

from the desk of the
Head of Academy

7 November 2025



Dear Parents,

I think the first story I ever remember hearing as a child in a school assembly was the well-known tale of the blind men and the elephant. In the story, several blind men are asked to describe an elephant. One reaches out, touches the trunk and says the animal is like a thick rope. Another feels the ear and insists it is like a soft fan. A third rests a hand against the elephant's side and declares confidently that it is like a solid wall. Each man describes the same elephant, but each holds only part of the truth. Only when they share their perspectives does the whole shape of the elephant appear.

Something very similar happens whenever we try to understand the experiences of a child. Each of us touches a different part of the elephant. A child feels the immediacy of what is happening to them. It might be the frustration of a difficult lesson, the pain of falling out with a friend or the disappointment of something not going as they hoped. Parents hold another part of the picture, shaped by years of watching their child grow, listening to their stories and noticing the subtle shifts that only family life reveals. At the Academy, we hold another piece. We see how children relate to their peers, how they handle pressure and how they grow within the wider life of the community. None of us sees the whole elephant, but each of us holds a piece of it.

These perspectives are different, but each one is true from the standpoint of the person holding it. When they remain separate, the picture is partial. When they are brought together, a much clearer understanding emerges. That shared picture is what helps a child flourish.

This idea of shared perspective is more than an amusing story. It is a practical reality. It determines how effectively we can support young people. Over the years, our teachers, advisors, coordinators and residential staff have supported thousands of students. Collectively, this team has seen almost every variation of the challenges children face: friendship tensions, academic struggles, homesickness, conflict, worry and the many small but significant ups and downs that are part of growing up. Each situation has its own features, but the underlying patterns are often familiar. This depth of experience allows us to respond with calm and perspective when a concern is raised.

Parents hold a different kind of knowledge. You understand your child in a way no school ever can. You see what they are like at the end of a long day, how they behave with siblings, what they hesitate to talk about and how quickly or slowly they recover from a setback. You know the history behind their habits, and you understand the emotional landscape that lies beneath the surface of their daily life.

And then there is the child's own experience. Sometimes this is immediate, powerful and intense. A single moment can feel overwhelming. Children do not always see how something fits into the bigger pattern of their growth. This is why they may misinterpret another child's actions or magnify a worry that an adult would see more calmly. They are

responding to the moment right in front of them.

Something important happens when all three perspectives are brought together. When this happens, we can understand what is going on with far greater accuracy. We can quickly make sense of a concern and respond with the right kind of support, whether that involves some kind of intervention or simply a conversation that helps a child feel heard.

This is why we encourage parents to reach out to us as soon as something feels concerning. Early communication helps us build a shared understanding quickly. When concerns remain only within parent circles, it is easy for uncertainties to linger because the wider context is not yet available. A short conversation with us is often enough to bring clarity and reassurance.

A child thrives best when parents and school are leaning into one another in a spirit of trust and partnership. A school cannot see the intricacies of home life, and parents cannot see every dynamic that unfolds in the busy dynamics of school. But together we can hold a much richer understanding of what a child needs.

Our pastoral system is designed as a safety net woven from many strands. Teachers, advisors, counsellors and dorm parents each form one part of that net. When you reach out, the right strand can be activated straight away. The network works only when those strands connect. Direct communication is what joins them.

If you ever have a question, an uncertainty, or a worry, however small, please come to us directly. We value your perspective and want to work closely with you to ensure your son or daughter thrives. And if there ever is an elephant in the room, it is always easier to understand it when we look at it together. When we share what we each see, the whole picture comes into view!

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



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

From the Junior School Principal, Ms Archana

I hope you are enjoying the declining temperatures and have remained unaffected by the sporadic rains. When events of a similar nature occur consecutively, we begin to see the broader shifts they point to. In the Junior School, the recent weeks have made it quite clear that the *flavour of the season* has been professional learning and growth.

Last Saturday, we hosted our first parent workshop of the year: **Assessment in the Primary Years Programme (PYP)**. I am truly grateful to the 50+ parents who joined us online and contributed so thoughtfully. I am sharing the [Padlet](#) we used as our learning platform during the workshop, and I kindly request participating parents to share their feedback in the final column of the Padlet. Parents who wish to suggest focus areas for future workshops are also welcome to add their thoughts there. I am also sharing the [slide deck](#) used in the workshop. Thank you for your partnership and ongoing engagement.

Meanwhile, our teachers have also been immersed in meaningful professional learning. Over the past few weeks, four teachers completed an online PYP workshop, two teachers presented at the SAIBSA (South Asia International Baccalaureate Schools Association) conference (with several others in attendance) and our PYP Coordinator, Ms Lavanya, travelled to Dubai last month for IB training. Additionally, three teachers will be travelling to Mumbai this month to participate in further workshops. Alongside these external opportunities, we have also begun a school-wide, weekly PYP workshop for all PYP teachers, which commenced this Wednesday and will continue over the coming weeks.

Another significant part of our professional learning has been classroom walkthroughs. Two weeks ago, teachers collaboratively developed a set of ten criteria for a successful

PYP lesson. Following this, each PYP teacher was observed unannounced using these shared criteria and received immediate feedback. These reflections are now being actively discussed in collaborative planning meetings, and I am already noticing thoughtful shifts in classroom practices. The impact is visible both in the tone of learning environments and in the teaching and learning experiences unfolding within them.

As a result of our analysis of all the walkthroughs, we can share with confidence that the quality of classroom practice in the Junior School is exceptionally strong. Differentiation and inquiry are consistently evident, our students ask questions with curiosity and confidence, and they exercise their agency with authenticity and joy. Having visited many PYP schools over the course of my journey as an IB educator, I can say, with pride, that what our teachers and students are achieving each day reflects true *excellence*.

We look forward to welcoming all families to our next community event — **Junior School Sports Day**, on **Friday, December 12**. Timings and programme details will be shared closer to the day.



SEMESTER 1 PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL

From the Senior School Principal, Mr Christian

Hundreds of PST conference meetings took place on Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1, in the Academy Building. On both days, Senior School teachers, counsellors and learning support teachers were available to meet with students and their parents face-to-face. Many residential students arranged for their parents to join the conversations remotely.

Much of the talking in these conferences was done by students themselves, and the students reflected on how they have progressed since the start of the year, on what has been going well and on areas that seem to require further improvements. The sincerity and seriousness in the conversations were evident not only from the positive feedback participants shared, but also from the calm, supportive and focused atmosphere throughout the two days. It is recognised that the Academy's and each teacher's close collaboration with families is of great importance as we help students discover that there is more in them than they might think. The Parent-Student-Teacher conferences in the middle of semesters 1 and 2 are an important part of that collaboration.

