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(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Forman Christian College
(A Chartered University)
Ferozepur Road, Lahore

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 5



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The Dean's Message

This past year has been one of remarkable growth and achievement for the Department of Education. A standout milestone is the continued advancement of our MPhil (Education) program, which is set to welcome its fifth cohort in Fall 2025. The program has met its enrollment targets while enhancing its curriculum with the integration of AI tools and experiential, out-of-class learning experiences.

Another major success has been the completion of the NECTE accreditation process—a truly collaborative effort by the entire faculty. In addition, the creation of a dedicated professional development unit, headed by a coordinator, has allowed us to offer impactful CPD sessions featuring both local and international experts.

Our partnership with Light of Hope School has grown stronger this year. We supported the launch of a new campus, implemented a comprehensive professional development plan, and collaborated on academic initiatives. A special highlight was the participation of Light of Hope students in the opening ceremony of our 3rd International Conference on Education. The conference featured presentations by 29 MPhil students and over 50 scholars from national and international institutions, while more than 150 teachers from local schools, that includes 49 teachers from Light of Hope, benefited from professional workshops led by our department.

In terms of research, our faculty made meaningful contributions through both publications and conference presentations, with one member honored with a best paper award. Additionally, one faculty member participated in scholarly activity in Germany and six faculty members took part in global collaborative teaching efforts through the GLCA, which brought valuable international perspectives into the classroom.



Dr. Martin Thomas
Professor and Dean, Faculty
of Education, FCCU

While we celebrate these accomplishments—particularly the strength of our postgraduate offerings, growing institutional partnerships, and well-executed academic events—we also recognize that faculty research productivity requires further attention. Some colleagues continue to face difficulties in maintaining consistent scholarly output. Moving forward, we will address this by offering targeted mentoring, capacity-building opportunities, and structured incentives.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains firm: to foster a vibrant research culture, encourage collaborative innovation, and champion inclusive, forward-looking education in alignment with FCCU's core values.

The Chairperson's Message

Greetings,

We're delighted to share some exciting recent developments and ongoing initiatives within our department, highlighting our commitment to advancing educational research, practice, and social responsibility.

The Education Department successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Conference on Education, held on February 21st and 22nd, 2025, focused on the crucial theme of "Shaping Equitable Education: Inclusion, Innovation & impact." The 2025 conference was a vibrant convergence of minds, attracting researchers, including faculty and promising research students, from a wide array of public and private universities across Pakistan. The event featured numerous insightful research paper presentations exploring critical issues in education today. Alongside the academic presentations, the conference offered valuable professional development sessions tailored for teachers, focusing on innovative teaching and learning strategies. Furthermore, dedicated workshops equipped MPhil students with practical skills in essential data analysis software, including PLS-SEM and NVivo, enhancing their research capabilities. The energy and collaborative spirit throughout the two days were truly inspiring.

In line with our commitment to educational equity and community engagement, the department collaborated with the Center for Law and Justice (CLJ). We were partnering on their impactful "Prosperity Fellowship Program," specifically designed to support the educational journeys of young girls from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those from the families of sanitary workers. This collaboration underscores our belief in the transformative power of education and our dedication to fostering opportunities for underserved communities. The Department also initiated the Adult Literacy Programme, focusing on the FCCU female support staff and women from adjoining areas, teaching them Urdu reading and writing skills.



Dr. Ashar J. Khokhar
Chair, Education Department

Finally, our esteemed faculty continued to drive forward the frontiers of knowledge through their dedicated research efforts. Their diverse scholarly activities contribute significantly to the field of education, addressing pertinent challenges and exploring innovative solutions, further cementing our department's reputation as a hub for impactful research.

We thank everyone involved in these initiatives and look forward to sharing more updates soon.

The 3rd International Conference on Shaping Equitable Education: Inclusion, Innovation & Impact.

The Department of Education at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) has had a vibrant and impactful year, marked by a successful 3rd International Education Conference. This year's conference, held on February 21st and 22nd, 2025, focused on the crucial theme of "Shaping Equitable Education: Inclusion, Innovation & Impact." The Conference brought together educators, researchers, policymakers, and graduate students representing both the private and the public sector universities from Pakistan and abroad, engaging in meaningful dialogue around contemporary challenges and innovations in education. This event underscored FCCU's commitment to fostering global dialogue on educational equity and innovation.

