

from the desk of the
Head of Academy

1 May 2026



Dear Parents,

Behind my desk, I keep a tiny glass jar. It is no more than four centimetres tall and three centimetres wide. Inside are more than a dozen small slips of paper, each one tightly bound with a thin ring of wire. The jar is sealed with a cork.

It was given to me many years ago by a student as they were about to graduate from a school I was leading at the time - more years ago now than I can remember. They said, *"If, at any time, you ever need a little encouragement, open the bottle and take out one of the notes."*

At the time, it felt like a thoughtful gesture of gratitude, and I did not think too much more about it. But the jar is still there.

Over the years, I have uncorked it from time to time and taken out one of those tiny paper scrolls. Each contains a few words - simple messages of encouragement, short quotations, small reminders to keep going.

It is, in every sense, a small thing.

And yet it has stayed with me far longer than the many larger, more formal tokens one receives over the years.

It reminds me of a reflection by Bruce Barton, an early 20th-century writer and advertising executive, who once wrote: *"Sometimes when I consider what tremendous consequences come from little things, I am tempted to think... there are no little things."*

In a school environment, we see this time and again. A passing comment from a teacher can stay with a student for years. A small act of kindness can shape a child's sense of belonging. These are not events that can be captured in reports or assessments, yet they are central to a child's experience of growing up.

As parents, it is easy to feel that we should be doing more - planning more, guiding more, getting things right more often. There is, of course, a place for all of this. But perhaps there is also something reassuring in the thought that much of what matters most does not come from grand gestures.

It comes from simple, everyday encounters. From the conversation at the end of a long day. From the tone we use when things have not gone well. From the moments when we choose to listen, or to pause, or simply to be present.

Perhaps, then, part of our work as parents and as educators is to pay a little more attention to these moments. Not to try to manufacture them, but simply to recognise their value.

Because while we may not always know which moments will matter most, we can be certain that they are happening, quietly, all around us. And in time, they are often the ones that endure.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Long

Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Grade 2 students recently visited a community centre in Abids and DCB Bank as part of their unit on “How We Organize Ourselves”. Through this experience, students explored different kinds of communities, identified their needs and observed how systems are created to support people in their daily lives. At the community centre, students noticed how people come together to help and support one another. At the bank, they learned how financial systems help individuals and families manage money safely. Students asked thoughtful questions, made connections to their learning and reflected on how these systems work together to meet the needs of a community. This real-world engagement deepened their understanding of how communities function and highlighted the importance of cooperation, responsibility and systems in our everyday lives.



READERS IN THE MAKING!

The Senior School Library plays a central role in nurturing confident, capable readers. Through a thoughtfully structured reading programme, students are introduced to essential

reading strategies and given regular opportunities to practise and strengthen these skills. A walk into the library during lesson time offers a powerful glimpse of this culture in action. One can see students engaged deeply with reading, demonstrating focus, curiosity and independence. Alongside traditional reading, equal emphasis is placed on on-screen reading, recognising it as an essential 21st-century skill in today's information-rich world. Importantly, students are developing a strong sense of ownership over their reading journeys. Many are aware of their reading levels aligned with international benchmarks and are guided by librarians to set goals and work steadily towards improvement. This ongoing support ensures that each learner is challenged appropriately and encouraged to grow at their own pace. Reading is not simply a skill to be mastered; it is central to cognitive development. Through reading, students strengthen their capacity to focus, to process complex ideas, to build vocabulary, and to make connections across different domains of knowledge. It supports memory, deepens comprehension, and develops the kind of sustained attention that is increasingly rare in a fast-paced, digital environment. Just as importantly, reading nurtures imagination and empathy, allowing young people to encounter perspectives beyond their own immediate experience.



ETHICAL USE OF AI

As part of their PYP Exhibition journey, Grade 5 students attended a special guest lecture by Mr Vishnu, our Senior School Computer Science teacher. The session focused on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on our daily lives. The interactive nature of the session sparked curiosity and thoughtful discussions among students. They engaged in meaningful conversations about both the opportunities and challenges that AI presents, developing a balanced perspective on its role in society. This learning experience has greatly supported students in deepening their understanding as they research for their PYP Exhibition. It has empowered them to inquire critically, ask relevant questions and

consider how they can use AI responsibly as informed and reflective learners. Experiences like this reflect the wider vision of the Aga Khan Academies: to develop not only knowledgeable students, but ethical, reflective thinkers who are equipped to navigate complexity and contribute thoughtfully to an increasingly interconnected world. This shapes young people who are not simply users of technology, but responsible and principled decision-makers in how they engage with it.



GRADE 7 FOOTBALL LEAGUE

As part of our ongoing grade-level sports league initiative, our Grade 7 students participated in the Football League held on Thursday. The event featured exciting seven-a-side football matches, with students competing section-wise within their grade. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as it gave them the opportunity to play alongside their classmates and compete against other sections in a healthy, spirited and engaging environment. The main objective of the league was to foster team spirit within each section, encourage students to support one another and help them understand the value and benefits of participating in team sports. It also aimed to strengthen collaboration, sportsmanship and a sense of belonging among students. Overall, the league was a great success. Both participants and spectators were actively engaged and the event created an energetic and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved.



VIVAAN'S SUCCESS AT JUNIOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Grade 7 student Vivaan secured an impressive victory in the junior category at the Hyderabad Golf Association tournament, earning the win with a consistent, composed performance. Vivaan began playing golf at the age of seven, inspired by his grandfather's love for the sport. What started as curiosity soon developed into commitment, as he pursued structured training and competitive play. Over the years, he has steadily progressed through junior categories, delivering strong performances at both state and national-level tournaments. His journey reflects growth, adaptability and resilience—qualities essential for long-term success in competitive golf. The Academy has played an important role in supporting Vivaan's development by encouraging students to balance academics with sporting excellence, providing an environment where talent can be nurtured and aspirations pursued with confidence.



STRENGTHENING DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

An Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy provides clear guidelines for the safe, secure, and responsible use of technology systems within an organisation. It plays a vital role in protecting information, ensuring data privacy, maintaining compliance and promoting ethical digital practices. To strengthen awareness in these areas, an ICT Policy Orientation Session was conducted for all Senior School staff, led by Senior School teacher Ms Vani Vishwanath and Regional IT Head Mr Afzal Sorathiya. The session familiarised staff with key ICT policies, with a focus on information security, data protection, compliance, and responsible technology usage. Through practical case studies and discussions, participants explored real-life scenarios to better understand policy application, incident reporting, and accountability. The session reinforced the importance of the consistent, secure, and ethical use of ICT systems across the Academy. Similar orientation sessions are planned for Junior School and Administrative staff soon.



CERT PROGRAMME CONCLUDES FINAL MODULE IN MUNDRA

The English Language Proficiency Training Programme by the Academy's Centre for Educational Research, Innovation and Training (CERT) concluded its third and final module at the Aga Khan School in Mundra, Gujarat, on 24 April. This concluding module brought together participating teachers to reflect on their growth and learning throughout the programme. The training has played a key role in building teachers' confidence and strengthening their language skills. Teachers highlighted the significant impact of face-to-face training and the interactive nature of the sessions, which enabled them to practise real-time communication, receive immediate feedback and develop greater confidence. This journey has encouraged teachers to continuously strengthen their communication skills, enhancing not only their own proficiency but also the overall learning environment for their students.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL COUNSELLING COMMUNITY

Ms Pragati Pandey, Head of University Counselling, continues to actively contribute to the global college counselling community by participating in key international platforms. On Wednesday, she served as a panellist at the IC3 Institute Membership Continued Learning Session titled “Student Pathways in Motion: Responsibility, Influence and Reality in Global Counselling.” Moderated by Jim McLaughlin, the session brought together leading voices from schools and universities worldwide to reflect on the responsibilities and realities of guiding students in an increasingly complex global landscape. The discussion emphasised thoughtful, student-centred approaches to decision-making, grounded in real experiences and ethical practice. Extending this engagement, Ms. Pandey will also be a featured speaker at the KIC UnivAssist WebiFair (Asia) on May 6. This virtual event will connect students and families with 13 universities from across the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Greece, and Indonesia. Her presentation, “Studying Abroad in Uncertain Times: Making Informed College Choices,” will help students and parents navigate global opportunities with confidence. Through these engagements with both the IC3 Institute and KIC UnivAssist, Ms Pandey is contributing to the wider counselling and student community by sharing insights, fostering dialogue, and supporting informed decision-making beyond the school. Such involvement not only strengthens the global counselling ecosystem but also enriches the school’s own college counselling programme through deeper networks, shared expertise and continued professional growth.