A reflection on technological developments

A headline in the international press this week announced that – as of now – robots can exercise for people. What's even better: the robot's performance gets better with practice. Isn't that wonderful? We no longer need to worry about doing those steps, swimming that daily mile, sweating away in the gym, or running the half marathon in under two hours. At last, robots and their physical abilities are catching up with what Large Language Models like ChatGPT have been able to do for many people's cognitive load for some time: reduce or even eliminate that dreaded mental effort. Quite clearly, the winners in these technological developments are robots and generative AI, as their performance keeps getting better. *Will there be losers?* The answer to that question depends on who we ask.

What successful individuals know and have known for a long time, is that the full development of any capacity, be it cognitive, physical, social, creative, or other, requires a student (or anyone else) to invest significant effort and to be fully engaged in learning. Fundamentally, learning is done by students, not to them. While it is recognized that we all need to be (or become) technologically literate and competent in the use of emerging technologies, the varied and holistic educational experiences provided at the Academy are designed to challenge students and help them learn exceptionally well as they seek to fulfil their potential.



EXPLORING RITWIK GHATAK'S CREATIVE UNIVERSE

DP 2 English students commemorated the birth centenary of the illustrious Indian filmmaker and writer Ritwik Ghatak on 4 November. While analysing Ghatak's story '*Gachh*' (The Tree) in class, they discussed his creative and ideological universe. Students alluded to Sumana Roy's '*How I Became a Tree*' to negotiate the nuanced meaning of the 'tree' motif in foregrounding loss and longing. In this context, a passing reference was made to the recent publication, '*Unmechanical*', edited by Shyama Dasgupta, which focuses on Ghatak's oeuvre and personality. Ghatak's story witnessed a parallel reading of the other two literary works: Han Kang's '*Human Act*' and Arthur Miller's '*Death of a Salesman*'. The students also watched selected sequences from Ghatak's '*Subarnarekha*' (The Golden Line) that provoked questions on displacement, identity crisis, alienation, tragedy of collective suffering and artistic truth. In the study of Ghatak's literary work, an approach to integrate questions from the Theory of Knowledge was discernible, which supported students in connecting literary inquiry with epistemological reflection.



BOOKS BUILD BRIDGES

This week, the Junior School embarked on a journey across countries, cultures and time. Students shared the many ways books can build bridges in our lives.

Bridges between countries and cultures – Stories transport us to distant and fascinating lands, allowing us to explore new worlds without ever leaving our comfy sofas.

Bridges between generations – Sharing a book with parents and grandparents fosters deep connections and cherished memories that last a lifetime.

Bridges between reality and imagination – Reading lets us step away from everyday life and enter magical worlds filled with creativity and wonder.

Junior School students did an excellent job inspiring everyone to read and discover the joy of books. We hope their enthusiasm encourages parents and grandparents alike to get lost in a good story!



ATHLETES SHINE AT ISSO ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Grade 9 student Banteibok Marwein for winning two bronze medals in the Under-19 Boys 3000m and 1500m track events at the International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) Athletics Championship 2025–26, hosted by Indus International School, Hyderabad, at Gachibowli Stadium. A group of 28 students represented the Academy in this national-level event, which included schools offering different national and international curricula across India. This first participation provided our athletes with valuable exposure, helping them gain experience, build confidence and prepare for future national meets.



INSIGHTS ON POVERTY, RIGHTS AND SOCIETY

Last Wednesday, the Academy's Beyond Borders Club hosted Mr L. Ravichander, Senior Counsel at the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. With over 30 years of experience in law and economics, Mr Ravichander shared insights into the complexities of poverty, human rights and education. He discussed how systemic inequalities and lack of access to basic resources like food, textbooks and infrastructure perpetuate cycles of deprivation. Emphasising the importance of freedom of speech, he reminded students that true democracy flourishes only when every voice, especially those of marginalised communities, is heard and valued. He reflected on taxation, governance and resource management, urging students to question how societies are structured. His engaging talk inspired us to think critically about social justice, governance and their role in shaping a more equitable world.



INQUIRY IN ACTION: HOW HISTORY SHAPES THE FUTURE

Our young inquirers in Grade 1 explored how history shapes the future. They reflected on how inventions and discoveries have influenced the way we live today – from communication and transportation to education and technology.

Building on their understanding, students imagined and designed the next big change they could bring to the world – something that could solve a problem and help people in the future. They compared their futuristic ideas with what we use today and identified what makes their inventions innovative.

Students showcased creativity and imagination! From a digital table designed to enhance learning experiences to a transforming car that can turn into a bike to avoid traffic and navigate narrow roads, their ideas were both thoughtful and practical.

To bring their visions to life, they designed models using LEGO blocks, paper and other

craft materials, proudly labelling the special features of their inventions. It was inspiring to see how their understanding of the past helped them imagine a better and smarter future.



LAUNCHING THE SOLAR POWERHOUSE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

This month, our **Grade 8A students** proudly launch the **Solar Powerhouse Awareness Campaign**, a student-led *Service as Action* initiative designed to educate and inspire our school community about the impact of our very own solar powerhouse.

Aligned with the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) commitment to environmental stewardship, this project encourages students to explore how technology and innovation can promote sustainability and positive change.

This week, we're proudly sharing four of our 12 young change-makers who remind us that every small action adds up to a greener, cleaner future!

- **Aryan P.** — Highlights how our school has reduced its carbon emissions by installing solar panels. He encourages everyone to bring and use reusable cups and lunch boxes to further reduce waste.

- **Deetya** — Reminds us that by switching off electricity for just 10 minutes daily, we can save energy, reduce wastage and lower our bills.
- **Rinhsa** — Encourages teachers and students to turn off projectors and unused devices, helping to save energy and reduce our school's electricity bills.
- **Shubha** — Promotes our solar initiative by asking everyone to switch off car engines while waiting near school, reducing carbon emissions and supporting clean energy efforts.

You can **view the posters** [here](#).



EMBRACING AWARENESS AND CONNECTION

A reflection by Grade 8 student Anjali Davuluri

World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10 every year. This year we had personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) sessions which gave us a lot to think about. We had some interesting conversations and friendly debates around emotions versus logic. It helped us realise how different people understand and deal with mental

health and how important it really is. These sessions made many of us more aware of our emotions and how we can support others better.

As part of the celebrations, our Grade 8 students also put together a flash mob to spread awareness about mental well-being. Despite initial hesitation and a sense of awkwardness, the group gradually found their rhythm and spirit. Laughter filled the sessions as we began helping one another with the steps and truly enjoying the process. It was deeply meaningful, as everyone could feel the purpose it represented - unity, awareness and the shared importance of mental well-being. It brought us together and reminded us that mental health is about connection, balance and being there for each other.