The conference commenced with registration and a joint recitation from the Holy Quran, Holy Bible and The Guru Granth Sahib, reflecting the institution's commitment to interfaith harmony. This was followed by a Welcome Address by Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton, Rector and Chief Patron of the conference, who emphasized the transformative role of education in shaping equitable societies.

A thought-provoking skit titled "The Marching Morons," conceptualized by Dr. Martin Thomas, Conference Chair and Dean, Faculty of Education, and performed by students of Light of Hope School, set the tone for critical and creative engagement.

The Keynote Speech was delivered by Ms. Salma Ahmed Alam, CEO of Durbeen, on the theme "Bringing Equality in Quality," offering insights into reforming education to be both inclusive and effective. Her keynote speech focused on "Bringing Equality in Quality" and she emphasized the importance of equitable access to quality education for all students, regardless of socio-economic background. She also highlighted the critical role of teacher education in enhancing classroom learning.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Javed Jabbar, an award-winning writer and former federal minister, shared his reflections on the role of universities in policy innovation and equitable education. He also presented ideas on how educational institutions can drive equitable education through leadership, policy planning, and strategic innovation.



Panel Discussion: Bridging Educational Horizons

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Shazia Humayun (BNU) included experts from diverse backgrounds:

Ms. Zareen Shoaib (LACAS)
Dr. Ivan Suneel (FCCU)
Dr. Rukhsana Kausar (Rashid Latif Khan University)
Dr. Kate Roy (Franklin University, Switzerland)



They explored inclusion, innovation, and impact in educational systems, highlighting practical strategies and systemic challenges.

Concurrent Oral and Poster Presentation Sessions

The educators and researchers from over 30 universities shared innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and educational policy. 10 concurrent sessions were chaired and co-chaired by experts from various universities across Pakistan. Participants received certificates of participation and appreciation for their contributions. The Session Chairs and Co-Chairs chose the best paper presentation and the selected presenters were awarded with the Best Paper Presentation Certificate.

Ten thematic sessions were organized covering key areas:

1. Innovation in Teaching and Learning
2. Leadership, Policy Planning and Strategic Improvement
3. Ethical Considerations in Equitable Education
4. Professional Competencies for the Future Workforce

These sessions featured papers from various universities from Pakistan and abroad and the topics ranged from robot-assisted learning and AI in education to STEAM readiness, restorative practices, and sustainability in curriculum.



Paper and Poster Presentations by MPhil (Education) Students



FCCU-MPhil (Education) students, a group of emerging scholars, showcased their ongoing research through posters created in collaboration with the Education Department's faculty. The students interacted with the conference participants and explained their research ideas to them.

Day 2: Workshops and Professional Development (February 22, 2025)

The second day was dedicated to hands-on workshops aimed at equipping educators and researchers with practical skills. Workshop 1 & 2 provided an opportunity for faculty and research students (MPhil and PhD) to enhance their research and pedagogical practices. The Workshops 3, 4 & 5 were designed for school teachers and administrators.



Workshop 1: Quantitative Data Analysis through PLS-SEM
Facilitator: Dr. Shahnawaz Adil (Director Academics, Advance Studies & Research, Iqra University, Karachi)
Hands-on training on quantitative data analysis techniques using PLS-SEM software.

Workshop 2: Using NVivo for Qualitative Data Analysis
Facilitator: Dr. Yaar Muhammad (Associate Professor & Chair, Education Department, Government College Women University, Sialkot)
Practical guidance on qualitative research using NVivo software.

Workshop 3: Teaching Through Games - Motivating and Engaging Learners
Facilitator: Ms. Seema Khurram (Oxford University Press)
Explored game-based learning strategies to enhance student engagement and motivation.

Workshop 4: STEAM in the Classroom
Facilitators: Ms. Khadija Burhan and Mr. Ammar Hussnain (FCCU)
Demonstrated ways to integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) into Pakistani classrooms.

