



26th August 2016

Dear Parents,

At the end of two weeks since the students reported to school, we can say that the 2016-17 academic year has started well. All students have now settled down into the school routine both in class and residences and they are gearing towards starting their enrichment programme. We welcomed over one hundred new students and together with our continuing students, we now have about four hundred and eighty seven students, of whom two hundred and fifty six are residential. We welcome all the new parents who have joined the school this year. Indeed, we have experienced growth in numbers, especially in DP1 where we have eighty students. We would like to thank you all for the confidence you have on us to offer quality education to your children. In addition, we have welcomed four new teachers and three Academy fellows. We also have a new Learning Support Unit coordinator and Student Leadership Coordinator. Also joining us from our sister Academy, Aga Khan Academy, Maputo are four teachers who are joining our Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP). I would like to introduce them to you together with existing teachers in the attached document containing bios for each one of them. They will be working with your children throughout this year and you will have an opportunity to interact with them both online and in person whenever you visit the Academy.

During the break, our students participated in the Kenya Music Festival and we kept you updated on the results up to the regional level. The national competition took place during the time we were beginning the academic year and attached to this letter are the results. We are really proud of our students for the good results and for sacrificing part of their holiday to showcase their musical talents.

Last week, a group of ten students participated in the Giants of Africa basketball camp at Brookhouse Academy, Nairobi organized by the Toronto Raptors, an NBA team in the USA. This was a second invitation following last year's invite that saw three of our students participate and embrace this rare opportunity. We believe the three boys transformed and made a positive impact on the rest of our team, which led to the good results in the school championships in April. The exceptional skill the three boys exhibited from last year's camp contributed to this year's invite for 10 out of 50 slots. Based on this, we are expecting a great basketball season in 2017!



We will continue to use ManageBac as a platform for communication between students, teachers and parents. For new parents, we are in the process of giving you access and you will receive a welcome email from ManageBac soon. For continuing parents, access remains as it was last year. For any queries or problems accessing your accounts, please contact Mr. Paul Davis on paul.davis@agakhanacademies.org

Student life

We are now in our second week and we are excited to share great news of a wonderful orientation weekend for the residential students and orientation for the new students last week. We welcomed new students both in the residences and in the day school. After spending the summer months on the quiet campus, it is wonderful to have all the faces – both new and old – back on-campus.

Our orientation programs led by our own students contributed to a relaxed and quick settling-in process for most of the new students. The first week is always a tough one for the students to adjust to, but by and large the reports we are receiving and the students that I have met show that they are handling the new environment very well. We are currently concentrating on getting the students into the routine of the Academy.

Residences

It is our pleasure to introduce and welcome the new residential team. Mr. Wafula is our new Residential Manager with Mr. Wamurwa taking over Block 5 Dorm Master's position. The new Dorm Parents joining us include; Ms. Cynthia, Ms. Aleesha, Ms. Samantha, Ms. Fatuma, Ms. Zohra, Ms. Kauthar, Mr. Ojuma and Dr. Orwe.

The new students were treated to a tour of Mama Ngina Mombasa Cultural Festival and they enjoyed the feel of coastal Mombasa. Several excursion destinations have been planned for most of the weekends and we hope our new students will take advantage of them.

House Competitions

Last year Ravens (Blue House) emerged first in the house competitions and we hope to see strong competition this year as well. We have made some modifications to house activities this year to encourage greater participation and strong house spirit. The quiz competition on 30th Sept. 2016 will be our first house event this term.

Enrichment

Developing the whole person is critical to us. The enrichment programme is designed to allow our students to develop other aspects of themselves in addition to their cognitive development. Our MYP students therefore are encouraged to sign up for at least two action activities, two creativity activities, and two citizenship activities in a year. We expect your son/daughter to sign up for at least two activities in the first trimester. DP1 students will satisfy both their enrichment and Diploma requirements by starting their Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) programme while DP2 students will continue with their programme.

