



26th November 2018

Dear Parents,

Time has moved very fast and as we near the December 2018 break, we would like to share with you some key achievements over the last five weeks as well as pass some information. We are getting into an important part of the semester when our diploma students are going to sit for their examinations while our MYP students continue focusing on summative assessments. As we continue to support and encourage them, we call upon you to continue to do the same so that at the end of the semester they will be able to achieve their targets.

We would like to remind the parents of day students of our policy on students coming into and leaving school. Once the students are dropped in school in the morning either by parent/driver or by school bus, they can only leave the school by the end of school day using the same means they came in with. For any entry or exit in the course of the day, communication between the parents and school is expected and necessary permission sought which is documented for accountability purposes. At the end of the school day, once a student leaves the school they are not allowed to come back unless there is an evening event they have been invited for. For any other circumstance, communication with the school secretary is expected who will liaise with security at the gate to allow the student to come back. These measures are meant to ensure safety and security of all students including residential students who cannot leave the campus without parents' consent and documented permission. Therefore the way exit of students at the end of the school day is managed helps us to ensure this.

During diploma examination period, we will continue with the one entry one exit policy we have always implemented considering that there are days when diploma students have one paper either in the morning or afternoon. Therefore once a student comes into school for their paper(s) they can only leave at the end of the school day. However, if they choose to leave school after their paper(s) and it is before the end of day, then they cannot come back to school till the following day.

This year, Senior School Library once again participated in the annual Maktaba Awards which took place on the 12th October, 2018 at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, Nairobi (KICD). The event was sponsored by Kenya Library Association, Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, The Ministry of Sports and Heritage, Worldreader, Book Aid International and ekitab. This time the assessors evaluated both the library and staff experiences as a result of the library participation in the past Awards on how it has impacted on the library based on:

- Currency, diversity and relevance of the library collections
- Innovation and creativity in service provision
- Application of modern technologies in library services
- Collection, preservation and dissemination of local content and indigenous knowledge
- Service to the local communities

The Aga Khan Academy emerged first under Private School category and we were awarded the following:



- A Trophy
- A Certificate
- A Cheque worth Ksh.30,000
- A Kindle reader
- 200 Books from book Aid International
- Kamusi from Jomo Kenyatta Foundation

We congratulate the Library team, students and staff for this achievement.

After the October break we welcomed sixteen Year 9 students from Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad for the inaugural Academy exchange programme while we sent our fifteen Year 9 students to their school. So far they have integrated well with our students and have experienced Mombasa culture and indeed other cultures within our school. They have shared their own culture with the school community through music and dance. It was wonderful to have them as part of Garba Night and Diwali and over the weekend, residential cultural night.



On 8th November, it was a non-uniform day where both students and faculty had a chance to dress like their favorite character.



We have finalized the trips calendar for this academic year and it is separated into two calendars, one for compulsory trips and the other for optional trips. You will find the two as an attachment. We hope this will help in your planning. In future, this will be released at the beginning of the academic year.

Diploma Programme

DP2

The Extended Essay process is now completed and concluded. Students have submitted their final drafts and written their third reflections and also had their viva with their respective supervisors.

The TOK final presentations are also done, and all students have their presentations recorded.

Both are hugely demanding areas and the students have done themselves proud by giving a very intellectually impressive account of themselves. This is also a big load off their shoulders, and leaves them with the necessary time and space to now focus on their subject specific Internal Assessments (IAs) and the forthcoming Pre-mock examinations.

The Pre-mock exams commence on 26th November and conclude on 3rd December.

DP1

They are settled into their subjects now, and are at the moment gearing up for their first ever DP examinations, which commence from 27th November and conclude on 30th November.

They are also immersed in finalizing the cast and crew for their annual play production which this time is an award winning musical called 'Memphis'. The auditions have just concluded and rehearsals will begin in earnest soon. Like their Mt Kasigau expedition, this is another key collaborative endeavour that enriches their bond and their abilities to work as a team.

The coming vacation in December is extremely crucial for all DP1 students – it is an opportunity to move ahead of the curve and be prepared for the demanding second semester by staying in constant touch with their subjects and the related components.

University applications process

For both cohorts, this is a pivotal area and a lot has been going on in terms of facilitating opportunities to fine tune the required documents they are mandated to produce.

For the DP2s of course, the process is in its final leg where applications for early decisions and early admissions have already gone, and the regular applications are also ready to go. An expectant time now as we await admission confirmations for all of them.

Transcripts, Recommendation Letters, Personal Statements – the works. DP1s are in the process of drafting and redrafting these.

Student Life

Five weeks have moved so fast since your children returned from the October break. The remaining weeks before December break will be demanding and challenging for all the students especially the DP1s and DP2 students sitting for their November and Pre-mocks examinations respectively.