THINKING ON THINKING

Last week, Fellows in the Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP) - the Academy's in-house programme for developing early-career educators - had the opportunity to engage in an enriching session led by Mr Sudeep Ghosh. He introduced them to the essence of Theory of Knowledge (TOK) through the lenses of self-awareness, reflection and authenticity. He emphasised that TOK is not simply an academic requirement but a way of thinking that encourages students to examine their assumptions, question their perspectives, and understand how personal experiences shape their interpretations of knowledge. Through practical examples and thoughtful prompts, he demonstrated how an awareness of one's own thinking can strengthen both critical engagement and classroom participation. Mr Ghosh also highlighted the importance of authenticity in crafting compelling TOK essays, encouraging fellows to move beyond formulaic responses and instead draw meaningfully from real-life experiences, cultural contexts and personal curiosities. He spoke about the value of introducing elements of TOK in the later years of the MYP, helping students gradually develop the capacity for the higher levels of abstraction required in the Diploma Programme. By reflecting deeply on what they think and why, students can produce work that is both intellectually rigorous and genuinely their own. The session left the fellows inspired and more confident in approaching TOK with honesty, intentionality and a renewed sense of intellectual curiosity.

“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

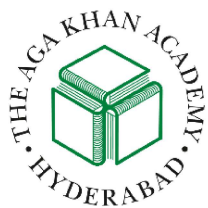
His Late Highness Aga Khan IV

Groundbreaking of the International Academic Centre of Excellence, Tanzania, 17 March 2005



THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY

HYDERABAD



from the desk of the
Head of Academy

8 May 2026



Dear Parents,

There's a lovely story about a businessman who proudly described his endless meetings, overflowing inbox and 80-hour working weeks. After listening patiently, his friend asked, "And what important thing are you doing better because of all that busyness?" After a long silence, the businessman admitted, "Mostly, I'm just getting faster at being busy."

The Academy has certainly been a busy place in recent weeks. With IB Diploma exams and MYP 5 e-Assessments still underway in the Senior School and the PYP Exhibition still to take place in the Junior School, the intensity is tangible! But beneath the intensity of exam season and all the activity across the campus lies a deeper purpose. Our approach to learning is not just about memorising facts or preparing for tests. We believe education should help young people grow into capable and compassionate human beings.

This is sometimes called a "liberal education". This means a broad education in which every subject matters. Science, maths, languages, music, art, history and sport all help students learn to think, solve problems and understand others. For many years, this kind of education has helped people become scientists and artists, business leaders and inventors, doctors and teachers.

But, funnily enough, the aim of this type of education is not specifically to produce scientists and artists, entrepreneurs and philosophers, humanitarians or business leaders! It is not about preparing people for specific jobs at all. The aim is to help young people become independent thinkers who can use their minds well and make good decisions for themselves.

Just as importantly, this approach to education helps young people “learn how to learn” – to ask good questions and know how to solve problems. In a world shaped by technology and rapid change, these skills matter more than ever. As Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Chris Hedges, put it, *“We should not forget that the true purpose of education is to make minds, not careers”*.

Academic success matters, and we want our students to achieve excellent outcomes. But grades alone are never enough. The world does not simply need young people who can pass examinations. It needs young people who can respond compassionately and courageously to complexity and change.

In the years ahead, our students will enter a world transformed by artificial intelligence and global uncertainty. Yet human qualities such as wisdom, judgment, creativity, empathy, resilience and moral courage are becoming more valuable, not less. These are the qualities that enable people to lead meaningful lives and contribute positively to society.

That is why the deeper purpose of education matters so profoundly. Beneath the examinations, deadlines and performances lies something much more important: the slow and careful formation of young human beings who are capable of thinking deeply, living ethically and engaging fully with the world around them.

Every parent hopes their child will grow into someone capable and successful. Yet most parents also hope for something more: that their children will be grounded, wise in their choices and able to contribute positively to the lives of others. This hope lies at the heart of our vision – that, beneath all the activity and intensity of a busy school, we seek to help young people develop the intellect and character to navigate a complex world with courage and humanity.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



SENIOR SCHOOL EXAM WEEK

From our Senior School Principal

This week, external final exams continued for Grade 12 students, and computer-based MYP e-Assessments started for Grade 10 students. Also, internal exams were scheduled for students in Grades 6 to 9 and Grade 11.

Most of our younger students were well prepared and well rested. A few, however, did not seem to be ready for exams. Some students appeared to be sleep-deprived, and they explained that they had “studied” on their devices all night. Thankfully, our residential students did not have the latter problem and were in good shape each morning as they had handed in their laptops before bedtime. The observations from this week once again confirmed that systematic, regular revision and consistent learning throughout the year trump last-minute cramming.

The need for consistent studying, and how difficult this initially can be for students, was also evident from the self-study time students had throughout the week. On Monday, many students struggled to make good use of their time and found ways to distract themselves and others. By Tuesday, that started to change. More and more students used the time to review their notes, study alone or in small groups and prepare for the next exams. By Wednesday, there was a notable change in the atmosphere in classrooms: by far most students were fully immersed in revision and exam preparation. The development we

witnessed throughout this week reminds us once again that students (and their parents) need to embrace the need to develop a certain level of discipline and resilience, as well as strong study and self-management skills, regardless of their age. Continuous practice and systematic learning are more successful than pulling “all-nighters”.

The importance of the continuity of learning is of great relevance for the coming three weeks, too. There is no time to waste, and students and teachers can and will use the time until 29 May to their advantage. Learning does not stop, and good students will continue to put 100% of effort into their studies until the last day of school.



INSPIRING EXHIBITION ASSEMBLIES

Junior School assemblies have recently been led by our Grade 5 students, who introduced the topics they are exploring for their upcoming Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition. Last week, the Finance and AI teams shared their ideas, with Team AI highlighting the everyday uses of artificial intelligence and the importance of using it responsibly, while the Finance team spoke about managing money wisely for the future.

This week, the Space team took students on an imaginative journey to another planet, exploring whether humans could survive there. The Language Guardians offered valuable insight into the importance of preserving the many languages of our world. Sustainability was another key focus, with students discussing sustainable architecture, eco-friendly lifestyles, and the actions needed to protect our planet for future generations. Students

also heard from the Road Safety Squad, who reminded everyone about responsible behaviour on the roads, and the Relationships team, who reflected on the importance of family bonds and connections.

These engaging presentations have created great excitement across the Junior School ahead of the full PYP Exhibition next week. We look forward to learning even more from our oldest Junior School students.



BRINGING CONVENIENCE AND COMMUNITY TO CAMPUS LIFE

What began as a simple solution to everyday challenges has quickly grown into one of the most appreciated initiatives within the residential community at the Academy. The Residential Tuck Shop was introduced in response to the difficulties students faced when ordering essentials through external services such as BigBasket — from unavailable products and delayed deliveries to the inconvenience of managing schedules around arrivals. Recognising the need for a more reliable and student-friendly option, the residential team launched the Tuck Shop to bring convenience directly to students' doorsteps.

