

The Academy Senior School Newsletter



2016-17 ACADEMY SENIOR SCHOOL WELCOME

Dear Academy Senior School parents, guardians, teachers and students,

Namaste, Namaskarum, Yaa Ali Mahdad and Jambo!

It is a pleasure to return to India and our beautiful campus after the monsoon has once again refreshed the environment, especially the lush vegetation and the atmosphere.

I am sure students and staff feel similarly invigorated after a satisfying and productive vacation period and are keen to launch back into teaching and learning and all the other important benefits experienced at our Academy learning community.



ADMISSIONS UPDATE

With almost exactly 500 students on the books, The Academy Senior School is very close to full capacity. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Admissions team for the tremendous job they have completed.

Last academic year we were joined by several Tajiki and Afghan students, and this year there has been a second intake of Afghan students. Students have also joined from Bangladesh and various African nations. All of which contribute to the diversity and pluralism so important in an international educational setting.

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY TO THE ACADEMY SENIOR SCHOOL

Faculty Name	Role	MYP / DP
Ms Margaret Das	Head of English Department; English teacher	MYP & DP
Ms Anandita Dutta and Ms Saba Nizami	English teachers	MYP & DP
Ms Gulandam Sarwari	Academy Fellow, Dari Language teacher	MYP
Ms Anya Topolskova	Russian Language teacher	MYP
Ms Neetu Reddy	Hindi Language teacher	MYP
Ms Himani Sood	Academy Fellow; MYP Humanities teacher; involved in Careers Counselling	MYP & DP
Mr Zvikomborero	Head of the Humanities Department; Geography teacher	MYP & DP
Ms. Jina Saha	Economics teacher; MYP Individuals & Societies teacher; Facilitator of Theory of Knowledge	MYP & DP
Mr ChandrabhanYadav	Mathematics teacher	MYP & DP
Mr John Franklin	Head of the Design Department; Teacher of Design Technology and ITGS; will help integrate Information Technology across the curriculum.	MYP & DP

From the desk of Senior School Principal

By Ray Zinsli

GRADE LEADERS FOR 2016-17

Grades	Grade Leader	Teaching subject
6	Ms Arzoo	Head of Department for Theory Of Knowledge (ToK); Science - MYP
7	Ms Arpita	English, Language and Literature - MYP
8	Ms Priyodarshini	History - MYP and DP
9	Ms Gaura	Global Politics – DP; Humanities - MYP
10	Mr Rajesh	Economics - MYP and DP
11	Mr Suresh	Economics - MYP and DP
12	Dr Sujana	Biology – MYP; ToK - DP

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME NEWS

Introducing *Information Technology in Global Society*

With our student strength in Grades 11 & 12 increasing (86 in Grade 11 and 79 in Grade 12) we have been able to further extend our already considerable subject offering. This year we have added 'Information Technology in a Global Society' (ITGS).

15 students have currently opted for ITGS and will learn about the place which IT holds in our rapidly changing world. ITGS is not a course on IT itself, but is a Humanities course that examines the effects and influences which Information Technology exert upon contemporary society.

Introducing Telugu Language

We are also introducing Telugu Language A into our subjects offering for Grade 11 this year. As literature is a significant component of the course, the level of students' Telugu must be to a very good standard.

The Academy is the only school in Hyderabad to offer the prestigious bilingual IB diploma (with students taking not one but TWO First Language subjects. This is achieved by those students taking Hindi Language A). We will also be the first school in our region to graduate students with Telugu Language A in the Bilingual Diploma.

Service Based Learning (SBL) summer internships

Congratulations to those students who served their summer internship over the vacation period. This is a particularly demanding task but immensely rewarding. DP1 intern students' achievements were celebrated at a special assembly on August 20th at The Academy.

From the desk of Senior School Principal

By Ray Zinsli

IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME NEWS

Language Support

Bangla Language Support, initiated last year will be continued as will Dari Language Support. This year we will also deliver Russian Language instruction for Grade 8 students and will be offering an option for Telugu (in place of Hindi) for Grade 7 students. We plan to extend Telugu instruction in the Senior School over the next few years, subject to demand.

Creative Arts expansion

Another area of planned growth for this academic year is the Creative Arts area, particularly in Music. We have purchased a number of different instruments for students to try, both for enjoyment and a sense of achievement. All students have been learning to play the keyboard and tabla, and last year several students began learning guitar.

We hope to have a Concert Band and a Jazz Band (and maybe even run a Rock Band Competition annually!) Moving forward, we encourage students to try out different instruments and practise with these. We look forward to building on foundations laid in previous years for choral and instrumental events.

A FINAL NOTE ON LEADERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

Leadership and Stewardship (including Community Service) are central platforms of our educational philosophy. This year, significant challenges will be presented to students, encouraging them to extend themselves and develop important skills and attitudes regarding community spirit and citizenship, empathy and perseverance.

The opportunities offered here in Hyderabad are indeed wide and deep. Like all IBO World Schools, we emphasise a holistic approach to education, aiming to develop mind and body and spirit. As an Aga Khan Academy, we take this further still - leadership and stewardship are added to the ten IB Learner Profile attributes. All of our curricula and activities are delivered through a values framework of 5 strands: Ethics, Pluralism, Economics for Development, Cultures, Governance and Civil Society.

Academic excellence is a key goal. We expect our students to work very hard and aim for the highest achievement possible in every area of their Academy journey. It is certainly a challenging mission but with the support and dedicated attention of this entire learning community, we strive to mould our students, your children, into effective, ethical leaders for future progress.

Warm regards,

Raymond Zinsli, B.A, B.Sc
The Academy Senior School Principal