Workshop 5: Teaching Global Skills
Facilitator: Ms. Seema Khurram (Oxford University Press)
Focused on preparing students for the future by equipping them with essential global skills.



Additionally, a tailored session was conducted for educators from the Light of Hope School.



Dr. Douglas E. Trimble, Vice Rector and Conference Patron, extended his appreciation to all participants, particularly the organizing team led by Dr. Ashar Johnson Khokhar (Chair, Department of Education) and Dr. Mehwish Raza (Conference Convenor). Their leadership ensured the event's seamless execution and intellectual rigor.

The 3rd International Education Conference stood out as a vibrant platform for critical reflection, cross-institutional collaboration, and progressive dialogue on education. The blending of research, practice, and policy-oriented conversations highlighted a collective vision for an equitable and inclusive educational future. The Conference Committee is grateful to all the Session Chairs and Co-Chairs, from FCCU and from other public and private sector universities, who participated in different academic discussions in different paper presentation sessions.

The Department of Education extends its sincere gratitude to the various offices within FCCU for their invaluable support, including ORIC, MARCOM, IT Services, Events Office, Operations, Security Office, Purchase Office, and Finance & Accounts. The support from the student societies, namely the Forman Education Society, Forman Photography Society, and Forman Drama Society, is also gratefully acknowledged.





NACTE Accreditation

An academic evaluation visit was conducted, led by Mr. Ammar Husnain Khan, under the supervision of the National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE) to ensure that institutional and program standards were being met. The evaluation team consisted of esteemed external evaluators Dr Azhar Mahmood, Associate professor and chairperson ELM at IIU, affiliated with Dr Muhammad Idris, Associate professor at Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan. The evaluation was carried out over two days and involved a thorough review of documentation, infrastructure, and academic practices.

The first day of the visit was dedicated to the examination of standard files prepared by the department. These documents reflected the department's compliance with NACTE standards across various domains including curriculum design, faculty qualifications, assessment practices, and governance structures.

The evaluators were formally briefed about the institution's leadership structure, including the Rector, Vice Rector, and Associate Vice Rector. This briefing highlighted the university's vision, academic mission, and strategic priorities in the field of teacher education.

Following this, interviews were conducted with faculty members. The evaluators sought insight into the academic and infrastructural resources available within the department. Faculty members responded to questions related to curriculum development, research opportunities, teaching practices, and institutional support.

The evaluators also engaged with a group of students from the teacher education program. These students shared their perspectives on the quality of education provided. Key discussion points included the real-life application of course content, teaching effectiveness, learning outcomes, and co-curricular opportunities offered by the department.

The second day of the evaluation focused on classroom observation. Two classes were observed by the evaluators. The observation aimed to assess several critical teaching and learning components.

The evaluators examined student-teacher interaction within the classroom settings, noting the level of student engagement and participation. The instructional methodologies employed by the teachers were also evaluated to determine their effectiveness and relevance to the course objectives. Furthermore, evaluators reviewed the alignment of course content with the standards and its practical applicability. Students' comprehension of the material was gauged through real-time observation and interaction during lessons.

The two-day NACTE evaluation visit provided a comprehensive review of the department's academic and professional standards and department's endeavor to align its BS Education Program with HEC Program guidelines. The evaluators appreciated the transparency and cooperation demonstrated by the department and commended the institution for its efforts toward quality assurance and continuous improvement in teacher education.



STEAM Education Project

The Education Department at FC College collaborated with the Beaconhouse Head Office to form an "Evaluation Committee for STEAM Projects." Within this partnership, The Educators, a project by Beaconhouse, introduced the STEAM Implementation Program for Grade 5 & 6. This innovative endeavor aimed to empower young students to tackle global issues by applying a STEAM approach, specifically addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. From the Education Department, four senior students were chosen to participate in this project due to their expertise in STEM education. This project was led by Mr Ammar Husnain Khan from the department of Education . The students served as integral members of the evaluation committee responsible for assessing project presentation videos submitted by The Educators school campuses, using predefined evaluation criteria. Additionally, they objectively evaluated the projects and compiled detailed observation reports, contributing valuable insights.