The school has an arrangement with external coaches to provide additional enrichment activities, which begin on Monday 29th August 2016, with the exception of LAMDA which began this week.

Payment for Tennis and Skating is to be made to the Bursar's office within a month of the start of the activity.

Activity	Coach/Lead	Day	Time	Fee this term (12 weeks)
Tennis	Peter Rakuom	Tues / Thurs	2.45pm – 3.45pm 4:00 - 5:00 (high level)	Kshs. 6,000/= once a week or 12,000/= twice a week
Skating	James Mwangi	Tues	2.45pm – 3.45pm	6,000/= (once a week)
LAMDA	Jean Hughes	Wed/Thur	As scheduled	Contact Mrs. Hughes

Important points to note:

- Anticipate ups and downs while your child gets settled.
- Keep in touch with your child and the school.
- Learn the schools grading and reporting system (ManageBac).
- Encourage your child to get involved in the different programme at the Academy.
- Keep in touch with your child’s Mentor and/or Dorm Parent.

“[The students] will be pushed out of their comfort zone, but it is outside of the zone of the familiar that their greatest growth will occur.”

Diploma Programme

The new academic year has started with a resounding sense of achievement and positivity for the DP. The average for the class of 2016, has adjusted slightly upwards to 34.32 from 34.28 after successful remarks and we celebrate this achievement.

The current DP class of 2017 hit the ground running with a test in each subject on the very first day of class, and followed that up by submitting their Extended Essay first drafts bang on deadline – without a single defaulter. And now they are gearing up for their weekly tests cycle and their Internal Assessments. The process of university applications has picked pace with a focus on submission of finer drafts of Personal Statements and teachers are finalizing the Recommendation Letters

The DP1s have finally settled in well, having established their subject choices both in terms of groups and levels – aligned duly with their abilities and career choices. The process has been supported and navigated by the team of Mentors, Coordinators and Year Level Leaders, and also the University Counselling Department. The three-day orientation introduced them to all aspects of the program, and also helped them to bond. To further cement that bond, overcome perceived limitations and boost their sense of self, they are now on an extended weekend camp in Mt Kasigau, near Tsavo West. The camp will get them to hike up and summit Mt Kasigau, and abseil from a cliff.

MYP Programme

The MYP Programme has continued to expand and this year we welcome 37 new students in Year 6 to 9 from schools across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Eight of these students have joined us in Year 6, eleven in Year 7, ten in Year 8 and eight in Year 9. The students are settling-in well. We also welcome 37 students from our Junior School. They have just completed five years of PYP.

The results of the first Year 10 cohort in the school to sit for the eAssessments were released on 1st August 2016 and their average score was 4.87 out of a possible 7 with 10% of the students achieving a mean score of 6 and above. This was a special year because they were the first cohort to sit for on-screen examinations. A total of 68 students sat for the eAssessments in Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Individuals and Societies. They also completed e-Portfolio in Drama, Visual Art, Design, Music and Physical and Health Education. The entire cohort passed in their Personal Project with a mean score of 5.21.

The top student in the exams was Saumya Gupta who scored 76 out of a total of 77. She attained a 7 in all her subjects and a 6 in her Personal Project. Saumya excelled both in academics as well as in music, where she represented Mombasa County at the national level Kenya Music Festival where she emerged top in piano recital.

Another student who did exceptionally well was Kamila Janmohamed, who scored 72 out of a total of 77. Kamila scored 7 in Swahili, Chemistry, Biology, Extended Mathematics, Individuals and Societies and Interdisciplinary Paper, and 6 in English, Music, PHE, Design and Personal Project.

Upcoming events

26th to 28th August 2016 – DP1 Mt. Kasigau camping trip

29th August 2016 – Enrichment programme start

2nd September – MYP & DP Medal of Honor Awards

26th September – Settling-in reports for all new students

27th and 28th September – ISA tests for Years 6-10

Have an enjoyable weekend!

Kind regards,



Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School