Your support and encouragement at this time of anxiety and pressure is important and your children should always be reminded that whilst good marks and grades are important, their well-being, the skills and values they have developed is also of importance to us.

Residential Updates

Even with the demanding curriculum expectations, residential students have been engaged in different events and activities. These include;

- The residential Town-hall meeting to address the residential matters.



- Dessert afternoons for bonding and socializing off campus.
- Excursions to the beach and butterfly pavilion for bicycle rides.
- Cultural understanding excursions with the Hyderabad exchange students and our own students.

Events Updates

Events completed

- Enrichment Leadership Workshop was on 10th November 2018
- UFF football festival happened on 17th and 18th November 2018. Our students did very well in the competition where we had over 40 teams competing.
- Year 7 Watamu year level trip on 21st - 23rd November 2018
- Residential Cultural Night on 24th November 2018

Key to the Aga Khan academies Vision and Mission is to prepare young people to lead. The planned events above all have a role in the development of the leadership skills we desire in our students.

House Events:

Houses competed in the swimming competition on 16th Nov 2018 and Ravens house emerged the winners. The events competed since August includes, the Quiz competition and the Maths/Science competition. The last event for 2018 will be the Lip sync /fashion show competition.

Reminder:

School closes on Tuesday 11th Dec 2018 at 3 pm and all residential students will be expected to have left the school by 12th Dec 2018 at noon. The residential students report to school on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 and classes begin on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

It is our hope that we will continue to build on the different supporting structures in place to ensure that our students achieve the greatest heights of excellence.

Sports update

Please see attached.

Middle Years Programme

Year 6

The year 6 cohort has covered the unit of collaboration and to celebrate this they had a series of sporting activities with the students. This was one way to bring the students together to appreciate one another and work collaboratively to compete in teams. Students found opportunities to meet and share moments with each other outside classroom.

They are also celebrating one of their own; Atika Mula who made an appearance in Kenya's Lion's Den show, which is a platform to showcase entrepreneurial skills and ideas. Atika whose topic is tackling an issue of cyber bullying, started this while still in year 5 in Junior school, as his exhibition project.

His demonstration of the learner profile as well as the development of ATL skills has significantly inspired many year 6 students. Currently students are exploring the ATL skill; Organization in their PSHE lessons as a way to help them appreciate and demonstrate their self-management skills.



Next week on 23rd November they shall have their first bonding evening. The students have organized several activities to bring them closer to one another. They are also looking forward to holding a 'Random Appreciation Friday' where they want to share a word or a gift to people they have not interacted well with but whose presence they appreciate and would like to find a moment to share with them.

Year 10

The Year 10 students successfully did their PP mock exhibition. They are now fine tuning their projects in readiness for the final exhibition that will take place in February 2019.

The Year Level trip will be on 5th-8th December, 2018. Students will visit educational areas in Nairobi and Naivasha. They will also participate in bonding activities. We thank parents for their support.

We continue to take pride in the success of individual members of the year group. Sara Alidina will take part in the East African games (Badminton) at the end of November while Josette Njeri Kiarie has qualified to participate in the Junior cross-triathlon event in the World Multisport Championship to be held in Pontevedra, Spain, from 27th to 6th May, 2019. Congratulations and best wishes to all.

Personal project mock exhibition

On 2nd of November 2018, the Year 10 students were able to conduct a mock exhibition of their personal projects. While this acts as a precursor to the main exhibition which shall take place in February 2019, the main aim was for the students to get feedback that would help them refine their products, outcomes and reports.

It was also a good opportunity for the younger MYP students to get an idea of what the personal project entails, since they shall be required to undertake the same in the later stages of their programme's course. Here are some images of the mock exhibition:





Upcoming events

November 26 – December 3, 2018	DP2 Pre-Mock examinations
November 26 – 30, 2018	DP1 November examinations
December 1, 2018	Zawadi Bazaar – 11 am - 5 pm
December 5 - 9, 2018	Year 10 trip to Nairobi & Naivasha
December 8, 2018	Exchange Programme with Hyderabad end- Year 9 students return to their respective Academies.
December 11, 2018	Last day of school before December break
January 2, 2019	Residential students return
January 3, 2019	School opens

Kind regards,

Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School

Engage with us on social media!

The Aga Khan Academies shares fascinating stories, videos and photo galleries on all our social media pages. We also have two ongoing social media campaigns, the Academies Journeys and 60 Stories for 60 Years, which provide interactive and engaging insight into the unique Academies community.

Be sure to follow, like and subscribe to our pages so you can stay up to date on all Academies news and never miss out on our exciting updates!

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