Since its introduction, the Tuck Shop has become much more than a store. It has evolved into a dependable and accessible resource that supports students in their daily residential

life. Students now have quick access to essential items without the stress of waiting for outside deliveries, creating a smoother and more comfortable living experience on campus. The Tuck Shop is open on Sunday afternoons, and the overwhelmingly positive response from residential students has been wonderful. Their enthusiasm and feedback have demonstrated the initiative's real impact and encouraged plans to further expand the range of products and to continue developing the Tuck Shop as a long-term service for the residential programme.

This successful initiative reflects the power of collaboration and student leadership. Special appreciation goes to Mr Jeff and Mr Nilesh for their guidance and commitment to ensuring smooth operations, as well as to the Residential Student Representative Council and the Residential Internship Team, whose teamwork, communication, and dedication helped bring the initiative to life across all residences. The Tuck Shop stands as a wonderful example of how thoughtful innovation and community collaboration can enhance student wellbeing, strengthen residential life, and create a stronger sense of support and belonging within the Academy.



GRADE 3 STUDENTS SHINE IN POETRY ELOCUTION COMPETITION

Our Grade 3 learners recently took centre stage in a Poetry Elocution Competition that combined the development of oracy skills with the joy of literature. Following a week of dedicated preparation during DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time, students showcased their growth as communicators through expressive performances marked by clarity and thoughtful pacing. It was lovely to see students embody the reflective and caring attributes of the IB Learner Profile as they offered supportive peer feedback and collaborated to refine their presentation techniques. By stepping forward courageously and performing for their peers, the students did far more than recite poetry — they built

confidence, strengthened their speaking skills and discovered how creativity, teamwork and hard work can come together in an enjoyable and meaningful learning experience.



YEARBOOK 2026 COMING SOON!

The Yearbook 2026 is almost here, and it's packed with memories waiting to be relived! From class photos and unforgettable events to candid moments, achievements and celebrations, this edition captures the spirit of the entire school year. Expect laughter, nostalgia and plenty of surprises as you flip through its pages. More than just a book, the yearbook is a lasting collection of friendships, experiences and milestones that will be treasured for years to come.



AARAV SECURES SECOND PLACE AT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Aarav of Grade 4K recently secured second place at the South Zone Golf Tournament held at Ootacamund Golf Club in Ooty. Demonstrating remarkable dedication and perseverance, Aarav played nearly five hours of golf each day while walking up to 6 km across the course. With an impressive overall score of 161, he maintained his position on the leaderboard by staying focused on his game plan and continuously improving with each round. Congratulations to Aarav on this outstanding achievement and his commitment to the sport.



EXPERIENCE TO EXPOSURE

Last week, Mr Brian, one of our Senior School teachers, conducted an engaging session on the “Experience of Expat Teachers in Indian Schools” for the Teacher Preparation Programme fellows. The session created a reflective and interactive learning environment, encouraging participants to connect their own student experiences with their current journey as educators. Mr Brian began the session with a thoughtful activity where fellows were asked to recall subjects or lessons that fascinated them during their school days. This exercise helped participants revisit their personal learning experiences and understand what made those moments meaningful and impactful. The discussion then shifted to their roles as teachers, where they shared what they expect from their students and how they can create engaging classroom environments. The session was highly participatory, with every fellow contributing their perspectives, making it both lively and meaningful. It emphasised the importance of empathy, student engagement and reflective teaching practices. Mr Brian also highlighted how expat teachers bring diverse perspectives while adapting to the Indian education context. Overall, the session was enriching and thought-provoking, leaving participants with valuable insights into effective teaching practices and the importance of understanding learners’ needs.

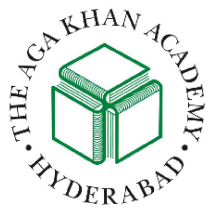
“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

His Late Highness Aga Khan IV

Groundbreaking of the International Academic Centre of Excellence, Tanzania, 17 March 2005



THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY
HYDERABAD



from the desk of the
Head of Academy

15 May 2026



Dear Parents,

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and principal author of the United States Declaration of Independence, once said, "I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it." At first, this sounds like a contradiction. After all, isn't luck supposed to be random? Yet the older I get, the more I think there is something true in Jefferson's words.

I was reminded of this recently while reading about the work of Dr Tina Seelig. Having spent more than 25 years teaching innovation and entrepreneurship at Stanford University, she argues that luck is rarely just a matter of chance. That idea struck me because, in schools, we spend a great deal of time thinking about how to help young people become successful. But what if one of the most important things we can do is help them become "luckier"? I don't mean lucky in the sense of winning the lottery or relying on chance to get through life. I mean developing the habits and attitudes that make opportunities more likely to appear.

Dr Seelig makes a distinction between "fortune" and "luck." Fortune is what happens to us that lies outside our control. For example, a cancelled flight, an illness or an unexpected disappointment. Luck, on the other hand, is often shaped by how we respond to those moments and by the habits and attitudes we develop over time. Helping young people recognise that they have some agency in shaping their own opportunities may be one of the most important things a school can do.

Dr Seelig illustrates this through the story of a student from Ethiopia who taught himself English by learning five new words every day and reading the complete Sherlock Holmes series to expand his vocabulary. He later learned several more languages, including Chinese, which eventually opened the door to teaching astrophysics in rural China. His journey might look like a stroke of good fortune. In reality, it was built slowly through years of persistence and disciplined effort.

That is what makes Dr Seelig's ideas so interesting. What we often call "luck" is frequently the result of small choices and habits repeated consistently over time. Reading widely. Being curious. Showing kindness. Turning up on time. Saying thank you. Following through on commitments. These things may seem ordinary, but according to Dr Seelig, they gradually create the conditions in which opportunities appear.

I have certainly noticed this in schools over the years. The students who seem "lucky" are often the ones who engage fully with life. They join activities. They build friendships across different groups. They volunteer. They recover from setbacks instead of giving up. One of the more interesting ideas in Dr Seelig's work is that gratitude itself generates luck. She says that expressing gratitude strengthens relationships and keeps goodwill alive. That may sound old-fashioned in an age of instant messages and constant distractions, but I suspect there is deep wisdom in it. People are naturally drawn toward those who notice and value the contributions of others.

Perhaps this also connects to one of the deeper purposes of education. Schools are not simply places where students gain qualifications. They are places where young people

learn how to respond thoughtfully to the unexpected twists and turns of life. This lies close to the vision of His Late Highness Aga Khan IV for the Aga Khan Academies: the development of thoughtful, ethical young leaders who combine intellectual curiosity with compassion, resilience and a sense of responsibility toward others. None of us can control fortune completely. Life will always contain unpredictability. But we do have influence over the sort of people we become. And perhaps that is where real luck begins.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



INSPIRING INQUIRY AT THE PYP EXHIBITION 2026

The Junior School celebrated the Grade 5 PYP Exhibition today, with the campus buzzing with anticipation. During the opening ceremony, students offered brief teasers of their inquiries and invited visitors to explore their exhibits. Spaces across the Junior School were transformed into immersive and engaging learning environments.

Students explored a wide range of thought-provoking topics, including the possibilities of life beyond Earth, the importance of financial literacy, the preservation of fading languages, the foundations of meaningful relationships, road safety awareness and the impact of artificial intelligence on the future. Sustainability was also examined through two distinct lenses: sustainable architecture and the responsible use of resources.

Parents and visitors were impressed by the diversity and creativity of the displays. Equally inspiring was the confidence with which students articulated their inquiry journeys, along with the depth of research, reflection and critical thinking evident in their journals. The result was an experience that was both engaging and intellectually stimulating.

The PYP Exhibition marked the culmination of an intensive eight-week journey that brought the entire Junior School community together. Mentors and students collaborated closely throughout the process, while the Grade 5 team guided and supported each stage of the experience. This shared commitment, collaboration and sense of ownership brought the students' inquiries vividly to life and made the exhibition especially meaningful.





CELEBRATING THE END OF A MILESTONE JOURNEY

Today marked an important milestone for Grade 10 students as they completed their eAssessments following two weeks of sustained hard work and determination.