CARING FOR PETS

During the Junior School “Pet and Care” Skills Workshop this week, Senior School Principal Mr Christian visited with his pet dog, Jimmy. Jimmy is a lovely, good-natured dog who takes meeting people, especially children, in his stride. The students had a wonderful learning experience - they asked many questions about Jimmy and Mr Christian shared many good tips on how to take care of animals. Meeting such responsible pet owners is a very valuable experience for our young learners and we hope they follow the example set with their own pets in the future.



SPREADING SMILES

As part of their CAS Service Project, 32 DP 1 students, led by their project leader and guided by Ms Maha, organised a day of creative, educational and recreational activities for the children at Rainbow Home for Girls. The event fostered joy, confidence and a sense of belonging among the children while offering students valuable insights into community service. Through this experience, students strengthened their leadership, communication and planning skills, deepening their understanding of social issues and the power of collective compassion.



A CONFIDENT START TO THE SEASON

Last weekend, our Senior School Boys Cricket Team played a friendly match against St. John Cricket Academy, Secunderabad, as part of their preparation for the upcoming inter-school tournament. The 20-over match saw St. John Cricket Club set a target of 147 runs. Demonstrating their teamwork and skill, our boys successfully chased the target in just 15 overs to secure a well-deserved victory. The game offered valuable experience, enhancing their match readiness, teamwork and strategic application under competitive conditions.

THIS WEEK'S STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



RIDING TO SUCCESS IN EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

Congratulations to Grade 8 student Shushrutha, who demonstrated skill and determination at the Equestrian Premier League, earning outstanding results across multiple events. She won Gold in both Preliminary Dressage and Pre-Novice Dressage and secured a Bronze in Show Jumping (90–100 cm), along with a strong participation in the 80–90 cm category. Her remarkable performance reflects her dedication, discipline and growing excellence in the sport.



VIVAAN WINS YOUNG ACES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to Grade 7 student Vivaan Pinnapureddy for securing first place at the Young Aces Golf Tournament held at Boulder Hills Golf Course on 1 November 2025. His dedication, discipline and passion for the sport exemplify the Academy's commitment to nurturing excellence and sportsmanship. Vivaan will next showcase his talent at upcoming tournaments in Jamshedpur and Kolkata, and we wish him continued success in his golfing journey.



EMPOWERING EDUCATORS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Last Saturday, four Junior School staff attended the South Asia International Baccalaureate Schools Association (SAIBSA) Conference at The Sri Ram Academy in Hyderabad. This was an opportunity to collaborate with fellow IB educators. Mr Nikhil and Ms Kruti facilitated sessions on assessment best practices and effective inquiry strategies, respectively. Ms Anisha engaged with physical education teachers on initiating inquiries and best practices in PE, while Ms Rashmi focused on teachers' emotional wellbeing and its impact on students.

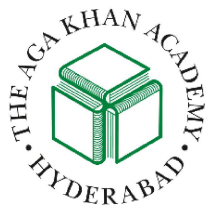
“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

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

14 November 2025



Dear Parents,

Walking around the campus this morning, I was struck by the unmistakable spirit of Children's Day. It felt as though the whole Academy was buzzing with possibility. In those moments, I was reminded of Heraclitus' insight that a person is most truly themselves when they show "the seriousness of a child at play." It is this blend of playfulness and purpose that gives Children's Day its magic. Spend a few minutes at the Academy on Children's Day and you'll feel it. In those moments, we glimpse human potential at its brightest and most hopeful.

These occasions remind us that education is not simply about accumulating knowledge but about drawing out something deep within each child – courage, imagination, curiosity and the belief that the world is still full of promise. This is what the word education truly means: to lead out.

The famous Hungarian psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, whose work on creativity and "flow" has shaped modern understanding of human potential, found that children who thrive later in life are those who, as adolescents, were deeply engaged in meaningful activity. They experienced challenge and the freedom to attempt things that mattered. Confucius expressed this truth centuries earlier: "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."

Children flourish when they are taken seriously and when adults allow them to try, to fail, to try again and to take responsibility for real things. Many traditional cultures understood this instinctively. Young people contributed meaningfully to family life, apprenticeships and community responsibilities. Their energy was channelled into tasks that stretched the adolescent mind and spirit.

In contrast, modern life sometimes underestimates children. We protect them from difficulty and rush to solve every problem. Yet the adolescent brain is designed for challenge and the search for meaning. When we trust young people with responsibility - whether leading a club, organising a service project, designing an experiment, or helping younger students, they rise to the occasion with remarkable maturity.

It is a wonderful paradox: play, curiosity, and imagination are not distractions from learning, they are the foundations of it. The writer Tom Robbins captured this spirit perfectly when he wrote, "Humanity has advanced, when it has advanced, not because it has been sober, responsible, and cautious, but because it has been playful, rebellious, and immature."

This, ultimately, is the work of a good school: to help young people hold on to a sense of what the world might be and of what they might become. A truly transformative education allows a child to carry this sense of possibility with them into adulthood, while also developing the seriousness, discipline and resilience that adulthood demands. If we can help them preserve that combination of wonder and responsibility, then education has accomplished something extraordinary. Working in a place that understands this is a privilege. Children's Day reminds us, as teachers and parents alike, to recognise the glory

of what is unfolding before our eyes.

Warm wishes on Children's Day to all our students and their families. May we continue to create spaces where they can joyfully spread their wings. And may every child at the Academy find room to grow into the fullest and most hopeful version of themselves!

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



JUNIOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's Day is celebrated every year on 14 November in India. It honours the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who believed that children are the nation's greatest treasure. The day also serves as a reminder of our responsibility to ensure every child's rights, well-being and education.

Today, the Junior School celebrated the day in style. The day started with a lively assembly presented by teachers and parents, complete with dance performances, entertaining skits and songs.

Following a special lunch, students headed to the Avenue for a colourful festive carnival. The Junior School community of parents and staff transformed the space into a wonderland of craft, games and creative activities. Students were able to participate in craft corners, fun games and a popular photo booth. The carnival rounded off a day of celebration and high energy in the Junior School!





CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Today's celebrations in the Senior School began with flowers, chocolates and notes from advisors. During a special Children's Day assembly, the Commons hosted a lively mix of staff performances.

Foot-stomping music and a humorous skit featuring *Amma* (mother) and her Gen Z influencer kids to songs inspired by classroom moments, the celebrations brought the crowd to its feet at times! A high-energy tambourine act and an upbeat dance performance added to the excitement. A special lunch was arranged by team Sodexo to make the day extra special for the students.



IT'S A GOAL!

Our Junior School girls' and boys' football teams delivered an outstanding performance at the PYP Network Football Competition held last Thursday and Friday at Indus International School, Hyderabad.

