



e x c e l l e n c e i n EDUCATION

Special Edition

August 2018

On the occasion of the Academy's 'Fifth Birthday', we are delighted to present to you this special edition of our Newsletter. In it, you will find contributions from many who have been closely involved with the Academy since it started. Some photos will also remind us of the eventful and significant journey that the Academy has experienced during its first five years in existence.



The Aga Khan Academy Maputo 2013-2018

Messages to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Academy

From the leadership

Dear Academy Students, Staff, Parents and Community,

Congratulations on the 5th Anniversary of the opening of the Aga Khan Academy Maputo!

Since opening, you have all played important roles in helping build a strong core for our school, and this foundation will allow us to continue our expansion and growth over the next few years as we strive to achieve His Highness the Aga Khan's vision for a centre of educational excellence in Mozambique as part of the integrated network of Aga Khan Academies.

The Aga Khan Academy Maputo is making important contributions to our growing network of Academies. From bringing in expertise and support from our other operating Academies, including through having a cadre of teachers trained in our unique Teacher Preparation Programme at another Academy, to being the first Academy in a non-Anglophone country, the lessons you have helped us learn will be instrumental as we open new Academies around the world. I am grateful for your enthusiasm and support and am counting on you even more as we continue this important journey together.

With best wishes for the future,

Salim A. L. Bhatia

Director of Academies

Congratulations to the Aga Khan Academy Maputo on its 5th birthday and academic year, to its student and school body for the amazing work that has outcome.

At the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Aga Khan Academy Maputo as part of a worldwide school network, of which three are already implemented, **His Highness said that “it is my hope, that these schools will stimulate creativity, intellectual curiosity and honest inquiry so that their students can adapt and thrive in a world of rapid change; can make informed judgements on life’s daily challenges, and place those judgements in an ethical framework”**. It is always a pleasure when visiting the Aga Khan Academy Maputo to see that His Highness wishes and vision for this school are on full board.

The success of such state of spirit, mind and materialization is the result of the institutional strength that is rooted in firm foundations for this educational project that enables it to last in its existence and in its mandate for many long years to come. That is also my wish for the Aga Khan Academy Maputo, to continue to grow strong with deep roots, and teaching its students to be the most kind, ethical, pluralistic and democratic leaders and managers of their families, their hometowns, their country and their own destiny.

All best wishes,
Nazim Ahmad
Ambassador - AKDN



‘Establishing a new school is never easy. It takes considerable skill and also faith in the vision, especially when the going gets rough.

There have been some challenging times in the last five years of The Aga Khan Academy Maputo and only now we are beginning to see the tangible evidence of the endeavour, drive and skills of those staff, parents and students who contributed so much.

Very best wishes and congratulations to the Academy on its five-year anniversary, and here’s to many more successes for our students’.

Graham Ranger
Academic Director
Academies Unit

Since my own arrival in January there have already been many milestones in the Academy’s journey. I have been thrilled to work with our first cohort of Academy trained teachers, to have been here for the opening of the new Junior School building and to have already played a small part in the expansion and growth of this wonderful institution. My thanks to all who have contributed to the journey so far, and to those who have demonstrated the resilience, good sense and confidence to have brought the Academy to the enviable position we now enjoy today.

We are confident that the Mission and Vision of His Highness will be lived through the experiences and achievements of our students. The future looks bright!

Mike Spencer
Head of Academy - Maputo



First students to enroll at the Aga Khan Academy Maputo

From our first students

5th Anniversary Message from Luana in Grade 8

When I first came to this school I thought I wouldn't be able to communicate with anybody, because I didn't know English - so when I arrived I saw Milana and Samiksha. When they asked me something I would say 'yes' and 'no', only! When Samiksha and Milana and I were walking, they asked me if I wanted to be their friend, and I said 'no'! They couldn't believe it! So then Milana tried to talk in Portuguese with me, for me to understand. It was then that I realized that she was asking me to be her friend.

This school is very important to me, because it is here that I have found my friends; it is here that I learned everything that I know; it is here that I learned how to talk English, and also it was here that I discovered who I am. I have started to respect myself more, because in the first days of school I used to think that everybody was better than me. Now I realise that me and my colleagues are equal. There is nobody better than anybody else; I used to ignore myself and pay more attention and respect to others.

The school has really improved from 2013 until now, we have new students, new buildings, new teachers, a new Director and many other things. Something that has changed a lot is us, the students. I've noticed my improvement in the past years, and I have improved a lot and I am really proud of myself. I might sometimes complain about the school, but I am very grateful to this Academy which has taught me so many things. To everybody who has helped me to improve I give a big: **THANK YOU.**

The 5th Anniversary of the Aga Khan Academy- Samiksha in Grade 8

My first day at the Academy was spectacular, I was warmly welcomed and I made some amazing friends. I have learnt so much from this school over the years. This place has taught me so much and has opened so much space in my mind to accept people from different cultures and treat them equally.