To celebrate the occasion, MYP Coordinator Ms Meenakshi Joshi and Deputy Head Mr Jeff Doerfler, together with other MYP teachers, organised a surprise celebration at the Annex building, which had served as the students' exam venue over the past fortnight.

Students were welcomed with music and chocolates, while burgers, French fries and ice cream added to the festive atmosphere. The excitement and relief of finishing their examinations were evident as students spent time with friends and teachers, enjoying the celebrations and dancing together.

As the Grade 10 students now begin their summer break, two weeks ahead of the rest of the school, we wish them every success with their results and the journey ahead.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND CAMARADERIE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School Student Representative Council (SRC) organised a special social evening on 8 May for students in MYP 1-3, bringing the school year to a joyful close while celebrating the spirit of community and belonging.

Hosted across the Annex, the event created a lively and welcoming space for students to socialise, connect with one another and participate in a range of themed activities. Designed to energise the middle school community, the evening also encouraged student agency, leadership and ownership.

The event was led by SRC members Srihith, Vindhya, Krish, Smara, Neev and Anjali. Several student volunteers, particularly from Grades 6 and 7, also played an important role in organising the evening. We extend our sincere gratitude to the teachers who supported and guided the students throughout the planning and organisation of the event.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of collaboration, enthusiasm and school spirit, and we look forward to creating many more opportunities of this kind to strengthen student engagement and community connections.





IAYP BRONZE AWARD

We are delighted to announce that the Academy's first cohort of students participating in the International Award for Young People (IAYP) has successfully achieved the Bronze Award.

The IAYP encourages young people to engage in a balanced programme of voluntary self-development activities during the important transition from adolescence to adulthood. Through individual challenge and personal commitment, the programme promotes perseverance, responsibility, self-reliance, service and personal growth.

Over the past six months, Milan, Amy and Vivaan from Grades 9 and 10 have dedicated significant time and effort towards achieving their goals in Skills, Service and Physical Recreation. In addition, they participated in an expedition weekend that required resilience, teamwork and self-sufficiency through camping and hiking activities.

The IAYP, also known internationally as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, has helped these students develop greater independence, confidence and leadership skills. Through the experience, they have reflected thoughtfully on both their strengths and the areas in which they hope to continue growing.

We congratulate Milan, Amy and Vivaan on this significant accomplishment and look forward to supporting them as they pursue the Silver Award in the coming year. We also currently have two additional groups participating in the Bronze Award programme, and we hope to share more positive news soon.



CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Many congratulations to Armaan Vadsariya of DP1 on his outstanding achievement in the prestigious International Economics Olympiad 2026.

The International Economics Olympiad is a globally recognised annual competition for high school students, bringing together talented young people to test their knowledge and skills in economics, financial literacy and business case analysis through rigorous academic challenges.

Armaan was selected among the top 25 students from across India, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects his dedication, analytical thinking and deep understanding of economic concepts. Competing against thousands of students nationwide, his achievement is a testament to both his hard work and intellectual curiosity.

His success brings immense pride to the Academy, and we wish Armaan continued success in his academic journey and future endeavours.



MAKING WAVES AT THE STATE FINSWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Norah in Grade 4 and Ayaan in Grade 5 for their outstanding performances at the 3rd State-Level FinSwimming Championship, organised by the Underwater Sports FinSwimming Association Telangana. The competition also served as the selection trials for the National Championship.

Representing Blue Dolphin Swim Club, Norah delivered an exceptional performance in her age category, securing first place in both the 50m and 100m events, and second place in the 200m Bi-Fins event.

Ayaan also demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, winning bronze in the 50m event, silver in the 100m event and gold in the 200m event.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing even more success from Norah and Ayaan in the future.



A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

The Academy proudly celebrated five staff members this week who have completed ten years of distinguished service to the school community — Dr Chandrakant Shinde, Ms Radhika Tiwary, Dr Chandrasekhar Indla, Dr Sreedevi and Mr Shanawaz Khan.

Over the past decade, their unwavering dedication and commitment have shaped young lives, supported the development of future leaders and contributed significantly to the culture and character of the Academy. Their work has played an important role in the continued growth and success of the institution.

As we mark this significant milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to these valued colleagues for their outstanding service and contribution to the life of the Academy.

“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

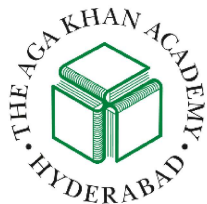
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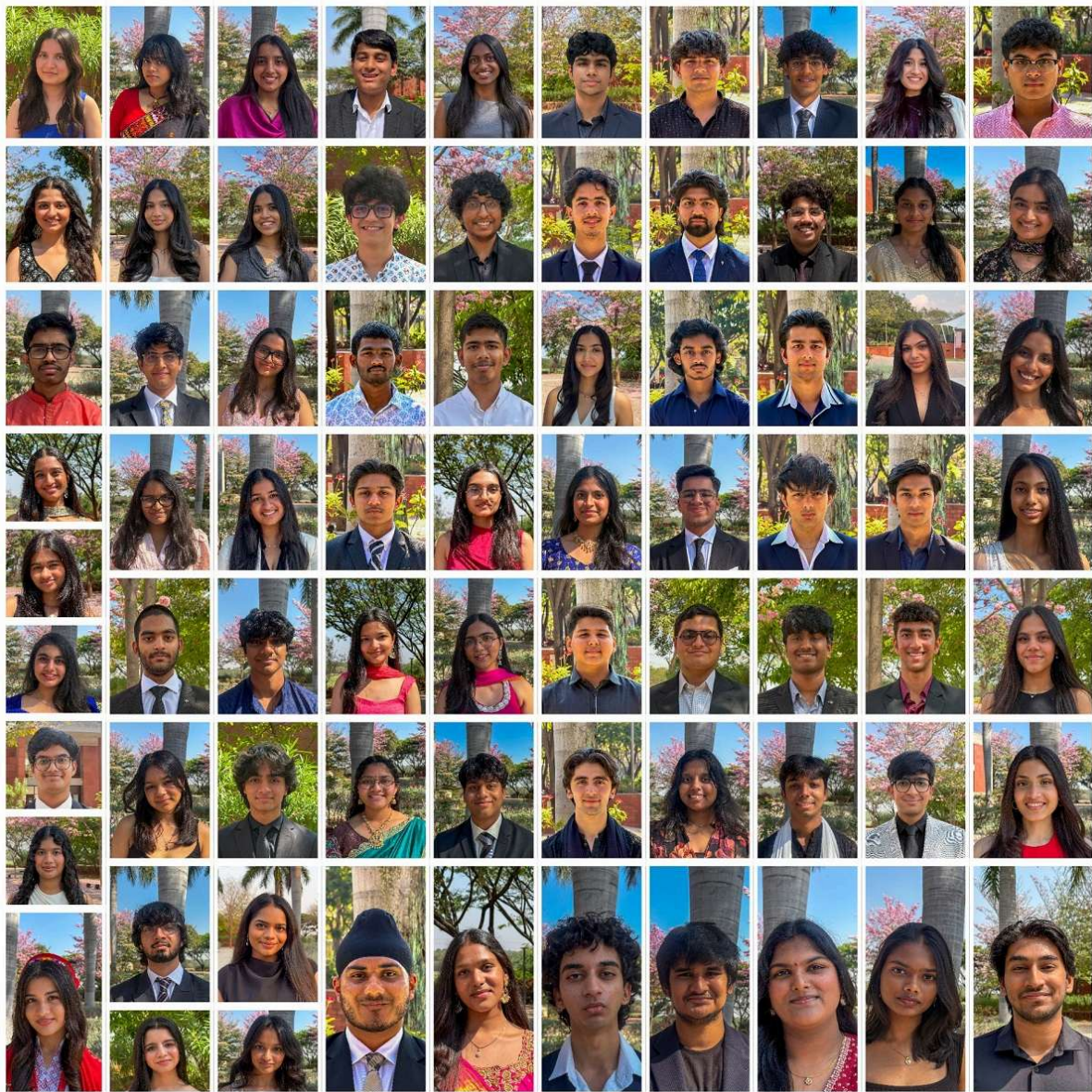
THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY

HYDERABAD



from the desk of the
Head of Academy

22 May 2026



With less than 24 hours to go, we are eagerly anticipating tomorrow's graduation ceremony. We proudly celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 and wish them the very best as they embark on new paths, equipped with knowledge and skills, and the determination to make a positive impact in the world!

