



# AKA News

JUNE 2020



## Message from the Head of Academy

As we reach the end of the school year it is time to celebrate and thank everyone for the part they have played in making this year a success.

1 June marks 38 days of successful online learning. It has been more of a marathon than a sprint and has required resilience and persistence, but we are nearing the finish line. Students, parents and teachers have all been critical partners in this journey: thank you all for your efforts.

Teachers have been monitoring learning, assessing work and giving students feedback on their progress and reports will be going home at the end of the year as usual. Semester grades will not be awarded by teachers: the different circumstances students have faced have not provided a level playing field for all to be measured against. Teachers have instead been focusing their feedback on students' progress towards learning outcomes and standards. Learning is a continuous process not a single grade at the end of the year, and students will not be disadvantaged in any way when they return.

We are keeping a close eye on schools opening around the world to help us plan for our own reopening, and will be working throughout the summer to ensure we are ready for all eventualities.

“Education has never been tested like this before.... the world is just going to be between lockdowns for at least the foreseeable future, so I think it is incumbent on us to think – what is good learning and what do we as an IB want to espouse and stand behind,” said Siva Kumari, International Baccalaureate Director General.

When we do return it will not be back to business as usual – we will need to embrace a new normal where we use lessons learnt from this crisis to make us stronger. We must capitalise on the momentum of using ICT to assist learning and keep up with technology after the crisis to help us develop and adapt. Skills we currently focus on at the Academy such as resilience, self-regulation, the ability to make sense of information, and ask good questions independently, will need to be at the forefront of our teaching as going forward they will be critical, not just desirable, in future.

As we prepare for the start of a new year, we are also preparing how to celebrate those staff and students who are leaving us at the end of the year.

It is always sad to say goodbye to people who you have a connection with and who have made a positive difference in the lives of others – even harder when those goodbyes cannot be done face to face.

We send our best wishes to the following individuals, and want to thank them for their dedication and contributions to the development of the Academy. Good luck with your next step.

Mr Shouquot, DP Coordinator

Ms Khona, PYP Coordinator

Ms Nondi, MYP Coordinator

Ms Sangina, Russian and Literature teacher

Mrs Wanza, PYP Art teacher

Ms Juleen, Teaching Coach - English

Mr Frank, Choral Director

Ms Felister, Nurse

Ms Phylis, Librarian

Ms Samantha, University Counsellor

Mr Marcelino, Swim coach and HPE teacher

Ms Arria, Ms Anusha, Ms Aileen, Ms Sara and Ms Kainat, Academy Fellows

Ms Juliette, Temporary Teaching Assistant

A fond farewell also to Mr Bulemi (History teacher), Mr Mwololo (Drama and English teacher, Head of DP1) and Ms Sangale (Year 1 home room teacher) who have reached retirement age. We hope they enjoy a more relaxing time after 19 June.

With all endings, though, there are new beginnings and we are looking forward to introducing you to our new staff and welcoming them and the new students to the Academy in August.

In the meantime, stay safe.

Warm regards,

Ms Alison Hampshire

## TRIBUTE TO MR KILLEEN

It is with deep sadness that the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa shares the passing of George Killeen on 5 May 2020 after a brave battle with cancer. George worked at the Academy for 10 years from 2005 to 2015 where he served as the creativity, activity, service (CAS) coordinator, and art teacher in Senior School.

Senior School Principal Francis Kariuki remembers Mr Killeen, whom he was very close with, as a cheerful, humorous and generous person who interacted well with the community at AKA Mombasa. "We fondly remember him calling everyone 'buddy'. He loved Mombasa and generously supported those in need by empowering them. He was very passionate about art and always inspired and helped students to demonstrate their creative and innovative ways of solving problems in the community through the CAS programme. Farewell and rest in peace buddy."

"I knew Mr Killeen as my mentor while in Diploma 1 and 2. He literally got me up to Kasigau with the right blend of encouragement and tough love. He was a great listener, a creative soul, and one of the most empathetic people I'd ever met. Talking to him always reminded me that I was more than what others thought of me. More than that, he was there for me when no one else was. Thank you for everything you did for me and for our mentor group. You taught me how to be a great mentor; one that reminds her mentees to 'Go Get Educated' every day. Thank you, Mr Killeen." - Aileen Kimuhu, Academy Fellow and alumna.



“It was a pleasure to work with George; he mentored me when I was new at the Academy as an art teacher who had never taught the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. May he rest well.” - Mary Wanza, Art teacher.

“When cancer steals the life of someone who was real and caring like George, there are no words to describe. Be happy, buddy.” - Eugene Auka, IT technician and coach.

“Your life was art itself, just like the department you led. In you, one found the richness of life, just as art fills one with such richness, regardless of their current state of being. You made life beautiful and you lived it well. Rest in peace our dear ‘Kil’n’.” - Jane Okello, registrar of students.

“George was full of joy and humility. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.” - Jimnah Kimani, Senior School administrator and basketball coach.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

## VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY



'Miles apart but together at heart' - The first ever virtual graduation ceremony was held to celebrate the achievements of the 67 exceptionally talented students of the Class of 2020. The graduating cohort has been offered over USD \$6 million in university scholarships and have admission offers to attend prestigious schools around the world.

[Read more](#)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SAMANTHA CARAS

For the past four years, Samantha Caras has been a University Counsellor at AKA Mombasa. While at the Academy, she restructured the University Counselling Programme to ensure that the students' diverse needs were always met. She has been described as a warm, open and candid individual who worked well with the

students.



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## RECENT NEWS

### **AKA Mombasa alumnus launches first-ever International Period Month**

**AKA Mombasa alumnus' organisation, Affordable and Accessible Sanitation for Women (AASW), teamed up with several partner organisations to launch the first-ever International Period Month.** Class of 2020 graduate, Ziyaan Virji, founded Affordable and Accessible Sanitation for Women (AASW) as part of his personal project in Year 10. For International Period Month, AASW is working to give 2,500 girls access to sanitary packages in Kenya and Tanzania in partnership with Diamond Trust Bank Kenya (DTB Kenya), Heels4pads, and Wezesha Binti Foundation.





### How the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa is ensuring the well-being of students

**As students continue to learn from home, the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa continues to prioritise their welfare during this difficult time.** The Academy's heads of student support and well-being, Nuala Alibhai and Minal Shah, have been actively reaching out to students and their families by establishing communication between students and their mentors to ensure they're doing well and keeping safe during this difficult time. The Academy has placed high importance on providing parents and students the support they need.





*"We must rise above the antiquated approaches of earlier days and instead infuse our students with what I would call three "A's" of modern learning - the spirit of anticipation, the spirit of adaptation and the spirit of adventure. This will happen best in learning environments which are both serious and focused on the one hand, but which are also joyous and inspiring places, operating on the cutting edge of pedagogy and knowledge."*

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His Highness the Aga Khan  
The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, 2007



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## THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY

MOMBASA

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