This school in 2013 was small and very simple, it wasn't very developed either, now it has transformed a lot; it has more classes, a better field, a Junior year's section, a basketball court, a canteen, a library and a bigger jungle gym. I enjoy coming to school because of the environment, now I feel that I am really in middle school and I like to spend time at school. I remember when I was in grade 5, we had planned children's day for the younger students, we had various activities and games. I had a lot of fun! We had a photoshoot and it was amazing. My friends and I enjoyed it a lot. We took pictures, had a bake sale and played with the younger ones as well.

In the next 5 years I hope that we have more students in the MYP 4 and 5 section, a Diploma Programme and a pool. This Academy is important to me because I have been here since I was 7 and I grew up studying in this school. I have

known a lot people who came and went but the Aga Khan Academy is like a second home to me. I appreciate everything that the teachers and staff members have done for me.

The 5th Anniversary of The Aga Khan Academy Maputo - Shaheed Fateally Neves Grade 8

My first day at the Academy was nothing like I expected. Everyone treated me nicely with respect and showed me around the academy. The teachers showed me around the classrooms and explained me the schedules of class time, snack and lunch time and also break. After first period everybody was so generous, to play with me and I had a great time with my friends.

The Aga Khan Then & Now

When I entered this school there wasn't any garden or new buildings around the junior school, the campus wasn't a proper campus but still was enjoyable to play football on. The Jungle Gym was very handy and fun to play with. Even without the facilities that we have now it was still a great school. After a few years' teachers changed, facilities got better, more students have been coming and going and the school got better and better. We are not perfect yet but the school is doing everything they can and if I compare the difficulties from the beginning until now they are much better, more storage, more playground area, more activities to do and definitely more beauty.

I remember when the football field was all sand and didn't even have goal posts, but what did the school do, they created a new fresh and vibrant football pitch with goal posts, full of green grass and with perfect line markings. I remember when the toilets were all small and as we were growing it got more and more challenging, but the school fixed the problem, they installed new toilets, new sinks and more portions of water for us to wash our hands and other accessories.

In another five years I hope that the school brings more facilities like; A Nurse Room, New Football & Basketball Courts and maybe try to bring in a few other sports like: Table Tennis, Swimming Badminton which they did bring for a while and Volleyball. And maybe if we want the whole school to participate in something not just sports we can bring in theatres and music studios to get more attraction of participation from students and bring more fun to the school.

A message from Enzo - Grade 8

On August 19th, 2013, the Aga Khan Academy opened its doors for the first bunch of students. The school had 4 classes, one each for KG3, and Grades 1,2 and 3. I was among those students; I was in grade 3 with the oldest in the school. My first friend was Ali. We had already met when we applied to the Academy, so we became friends.

Since then the school has improved a lot, from only having 4 classrooms to have more than one school building, now we have great infrastructures and I feel like I am in a regular school again.

One of my dearest memories is when we had our first children's day celebration. My class had the idea of organizing a festival for the entire school it was one of the most memorable moments in this school, all of my friends were involved and everybody contributed for a great afternoon.

In five years I imagine this school will be full of students and buildings, hopefully a place where everybody has a space and a voice.



Special assembly to mark 5th Anniversary of the Aga Khan Academy Maputo

From Aga Khan Academy's Friends

Congratulations to all at the Aga Khan Academy Maputo on the occasion of the Academy's fifth anniversary. Special congratulations to those students and families who have supported the Academy since its inception, and seen it grow and develop to achieve this milestone. In my short time at the Academy, it was evident that the dedication by all to His Highness' vision of providing high quality education for young people was unswerving. Seeing the construction photo gallery is to see that vision coming to life with the residential programme and facilities well underway, and the new Junior School facilities supporting the learning. I think of you all fondly and often, and wish the Academy many more years of inspiring young people to be the best they can be. Warmest congratulations and Best wishes

Chris Green

Interim Head of Academy - 2017

Dear members of the Aga Khan Academy community, congratulations on your 5th anniversary - what a great achievement. I cannot claim to have witnessed the growth of the Academy from its beginning like many of the original students there today but I was privileged to have been part of your history for at least 12 months. It was soon evident that the vision of his Highness and the enthusiasm and expertise of those entrusted to realise it would move the Academy and the students' development forwards. I very much miss the community and Mozambique and continue to tell everybody and anybody I meet what potential and beauty exists there. I wish you all every success in nurturing this potential over the next 5 years and beyond.

Warm regards

Lee O'Leary

Interim Head of Academy – 2016



Happy 5th Anniversary to The Aga Khan Academy Maputo

When Louise and I arrived at the Academy in August 2014 we were surprised to see that although the school was very small it had a modern classrooms and furniture and most of all a wonderful green environment. When the students arrived we were so pleased to see how enthusiastic and well behaved they were. We had both come from schools where children were not always well behaved and teachers had to struggle to help students to learn. This was not the case at the Aga Khan Academy and both students and teachers were eager to learn together so well.

