



12th February 2016

Dear Parents,

It has been a fast moving three weeks and as we go for mid-term break today, we hope that both the students and teachers will have time to recharge and be ready for the remaining part of this semester. One key occasion that took place was the Semester One awards ceremony which recognizes the academic achievement of our students. We would like to appreciate those of you who were able to join us for the celebrations. We awarded about 110 honours certificates to about 90 students across Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP) representing 16% of MYP students and 19% of DP students. This is commendable and we continue to encourage our students to aim at joining the honours list because it is open to all. We urge you to encourage them too for we believe they have the potential.

As some may be aware, we asked students who have been wearing trousers/pants or skirts of a different shade of grey from what is supplied by Kenya Shirt, the school appointed supplier to get the appropriate shade. Although this has been going on for some time and the follow up may not have been done as expected, we felt it was time to address it. It was sending a wrong message to the majority of the students who are wearing the appropriate shade of grey and therefore not fair to all. We, however recognize that it may not be possible to change immediately and hence we have given up to the beginning of term 3 in April for all students except DP2s to get trousers/pants or skirts with the correct shade of grey. We are exempting DP2 students because they have a few months to go before they graduate from the school. We hope that this will give the concerned parents time to purchase the appropriate shade.

Diploma Programme

DP2

The TOK (Theory of Knowledge) essays are done and submitted. So this is a big one off their shoulders, because the essay and the presentation both being out of the way now, students now can use the TOK slots to have support sessions in their other major subjects. The EE (Extended Essay) is also done now for all students. The Viva Voce has been conducted by respective supervisors and submissions are closing in. IAs (Internal Assessments) in most subjects are in varying stages of completion. Currently, all students are putting their work through a software called 'Turnitin' to ensure the originality quotient is in order. Teachers are checking the reports and advising accordingly. Preparations for the Mock examination which commence on 24th Feb are underway, and this, plus the remaining IAs, is what will occupy their half term break.

DP1

The annual CAS project that was mainly a deworming exercise within Bombolulu community, took a new dimension this year. This was after a fresh assessment of needs of the community showed that the Kenyan Government was now offering free deworming medicine in schools making the CAS initiative not viable any more. Therefore, the current DP1s implemented a multilevel intervention in the community, with the hope that this will lead to new projects:

One group delivered 10 wheelie-bins which were a donation of the school Tuck Shop to the local community, and with our partner, Mkoweni Childrens' Centre, carried out a cleaned up exercise in



the area. We are hoping to turn this into a sustainable scheme where the community pays youths to dispose of the garbage, while we follow up with joint clean up drives. Another group facilitated discussions between the representatives of elders and the youth in the community, where they discussed ways to bridge the gap between generations. Other groups worked on girl empowerment projects through music or crocheting, educational support for young students and raising awareness about preventative methods against Cholera or Malaria, culminating in a joint activity where our students and the community planted basil seeds, a plant which can be used to prevent Malaria propagation. Our next step is to connect all these projects with existing CAS groups in the field and ensure their sustainability.



Annual play - The performance date for the DP 1 Play (a comical version of Romeo & Juliet) has now been rescheduled for the 4th of March. Rehearsals are underway, and now the other involved teams - set design, light and sound, music, costumes, marketing, stage management - are now gearing up to add requisite value. On the whole, it is a very exciting time for all.

University Counselling

It's been an exciting few months in the University Counselling office! As we gear up to transition our DP1 cohort into the college application process, we eagerly look forward to continue to bring great news from the DP2 class. This extraordinary cohort has already seen acceptances to several top tier institutions in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom such as Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Emory University, Smith College, University of British Columbia, McGill University, University College London, and many more. Alongside these fantastic results, our students continue to receive well-deserved merit scholarships to their schools of choice. In order to assist our students to greater heights, we intend on attending several UK and Australian university fairs in the coming months to expose our students to the vast number of opportunities out there. We pride ourselves in providing holistic support and counselling to our students through acclimating sessions and an open-door policy so students feel prepared for their university years

ahead and can continue to thrive in the hustle and bustle of our office. Our students and teachers are the pride of our school and we look forward to another term of great news to come!

