in January 2025, however it’s still unclear whether it will be built on the current campus, or a new \$6.6m site purchased this year which adjoins the college.

ICB students both now and for generations to come are set to benefit from our new infrastructure and upgrades.

The Islamic College of Brisbane Board will continue to work with our school community and provide updates on any progress on these significant milestones.

**Ismail Cajee
Board Chair**



Our Mission Statement:

Unity in diversity forms the very unique fabric of Islamic College of Brisbane

ICB's Tech-Savvy Year 6 students bounce into "bigger and better 2024"

Our Year 6 students have celebrated a successful year - while looking forward to 2024 - by "letting go" at BOUNCE Inc's massive indoor trampoline park at Mt Gravatt.

Students and staff "jumped at the chance" to experience the "massive adrenaline rush" during the Graduation Excursion on November 22.

Head of Primary - and ICB's Debating Academy Co-ordinator - Iram Khan said it was "an energetic and wonderful" way for everyone to say their goodbyes for 2023.

"The year started off with a Year 6 leadership camp and ended with a really fun and informal outing for teachers and students," Ms Khan said.

"There was a lot of positive energy, which the students will now carry with them as they transition to Secondary School. "We are looking forward to a bigger and better 2024."

Ms Khan said a feature of the year had been the introduction of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the ICB classrooms.

She said the technology had helped Primary students - especially those in Year 6 - become more "tech savvy".

"ICB has been recognised as one of the first Australian schools to officially embrace AI," she said.

"During the year, our students became more comfortable with the technology as it was integrated into the classroom. It's also helping teachers prepare for class, by allowing them to generate materials which can be used to create lesson plans and assessments for example."

Ms Khan said another "proud moment" for ICB was hosting its first ever Queensland Debating Union (QDU) Competition, with two teams (Year 5 and Year 6) winning their opening rounds at the 2023 Brisbane Primary Schools Competition.



Embracing the journey into higher education

While they're both keen to continue their studies at university, the learning journeys of Year 12 students **Abdurrahman Agbogun** and **Hoda Mahmoud** have been markedly different.

Abdurrahman, 16, only enrolled at ICB this year with his younger brother and sister after they moved from Suva in Fiji with their parents while Hoda, 17, spent a decade at the college (in two stints, from Years 1-7 and then Years 11-12).

Abdurrahman said "having to adapt to a new environment" this year will hold him in good stead as he now transitions into the next chapter of his life.

"Islamic College of Brisbane is a bigger school than the one I attended in Fiji, and it certainly provides students with more opportunities," he said.

"I've loved it here and I'm excited about going to university, where I want to get into the medical profession.



"My father is a doctor and when I was young, I wanted to do what he did and now I'm ready to do just that.

"With the transition (in higher education), it's understandable that people get nervous and excited but you need to be prepared .. you need to have a plan when you take the next major step in life."



Hoda describes her final days before graduation as "surreal".

"It's so busy and things are happening around the college so quickly," she said. "When I finished my exams, it was like: "Oh, okay that's it then".

"It is sad (that school's finishing), and I am a bit nostalgic as I've spent so many years here and made lots of friends."

Hoda said she was "excited" to begin university and pursue a career in the financial field.

"I'd love to have a career in economics or finance," she said. "Over the past few years, I've really enjoyed my accounting subjects and understanding how the economy works."

Outside of school, Hoda said she was "grateful" to have volunteered with a few other students to help a Logan charity assist some of the area's disadvantaged residents.

"Every week for four months, we volunteered to assist with community events like helping out on food runs and breakfast events," she said. "It certainly made us realise how lucky we are and how grateful we should be for all the opportunities we have in life."

Student of Term Four Awards

Tehreem Fatima, 11, Year 6

Wanting to avoid the odd disagreement is understandable, but Tehreem believes arguing with her older sister Hareem is beneficial.

Tehreem believes the conflict has helped her "better express her ideas and opinions" and construct effective arguments - which in turn has helped enhance her skills on ICB's Year 6 debating team.

"I used to go and watch my sister take part in school debating, where I think she lost two debates in five years," Tehreem said.

"She's still debating, and I guess she inspired me to join ICB's program. Now we seem to argue about little things like: "you're sitting in my spot, and I want to sit in the front seat of the car".

Head of Primary - and ICB's Debating Academy Co-ordinator - Iram Khan said Tehreem's efforts at the first ever Queensland Debating Union (QDU) Competition hosted this year by ICB, had helped her secure 2023's Primary Student of Term Four.

"Tehreem was a very strong participant and assumed a leadership role where she assisted other members in her team," Ms Khan said.

"She takes her responsibilities very seriously and is a wonderful student and will help out her friends without waiting to be asked."

Tehreem said participating in debating had helped "grow her confidence" and assist with public speaking "which runs in the family".



Mustapha Nejari, 17, Year 12

Having started in Prep, 2023 Secondary Student of Term Four Mustapha describes his 13 years at ICB as a "long and wonderful journey".

"The thing I'll probably miss the most will be sitting around with my friends and just chatting," he said. "I really enjoy seeing them at school."

Mustapha, the youngest of four siblings who attended ICB, said there'd been "a lot of change over the years, especially with the buildings, the staff and how the college is run".

"It's a great place and I am going to miss it, but I'm excited about the future," he said.

Mustapha, whose favourite subjects are Physical Education and English, hopes to secure work as a sports manager "looking after up-and-coming football stars of the future".



