



24th January 2016

Dear Parents,

The last three weeks marked a busy start of the new year 2016 with various activities taking place within the various programmes involving both students and teachers. They were also the last weeks of semester 1 and therefore a period of writing semester 1 reports for DP1 and MYP students.

To begin with, we welcomed twenty two new students with majority joining year 6. They have settled well in the school programme. In addition, the third cohort of Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP) interns have joined the school in three departments; Science, Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). Their internship will be for the next eighteen months. The teachers include:



Mr. Erick Agira - Biology



Mr. Jack Otieno - Chemistry



Mr. Haggai Ombati - French



Ms. Skirther Nyangoya - Mathematics

On Friday 22nd January, we hosted the French ambassador H.E. Remi Marechaux, who paid a courtesy call to our school and gave a public lecture to our students. He spoke to our DP students about the relationship between Kenya and France. He articulated this clearly and our students demonstrated their ability to analyse issues critically by asking very good questions. We are very proud of them.

During the December holiday, there were improvements in some of the infrastructure in school. Of particular interest to Senior school was the refurbishment of our ICT labs, as part of the preparation for e-assessments (on screen examinations) for the year 10 students in May 2016.

As technology improvements continue and more devices capable of accessing internet increase in number, it has become necessary to come up with measures to ensure quality access and responsible



use of the internet resource we have. Therefore the school has come up with a system where all devices capable of accessing internet will be registered and a user name and password issued. These will be used to access internet and there will be a limit to the number of active devices accessing internet at the same time. This will be the case for all students, faculty and staff in the school. Students will be able to have two devices active at the same time. Only registered devices will have access to internet and will be activated using the same user name and password. This system will be rolled out in phases due to large number of students and the schedule will be communicated to students in advance.

Diploma Programme

The DP2 students started the new year with the pre-mock examination which lasted for one week. The outcome of the same will be released at the same time as Semester one reports. The purpose of this examination was to expose the students to more papers per subject so as gauge their consolidation of content covered so far. Based on experience of the previous year, the pre-mock examination also helped to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding of concepts and this is in time so as to enable necessary support to be given to students before Mock examinations in February.

The results for Swahili B final examination which DP2 students sat for in November 2015 were released in December. The performances were superlative, with most students scoring 6s and 7s and a few 5s. Well begun is half done”, goes the old adage. Hence this augurs well for the class of 2016!

TOK course completion - DP2 students are coming to the end of their Theory of Knowledge journey, which will conclude with the submission of the final draft of their TOK Essay by the end of this January.

University placements - We have received admission offers for our DP2 students into reputable universities, including Yale, NYU, Johns Hopkins, Smith, Waterloo, Toronto, York, Reading, Manchester, Cardiff, York, Leeds, Queens, Drexel, UCL, Bath, Edinburgh, Alberta, Sussex, Trent, ULSTAR, SOAS, Western, Birmingham, Arizona, Michigan, KCL, Hertfordshire, Aberdeen, Leister, Acadia, Allison, Brunel, UEA, and more. And this is just the beginning. More great news is that the two DP2 students, Natasha Treunen and Mohammed Waseem who attended a candidate weekend in New York University Abu Dhabi in December got admission on full scholarship. This was big endorsement of the quality of our graduates after last year's admission of one student in the same university on full scholarship, making it three students so far.

Extended Essay Fair - DP1 students attended the Extended Essay Fair conducted by Diploma subject experts on Monday 18th January, where students visited subject specific stalls in 20 minute cycles and covered three subjects in the hour that was accorded to them for the purpose. Here they gained further information and insight into what taking up an Extended Essay in a particular subject domain entails. This understanding will now help them make informed choices when they finally submit their EE Proposals by 1st February.

On Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd, our DP1 and DP2 Visual Arts students participated in a workshop facilitated by expert artist from Nairobi who shared practical skills of preparing Art pieces. These skills are important in enabling the students develop their pieces for final assessment.

CAS day trip - DP1 students will go on a field trip accompanied by the CAS Coordinator and Mentors early next month. This trip combines the service and action elements of CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service), and also facilitates in an introductory manner the research, data analysis and reflection components of the Extended Essay.



Student Life

In the residential programme, we welcomed twenty two new students, seventeen of them in year 6 increasing the number in the residences to two hundred and sixty students. This is one of largest admissions in the January intake and in the last three weeks they have been able to settle down well and integrated into the programme with the support of other students and dorm parents.



The enrichment programme for term two has been running for two weeks and our students are involved in various activities in the three clusters of action, citizenship and expression. Each student is expected to select two activities from each cluster to meet the requirements for a whole academic year. So each term, they can choose whichever mix of cluster so long as they meet the requirements

On Friday 22nd, the inter-house debate competition took place with our students demonstrating high level of debating skills. Ravens House came first.

Middle Years Programme

The Year 10 students have submitted their final personal project report and they are gearing themselves for the final exhibition in February. It has been a journey they have undertaken which will prepare them for Extended Essay writing in the diploma programme and other research exercises they will go through in future.

Year 9 students have been introduced to the personal project and will soon embark on the journey. An induction meeting for the year 9 parents is scheduled for 11th February so that they can gain a better understanding of the project so as to support the students.

The new year 6 students and those who joined other year levels at the same time and hence new to MYP, have been going through an induction programme to assist them integrate well into the MYP programme by understanding the principles behind it and its approaches.

Upcoming events

25th January - Semester 2 starts

25th to 30th January - MS MUN conference in Nairobi

5th February - Semester 1 awards ceremony

11th February - Personal Project exhibition and year 9 parents Personal Project meeting

12th February - Parents workshop on AK Strands

11th to 14th February - Residential expedition to Taita

15th to 21st February - Mid-term break (Residential students return on 21st)

Please note that the DP1 play that was to be staged on 12th February has been postponed. The new date will be communicated soon.

Have an enjoyable week!



Kind regards,
Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School