Student Life

We continue to see maturity, commitment and determination in every aspect of our students lives at the Academy. Even with the increased and demanding workload in their academics, the students continue to show a balanced approach to the various spheres of their lives at the Academy.

Enrichment programme

Engaging in different enrichments activities are crucial for the realization students' potential in a variety of settings beyond the classroom. The students have shown commitments to the various activities they signed for and it will be important for you as parents/ guardians to read their reflections posted on ManageBac. Use their reflections to probe them further.

Community and Service

Most of our students have been involved in planning and coordinating different community and service programmes. Involvement in service activity has enabled them to learn about the real-world implications of their studies, and while involving them in community activities, the students gain a sense of the connections between their education and the world around them. It will be important that you have conversations with them in this area.

Student's Leadership

The quality of the leaders we produce can be determined by how they respond to the challenges and the demands from those being led. Our current student leaders continue to show excellent conflict resolution skills, initiative, and high propensity of diplomacy. While your children are at home, provide them with leadership opportunities.

Residential

The student have participated a variety of both day and evening residential activities. The one enjoyed most was the cinema excursion. We have also planned for Nguuni animal Sanctuary dinner for the students after mid-term break.

A team of 60 Year 6 and Year 7 students left for Taita expedition on the 11th February 2016. This is a bonding opportunity for the residential students and their dorm parents. We know friendships and unique experiences will be developed from such outdoor expeditions.

While the Dp2's are at home over the mid-term break, support in the preparation for their mocks that will begin immediately they get back. Otherwise we appreciate your continued support in the last six weeks of the New Year.

Middle Years Programme

This year's 22nd Annual Middle School Model United Nations (MSMUN) was held as from Tuesday January 26 to Friday January 29, 2016. Our school was assigned Holy See, Lithuania and Kiribati. The Holy See was represented by Bilal Adamji as the ambassador. He was also its Human Rights Committee representative. Tabreek Somani was in the Ecology and Environment, Ayesha Lalani in Technology and Louis Muia in Health Committee. Ishaan Alidina was the ambassador for Lithuania which presented its resolution in the Technology committee while Muthaira Intikhab was in the Health Committee. This resolution was presented by Ria Devani who appealed to the delegates to deploy technology in drug detention and control. Other representatives for Lithuania were Nicole Lutalo (Ecology and Environment), Kemal Gaye (Human Rights) and Sytara Alibay who joined Ishaan in the Security Council Committee. Laiqa Walli was the ambassador for Kiribati and presented her country's resolution on the effect of climate change on the Pacific Islands. Kiribati's resolution was cited by Mr. Achim Steiner, executive director of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in his address to the delegates on the last day of the conference urging the



nations to avoid polluting the environment since ‘what you do has an immediate consequence on what would happen to you.’ Muskaan Bhaidani represented Kiribati in Human Rights Committee, Gregory Wahome was in Health while Karan Khagram was in Technology.



Personal Project Induction and Exhibition

We are thankful to all of you who came for both Year 9 Induction and Year 10 Exhibition of the MYP Personal Projects. The attendance was encouraging in both events. We hope the Year 9 parents and students will now have a clearer start for the PP. We encourage Y9 parents to engage the children constructively on their projects. They have up to Friday February 19 to upload their proposals on ManageBac although we would be glad if they did this as soon as possible. As for Year 10 parents, we wish to congratulate you for your cooperation and support in your children’s PP process.





Upcoming events

13th to 21st February - Mid-term break (Residential students return on 21st)

16th to 19th February - DP1 History trip to Rwanda

22nd to 27th February - EA MUN trip to Nairobi

24th February to 4th March - DP2 Mock examinations

26th to 28th February - AKAM Sports festival

29th February to 2nd March - Year 10 Mock examinations

4th March - DP1 Play

4th March - Inter-house Athletics competition

Have a wonderful break with your children!

Kind regards,
Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School