The girls' team had an exceptional unbeaten run, winning all four matches—defeating Sreenidhi (1–0), Focus School (1-0), Vista School (2-0) and Gaudium (1-0)—to claim the Winner's Trophy. Their determination and consistency stood out, further highlighted by individual honours as Aanvi Reddy was named Best Player of the Tournament and Geethanjali received the Best Goalkeeper Award.

The boys' team also shone, finishing as proud Runners-up after a competitive final against Indus International School.

Many congratulations to all our young athletes on these well-deserved achievements!



A JOURNEY THROUGH FORM AND MEANING

DP art students and interns with the Admissions and Communications department, accompanied by their teachers, had the privilege of attending *Sculpting with Light and Darkness*, an exhibition curated by renowned writer, biographer and art curator Mrs Ina Puri. The show featured the works of celebrated sculptors and artists K. S. Radhakrishna, L. N. Tallur and Sumakshi Singh. Through this thoughtfully curated collection, Mrs Puri brought together three unique artistic voices, each exploring the interplay of light and shadow in shaping form, perception and emotion. When asked about the meaning behind the title, Mrs Ina Puri reflected, “There is no light without darkness and no darkness without light.” Her words perfectly encapsulated the exhibition’s essence—the idea that contrast is not opposition, but coexistence; that illumination finds its depth and meaning only through the presence of shadow. The exhibition invited viewers to witness how creation itself

emerges from the balance between clarity and obscurity, reflection and mystery. The field trip sparked creativity in our students, inspired new perspectives and deepened their understanding of sculpture and installation art as a powerful medium for storytelling and self-expression.



LEARNING, LEADERSHIP AND INQUIRY

Our Grade 4 students demonstrated their creativity in a class assembly this week on the theme “The Five Strands That Shape Us”. Through performances and storytelling, they brought to life the Aga Khan Academy Strands. The strands are six cross-curricular domains that develop the knowledge, skills and values needed for ethical, globally minded leadership. They include ethics, pluralism, cultures, governance and economics for development. Together, they shape students into thoughtful, compassionate and responsible citizens who can contribute meaningfully to their communities and the wider world. The assembly highlighted the students' developing leadership skills and growing abilities in communication, self-management and reflection.

The Junior School was also thrilled to host guest speaker Dr Yashaswini Jayadevaiah, who introduced students to the world of archaeology. Using engaging examples, she explained how archaeologists study past civilisations and the tools, processes and technologies involved. This session deepened students' understanding of their Unit of Inquiry, reinforcing how examining civilisations helps us understand and reflect on our past, present and future.

Together, these experiences nurtured thoughtful, curious and principled young learners—embodying the Academy's mission to develop leaders with purpose.



EXPLORING CHANGE AND CONSEQUENCE

As the Solar Powerhouse Awareness Campaign continues, our Grade 8A students are reflecting on our school's shift from conventional grid-based electricity to a sustainable solar powerhouse. This connects to the key concept of change as they explore how innovation reshapes the way energy is produced and consumed. It also links to consequence as students consider how every change—big or small—carries

consequences, significantly impacting both the environment and the economy.

This week, our featured students inspire the school community to make mindful, energy-smart choices every day:

- **Arunima** — Inspires the school community to reduce printing and paper use, supporting our journey toward becoming a carbon-neutral school.
- **Aryan V.** — Reminds everyone to turn off air conditioners when not in use to cut down electricity bills and carbon emissions.
- **Tejas** — Suggests we share books with friends instead of buying new ones to reduce our carbon footprint further.
- **Yousef** — Encourages everyone to unplug chargers and laptops when not in use, helping save energy and reduce costs to support our solar initiative.

You can view this week's posters [here](#).



FOSTERING COMPASSION THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

The International Baccalaureate's CAS programme – Creativity, Activity, Service – is a core component of the Diploma Programme that helps students learn through real, hands-on experiences beyond the classroom. It encourages them to pursue creative pursuits, stay physically active, and engage meaningfully with their communities through service. CAS develops balance, reflection, empathy and a sense of responsibility, helping students grow into well-rounded, socially conscious young adults.

As part of the programme, DP 1 students visited the Blue Cross animal shelter for a hands-on volunteering experience last weekend. They began with an orientation session where they asked questions and gained clarity about the organisation's work. A Blue Cross volunteer then guided them through the shelter, offering insights into its operations and emphasising the importance of compassion and responsible animal care.

Twenty-four students registered as official volunteers with Blue Cross. During the debriefing session led by project leaders, students reflected on their learning and the values of responsibility and community service.



CONNECTING WITH NATURE THROUGH ORGANIC FARMING

Our Organic Farm has become an essential part of the Academy's culture. Opportunities for students and staff to work on the farm, especially at weekends, provide a chance to connect with nature in a meaningful way. There is now a lot of scientific evidence that shows that physical labour and working with our hands have huge benefits.

Last weekend, DP 1 students had the chance to enjoy fresh, organically grown coconut water and bananas. This activity helped them understand the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and the role they play in supporting a healthier environment.

The activity strengthened their connection with nature while reinforcing the significance of healthy and sustainable living.



BUILDING RESILIENCE AND TEAM SPIRIT

The International Award for Young People (also known as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award) is a global youth development programme that challenges young people to build confidence, resilience and leadership through purposeful activities. Participants work toward bronze, silver or gold levels by completing sections in service, skill, physical recreation and an adventurous journey. The Award helps young people develop independence, teamwork and a spirit of exploration.

Students who are participating in the award this year successfully completed their Adventurous Journey last weekend – the first such experience at the Academy in several years. At Jungle Camp near Tukuguda, students hiked through forested areas, pitched

their own tents and cooked meals over a wood fire.

The second day featured a treasure-hunt-style hike focused on navigation and map reading. Activities included climbing, zip lining, kayaking and a snake awareness session.

These experiences are valuable because they push students beyond their comfort zones, helping them develop resilience, teamwork and confidence that classroom learning alone cannot provide. It also nurtures a sense of responsibility and service, shaping them into empathetic, capable young people ready to contribute meaningfully to the world.



NEWS FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL

A message from Senior School Principal Mr Christian Schmelz

In international curriculum schools, change and staff mobility is part of the culture. While every departure of a staff member is a sad occasion, such changes are also major drivers of professional and cultural growth – for not only teachers but schools, too.

This week, we are bidding farewell to Ms Koel Ray, who, since 2012, served in a range of roles at the Academy as a teacher, Senior School Principal and Director of Teaching and Learning. Ms Koel's contributions and many years of dedicated service are deeply appreciated and everyone at the Academy wishes her well as she embarks on new professional endeavours.

