

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



AUSTRALIAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
ISLAMIC COLLEGE

## 2025 EDUCATION YEAR OPENING ADDRESS

Continuing best practice education  
for the future of our children  
and the future of Australia.

Delivered by His Eminence

**Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Azhari**

Founder of AIIC  
Managing Trustee - AIET  
Grand Mufti of Jamiyatu Ulama Australia

Delivered to

**AIIC Campuses and All Education Professionals**

Good morning and welcome to the 2025 school year.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for being part of our education journey and for helping our children to learn and aspire for excellence.

I would especially like to thank the board and the trustees for their hard work and dedication over the years, it is this blessed dedication and wise use of resources including grants that has delivered to us state of the art educational facilities.

For an educational institution to function well, it needs a board to plan behind the scenes and a crew of teachers and support staff led by a capable captain of this magnificent academic ship.

To continue with this analogy, I would like to compare this ship to Prophet Noah's Ark. Our Noble Qur'an tells us that Prophet Noah (peace and blessings upon him) spent 950 years trying to save his people. Then, towards the end of this 950-year mission, he built this Ark and invited everyone, without exception. Of course, most of his hard work was to invite those who did wrong against their own conscience and against others, he spent most of his time trying to save the fallen. In the end, many chose not to join the Ark, and they drowned both spiritually and physically. They drowned in their crimes that hurt them and society, and they drowned in the floods that took away everything and everyone who chose not to embark onto the Ark.

Our Modern Ark is this state-of-the-art academic vessel that holds our passengers as a valuable trust to be delivered safely to become adults who can contribute positively to society and to become leaders and pioneers in their various fields, in shaa Allah.

Parents bring their children to us in order to give them the most conducive educational environment and opportunities; an environment that understands, respects and appreciates their faith and their cultures, an environment free from racism, bullying or religious discrimination, an environment that allows them to practice their faith, celebrate their culture and learn how to take the best out of their various cultures to combine these together in our wonderful multicultural Australian society.

Make no mistake, when we say that our children are our future, we understand that our children are our nation's most important assets, the responsibility falls on us to mould them into the best assets that can propel our nation into an even greater age of achievement and prosperity.

In this sense, all our children, every one of them, the high achievers and the low achievers are assets, each and every of them must be shown the respect that will help them learn, they must be given the helping hand that allows them to succeed. Some of them might be exceptionally challenging, but this challenge is not merely how to gain control over a classroom. The real challenge is to help them all find their way towards becoming model citizens both in the school and in society.

I appreciate the additional responsibility required to deal with a poor performer, keep in mind though, that just as they might be challenging in the classroom, their behaviour is reflective of a troubled life that needs to be unravelled and understood so that we can give them the right type and level of remedial and transformative support. Believe me when I say this to you: a troubled child will always remember and appreciate the help they receive to adjust their trajectory in life and they will always respect the person who treated them with respect and understanding.



I am thrilled that our students came onto our school-ship, especially those students who are challenging, because once they're on our ship, we have the privilege and the honour of helping them to get their life in order and to help them find their academic or vocational calling.

In teaching environments, there are instances where a student misses a key point which is necessary to know for the next lot of instructions. By missing this point, they struggle to understand what they are being taught. It is important for teachers to watch out for these signals and then to reintroduce the missing point to those students so that they can continue their learning with little disruption. This is achieved in several ways:

- 1 – make all students aware that they can come to us if they have a learning mental block.
- 2 – that we keep an eye out for signals of a learning mental block.
- 3 – that we take a personal responsibility for the successful learning experience of every child under our care.
- 4 – that we make each child feel and know that they have safe access to us to ask questions about what they are learning and that they will be treated with respect, they will not be mocked or ridiculed for asking learning questions.
- 5 – along with this, make them understand the opportunities that academic success will open for them in the future.

There are other points that we need to work on to improve on our 2024 achievements, these are:

- 1 – understand where we fell short in our Naplan results and work on remedying our approach to ensure better NAPLAN results in 2025.
- 2 – work on methods of behaviour management without yelling or mocking or insults, manage behaviour by treating children with respect, make them understand that they deserve to be treated with respect. The more respect you manage with them, the more respect they will learn to show. We need to teach them respectful behaviour by example. Keep in mind that we are preparing these children to enter society, so grab the opportunity to prepare them to become people who will make life better for others instead of confused individuals who become a burden on others and on society.
- 3 – For our future teacher development days, we need to include expert refresher presentations on behaviour management, identifying learning obstacles and mental blocks and improving teaching delivery. I know that many of you have been on development and training trips and sessions, please share the knowledge that you picked up in these training sessions and workshops, share the best of it with us and implement the best practice.
- 4 – Build on our philosophy of genuine care and genuine nurture for the students under our care. Be confident that you can make a markedly positive difference in the lives of your pupils. Value them and teach them all to value themselves and to believe in their ability to focus and achieve.

5 – A special message to the English teachers, do your best to improve the communication skills of all our children, because the better they can communicate, the less likely they are to act out with frustration. Improving their communication skills means that they will be able to calmly pinpoint their learning difficulties so that they can become better students both academically and behaviourally. Where necessary, use “English as a Second Language” (ESL) tools and resources to make sure that the student understands and is able to articulate concepts and ideas proficiently in the English language.

6 – Keep in mind that the parents of the students are our partners in the nurturing and education of the children, alert them to watch out for signs of poor learning or poor behaviour. Keep reminding them that education is a partnership that requires teachers and parents to work together, and keep mum and dad on your side, but be careful, don't do this as a means for discipline, rather, do it as a means of support for students. Keep in mind that often, behavioural challenges are a result of difficult conditions either in the home or on the street or in the playground. We need to alleviate the challenges wherever possible.

7 – We must reduce the incidents of detention and replace these with positive reinforcement and encouragement to behave well. In this area, I would like to announce that the board will endorse the allocation of additional resources for appropriate awards to encourage improved behaviour and improved academic achievements.

8 – We have to look at means and methods to obviate the need for suspension with a view to eliminating suspensions completely, and of course, eliminating the need to expel anyone.

Finally:

1 - Please make the most use of our STEM building and resources, we have excellent facilities, let's get the best use out of these facilities.

2 – Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI reliant tools are moving forward at an incredible pace, our school must do everything possible to become an AI leader, this is crucial for the future of our children and for the future of our nation. Please make available all the necessary means to put this technology into use and make sure that we keep our students always UpToDate and in the forefront with emerging technologies.

I wish you all the very best for 2025 and beyond, my doors are always open for anyone who would like to raise any issues or provide any suggestions – and I cannot stress enough the importance of looking after every child under our care.

Please enjoy the rest of your day, and I leave you with prayers for peace and success.

**His Eminence Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari**

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