



7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our 2018 – 2019 academic year at the Academy. I hope you and your families had an enjoyable summer and I am looking forward to getting to know you all as the year progresses.

I firmly believe that the parent-teacher partnership is vital to your child's success in school. By working together, we can support them in being actively engaged in a purposeful learning process. Teaching is the greatest profession in the world. It is about developing trusting relationships and nurturing young people to help them to discover their passion in life. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow and it is our joint responsibility to help all young people develop their gifts and become the best that they can be. Let us join in their journey together.

It was pleasing to see many of you at the Parent Information Evening on Thursday 23rd August, and I hope you found the meeting beneficial in terms of informing you about the overview of your child's academic programme for the year, and the daily and weekly routines. Year Level curriculum documents were emailed to you on Friday 24th August. If you require any clarification on the information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Jungle Gym playground is open!!!

This week we were able to officially allow students onto the new playground. I know it has been a long time in between the planning and completed installation for the Junior School, so it was wonderful to see so many excited and enthusiastic students trying out all the different sections. To ensure our students safety, grade levels have been allocated particular break times this week and Ms. Fridah, our PE teacher, is talking to the students about safety and providing the individual classes with some time on the playground during lessons.

Student Assessments

The beginning of a new school year is an ideal time to assess students and get to know their strengths and areas they need improvement. Other than the internal class assessments, we have also subscribed to InCAS for external assessments, from Durham University's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) <http://www.cem.org/about-us>. The InCAS primary assessment is a computer-adaptive assessment designed to help teachers identify each individual's profile, which helps them in planning teaching and learning. Each module takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and includes Reading, Spelling, Math and Mental Arithmetic. For more information, you can go to the link: <http://www.cem.org/incas>. The CEM data is for the school's internal use, only. We will be conducting CEM tests for the Junior School, this month.



Student Representative Council – 2018-19

Central to the Academy's vision is to provide opportunities for students to nurture leadership skills within themselves and their peers, all with the ultimate goal of creating an engaged, proactive and holistically minded student body. Being part of the Student Representative Council will allow the students to take an active role in the well-being and learning of their peers. They will work closely with the SRC Patron and the School Leadership team. The process for the 2018-2019 Student Representative Council nominations, campaigns and elections will begin soon. We have had an assembly to inform the students about the election process.

Elected positions in the SRC are:

- Executive Committee (Year 5 students – one position each for male and female) – President, representatives for Academic, Action, Expression, and Citizenship
- House Captains (Year 4 - a male and female student for each House): Green/Falcon, Yellow/Eagle, Red/Hawk, Blue/Ravens
- Class Representatives – 2 students for each year level, Year 1 - 5

Your child may be interested in being an SRC contender. The interested students will get a package with information such as the SRC Constitution and nomination form. Please help your child to read the sections carefully, especially the ones that define the roles and responsibilities of the position they are interested in and the rules and regulations that they will need to adhere to.

If your child is elected to any of the above positions, he/she will need to commit to attend weekly meetings that will happen during the Monday enrichment time. This will allow for collaborative meetings as well as further developing their leadership skills. This will mean that he/she will not attend any Monday clubs from 24th of September, for the academic year. During school events such as Arts week etc, the SRC will use the time to work with teachers and students, for the event.

PYP Parent Workshop – Thursday 13th August 2018

We organise PYP workshops to share with you information on the Junior School Programme. We will begin the first workshop with *An Introduction to the Primary Years Programme*, targeted to parents new to the International Baccalaureate (IB). We also invite parents who have been at the school, to attend, if they wish to have a refresher of the PYP. This will take place on **Thursday 13th September at 5.00pm to 6.30pm**, in the Junior School Library.

School Timings and Punctuality

The school day starts at 7.40am, when the bell rings. Students should arrive at school no later than this time to be present for assemblies or announcements, or to gather together to welcome them for the day and to start lessons promptly at 8.00am. A student's late arrival to class interrupts the on-going lesson, as well as he/she taking time to get settled and catch up with the rest of the class. To those whom it may concern, please ensure your child is at school on time.