At the same time, we welcome Mr Brian Odima, who joins the humanities department after teaching IB Diploma Geography and Middle Years Programme's Individuals and Societies

and serving as Personal Project Coordinator at several IB schools in Kenya. Please join me in wishing Mr Brian all the best.

THIS WEEK'S STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



SHIV RACES AHEAD: A YEAR OF REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Many congratulations to Shiv who at just nine years old, has secured exceptional national and international milestones, including being ranked No. 1 in India in the Micro category by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). He was also crowned MECO Meritus Champion 2025, finished as Vice Champion in the National Karting Championship 2025 and earned the title of Best Rookie Champion 2024.

Shiv's love for racing continues to inspire the school community. We commend his remarkable journey as he balances his academic and sporting pursuits with admirable dedication.



A HEART FULL OF KINDNESS

This weekend, Grade 1 student Astaya visited Spandana, an orphanage near Uppal, continuing her family's long-standing relationship with the organisation. She shared a joyful afternoon with the children, bringing biryani, desserts, balloons and art supplies. Together, they played, ate and laughed, creating wonderful memories. Over the years, Astaya and her family have regularly donated books, toys, festival gifts and even computers to support the children's education — a heartwarming example of compassion and generosity in action.



A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, LEARNING AND HEART

Ms Koel Ray has been associated with the Academy since 2012, serving in various capacities—from teacher to Senior School Principal to Director of Teaching and Learning. As she prepares to bid farewell after over a decade of dedicated service, we take a moment to honour her profound contributions to the institution and the lives of its students.

Reflecting on what first drew her to the Academy, Ms Koel shared that the school's values and vision deeply resonated with her own beliefs as an educator. What began as a rigorous three-hour interview unfolded into a meaningful conversation about education for all and a genuine commitment to learning. She knew then that the Academy was the place where she could transform her ideals of teaching as a vocation into meaningful action—ensuring access to education regardless of socioeconomic background and touching every student's heart with compassion and service.

Her values aligned closely with the vision of His Late Highness Aga Khan IV, who championed pluralism, ethical leadership and leading by example. Ms Koel believes that the Academy's leadership, staff and students foster a culture of experimentation and institutional learning that allows individuals to grow holistically.

In reflecting on His Late Highness's vision of nurturing global leaders, she sees our students as embodiments of care, resilience and leadership. She speaks with pride of the current graduating class, who she believes are setting powerful examples of compassionate leadership for their peers and juniors.

To Ms Koel, looking out of her office window at the green boulevard—with children playing and gardeners tending to the grounds—has always felt like home. Though she leaves a part of herself behind, she carries with her the memories, values and the enduring vision of making a positive difference and transforming lives in the truest sense.

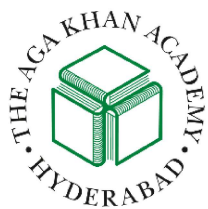
“The students at this institution will be distinguished not only for their academic capacity, but for their character and their commitment to citizenship.”

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

21 November 2025



Dear Parents,

What if failure is the path to success? That's an odd question to ask in exam season! After all, schools measure success in grades and numbers. Yet the one factor that most strongly predicts success in life often goes unnoticed. That factor is character.

Christopher Peterson, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan, has spent many years studying what allows people to live flourishing lives. His conclusion is striking. When it comes to real success, character is at least as important as intellect.

Students who thrive in university and adult life are not always the ones who topped the class at school. The ones who flourish are those who combine intellect with qualities such as persistence, courage and resilience. They are the young people who know how to pick themselves up after disappointment and who stay steady when life is difficult.

Angela Duckworth, who is well known for her research on human development, has shown

that self-control is a more reliable predictor of school grades than IQ. Self-control helps a child to start homework rather than scroll on a phone, revise for a test rather than watch another episode on Netflix and keep to a practice routine when nobody is watching.

Yet Duckworth also found that self-control explains only the basics of success. The people who go on to achieve remarkable things share something more. She calls it grit. Grit is the ability to stay with demanding tasks, to persevere when goals take years rather than weeks and to care deeply enough about something to keep going when it stops being enjoyable. She devised a very simple 3-minute test which has become a remarkably accurate predictor of success:

Grit indicator

Here's the paradox. Many of the experiences that build character are the very ones that devoted parents work hardest to prevent. Out of love, we smooth the path. We email teachers when our children are upset. We step in when they fall out with a friend. Our impulse is understandable. It is natural to want to protect our children from harm. Yet the research is clear. The strengths that most powerfully predict a happy and purposeful life are created when children face difficulty and are allowed to struggle a little.

Peterson and Duckworth all point to the same conclusion. A meaningful life requires experiences of success but also experiences of failure and frustration. We grow when we attempt something hard, fall short, feel the sting of that experience and try again.

This does not mean that parents should stand back with folded arms. Children need adults who are warm, present and dependable. The question is not whether we support but how we support.

There is a difference between rescuing and coaching. Rescuing says, "This is too hard, I will do it for you." Coaching says, "This is hard and I am right here with you. Let us think about the next step." Rescuing removes the struggle. Coaching stays alongside the child in the struggle. One quietly says, "You cannot cope." The other says, "You can cope with help, and you will be stronger for it."

Allowing safe struggle might mean letting your child face the natural consequences of poor planning, encouraging them to stick with demanding activities or praising effort and courage more than outcome. These small decisions teach a powerful message. They say, "You are capable. You can face difficulty. I am here beside you. I will not deprive you of the chance to grow."

Instead of asking only "What grade did you get?" we might ask "Where did you show grit this week?" or "What did you learn about yourself?" In the end, failure is not the opposite of success. It is one of its faces.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Long

Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



LITTLE STARS, BIG ACTIONS

This week, the Junior School treated us to a delightful assembly built around a student-made film, *Lights, Camera, Action!* Created under the guidance of Ms Duo and Ms Mitu, the stars of the film were our enthusiastic Grade 2A learners.

Through their imaginative storytelling, the students reminded us of simple but powerful truths: protect our trees, treat insects and plants with care, and remember that forests are home to countless living creatures. Their call to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle was expressed with clarity and conviction, reflecting a maturity well beyond their years.

To show that meaningful action begins with each of us, the assembly closed with a lively Zumba performance that highlighted self-care and wellbeing.

The morning left the audience inspired by our young changemakers, who reminded us that even the smallest hands can make a big difference to our planet.



ACTION-BASED LEARNING IN HINDI

As part of their unit on Peace and Conflict, Grade 3 students studying Hindi created their own booklet, which they presented to members of the school community. The presentation was a wonderful display of confidence and clear communication.

Each student designed a personal peace symbol and explained its meaning. They also shared their understanding of peace as a concept, describing why it matters in our lives and how we might nurture it in our relationships and communities. Their reflections showed thoughtful analysis and a growing ability to make connections between ideas.