This opportunity allowed our students to gain practical experience in evaluating educational programs, significantly enhancing their skills and enriching their professional profiles. Simultaneously, THE EDUCATORS received invaluable feedback from these budding professionals, facilitating ongoing refinement and optimization of their STEAM program.

MPHIL EDUCATION AT FCCU

The Department of Education proudly celebrates the remarkable achievements of its MPhil students, who made a significant mark at the 2025 Education Conference. A total of 8 MPhil scholars showcased their research through poster presentations, while 24 students presented research paper presentations—a testament to their academic depth and research potential.

Among the participants were students from leading national and international universities, yet several of our scholars stood out by securing “Best Paper” awards, earning recognition for their originality, insight, and academic rigor.



In another important development, evaluators for MPhil thesis assessment have officially joined the academic process. Following is the list of some of the external evaluators who are onboard for MPhil Thesis:

- Dr. Muhammad Akram, Chairperson, Associate Professor, University of the Punjab
- Dr. Naima Qureshi, Assistant Professor, University of Education, Lahore
- Dr. Aysha Khalil, Assistant Professor, Lahore College for Woman University
- Dr. Yaar Muhammad Chairperson, Associate Professor, Government College for Women University, Sialkot
- Dr. Ayaz Muhammad Khan, Professor, Director University of Education, Lahore
- Dr. Sajid Mehmood, Chairperson, Professor, Dean SSSH, Dean CTL, University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore
- Dr. Muhammad Shahid Farooq, Professor, Chairperson University of Education, Lahore
- Dr. Malik Ghulam Behlol, Professor, Dean Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi
- Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Professor, Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Superior University, Lahore
- Dr. Syed A. Waheed, HoD, Associate Professor University of Okara

The department’s first MPhil cohort is currently engaged in the thesis phase, marking a significant milestone in their research journey. With faculty guidance and institutional support, these scholars are exploring diverse areas of educational inquiry that aim to impact both theory and practice.

The department remains committed to nurturing research excellence and advancing scholarly contributions in the field of education.



GLAA Course Connection Program.

Global Liberal Arts Alliance organized a four day workshop in the United States in summer 2024, aimed at fostering international collaboration and academic exchange. This workshop served as a platform for educators from GLAA's member and institutions from around the world to come together, share insights, and explore innovative approaches to global education. Participants engaged in discussions on cross-cultural understanding, pedagogical best practices, and strategies for integrating global perspectives into the curriculum. Through interactive sessions and collaborative activities, attendees gained valuable insights into building meaningful partnerships and leveraging technology to enhance global learning experiences.

Four esteemed faculty members; Ms. Khadija Burhan, Dr. Mehwish Raza, Mr. Ammar Husnain Khan, and Ms. Rimesha Farooq from the Department of Education were invited to this workshop and co-designed a course with a fellow colleague from GLAA member universities.



OPEN HOUSE'25

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) hosted its much-anticipated Open House 2025, an engaging and vibrant event that welcomed prospective students from within FCCU as well as from institutions across the city. The event served as an excellent platform for attendees to explore and inquire about the university's prestigious BS and MPhil Education programs. The Education Department's stall, in particular, saw an overwhelming turnout of curious and enthusiastic students eager to learn about the academic structure, career prospects, and unique opportunities offered by the programs. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as visitors engaged in insightful conversations, collected brochures, and took part in interactive discussions.



Adding to the academic excellence of the event, esteemed faculty members - Ms. Rimesha Farooq, Mr. Jaffer Hassan Gardezi, Mr. Ammar Husnain Khan, Ms. Aqduz Aslam, Ms. Syeda Khadija Burhan, Dr. Martin Thomas, Dr. Ashar Johnson Khokhar, and Dr. Mehwish Raza - honored the Education Department's stall with their gracious presence. Their participation added immense value to the event as they personally addressed student queries, shared expert insights, and highlighted the transformative impact of the programs on students' professional journeys. Their dedication and warm interaction reflected the department's commitment to academic excellence and student mentorship. Overall, Open House 2025 was a resounding success, leaving attendees inspired and excited about the prospect of joining the FCCU family.