Dear Parents,

The school year has almost come to an end, and what a year it has been: full of the energy, vitality and sense of purpose that characterise a thriving school community. Our vision places strong emphasis on holistic education, and this year has reflected that in every respect. Our students have immersed themselves in all aspects of Academy life with enthusiasm and commitment: academics, experiential learning, residential life, sport, the arts and community service.

I pay tribute to our teachers, who have worked tirelessly to provide an education that is intellectually challenging, engaging and deeply human. Under the wise leadership of our School Principals, Ms Archana and Mr Christian, with the steadfast support of our Deputy Head, Mr Jeff, and with the dedication of our Coordinators, they have created an environment in which young people flourish.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Academy in 2006, His Late Highness Aga Khan IV said that the Academies should be “serious, focused, rigorous environments — but at the same time they will be spacious and joyous places.” This balance matters profoundly. Young people thrive in schools that ask much of them while also giving them space to grow with confidence and joy. This year, I believe, we moved closer to that ideal.

Our students remain among the most impressive young people I have encountered during more than four decades in education. They possess a self-awareness that expresses itself through respect for others. They hold strong convictions without intolerance, confidence without arrogance and achievement without vanity. It is hardly surprising that universities around the world are so eager to welcome Aga Khan Academy graduates into their communities.

None of this would have been possible without your support. A child’s education is always strengthened when school and parents work together with trust and shared purpose. Some of the most important conversations in a young person’s life take place across that partnership between home and school. When we are aligned in our hopes and expectations for children, remarkable things can happen. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for the many ways in which you contribute to the life of the Academy. Together, we continue to build a community shaped by kindness, mutual respect and a belief in the possibility of ethical leadership.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2026. It will be a day of pride, gratitude and reflection. Some of the students graduating tomorrow first entered the Academy as Grade 1 children twelve years ago. Tomorrow, they leave as young adults, shaped by an education that has helped them discover that there is more in them than they ever imagined.

Graduation days carry mixed emotions. There is joy in seeing young people ready to step confidently into the world. There is also sadness in saying goodbye to those who have become such an important part of the life of the school. After tomorrow, the Class of 2026 will spread out across the world in pursuit of their dreams. But long after tomorrow’s celebrations have faded into memory, I hope our graduates will remember that this was a place where they were known, where they were challenged, where they were supported and where they were believed in.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Long

Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



CELEBRATION OF ARTS

This week saw the culmination of a year of imagination, creativity and disciplined artistic practice in Music and Visual Art. The Celebration of the Arts offered families and staff an opportunity to witness the growth that has taken place across the Junior School through

artistic expression.

The music performances took the audience on a journey from Grade 1 through to Grade 5, revealing the steady development of musical understanding and performance skills across the years. Beginning with body percussion in Grade 1, students progressed through recorders, kalimbas, ocarinas and ukuleles, demonstrating growing confidence and collaborative musicianship. Warm and joyful songs filled the performance space, culminating in the Grade 5 Farewell Song, which reflected on shared memories, friendship and the transition to a new stage of school life.

The Visual Arts Exhibition was equally impressive. Carefully curated student work illustrated a progression from exploration and experimentation towards conceptual thinking and personal expression. Students drew inspiration from artists including Eric Carle, Andy Goldsworthy, Mondrian and Georgia O'Keeffe while developing their understanding of line, texture, colour and form. One of the highlights of the exhibition was the collaborative 3D sculpture zone, where students from across the Junior School demonstrated growing confidence in construction techniques, balance and spatial awareness.

More than a showcase of performances and artworks, the Celebration of the Arts reminded us that creativity lies at the heart of a rich education. Through music and visual art, students learn to express ideas, communicate emotion, collaborate with others and discover confidence in their own unique voices.



REFLECTING ON ETHICS, VALUES AND GROWTH

This Thursday, our MYP 1-4 students took part in a PSHE session centred on the theme of ethics. Through discussions of thought-provoking dilemmas such as The City of Omelas and the Heinz Dilemma, alongside reflections on different philosophical frameworks, students explored the values that shape human decision-making.

The conversations encouraged students to think carefully about their own beliefs, the influences that shape them and the ways in which values are reflected in everyday choices and actions. As Ethics forms an important strand of the Aga Khan curriculum, the session provided a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on the moral and ethical foundations they are developing during their time at the Academy.

As the academic year draws to a close, students also spend time reflecting on their personal growth over the past year. Through mural-making and other reflective activities, they considered the strengths they have developed alongside the areas in which they hope to continue growing in the year ahead.



EXTENDED ESSAY WORKSHOP

This week, DP1 students participated in a two-day Extended Essay workshop designed to support them through one of the most significant components of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The Extended Essay is an independent, self-directed research project that enables students to explore a topic of personal interest in depth while developing the academic research, analytical and writing skills that prepare them for university-level study.

Throughout the workshop, students were given dedicated time to conduct research, collect data and refine their research questions. They also met regularly with their supervisors, receiving guidance and feedback to help strengthen the quality of their work. In addition, students explored how to structure a strong argumentative essay and develop clear, evidence-based lines of reasoning.

The workshop proved highly productive, with many students successfully completing a

2,000-word draft by the end of the sessions. More importantly, it gave students greater confidence in their ability to manage a substantial piece of independent academic research.



EXPLORING URBAN CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Geography Extended Essay field trip provided students with valuable opportunities to engage in experiential learning beyond the classroom. Through direct observation and field investigation, students explored themes including contested land use, urban change, microclimate variation, social inequality and patterns of development across contrasting neighbourhoods in and around Hyderabad.

Visits to the Shamshabad industrial area, Tukkuguda village, the Mehdiapatnam business district and the low-income residential area of Indiranagar offered students important insights into the complexities of urban and rural development. Using interviews, observations and field instrumentation techniques, students collected and analysed primary data to support their research investigations.

The experience allowed students to connect geographical theories and models with the realities of lived environments. It also strengthened the analytical, observational and investigative skills that lie at the heart of geographical inquiry.



BEYOND BORDERS ON SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

This Wednesday, the Aga Khan Academy had the privilege of hosting Swati Puchalapalli as part of the Beyond Borders guest speaker programme.

Ms Puchalapalli, Founding Director of Terra Viridis and VeraTatva, has spent nearly two decades working in the fields of architecture, sustainability and environmental policy across India and internationally. During her session with DP1 students studying Global Politics, Economics, Business Management, Environmental Systems and Societies, Digital Society and Geography, she explored what sustainability in built environments truly means.

Her presentation examined sustainable architectural practices in India, net-zero buildings, the Energy Performance Index and the challenges involved in implementing green building policies. She also reflected on the ways in which traditional Indian architecture incorporated sustainable principles long before sustainability became a global concern.

The session offered students valuable insights into the relationship between architecture, policymaking and environmental responsibility while encouraging them to think more deeply about the future of sustainable development.



RETRO REWIND PARTY 2026: A MEMORABLE FAREWELL CELEBRATION

On Wednesday evening, the Academy was filled with music, laughter and celebration as our DP2 students celebrated the Retro Rewind Party 2026, a joyful farewell marking the end of their journey at the Academy.

The evening brought students together to celebrate friendships, shared memories and the experiences that have shaped their years here. The event gave students an opportunity to pause briefly before a busy Graduation weekend.

The celebration was organised by the DP1 Student Life Department interns and volunteers under the guidance of Mr Nilesh, Mr Sai and Mr Santosh. Their hard work and thoughtful planning created a vibrant and memorable evening for the graduating cohort.



