



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents,

The last three weeks were clearly the busiest that we have had of late but the outcome of the various activities were rewarding. The preparation for the two visits; IB evaluation and French development agency (AFD) together with the same for expedition to Taita by year six and seven residential students, East Africa sports festival, year 9 trip and Mock examinations placed a lot of demands on both students, teachers and administration/support staff. However, the success of these events made it all worth it.

The visits went on well with the visitors quite impressed by our students especially their confidence and their ability to articulate themselves on various issues. In fact the IB team referred to our student as being phenomenal. We would like to thank the parents who were able to come and meet with the evaluation team and shared their reflections about the school. The IB team shared their initial observations and we expect a full report in four weeks' time.

The other events which happened during the half term break went on well and students enjoyed themselves. Some of the students went home and for them we hope they had a wonderful time with you. For our DP2 and year 10 cohorts, they were preparing for mock examinations which are currently going on and we wish them all the best.

In the previous newsletter, we forgot to inform you of the change of date for the inter-house swimming competition that will now take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The change of date was done due to the year 9 trip which is currently going on. On the same day in the evening we will have the annual DP1 play. Therefore we will have the competition starting at 8am till lunch time and then we will release the students to go home after lunch. These will give DP1 students time to prepare for the show. Day students who use the school bus or may not be able to go home at that time will be able to use the library till three o'clock when the buses leave or when they are picked.

## **Diploma Programme**

### **DP2**

Mock exams are underway now. They commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> February and will conclude on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The entire cohort is now steeped in academia. Most Internal Assessments are reaching completion as well, and final submission dates are afoot. Extended Essays, TOK essays and most IA drafts are undergoing plagiarism checks through the 'turnitin' software. The students are feeling the heat and we are doing our best to help them absorb it nimbly.

Related important dates to keep in mind for DP2 are: Parent meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March to discuss Mock results, Portfolio of achievement celebrations on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **DP1**

The Annual Production helmed traditionally by the DP1 students is now in the final stages of preparation. It is "In the Heights", the multiple award winning musical by Lin Manuel Miranda. The performance date is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the commons at 6.45 pm. Tickets will soon be available in the school and at popular outlets around Mombasa.



On the curriculum front, all students have now chosen their Extended Essay subjects and topics and have been assigned supervisors. Initial meetings have happened between the students and their supervisors, to zero in on an appropriate, specific and explorable Research Question. On the college counselling front, most students have been attending quite a few university fairs arranged by the school.

## **Student Life**

Our DP2 and Year 10 students commenced their mocks examination this week and as a community we wish them every success. We have asked them to be calm, collected and confident throughout this period of the examination and they know that there is reward for hard work, commitment, resilience, and discipline. As parents of the candidates you need to assure them that we have every confidence in them and that they will succeed at the end of it all.

## **February Mid-term Break**

A few students from the residences were able to travel for the two days mid-term break and they have returned to school safely. During the mid-term, the school organized a sports festival with our students and students from other schools in Nairobi and Mombasa participated. The sports included hockey, basketball, badminton, and football tournaments.

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

February 13th-17th was the Anti bullying week. The SRC organized different activities to sensitize students about the effects of bullying. This culminated in an interactive anti-bullying assembly on the 17th Friday. The approach to bullying issues by the SRC during the assembly was interactive, practical, and with effective presentations from the students leaders of their past bullying experiences.

## **Taita Expedition**

This is one experience that all grade 6 & 7 residential students participate at least once while at the academy. The expedition takes the students outside their comfort zones allowing them to interact with others in a new environment while learning new skills like such as map reading, navigation, cooking, leadership, conflict resolution, and teamwork. This year's expedition was challenging but also memorable.

## **EAMUN trip to Nairobi**

The Model United Nation (MUN) simulates the activities of the real United Nations Organization and aims to build up the confidence and enhance the debating skills of all the participants. We are proud of the team of 13 students who represented the Academy in the just concluded EAMUN conference in Nairobi. One of the students was voted as the best speaker in Environment committee.

## **Year 9 trip to Nairobi**

In our effort to promote teamwork and the appreciation of Kenya's natural diversity, the school has organized a trip for the year 9 students to Nairobi. The students left for Nairobi on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, and will be in Nairobi for 3 days. They will take part in team building activities as well as visit places of valuable educational opportunities away from the classroom i.e. SGR project progress, Nairobi orphanage, National museum, Ice skating at the Panari and others. We believe that it will be a wonderful learning experience for the students as well as an opportunity for them to bond as a class. We hope to maintain the tradition of year level trips in the coming academic year.

## **Other Events**

CASA Age group ten years and over swimming gala took place in our school and Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa emerged first overall. Attached is a newspaper article with details of the event.



Jaza Lorry initiative concert hosted by The AKA, Mombasa Voices For Change is taking place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7pm.. Parents and well-wishers are encouraged to support the students' initiative.

The annual basketball season will start with County games on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday March 2017. The stakes are very high for our teams having made it to the regionals and nationals respectively. We wish our students the best as they begin the season

## **Middle Years Programme**

### **Evaluation visit**

The IB evaluation visit took place between 20<sup>th</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. The evaluators had a chance to visit classes, talk to MYP students, parents and teachers in order to get an insight into how we implement the programme at the school.

### **Year 10 Mock Onscreen assessments**

The Year 10 students embarked on their onscreen mock examination on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. This is in preparation for their final onscreen examinations that will take place between 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017. By the end of the mock examination period the students will have been tested on the following subjects: Mathematics English Language and Literature, Swahili Language and Literature, French Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

This year the students will be using laptops to write their responses as a way of further helping them to prepare for the onscreen examinations. So far, the examinations have been running smoothly and we wish the Year 10 students all the best in their mocks.

## **Upcoming events**

4<sup>th</sup> March – Jaza Lorry initiative concert

10<sup>th</sup> March – Inter-House Swimming Competition

18<sup>th</sup> March – Pamir – Roof of the world by our Tajik students

20<sup>th</sup> March – DP2 parents meeting

20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March – Francophonie Week

25<sup>th</sup> March – MAD night

6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – Parent Teachers Conference (year 6 – DP1)

Have a wonderful week!



Kind regards,  
**Francis Kariuki**  
**Principal, Senior School**