DEPARTMENTAL TRIPS

Exploring Heritage, History, and Learning:
Educational Trips by the Department of Education



In a meaningful blend of classroom learning and real-world exploration, the Department of Education recently organized a series of educational trips to some of Pakistan's most significant historical and cultural landmarks: Katas Raj Temples, Khewra Salt Mines, the historic city of Multan, and Rohtas Fort. These excursions were designed not merely as recreational outings, but as immersive learning experiences aligned with the department's educational objectives of promoting critical thinking, cultural awareness, interdisciplinary learning, and reflective engagement.



Each trip was followed by reflective sessions where students discussed the pedagogical possibilities of site-based education. These experiences empowered future educators to think creatively about how to bring learning to life and promote deeper student engagement. As one student noted, "Visiting these places helped me understand how education can extend beyond the classroom walls and foster a lifelong curiosity about the world."

Through these thoughtfully curated trips, the Department of Education reaffirmed its commitment to holistic education—one that cultivates informed, empathetic, and globally aware individuals ready to shape the future of teaching and learning.



INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Indoor activities serve as a dynamic extension of classroom learning, offering students opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge in engaging and meaningful ways. The Department of Education recognizes the transformative power of such experiences in shaping well-rounded individuals. By thoughtfully integrating a diverse range of indoor activities alongside academic instruction, the department cultivates essential skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and effective communication. These initiatives not only enrich the educational journey but also inspire a deeper connection to learning within a stimulating and supportive environment. Below are some of the indoor activities conducted by the department.



The Department of Education proudly announces the impactful community service projects undertaken by its undergraduate students. These initiatives, led by Mr. Syed Jaffer Gardezi, focused on educating students from underserved communities about crucial topics such as environmental conservation, health and hygiene practices, and the long-term importance of education.

The projects centered on empowering students with knowledge to make informed decisions and lead healthier lives, all while encouraging them to be stewards of the environment. Students also engaged in interactive workshops, creating a dynamic learning environment that fostered curiosity and engagement among children.

The Department of Education looks forward to further initiatives reaffirming its commitment to social responsibility and educational empowerment.



Classroom Activities Highlight Educational Foundations:

Students engaged in a dynamic classroom activity centered on the foundations of education, exploring various educational eras through group discussions and poster presentations. The aim was to understand how education has evolved over time, including changes in student-teacher relationships, classroom practices, and institutional visions.



Awareness campaigns were conducted on educational psychology, with a focus on cognitive development. Students examined key theories by psychologists such as Piaget and Erik Erikson, and applied them through creative activities including mind games and skits tailored to different developmental stages of children.

The session also included interactive elements like a Q&A round and role-plays based on different intelligence domains, inspired by Howard Gardner's theory. These activities helped students connect theoretical knowledge with real-life contexts.

A curriculum project wrapped up the initiative, where students developed a curriculum for a selected class level. They created standards, benchmarks, and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), along with resource books tailored to meet those outcomes.



The hands-on approach encouraged active participation and deepened understanding of educational principles in a meaningful and engaging way.

WORKSHOPS

EFFECTIVE USE OF CLASSROOM TIME

The workshop titled Effective Use of Classroom Time, facilitated by Ms. Syeda Khadija Burhan, focused on enhancing instructional efficiency through practical, research-based strategies. Participants explored common time-management challenges in classrooms, such as disorganized plans and inefficient transitions, which often lead to significant lost learning time. Through an interactive schedule revision activity, educators exchanged and collaboratively improved their classroom routines, identifying areas to streamline and optimize daily operations.

Key strategies highlighted during the session included prioritizing high-impact tasks, developing consistent routines, encouraging student self-management, and planning for unforeseen interruptions. Participants also examined the concept of the "three faces of time"—Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Time—to better align activities with students' energy and focus levels. The session concluded with a strong emphasis on using time efficiently to enhance student learning and reduce teacher stress, equipping attendees with actionable insights for immediate application.