TEACHER TRAINING GRADUATION

This week, Alisha Bardai, Bliss Binoy Vallabhassery, Deepak D, Saeeda Hafiz Koyappathody and Samim Akter Sheikh celebrated the successful completion of the 12-month Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP) internship.

The TPP is a rigorous and values-driven pathway that fosters inquiry, reflection and professional growth while enabling graduates to earn the International Baccalaureate Educator Certificate. Over the course of the programme, these graduates have grown from passionate learners into thoughtful, compassionate and reflective educators.

We warmly congratulate the TPP graduating cohort of 2026 and wish them every success as they begin the next stage of their professional journeys.



RHYTHMS & SMILES: SUMMER CAMP WORKSHOP SUCCESS!

This past week, Dr SaiKrishna Ranga, our Telugu teacher, had the opportunity to conduct a stomping workshop for students attending Summer Camp 2026 organised by the Council of Hyderabad.

The workshop was an energetic experience, with more than 100 students enthusiastically participating in rhythm and movement activities. Their excitement, positivity and willingness to engage created an atmosphere filled with joy, creativity and collaboration.

The session highlighted the power of rhythm and movement to bring young people together while encouraging confidence, teamwork and self-expression. Dr SaiKrishna Ranga's warmth, enthusiasm and passion for the arts made the workshop both memorable and impactful for all those involved.

Our thanks go to the Council of Hyderabad for hosting the event and to the students whose energy and wholehearted participation made the experience such a success.

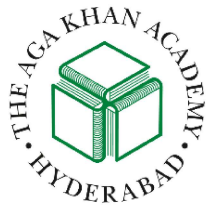
“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

His Late Highness Aga Khan IV

Groundbreaking of the International Academic Centre of Excellence, Tanzania, 17 March 2005

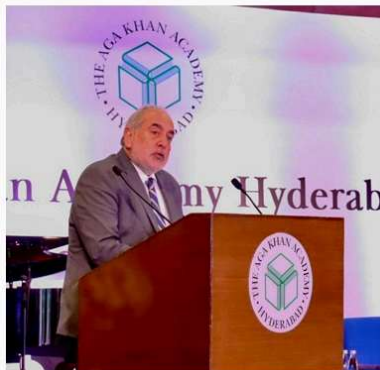


THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY
HYDERABAD



from the desk of the
Head of Academy

29 May 2026



Dear Parents,

Last Saturday, we gathered for one of the most memorable occasions in the school year as 74 graduates celebrated the completion of their school journey. Joined by their families, teachers and friends, they marked a milestone that was both an ending and a beginning: the culmination of years of learning, growth and discovery, and the start of new adventures that will take them to universities, workplaces and communities around the world.

The ceremony was also shared with a much wider audience through a live stream that reached more than 2,500 viewers across India and internationally, including extended family members, alumni and friends of the Aga Khan Schools network.

Our keynote speaker, Dr Juan González, Vice Provost for Global Engagement at The University of Texas at Dallas, challenged our graduates to carry the values of the Academy with them wherever life may lead. Reflecting on a phrase that has guided his own life, he encouraged them to "aim higher" in their learning, in their service to others and in the aspirations they set for themselves and the world around them.

This year's graduates have secured places at outstanding universities across the globe, including Imperial College London, University College London, Boston University, Purdue University, the University of British Columbia, New York University and King's College London, alongside leading institutions in India such as BITS Pilani, FLAME University, Manipal University and Mahindra University. Together, they have also been awarded more than US\$5.9 million in scholarships.

One of the most poignant moments of the day came before the formal proceedings had even begun. The graduates gathered on the steps of the Academy Building for a final class photograph before participating in the traditional pinning ceremony. As advisors presented each student with a graduation pin, they symbolically welcomed them into a growing community of Aga Khan Schools alumni spread across many countries and professions. It was a reminder that while their time at the Academy has come to an end, their connection to this community endures.



"Two months of school holiday! What on earth am I going to do with my children for all that time?"

I suspect more than a few parents may be having that thought now that the summer holidays have started!

While holidays provide an important opportunity for rest, family time and new experiences, there is also a lot of research suggesting that long breaks from school can impact children's learning, particularly their reading development. Researchers have found that some students experience a decline in reading skills during extended holidays, especially if they do little reading during that time. The effects can accumulate over the years. Studies conducted by the RAND Corporation and others suggest that these learning losses contribute significantly to differences in academic achievement as children progress through school.

The good news is that the solution is remarkably simple.

Health and science writer Dan Hurley spent several years investigating claims about how intelligence can be improved. After interviewing leading psychologists and neuroscientists around the world, he arrived at a striking conclusion: "Reading and intelligence have a relationship so close as to be symbiotic."

In other words, reading does not simply reflect intelligence; it helps to build it. For this reason, if there is one habit I would encourage every family to nurture over the holiday, it is daily reading.

The emphasis here is on pleasure rather than obligation. Children are far more likely to become lifelong readers if they are allowed some choice in what they read. A child who eagerly reads a book of genuine interest is gaining far more than a child who reluctantly works through a text chosen entirely by an adult.

Parents can help in simple ways:

- Ensure that books are readily available at home and while travelling.
- Set aside regular times when the whole family reads, even if only for twenty minutes.
- Ask children about what they are reading and show genuine curiosity about the story or ideas.
- Let children see adults reading for pleasure. Children learn as much from what we do as from what we say.
- Create sensible boundaries around smartphones and social media, which can easily consume the time and attention needed for sustained reading.

Most importantly, avoid turning reading into a punishment or a battleground. The goal is not simply to preserve reading levels over the holiday. The goal is to help young people discover the deep satisfaction that comes from becoming absorbed in a good book. Few gifts we can give our children will serve them better.

On behalf of all of us here at the Academy, I wish you and your family all the very best for a happy, peaceful and relaxing time over the coming weeks.

2026/27 SCHOOL YEAR

We look forward to welcoming all of our returning students back in late July. You can find the key calendar dates for next year by following this [link](#).

Best wishes,



Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



BOOK OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

This week, the Academy continued its tradition of recognising students whose character, leadership and service have made an exceptional contribution to our community with the presentation of two further Book of Excellence awards. This prestigious honour is reserved for students whose actions reflect the values and aspirations of the Academy in particularly meaningful ways.

Gayathri Geethuri – DP1

Gayathri was recognised for her outstanding leadership and commitment through her work with the Academy's Photography Team and the External Affairs Department. Beginning as a Reel Creator, she quickly distinguished herself through the quality of her photography, creativity and professionalism, helping to strengthen the Academy's public profile. Her initiative and sense of responsibility led to her appointment as Head of the Photography Team in January 2026. Through her work across both teams, Gayathri has demonstrated creativity, collaboration and a strong commitment to serving the wider community. Her conduct reflects the qualities of ethical leadership that lie at the heart of the Academy's mission.



Allaina Surani – DP1

Allaina received a Book of Excellence award for the integrity, leadership and sense of responsibility she consistently demonstrates. As Head of Logistics for Model United Nations, she has played a key role in ensuring the success of major student events. As Lead Internship Programme Student Assistant, she introduced structures that strengthened reflection and learning across the programme, creating a lasting impact for her peers. Her commitment to service is equally evident through her sustained engagement with Rainbow Homes. Across every role she undertakes, Allaina combines competence with compassion, embodying the vision of education as a force for service, ethical leadership and positive social impact.

We congratulate both Gayathri and Allaina on this well-deserved recognition and thank them for the example they set for others in our community.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Our Junior School students have completed another year of purposeful learning and discovery. While they have made excellent progress academically, many of the most important lessons have taken place beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, they have built friendships, strengthened relationships and developed the social and emotional skills that help young people flourish.

The year has been filled with memorable experiences: musicals, carnivals, sporting events, celebrations of the arts and countless moments of learning and shared achievement.