Student Safety

The safety of your child and all children in our school is very important to us. During school hours, (7.30am – 3.00pm) we have a duty of care to ensure that there is supervision for all the students at all times. Staff members are on duty at various locations before and after school and during the morning and lunch breaks. However, after those times teachers are involved in clubs, professional development and other meetings at the end of the school day and **cannot** take responsibility for



your child during this time. Your child / children need to be collected from school **promptly** at the end of the school day, by **3.00pm**, except on days when there is the enrichment clubs when they should depart the campus by **4.00pm**.

If your child is participating in LAMDA, they should be collected immediately their session has finished at the following times:

Wednesday: Year 1 at 3.30pm

Year 3 at 4.15pm

Year 5 at 5.00pm

Thursday: Year 2 at 3.30pm

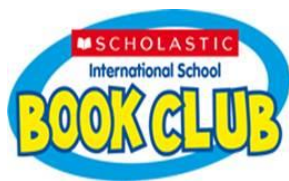
Year 4 at 4.15pm

Your child's safety and security is our priority. **No child/children should be left to play unsupervised at school at the end of any school day.**

- children should be collected on time at the end of the school day
- children should be collected inside the school gates
- parents/drivers should park their cars on campus to collect the child rather than wait outside the main gate
- a child should know who is collecting him/her

Your support is needed to maintain a safe and secure environment for all children.

International School Book Club – September 2018



The Scholastic International School Book Club (ISBC) has sent us a new Book Club selection of quality children's books. The books they offer are carefully chosen to get children reading for pleasure. For every 1 US dollar that parents spend on the school's Book Club order, ISBC donates 20% in free books back to the school, which go into the Library. Your child will have received an ISBC catalogue and order form. If you wish to buy any of the books, learning resources or stationery items, please return the order form and payment in cash or cheque, (payable to the school), by 20th September, at the latest.

Kenya Music Festival 2018

We are pleased to inform you that the Academy achieved excellent results in the 2018 Kenya Music Festival. Twenty four students from Year 1 to 8 competed at the sub-county, county and regional events, in June and July, and finally with 18 students participating in the nationals in Nyeri, last month. Well done to the students who practised long hours during the last term and over the school holidays, and were rewarded with several leading positions and trophies. This also included two students being invited to perform a duet at the final festival gala in Nyeri, on Thursday 16th August, and to His Excellency the President, Uhuru Kenyatta, at State House, Nyeri, on Friday 17th August.

Congratulations to all the 2018 music festival participants! Thank you parents for your invaluable support, in having your child attend rehearsals over the holidays, and accompanying him/her to the events in Mombasa, Voi and Nyeri, where possible. We thank Mr. Philip for making it happen, and to Ms. Hope who chaperoned, encouraged and supported the students throughout, to the finals.



At State House, Nyeri



The Junior Choir at Dedan Kimathi Institute of Technology, Nyeri



KMF 2018



Attached is a document with our faculty and staff profiles, for you to get to know our Junior School team. Attached also is the Junior School calendar and the Academy Year Calendar for 2018-19, and a list of the stationery your child will require, during the year.

Dates for your diary

SEPTEMBER 2018			
Monday	3rd	SRC Election Process begins	
Thursday	13th	Parent Workshop - Introduction to the PYP	5.00pm - 6.30pm
Friday	21st	SRC Elections	
Saturday & Sunday	22nd - 23rd	CASA Novice Swimming Gala	
Friday	28th	Unit 1 ends	
OCTOBER 2018			
Monday	1st	Unit 2 Starts	
Thursday	4th	Parent Teacher Conferences (no classes)	8.00am – 4.00pm
Friday	5th	Parent Teacher Conferences (no classes)	8.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday	6th	U11 & U 14 Badminton Tournament	8.30am
Monday - Friday	8th - 19th	School Holiday	
Friday - Sunday	12th - 14th	CASA Open & Age Group Swimming Champs +10	
Friday - Sunday	19th - 21st	KSF National Open & Age Group Swimming Ch.	
Monday	22nd	Enrichment for Arts Week Begins	
Saturday	27th	Open Boys Oshwal Cricket Tournament – (A)	8.30am

Best regards,

Annia Dear
Principal, Junior School