INTERVENTION TALK

As part of the Inclusive Education course, a guest speaker session titled “How Society Looks at Disability?” was organized with the support of Ms. Khadija Burhan. The session featured Ms. Hamail Ijaz, a practicing clinical psychologist and speech therapist who currently heads the Emotional Health Program at Lahore’s leading school systems and an MPhil Education scholar at FCCU, engaged students in a critical discussion about how disability is perceived and addressed in our society. The talk provided a platform for students to reflect on societal biases and explore ways to foster a more inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities

During the session, Ms. Ijaz emphasized how some organizations are actively working to ensure that students with disabilities are given opportunities to thrive and become contributing members of society. She highlighted the significant progress made, while also acknowledging the work that still needs to be done to shift societal attitudes. The discussion underscored the importance of continuing advocacy, education, and policy change to better support children with disabilities in managing their lives and realizing their potential.



COMPASSIONATE DISCIPLINING AND BIAS FREE TEACHING

Led by Ms. Aqduş Aslam and Ms. Khadija Burhan from the Department of Education in collaboration with the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization for Project EmotiZen (for the Millennium Fellowship 2024), the session aimed to promote inclusive teaching practices and strengthen student-teacher relationships within FCCU classrooms.

CROCHET WORKSHOP

The Forman Sociological Society successfully organized a comprehensive crochet workshop that brought together 70 enthusiastic participants. The event featured eight skilled crocheters with varying levels of expertise, who showcased a wide range of handcrafted items—from small coasters to large blankets. The technical segment of the workshop was conducted by Ms. Khadija Burhan, while the theoretical foundation was delivered by Dr. Sara Rizvi Jaffree. The session began with hands-on activities aimed at introducing participants to the fundamentals of crocheting. All necessary materials, including yarn and crochet kits, were provided by the organizing team, with resources curated by Ms. Khadija and seven dedicated student volunteers.

In the concluding session, Dr. Jaffree offered insightful commentary on the psychological and social benefits of crocheting, emphasizing its role in promoting mental well-being and community engagement. The workshop also featured a curated display of crochet projects completed by the organizers, reflecting a broad spectrum of skill levels. As a token of appreciation, participants received bookmarks by Ms. Khadija Burhan. The workshop was a meaningful initiative that combined skill development with community building and personal enrichment.



FRESHMAN WEEK

Freshman Week commenced with a surge of energy as FES greeted freshmen with a variety of exhilarating games. Laughter resonated as new bonds formed during competitive games and rapid-fire challenges crafted to initiate connections. The stall served as a center of vibrant conversation and joyful activity, offering an ideal introduction to the welcoming and dynamic essence of FES.



The enjoyment continued as the excitement subsided, and an intellectual spark ignited with the much-anticipated educational trivia session. Teams converged, their minds engaged with questions spanning from general knowledge to fascinating details about the history of education. The mood transitioned from lively amusement to focused concentration, punctuated by applause and reactions as answers were disclosed.

TEACHERS' DAY

The FES Teachers' Day event, a truly memorable occasion, commenced with the FES team presenting well-deserved trophies to their cherished educators. The esteemed Sardar Rameesh Singh Arora, Provincial Minister of Government of Punjab for Minority Affairs, honored the event with his presence, highlighting the unwavering dedication teachers show towards their students' success.



A poignant video moved attendees, as students expressed their heartfelt appreciation. The musical tribute, passionately performed by FES volunteers, beautifully depicted the sacred bond between teacher and student. It was a day filled with warmth, appreciation, and a deep sense of nostalgia for the profound influence of the educators.

MERAKI

The FES Meraki event was a celebration of learning, creativity, and community. The day began with an opening ceremony, followed by a panel discussion featuring Eesha Shahid, Ammar Ali Ayub, Dr. Rukhsana Zia, and Hamayl Ijaz, which emphasized holistic development. An educational seminar by Ghazi Taimoor challenged conventional thinking, offering intellectual stimulation. Modern innovation was added with a virtual reality gaming experience, while a Zumba class energized participants and focused on health.



Meraki concluded with a vibrant open mic night, showcasing diverse student talents and fostering camaraderie. The closing ceremony expressed gratitude to all who contributed to the event's success, highlighting the passion and dedication that defined Meraki. It was a day for making memories, strengthening friendships, and illuminating the spirit of learning and creativity.

PUBLICATIONS

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NEWSLETTER CREDITS



Rimesha Farooq

Lecturer, Department of Education

&

Ashar J. Khokhar

Chair, Education Department

Newsletter Editors



Eemaan Naveed

Content Editor

Graphics