We are immensely proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to welcoming them back in July, refreshed and ready for the next stage of their learning journey. Until then, we wish all our students and families a restful, enjoyable and adventure-filled summer break!



A MEMORABLE FINALE TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The final Senior School assembly of the academic year was filled with school spirit as students gathered to reflect on a year of achievements and milestones. The assembly recognised students for their accomplishments through several special awards and acknowledgements, including the prestigious Book of Excellence Awards, the MYP Best Readers Awards and recognition for students who achieved 100 percent attendance throughout the year. Adding to the excitement was the much-anticipated announcement of the House Cup results. Kakatiya House emerged victorious, proudly claiming the Best House trophy after earning the highest points in sports. The announcement was met with loud applause and enthusiastic cheers from students and staff alike. The celebration concluded with the distribution of the 2025–2026 yearbooks, giving students an opportunity to look back on the memories, friendships, and experiences that made the year so special. It was a joyful end to the academic year, celebrating student success and the vibrant spirit that makes the Academy such a special place.



A REWARDING JOURNEY THROUGH MINI MUN

A reflection by MYP5 student Riya Medi

Participating in this week's Mini Model United Nations (MUN) was far more than just taking part in debates; it was an opportunity to grow in confidence, communication and intellectual understanding. For many students, including several first-time participants, the conference became a platform to explore new ideas, develop diplomacy, and express their perspectives clearly. Being the Head of International Press made the experience especially meaningful for me. The atmosphere was energetic and filled with enthusiasm, as delegates brought passion into every committee session. What stood out most was the balance between professionalism and collaboration, where participants challenged one another's ideas while continuing to show mutual respect and diplomacy.

Leading the International Press team allowed me to experience the conference from a unique perspective. Beyond capturing the debates and resolutions, we documented the teamwork that shaped the event. One of the highlights was the creation of "Mini-MUNiverse," an interactive platform developed collaboratively by the Design and International Press teams to showcase the

ongoing discussions and confrontations across all five committees. Overall, this experience strengthened my communication and organisational skills while deepening my appreciation for the impact and value of Model United Nations conferences.



STUDENTS AND STAFF IN 5K SUMMER FUN RUN

As part of our weekend programme for residential students, students and staff participated in the 5K Summer Fun Run organised by Decathlon, Shamshabad, on Sunday, 24 May 2026. Running in the summer heat required a good deal of determination and perseverance, providing an opportunity for students and staff alike to test their endurance while enjoying the shared experience of working towards a common goal. The 5K Summer Fun Run was a rewarding experience for all involved and a reminder that education extends beyond the classroom. Through opportunities such as these, students learn the value of maintaining a healthy balance between mind and body while developing habits that can contribute to lifelong wellbeing.



EXPLORING BORDERS, MIGRATION AND IDENTITY THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

As part of an interdisciplinary unit entitled *Borders and Migration*, students in Individuals and Societies and English explored one of the most significant issues shaping our contemporary world: the movement of people across borders and the forces that influence how we understand their experiences.

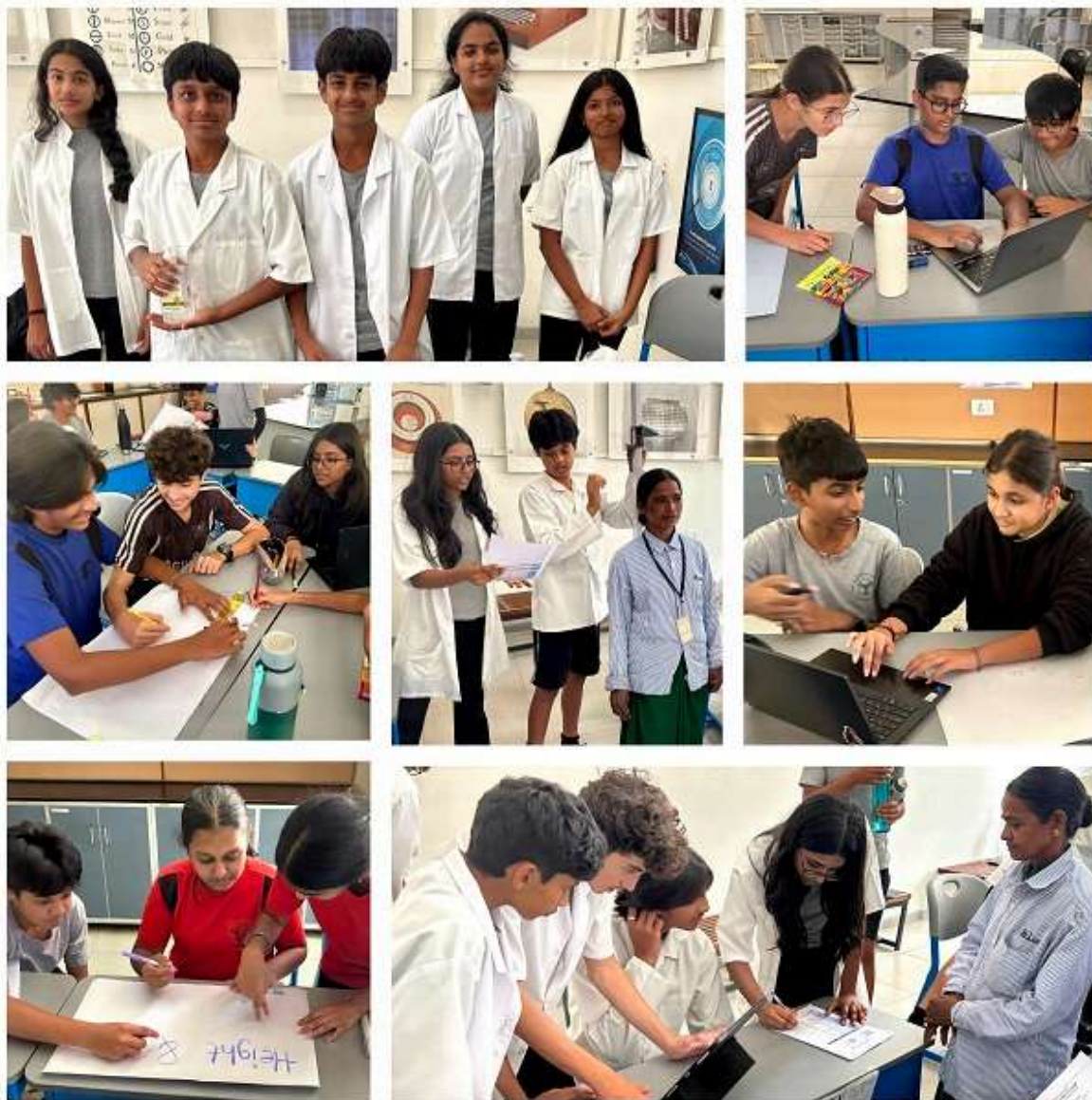
The unit encouraged students to think beyond geographical boundaries and consider the social, cultural and political borders that shape identities, opportunities and human relationships. Through the analysis of texts, images, political cartoons and media campaigns, students examined how migration is represented and how visual and written communication can influence public perceptions of displaced and itinerant populations. They discovered that a seemingly simple cartoon can offer a powerful critique of the causes of migration, while an advertisement can challenge conventional assumptions about nations, belonging and identity.

Learning extended beyond the classroom. Through seminars, discussions and guest speaker

sessions, students engaged with first-hand accounts of migration and the shifting borders that have shaped the history of the Indian subcontinent. These experiences brought a human dimension to the concepts they were studying and encouraged students to approach complex issues with empathy, curiosity and critical thought.

The unit exemplified the strength of interdisciplinary learning, inviting students to draw on the concepts, tools and perspectives of both subjects to develop a deeper understanding of a complex global issue. In doing so, they strengthened their ability to analyse evidence, evaluate different viewpoints and communicate ideas with clarity and purpose.