This action-based learning experience deepened their understanding of peace and strengthened their skills in inquiry, interpretation and communication.



A DAY OF SERVICE, REFLECTION AND NEW PERSPECTIVES

Members of the Academy's Service-Learning Club recently visited a government school, marking their first experience of service beyond campus. The visit was filled with warmth and welcome and the genuine joy of shared learning.

For some, entering a classroom so similar to the ones they grew up in stirred memories of their own early years. For others, interacting with the younger children offered a moving lesson in empathy, gratitude and the importance of equal access to education.

They returned with a renewed awareness that small gestures can have a big impact. Listening, sharing and teaching are simple acts, yet they can transform a moment and sometimes even a mindset. It was a day of service but also one of reflection, perspective and quiet gratitude.



SHARING STORIES, SPREADING SMILES

As part of our Children's Day celebrations, the Junior School launched a Book Drive led by Ms Pooja. Students were invited to donate books to Pustakaar, a Hyderabad-based non-profit supported by the Ansh Foundation, which runs mobile library services for schools that do not have permanent libraries.

Through this initiative, baskets of books are rotated weekly into classrooms, allowing children across the city to discover the joy of reading. It was heartening to see our own students and families respond with such generosity, sharing books they had enjoyed so that others might enjoy them too.

Their kindness reflected the spirit of Children's Day perfectly: a celebration of childhood marked by thoughtfulness towards others.

Book donations will remain open until the end of November.



GOALS, GRIT AND GROWTH

Our Under-14 and Under-17 Girls' Football Teams had an exciting weekend of matches against Silver Oaks School and United Football Academy. The senior girls played with exceptional skill and secured a 5-0 victory over UFA, while the junior girls delivered a thrilling finish, winning 5-4 on penalties.

Beyond the scoreline, the matches were important learning opportunities. They strengthened teamwork, built resilience and gave our students valuable experience in competitive match situations. The confidence they gained from these encounters will serve them well as they prepare for the forthcoming inter-school tournaments.



ADVOCATES FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

In the final week of our Solar Powerhouse Awareness Campaign, Grade 8 students reminded us how science and innovation can support sustainable development and collective climate action.

Their posters carried practical, everyday suggestions that build a culture of sustainability across the Academy:

- Adhrit encourages everyone to take the stairs and save electricity
- Jovita suggests 10 minutes of unplugged learning in every class
- Veda reminds us to switch off lights and fans when not needed
- Vinay highlights the importance of keeping doors shut when the AC is on
- Deetya shows how switching off electricity for just 10 minutes a day can reduce energy use and cut down costs

These ideas are simple yet powerful and serve as a reminder that caring for the planet is a

habit built one small action at a time.

You can see the posters [here](#).



SUNSHINE AND HAPPY LEARNERS

The recent spell of cool, pleasant weather in Hyderabad has made our campus look especially radiant. Grade 1 learners embraced the outdoors and moved several lessons into the fresh air and gentle sunshine.

Learning outside has brought a sense of joy and freedom, giving the children space to think, explore and engage with renewed enthusiasm. The natural light and open sky have also been a welcome boost to their health and well-being.

Who says great learning always needs four walls? Certainly not Grade 1.



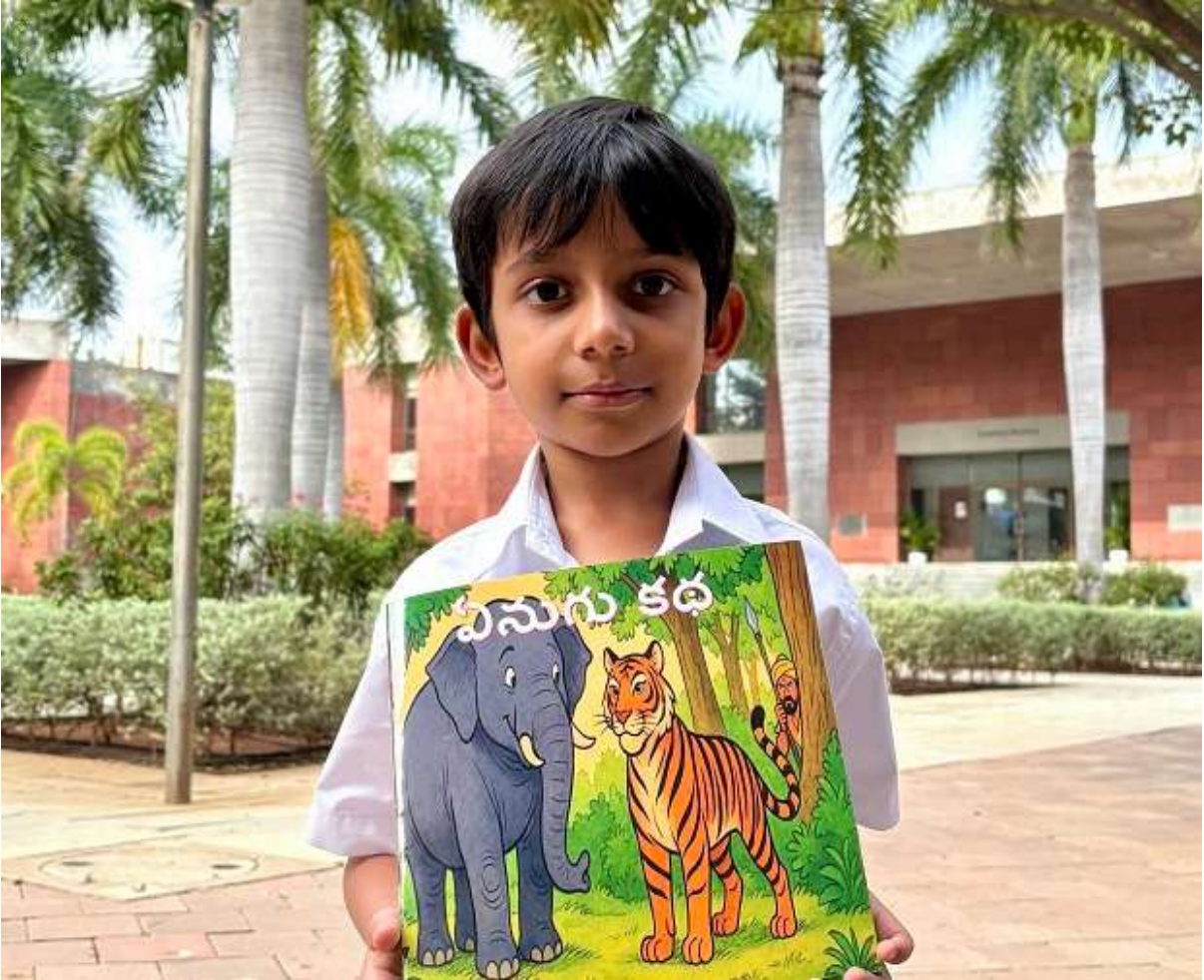
WHEELS IN MOTION

Last Saturday offered perfect conditions for the Academy's Annual MTB Invitational Event with clear skies, cool air and trails freshly trimmed after the monsoon. Riders tackled a challenging route featuring rock gardens, jumps, brick paths and sharp drops, with a total vertical climb of 31 metres.

