



# AKA News

MAY 2020



## Message from the Head of Academy

### What really matters?

So, we're back from the break and the distance learning continues. The two-week break allowed for a bit of reflection for me, as I'm sure it did probably for many of us.

So what have we learned so far? We know that in a distance learning situation we can never 'cover' as much content as we would have in the classroom. This is doubly the case in our current situation where the whole community is feeling uncertain and anxious about where the world is headed.

We know that not everyone has the same access to technology and that every student and teacher's home environment is different. Some teachers are trying to support their own children's learning while also supporting their students. Some are

working from their kitchen table, others have a spare room turned into a virtual classroom. We have delivered desks and whiteboards to teacher's homes and provided them with sufficient data plans so they can continue to do their jobs and support the learners.

Some students have also struggled with the demands of working at home. Some find it difficult to find space to concentrate in a busy household, others are having power outages and internet issues, others are finding it hard to be self-managing and learn independently. It can be difficult for students who learn by talking to be motivated without the support of their peers and the structure of the real life school environment. As a result teachers are working longer hours catching up with those students who missed "lessons" or did not submit assignments or are in a different time zones and they are finding alternative means of supporting them, so they do not fall behind.

For other students however, distance learning has helped them discover their voice, which they might not have had in the classroom with their peers. Others have thrived in the situation where they can work more flexibly without the traditional constraints of the school bell. They have risen to the challenge of independent learning, using problem-solving strategies to research and look for ways to enhance their understanding, with guidance from their teachers.

In many ways, this distance learning experience is a new opportunity for us as a school and as a community – an opportunity to continue to ask the question 'What really matters?'

What really matters is that we continue to focus on engagement more than evaluation.

What really matters is that we continue to connect with each other and be patient.

What really matters is that we support our students to build skills. Resilience, collaboration, communication, problem-solving and self-management skills are transferable skills that will help them succeed in life and in learning when school reopens.

Ms Alison Hampshire

## CHAI CHAT: MR SHOUQUOT HUSSAIN

Take a look at our new [video](#) series "Chai Chat", where we speak to our teachers



about different topics. Our first video features Diploma Programme Coordinator Shouquot Hussain, who discusses one of his favourite books, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. *"Reading introduces you to cultures, conflicts and people you wouldn't have access to or wouldn't otherwise know."* - Mr Shouquot



**Chai Chat**  
with Mr Shouquot Hussain

## MESSAGE FROM THE SRC



**With love from your SRC**

The entire Student Representative Council (SRC) has been working hard with teachers to ensure all students are adapting well to online learning and this lockdown period. Take a look at this [video](#) our SRC created for our students with tips on what to do at home during the lockdown. Be on the lookout for their next video!

## ALUM SPOTLIGHT: ALEESHA SULEMAN

For Aleesha Suleman, a 2012 alumna of AKA Mombasa, former staff member and now a graduate student at the University College London (UCL) in Qatar, her one enduring dream has been to return to Kenya after completing her education and give back to her community. For her, working towards the development of your home country country is an important responsibility.



[Read more](#)

## RECENT NEWS

## Caring for each other during COVID-19

**On 16 April 2020, the wellbeing committee, a part of the Student Representative Council, surprised the students remaining on campus with muffins and personalised letters.** The students, who could not go home due not having a suitable working environment at home or international borders being closed, were very happy and appreciative of their letters written by their peers and the muffins.



## A message of hope

**Our students from Tajikistan created a "message of hope" video.** As there is uncertainty around the world during this pandemic, our students express how we are all in this together and that we will get through this together.



“Although the world is full  
of struggle, it is also full  
of overcoming it.”

Helen Keller



Tips from AKA Maputo's 5-year-old hand washing expert for fighting against COVID-19!

**Meet Alijon - he's going to teach you how to fight COVID-19.** By following this step-by-step hand washing process, you will keep you and your loved ones safe during this time.



*"As the young men and women from this Aga Khan Academy, and over time from its sister schools, grow and assume leadership in their societies, it is my hope that it will be members of this new generation who, driven by their own wide knowledge and inspiration, will change their societies; that they will gradually replace many of the external forces that appear, and sometimes seek, to control our destinies."*

---

His Highness the Aga Khan  
The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa



---

## THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY

MOMBASA

---

**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. BOX 90066-80100, Mbuyuni Road  
Kizingo, Mombasa, Kenya

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).