Right from the start students and teachers embraced the Aga Khan learner profile and were quick to use 'Kelso's choices' as a tool to help solve playground disputes. I believe that it was the students and teachers who quickly adapted to these two new things, that provided a foundation on which to build a strong ethos for the Academy. This ethos, built on simple rules for how to live and learn together, has stood the test of time and held the Academy together in times of change and turmoil. It is a great comfort to students and parents to know that whatever happens the Academy will still be open and have this great fundamental feeling of being a learning institution where all learners, teachers included, are respected and have a supportive learning environment.

There have been many wonderful things that have happened at the Aga Khan Academy Maputo and I am sure that as the school grows and expands this will continue.

Louise, Charlotte and myself send our best wishes to you all and hope you have a great fifth anniversary day.

Nick Manley Junior School Principal 2014-2017

Louise Manley Teacher and PYP Coordinator 2014-2017

What an important milestone - an incredible effort and I can't wait to see you all again and look at the progress for myself. Please send my congratulations to the school leadership, staff, parents, Community and of course the students. I am so proud of you all!

Lee Davis

The First Head of Academy

Greetings from Brunei and congratulations to all students, teachers and parents at The Aga Khan Academy, Maputo on this momentous day!

It is hard to believe that it was five years ago when we opened the school for the first time with four classes. I remember spending the weekend before the first day of school unpacking furniture, setting up classrooms and cleaning. Then on the first day we opened the doors and a number of nervous, yet excited students, arrived at the Academy for the first time. I believe there were also quite a few nervous members of staff on this day as well!

Recently I was looking through the Academies website and the photographs and I was delighted to see so many familiar faces, teachers and students, from that first day, though they may have aged just a little bit.

I am extremely proud to have been part of the history of the Academy and I have very fond memories of all students and staff from our time in Mozambique! I look forward to seeing what the next five years will bring for the Aga Khan Academy, Maputo and to hear about its continued growth and success and the most importantly about the success of its students!

Kind regards,

Colm McDermott

The First Junior School Principal 2013-14

Happy 5th Anniversary to this very special education project!

I sincerely hope AKA continues to grow and teach our children not only the ABCs but the fundamentals of living as a community!

I congratulate all AKA staff for such a wonderful job done throughout the years, wishing many, many more to come! Keep it up!"

Patricia Marques

The First Registrar of the Academy

Happy 5th Anniversary Aga Khan Academy Maputo

It's hard to believe that it was five years ago that we were getting the classes ready for the first students. I have great memories of the children at the school, they were enthusiastic and great fun to teach. I remember the school play we did at the end of the first year. It really was a whole school effort, lots of singing and dancing, children making props and helping each other remember their parts. It really was a fantastic performance. I have enjoyed looking at the photographs of the academy over the years and it has been wonderful to see the school, and its students, grow. I will always remember the students and staff with great fondness.

Susan Gilfeather

One of the first teachers to be appointed to the Academy

My heartiest congratulations to the AKA, Maputo family on the 5th Anniversary of the Academy. It was an incredible privilege for me to be part of the Academy for the past 2 years and fondly recall the unwavering support and friendship of the parents, the dedicated and untiring efforts of the staff and the happy and hardworking students. It is my most sincere wish that the Academy grows from strength to strength and celebrates many more years of excellent success. Keep up the outstanding work! Thinking of you all at this happy and special time.

Yasmin Khan

Trainer of the first TPP group and English Teacher 2016-2018

From October 2016 to June 2017, I had an extraordinary experience of teaching and learning at the Aga Khan Academy in Maputo, Mozambique. From the spectrum of Intercultural Understanding to International Mindedness to Global Engagement, one thing that stood out for me above all else at the Aga Khan Academy in Maputo was the teachers and the students. Imagine, sitting in the staffroom with teachers from different countries, (Portugal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, England) and chatting about any topic, whether political, educational, social, sometimes even the latest quote from President Trump!

The Academy provided the structure where this interaction happened and facilitated the development of positive relationships. My most memorable experiences were in the Grade 3 classroom with my teaching partner and mentee, Lázaro whose open mindedness and learning stance helped us both to learn from each other and employ best practice. The students (who are now in Grade 5!) were eager to learn and their enthusiasm and excitement was so contagious that we all found ourselves learning through inquiry and became critical thinkers. The Maputo Academy helped me to immerse myself into a new culture and environment and encouraged me to reflect on my own teaching experience and forced me to develop new attitudes and new perspectives.

Shamim Murji

English Teacher 2016-17

From our parents and guardians

“Being founders of the Academy make us proud. Being firm believers of the Academy’s ultimate goal made us persistent”

Thayaka’s Parents

We are very happy and proud of the performance of our son, as well as the improvement in all aspects like his behaviour and overall confidence level. We would like to thank you very much for everything that you have done everything over the past 5 years for our child and for the rest of the students. We feel extremely privileged that our both children are studying at the Academy.

Thank you!

Aayan and Zoya’s Parents



CONGRATULATIONS AGA KHAN ACADEMY MAPUTO!!!