The culmination of the unit was an interdisciplinary project in which students created original comics inspired by the case studies and themes explored throughout their learning. The resulting works demonstrated creativity, insight and a sophisticated understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with borders and migration. These thoughtful productions will be proudly displayed after the break. By exploring questions of identity, belonging and human movement across cultures and nations, students were encouraged to recognise our shared humanity and to engage thoughtfully with the diverse and interconnected world in which they live.



GRADE 8 STUDENTS LEAD SERVICE IN ACTION

As part of their Service as Action programme, our Grade 8 students recently organised a meaningful "Service in Action" Health Camp for members of the Academy's non-teaching staff. The initiative reflected the Academy's commitment to developing compassionate, ethical and service-oriented young people who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

The students planned and conducted a range of activities focused on health, hygiene and overall wellbeing, including basic health awareness sessions, health checks and interactive discussions on healthy lifestyle practices. Through the process, they developed important skills in teamwork, communication and leadership while gaining a deeper appreciation of the needs and contributions of those who help sustain our community every day.

The project also embodied several of the Aga Khan Schools strands, particularly Ethical Leadership, Pluralism and Service. By engaging with members of the wider Academy community in a spirit of respect and care, students experienced first-hand how meaningful service can strengthen relationships and contribute to human dignity and wellbeing.

More than simply an activity, the Health Camp demonstrated how education can extend beyond the classroom and inspire young people to use their knowledge and skills in the service of others.



CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH OUR ORGANIC FARM

There was a sweet reward waiting for staff and students this week as delicious organic mangoes from the Academy farm were harvested and distributed across the campus.

The story of these mangoes began during the pandemic, when students and staff came together to plant the first trees. Over the years, the farm has faced numerous challenges, including water scarcity, extreme temperatures and the attention of porcupines, monkeys, wild pigs, birds, rats, snakes and peacocks. Yet despite these obstacles, it has flourished into a vibrant and productive space that enriches the life of the Academy in many ways.

Today, the farm provides a wide variety of naturally grown produce, including bananas, coconuts, water apples, jamun, cluster apples, curry leaves, lemongrass, basil and, of course, mangoes. More than a source of healthy food, it has become a living classroom where students learn about sustainability, biodiversity, food systems and the interconnectedness of human and environmental wellbeing.

Through hands-on involvement in planting, nurturing and harvesting, students develop a deeper understanding of their responsibility to care for the natural world and contribute positively to their communities.

Much of the success of this initiative is due to the vision and dedication of CAS Coordinator Mr Venkat Reddy, whose leadership has inspired students to engage meaningfully with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

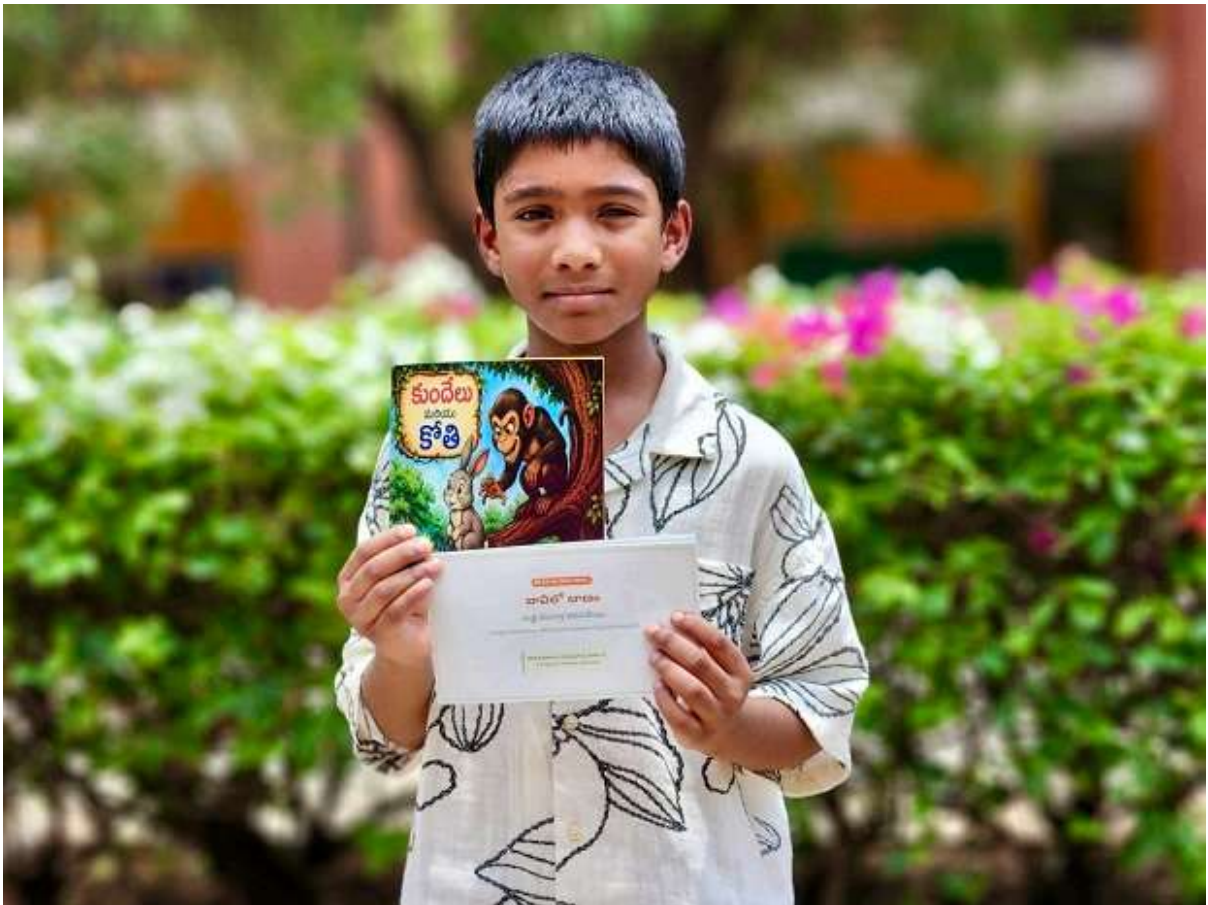
Every mango harvested this season serves as a reminder that some of the most valuable lessons in education grow slowly. They take root through patience, care and a willingness to invest in a future that may not be immediately visible but is ultimately worth the wait.

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHTS



GRADE 9 STUDENT YASHVIN SAI PUBLISHES HIS FOURTH BOOK

We proudly acknowledge the achievement of Grade 9 student Yashvin Sai, a young literary prodigy, who has successfully published his fourth book. His latest work takes readers into a fantasy world where “the future is unravelling,” blending suspense and imaginative storytelling. The plot follows young protagonists as they face growing darkness after surviving the battle at Lorthen and uncovering the truth of the Wave Walker. As nightmares begin to merge with reality and ancient crystals become the key to saving the realm of Ipesia, the characters are drawn into a race against time itself. Filled with mysterious prophecies, collapsing timelines and dangerous Trials of Time, the novel keeps readers engaged with its creativity and depth. Yashvin’s achievement is an inspiration to fellow students, encouraging young learners to pursue their passions with confidence.



A YOUNG AUTHOR'S INSPIRING JOURNEY

We also celebrate the achievement of Grade 1 student, Vasisht Adhyan Reddy Arikatla, who has written two storybooks in Telugu at such a young age. His imaginative and thoughtful ideas reflect the spirit of a young inquirer and communicator. One of his books encourages readers to think carefully and make wise decisions in challenging situations. The second book focuses on awareness and safety, helping children understand potential dangers and learn how to stay safe in their everyday lives. Vasisht’s enthusiasm for writing and storytelling is inspiring. We applaud his passion and confidence in expressing ideas through literature and we look forward to seeing many more creative works from him in the years ahead.

“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

His Late Highness Aga Khan IV

Groundbreaking of the International Academic Centre of Excellence, Tanzania, 17 March 2005



THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY
HYDERABAD