(A sports manager organises and oversees the activities of sports teams. They might handle aspects like team training, travel, partnerships and administration.)

"One of my father's friends worked as a sports manager in Barcelona, and it's something that I definitely want to do," Mustapha said. "I completed a Business Diploma last year, and I'm looking to continue studying at university to get a double degree."

Mustapha, who nominates Chelsea as his favourite football team, and Dutch international Arjen Robben as his favourite player, said he was "honoured" to win the final term award for 2023.

ICB students launch fund-raising drive to support Palestinians

ICB's "passionate" students are raising much-needed funds for Palestine as the deeply distressing violence continues in Gaza and the West Bank.

While they may be watching the disturbing events unfold from afar, families within our community have personal connections to the region.

That's why our students are adding their voices to the growing calls for a ceasefire in this conflict, which is causing profound distress and anxiety.

And that's why our students are engaging with political leaders to help negotiate a resolution where peace and harmony prevail, so that innocent Palestinians, especially children caught up in the conflict can become productive citizens in their communities – much like ours will!

The Islamic College of Brisbane stands resolutely in solidarity with the Palestinian people, acknowledging their enduring quest for justice and self-determination.



We firmly condemn any acts of violence against innocent civilians. Our faith and our institution champion peace, justice and the sanctity of all human lives.

We are committed to providing a nurturing and supportive environment where all our entire community receives the care and understanding they deserve.

We understand students grappling with complex emotions related to the ongoing conflict will each react differently – the reason our dedicated staff were briefed to respond with heightened sensitivity.

In these turbulent times, ICB's emphasis on unity and understanding will always come to the fore and ensure we come together to support each another and foster a culture of empathy, respect and compassion.

May peace, understanding and love prevail in all corners of the world.

Four ICB Futsal teams “exceptional” at Australasian Champion of Champions tournament

Islamic College of Brisbane continues to kick goals on the national sporting stage delivering an “exceptional performance” during November’s Australian Futsal Association (AFA) Australasian Champions of Champions tournament.

ICB Futsal and Football Co-ordinator Craig Burchell said ICB’s boys Under 9s, Under 13s and Under 16s teams, and girls Under 13 girl team competed at the AFA tournament - which involved the “best-of-best” schools from across the nation.



“All our teams performed exceptionally well, with the Under-13 Girls emerging as Champions for the third successive year, which has never happened in the history of this competition and was a tremendous achievement,” he said.

“Both the Under 9 Boys and Under 16 Boys finished runners-up, showcasing their skills over the three-day tournament.



“Every ICB student who competed at the Champions of Champions tournament should be proud of their efforts, and we look forward to kicking on to even greater heights in 2024.”



Around 300 students from Grade 3 to Grade 12 are taking part in ICB’s futsal program.



ICB students score coveted spots in Australian All-Star teams after successful futsal tournament

Eight Islamic College of Brisbane have used November's Australian Futsal Association (AFA) Australasian Champions of Champions tournament as a launchpad into Australian All-Star squads.

ICB Futsal and Football Co-ordinator Craig Burchell said the eight students were among the top 10 players from each age group chosen from competitors at the AFA tournament.

Mr Burchell said Year 8 student Basima Hijaz (from the Under-13 Girls team), Year 6 Student Almontaser Jaqandi (from the Under-13 Boys team), and three boys from the Under 16 side - Ali Jaqandi (Year 10); Harith Mustafa (Year 10) and Adel Mardiyansha (Year 11) - were selected in the squads to compete against Asian futsal clubs in China next July.

He said three boys from the Under 9 side - Suhaib Jaqandi (Year 4); Adewale Richard (Year 3) and Omar Mohammed (Year 3) - had also been chosen, however their squad would not be travelling to China.

"ICB has taken another step towards becoming South-East Queensland's top destination for Muslim athletes," Mr Burchell said. "Our students continue to take shine on the big stage which is testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our players and staff."

According to the AFA website, the Australian teams will be competing for the prestigious Jiangmen Pearl River Delta Cup in China. "Every match will be a thrilling spectacle, pushing our teams to deliver performances that will undoubtedly improve each player," it says.



We wish our community members a restful break and look forward to welcoming students and staff back in January for the commencement of the first term for 2024 and what will be another exciting year for ICB.

We thank each one of you for your ongoing commitment and support.

Some important dates to remember for Term Four: Primary (P) Secondary (S)

January 22: Term 1 Begins/Whole School Assembly

January 29: Prep to Year 2 Parent Information Q&A (P)

January 30: Photo Day Primary; Year 3-6 Parent Information Q&A (P)

February 1 - 2: NAPLAN Practice (S)

February 6: Siblings and catchup photo sessions (P)

February 7: Leadership Assembly (P)

February 12: Life Education Van Starts; Prep Vision Screening (P)

February 13: Prep Vision Screening; NAPLAN Practice (P)

February 14: NAPLAN Practice (P)

February 19 - 20: Prep Vision Screening (P)

February 21: Prep Vision Screening; Student of the Month Assembly (P)

February 29: Brainstorming Productions Years 7/8/9 (S)

March 1: Life Education Van Finishes (P)

March 13 - 25: NAPLAN (P) (S)

March 26: CEO and Student of the Month Assembly; Prep - Fit Kids Australia Incursion (P)

March 28: End of Term 1



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