One quarter of the participants were from outside the Academy. They relished the opportunity to compete on our beautiful campus. The 3 km loop included a steep incline below Peacock Hill and a technical descent near the faculty residences. Elite riders completed three loops, Under-18s two and Under-16s one.

Many students have been building their skills through outdoor learning clubs each Wednesday and through after-school flex sessions. Others have strengthened their stamina on long weekend rides. Saturday's event was a celebration of that commitment, resilience and sheer love of the sport.

THIS WEEK'S STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG LITERARY STAR

We are delighted to celebrate the achievement of our Grade 2 student, Aadvik, who has published his first story in Telugu, *Yengu Katha*. Creating and publishing original work at such a young age is no small feat and speaks volumes about his imagination, courage and connection with his mother tongue.

We also thank his parents for the steady encouragement and nurturing support they have given him. Their belief in his creative spark has helped him take this impressive step as a young author.

Aadvik has already begun working on his next book and we look forward to reading what he writes next.



VIVAAN SHINES AT NATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Vivaan Pinnapureddy of Grade 7H who shot his personal best at the Indian Golf Union Jharkhand Junior Boys Golf Championship 2025 held at Golmuri Golf Club, Jamshedpur. With a total score of +21 over three days, including a superb final round of 2-over par in tough, cold conditions, Vivaan showed excellent course management and growing confidence.

He is currently competing at Tollygunge Golf Club in Kolkata and we wish him continued success in the tournaments ahead.



MASTERING THE CLASSROOM ECOSYSTEM

Our Teacher Preparation Programme interns recently engaged in a series of workshops on classroom management led by Teacher Coach Ms Antoinette Blain. These sessions moved well beyond theory. They invited interns to bring forward real challenges from their classrooms and examine them collaboratively.

A key insight from the sessions was that student misbehaviour is often a natural part of social and emotional development. Effective management is not simply about stopping disruptions but understanding how relationships, lesson clarity and even physical layout shape the classroom dynamic.

One of the strengths of our Teacher Preparation Programme lies in the dual role our interns inhabit as both teacher and student at the Academy. This unique position gives them a steady rhythm of practice, feedback and reflection which supports their growth as thoughtful, confident educators.

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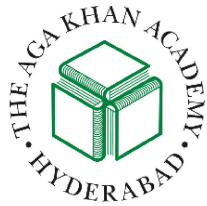
His Late Highness Aga Khan IV

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

28 November 2025



Dear Parents,

According to Fei-Fei Li, Co-Director of the Stanford Human-Centred AI Institute, “*We are witnessing the greatest technological revolution in human history.*” Perhaps she’s right. Machines now operate with a fluency that would have seemed unimaginable even a decade ago. They compose music, write essays, solve complex equations and simulate empathy with astonishing precision.

Last weekend, I was in Lucknow for a gathering of leaders from education, industry, technology, policy and the social sector. We met to explore what human potential might look like in an AI-driven world. Experts from across India shared insights into how job roles, industries and skillsets are shifting. What struck me was not the speed of technological change they all described but the uncertainty it creates. Even the experts were clear that no one can fully predict what the landscape will look like five years from now.

The panel I was invited to join focused on the human qualities that AI cannot replace – creativity, empathy, intuition, curiosity and wisdom. These are the qualities that enable young people to navigate ambiguity and make thoughtful choices even when the answers

are not obvious.

One word in particular captured the spirit of the weekend. That word is *VUCA* – a simple acronym introduced by the U.S. Army War College in 1987 to describe the complex, multilateral world that emerged after the Cold War. It stands for Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity, and perfectly describes the world our children are growing up in.

- **Volatility** reminds us that change is happening faster than any of us can comfortably track.
- **Uncertainty** reflects the challenge of planning ahead when the landscape keeps shifting.
- **Complexity** speaks to the many interconnected factors shaping our children's futures.
- **Ambiguity** captures those situations in which even identifying the problem is difficult.

It's easy to feel anxious when the future is reorganising itself so quickly. Yet VUCA is not a pessimistic lens. Paradoxically, it is hopeful. It reminds us that the goal is not to prepare children for a world we can predict, but to prepare them for a world we *cannot* predict. In a VUCA world, young people need a lot more than information. They need the habits of mind and heart that help them make sense of complexity and live well within it.

That is why we place so much emphasis on building a reliable ethical foundation for our students. This includes the capacity to pause rather than react instantly. It means learning to ask good questions instead of rushing to quick answers. It involves listening carefully to others, especially when they hold different views, and trying to understand before we judge. It is the practice of weighing evidence and being willing to change our minds when we discover new information. It also means managing our emotions in healthy ways and recognising how our actions affect other people. These are the very qualities that will allow our children to use powerful tools like AI wisely and responsibly, rather than being swept along by them.

At the Academy, we try to cultivate these habits in many different ways. We see them in classroom discussions where students are encouraged to think aloud, challenge ideas respectfully and support their claims with reasons. We see them in project work and inquiry, where there is rarely a single right answer and students must learn to live with uncertainty. We see them in service activities and residential life, where children discover what it means to live in community, to resolve conflict and to see the world through another person's eyes. These experiences are not incidental to the curriculum. They are central to it.

As artificial intelligence reshapes the world around them, the most valuable intelligence our children will ever possess is their inner compass of values and character. When that compass is reliable, they will find their direction amidst the challenges of a VUCA world!

Best wishes,

Jonathan Long

Dr Jonathan Long

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



SPIRIT WEEK

In schools around the world, Spirit Week is a special time when students – and often staff – dress up according to different daily themes. It is a week designed to boost school spirit and create a fun, engaging atmosphere across campus. This year in the Senior School, Spirit Week featured Character Day, Cultural Day, Jersey Day, Twinning Day and Nothing-

but-a-Bag Day. Towards the end of a long and demanding term, these themed days brought renewed energy to the campus. Spirit Week is a reminder that shared moments of fun are an essential part of the environment in which young people flourish!





