



4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents,

At the end of three weeks, we can say we are off to a good start of the 2015-16 academic year. All students have now settled down to the school routine in all areas ranging from academics to enrichment. We welcomed over one hundred new students and together with our continuing students, we now have about four hundred and seventy students, of whom two hundred and thirty six are residential. Indeed, we have experienced growth in numbers especially in our year nine and DP1 who have over eighty students. We would like to thank you all for the confidence you have on us to offer quality education to your children. In addition, we welcomed ten new teachers and Academy fellows and I would like to introduce them to you together with existing teachers in the attached document containing bios for each one of them. They will be working with your children throughout this year and you will have an opportunity to interact with them both online and one-on-one whenever you visit the Academy.

This week had been dedicated to students reflecting about how they interact with each and the Student Representative Council (SRC) organized various activities that will enhance interaction between students of different year groups. We believe this will encourage students to have caring and respectful relationships which will discourage acts of bullying. This culminated in students from different year groups having lunch together on the same table and an SRC assembly which emphasized these values.

In order to enhance communication between all stakeholders, we continue to use Managebac as a platform for this and all new parents have been given access and should have received a welcome email from Managebac by now, while existing parents' access remains as it was last year. For any queries or problems accessing your accounts, please contact [paul.davis@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:paul.davis@agakhanacademies.org)

### **Student life**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2015, the Academy welcomed over 57 new residential students and several new day students. This is exciting news for us as a community to see the growth in numbers. In the past 3 weeks, we have witnessed both the faculty and the student body supporting the new students making the transition to the Academy be as smooth as possible.

On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, the enrichment programme commenced with a variety of activities on offer by the faculty. Currently most students have signed up for the activities of their choice and we are in the process of supporting those yet to do so.

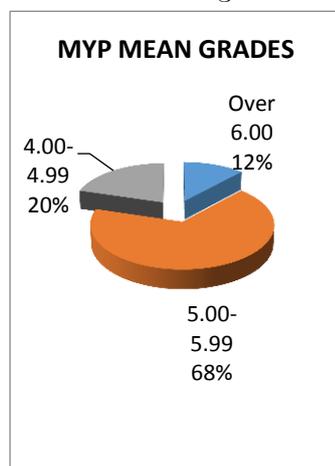
The leadership programme in Year 9 and Year 10 lessons has started in earnest with the support of the Year Level Leaders as well as the Mentors. The first lesson on Monday is now dedicated to mentor-ship time. Furthermore, several activities have been lined up by the SRC this week. Key among them is the running the anti-bullying sensitisation week as well as football tournaments. We are confident that all these initiatives and experiences will go a long way in enriching the students' lives at the Academy.

## Diploma Programme

The Diploma Programme 2015 took off to a buoyant start in the wake of our outstanding DP results. The urge to live up to that legacy was amply evident among the returning DP2s who hit the ground running with assessments in all six subjects on the opening day of school, and by submitting the first drafts of their Extended Essays on the very first Friday. Likewise, the newly anointed DP1s also experienced a comprehensive initiation into the programme through a 3 day orientation schedule that blended academic induction and experiential acclimatization in equal measure. The 3 day extended weekend Leadership Camp at Mt. Kasigau also helped them bond and taught them resilience and self-belief. For the new cohort, a firm foundation is being laid on which they can build their signature monuments. For the senior cohort, the countdown for the final lap has begun in earnest - with Personal Statements and Recommendation Letters receiving the final polish for university applications. The season of repose is over, and it is time for each of them to find their personal Everests to scale.

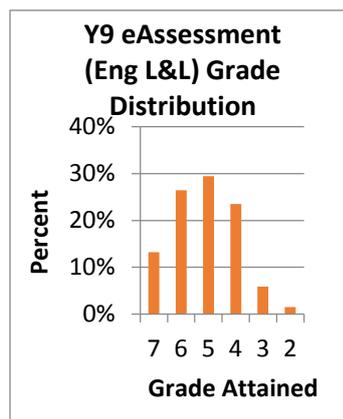
## MYP Programme

Of the 59 MYP candidates the school had in the last academic year, 12% of them received an excellent mean grade of 6.00 and above. We are also proud to report that all the students qualified for the IB MYP Certificate.



Last year's class was unique since it was the first cohort to face the implementation of a revamped MYP curriculum designed to incorporate new subject content frameworks, concepts, contexts and new modes of assessment like ePortfolio in Arts, Design and Physical Health Education. The students attained a mean grade of 5.37 out of a possible 7. This was marginally lower than last year's 5.47 points.

In the Personal Project, over 20% of the students received a score of 6 or above. One of the key highlights was the Gold Medal Award received by Rithwik Gokhale at the International Golden Climate Competition for his project on a prototype of a motorized farming vehicle. Collins Sam won a Bronze Medal for a solar powered precipitator. There were also two current Year 10 students. Kamila Jammohammed won a silver medal for her anaerobic biogas digester while Rishika Gokhale won a bronze medal for her eco-friendly bricks project.



In a bid to prepare our current candidates for the eAssessment, we registered 68 of them for an IB pilot English Language and Literature eAssessment in May 2015. The examination was set by the IB at Year 10 Level and 69% of the students attained a score of 5 or above.

Our top MYP student in June 2015 is Ganjina Vanjova, who scored an excellent 65 out of 70. This was better than last year's score of 63. She attained a 7 in English Language and Literature, Russian, Chemistry, Physics, Extended Mathematics, Visual Arts and Personal Project. Ganjina has not only excelled in her academics but also in her leadership roles where she served her peers as an Academic Rep in the Students' Representative Council (SRC) among others.

Exploring the Aga Khan Strand of Cultures and MYP Global Context of Personal and Cultural Expression, her Personal Project was on designing a traditional house in Pamiri (Tajikistan) and showing its cultural value.

**Upcoming events**

11th September - MYP & DP medal of honor awards

28<sup>th</sup> September - Settling in reports for all new students are released

29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September - ISA tests for year 6 to 10

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

**Francis Kariuki**

**Principal, Senior School**