ADVENTURE OUTDOORS, VALUES INDOORS

Last week was a memorable one for Grade 2. With a mix of excitement and anticipation, students set off for their first camp at the Rocksport campground. Activities included a climbing wall, zip line, commando nets, Tug of War, tractor rides and an enthusiastic rain dance. In the evening, they gathered around the campfire, singing together, sipping hot soup and then settling into tents for a night away from home. Teachers were proud to see how well they looked after one another and how confidently they managed being away from their families - an important milestone for many.

In the same spirit of growth, Grade 2K led an assembly on Discipline and Etiquette. Students spoke about the importance of “magic words” such as “please,” “thank you,” and “sorry.” Using short skits, they invited the audience to choose the most appropriate responses in everyday situations. They highlighted key values such as respect, kindness, patience and cooperation.

Together, the camp experience and the assembly showed how our Grade 2 students are

developing confidence and strong values – learning to be caring and respectful members of their community.



A SPLASH OF GOLD!

Many congratulations to our Junior School swimmers who competed in the IB PYP Hyderabad Network Swimming Competition held at The Shriram Academy this week. The girls' team emerged as overall champions, and the boys' team secured several hard-won wins. Many thanks to Junior School Principal, Ms Archana, our PYP Coordinator, Ms Lavanya, and all parents for their steady encouragement and support. A special note of thanks goes to our lifeguard, Mr Yaseen and our Swimming Coaches, Mr Surendra and Ms Anisha, whose guidance, commitment and care have been instrumental in building the confidence and success of our swimmers.



GROWING BRAVER AND STRONGER

A reflection by Grade 5 students

Camp is not only fun. It is also a place to grow, learn and connect, and our trip to Deccan Trails in Kurmalguda, Hyderabad, was one such experience. We reported to school at 7.00 am with our baggage and started our journey to the campsite by bus. After an entertaining ride, we arrived and then climbed up the hill to our enormous campsite.

We took part in ziplining, which was very scary but also thrilling, rock climbing, where only a few people reached the top and rang the bell, and the Burma Bridge crossing, which was not as high or as tricky as we had expected. During camp, we learned important life skills such as pitching tents, survival hiking in the deep woods and cooking food for ourselves. A very special part of our camp was a visit to a local government school. After we arrived, we played games with the children and then painted the school walls to make the building look fresh and new.

Our evenings were also fun, even though we were tired. On the first night, we gathered at the bonfire for a talent show where many people performed hilarious comedy acts. Afterwards, we returned to our tents and by 9.00 pm, we were all asleep. On the second evening, local dancers joined us at the bonfire and we had the chance to experience and enjoy their traditional dance. Camp games and the time we spent together helped us to strengthen our friendships and discover new things about ourselves and others. We felt proud of our achievements and we know we are now more courageous Grade 5 students, ready to take on future challenges.



INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS MEET OFF TO A STRONG START

The Academy's sports teams completed the first weekend of our Inter-School Sports Meet with commendable success. Sixteen schools and over 500 participants competed across nine events on 22 and 23 November. Except for the Senior Boys Cricket event, all competitions were completed over the two days. As we move into the second weekend of the Inter-School Sports Meet on 29 and 30 November, the remaining cricket, football and swimming events will take place. We look forward to welcoming a large number of participants once again and aim to complete all cricket and swimming events on Saturday, with the football finals scheduled for Sunday.



HERITAGE EDUCATION AT GHANPUR HILL FORT

Last weekend, students explored the historic Ghanpur Hill Fort in Wanaparthy district – a 13th-century fort built under the rule of Gona Ganapa Reddy and Recherla Padma Nayakulu. This ancient fortress witnessed epic battles between the Bahamanis, Vijayanagara, Bijapur and Qutb Shahi kingdoms. Today, old cannons, palace ruins and dramatic rock formations still whisper stories of its past. Students enjoyed hiking along the fort's scenic trails, discovering ancient ponds that once supplied the army with water, and taking in the natural beauty of the landscape. Through this experience, our students embodied the IB Learner Profile in action: inquirers exploring history first-hand, caring individuals protecting the environment and reflective thinkers connecting the past to our shared responsibility for the future.



EXPLORING FUTURE PATHWAYS

This year, our Head of College Counselling, Ms Pragati, has organised a series of university fairs and counselling sessions that have given students opportunities to connect directly with university representatives, explore international study options, understand admissions processes and strengthen their application skills.

On Thursday, students from Grades 10–12, together with their parents, attended a university fair focused on admissions to leading institutions in India and Europe. They engaged with representatives from several universities, gaining valuable insights into choosing courses and institutions that align with their interests, strengths and aspirations.

More universities from around the world are scheduled to visit the Academy throughout the academic year. These sessions play an important role in helping students and parents make informed, confident decisions about their future pathways.

THIS WEEK'S STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



CELEBRATING KARNAN'S SILVER AWARD

We are thrilled to share that Karnan, a Grade 8 student, has received a Silver Award in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2025 for his essay titled "The Sea Voyage to Samoa". *The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition* is the world's oldest international schools' writing competition. In his essay, Karnan vividly describes a voyage to Samoa, capturing his experiences on the cruise and a week of rich travel across the islands. This year, the competition received a record-breaking 53,434 entries from across the 56 member countries of the Commonwealth – a 53% increase from 2024 – making Karnan's achievement especially noteworthy. We encourage Karnan to continue expressing his ideas through writing and congratulate him on this outstanding achievement!



REIMAGINING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

This week, the Centre for Educational Research, Innovation and Training (CERT), in collaboration with our Head Librarian, Ms Madhu Bhargava, hosted 23 librarians from Ekalavya Model Residential Schools across Telangana for a three-day capacity-building programme. Module 1 of the programme offered 22 hours of training across three themes and was designed to be followed by ongoing support that builds confidence, reflective practice and peer learning in preparation for Module 2.

Over the three days, participants engaged in hands-on design activities and began developing comprehensive, year-round library programmes rooted in the needs of their school communities. They explored ways to cultivate national and international partnerships and were introduced to a curated book selection, showcased by local vendors, which offered fresh insights into building relevant collections. The final sessions focused on increasing the visibility of the library through digital tools and newsletters. The workshop concluded with a collaborative problem-solving discussion, which empowered participants to see themselves as leaders of innovation in their schools.



IMPORTANT NOTE – STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFETY

A message from our Head of Security, Mr Suresh Emandi

To ensure the safety of all students, strict checks are in place during drop-off and pick-up times.

All vehicles must come to a complete stop at the gate with windows lowered so that security staff can clearly verify every passenger. Students are released only after their identity and authorised permissions have been properly confirmed. No student may travel in any vehicle or bus without a valid out pass or prior approval.

All pass-based entries and exits continue to be managed exclusively through the Main Gate. These measures are in place to ensure that every child leaves the campus safely with the correct authorised adult.

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