



12th February 2017

Dear Parents,

The last three weeks have been busy with various activities. One key occasion that took place was the Semester One awards ceremony which recognizes the academic achievement of our students. We would like to appreciate those of you who were able to join us for the celebrations. We awarded about 135 honours certificates to 63 students across Middle Years Programme (MYP) and 72 in Diploma Programme (DP). This is commendable and we continue to encourage our students to aim at joining the honours list because it is open to all. We urge you to continue encouraging them to continue pursuing academic excellence for we believe they have the potential.

Diploma Programme

DP2

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) component is done and dusted now, with both the presentation and the essay completed and submitted, along with the candidate reflection forms. Students are now completing the concluding aspect of their essays, which is putting them through the 'Turnitin' software for a plagiarism check.

The next big event for them now is the advent of mock examinations, which will run from 27th February to 8th March for the whole cohort. The mocks for the online course subjects, Psychology and ITGS will take place on 13th and 14th February 2017. Therefore all energies are geared towards these examinations. However, Internal Assessment (IA) submission deadlines are also happening for most subjects making this the busiest leg of their DP journey, in terms of submission deadlines. With this in mind, the faculty members are doing their best to support the students, both academically and emotionally.

The DP2 Parents' evening to discuss mock exam performances and advise on how best to support students thereon will happen on 20th March 2017.

DP1

The Extended Essay (EE) journey has well and truly begun for these students. They have all received confirmations about who their supervisors will be, and their subjects have been approved. They have also signed the EE contract form, along with their supervisors. The next 10 months will be a time for exploration, research, analysis and evaluation – and needless to say, growth.

The traditional Annual Production that the cohort collectively prepares for and performs is now underway fully. They will be performing the multiple award winning musical 'In the Heights', which is an exploration of resilience and the power of family in times of racial and gender inequality – a very relevant premise contextually for this young generation. The date of performance is Friday, 10th March 2017.

Student Life

The first Semester reports were released at the end of January 2017. Most of our students did exceptionally well and they were recognized during our 1st Semester Awards ceremony. Other students gave their best effort but did not make it to the honours; they too need to hear positive



comments from you as parents for their effort. The mentors have been tasked to work with all students under their care to inspire them and set goals for the 2nd semester that will allow them to excel.

Enrichment programme

Students signed up for the new enrichment activities when we returned from December break. We encourage you to check with your children which enrichment they signed for and have conversations on how they are being impacted.

House Events

Hawks House emerged the winners for the debating competition held on the 27th January 2017. Our next house competitions are swimming and the fashion show to take place on the 3rd March and 17th March respectively.

Student's Leadership

We continue to see our students provide leadership in different areas in our day to day programmes. The SRC continues to perform their role effectively as a link between faculty and students. They organized a day students town hall, where they responded to students' questions satisfactorily. We have seen students develop their leadership skills in sports, enrichment and community service activities. We constantly remind our students that true leadership rests in the hands of those who make things happen and it is this philosophy of leadership, that we strive to teach them service beyond self.

Residential

The dorm captains and the residential manager plan and manage the weekend evening programme for the residential students. They meet every Tuesday evening to plan, and take feedback to improve the residential programme. It is their commitment that ensures the residential weekend programme continues function seamlessly. Our annual Taita expedition is scheduled to take place from 23rd to 26th February 2017 where the year 6 and 7 students bond while enjoying hiking Taita Hills together.

Sports

The under19 football team continue doing well in the league, winning two of their recent matches. We also celebrate the selection of Mansur Khan to represent Kenya in CANA Zone IV swimming competition in Zimbabwe happening from 13th to 20th February 2017. Karan Khagram has also been selected to participate in Africa Junior Swimming Championships in Egypt happening from 25th March to 1st April 2017.

Middle Years Programme

In year 6, we received 7 new students in our year group; four girls and three boys, who are settling well so far. The year 6 SRC team also organized their first bonding activity, a movie night that was well attended and which the students enjoyed and are therefore, looking forward to the next event! In Personal Social Health Education, the students have started a new series of lessons on "Self-esteem" where they will be talking about themselves, exploring their strengths and learning to improve their weaknesses.

The meeting with year 6 parent's on Thursday, 26th of January went well and was an opportune moment to interact with parents and to share with them how the year 6 students are settling in senior school so far.

In year 7, we welcomed two new students and as a way of building bonds and positive relationships in the year group, the SRC organized a party which was held in the evening of 24th January 2017. Students enjoyed the experience as they engaged in bonding activities and dancing.



In year 8, we welcomed five new students. On 23rd January 2017, 'The Face to Faith' programme culminated with students having video conferences with their counterparts from other regions of the world, sharing on life skills learnt and in particular reinforcing the Pluralism strand. During the conferences our students were able to engage and discuss with others very well and it was an awesome moment for them. The conferences were divided into 3 sessions and participating schools were drawn from Philippines, India, Ukraine and USA.

On 27th January 2017 students celebrated a 'movie night.' which was an SRC organized event aimed at building friendships and harmony among the Year 8 students. It was very successful.

In year 9, Student Representative Council organized a Movie Night for the Year 9 Students on Friday 20th January 2017. This was an opportunity for the students to have a relaxed and social time with their peers as they watch a movie together. The event was quite successful

The students have been covering stereotypes in their leadership lessons which will culminate into a project by the end of February.

As part of our quest to promote teamwork and appreciation of Kenya's natural diversity the school has organized a trip for the year 9 class to Nairobi scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 1st to Saturday 4th March 2017. Students will spend the three days taking part in team building activities as well as visit places of valuable educational opportunities.

In Year 10, it has been a busy session so far especially in terms of working on their e-portfolios. On 20th January 2017, the year level team, VP MYP and Senior School Principal had fruitful discussions on issues affecting the year level. It focused on how to change their work ethic so as to prepare for e-assessments. It was also an opportunity for them to share their challenges especially in the light of departure of some teachers. The issues have since been solved and their classes are going on well. An improvement has been registered in the way the students are working although it is work in progress and constant discussions will continue.

The year level team also came up with a comprehensive calendar of events for the group. The program was aimed at helping the students to plan their time effectively as they prepare for upcoming e-assessments. This has been shared with the parents so as they can support them by encouraging and refocusing the student from home.



On Friday, 3rd February 2017, Year 10 students participated in the Personal Project exhibition where they showcased the projects they have been undertaking in the last 12 months. The Personal Project involves intensive research, planning, taking action and finally reflecting on the learning that has taken place. The students then write a 3500 word report that is marked internally and moderated externally. Through the Personal Project, students also have a chance to put into practice the Approaches to Learning skills that they are taught in the classroom. These include collaboration, organizational, reflection and thinking skills.

Some of the notable projects included those of Shashank Arvandan who presented a model for a solar powered airport for Mombasa, Suleiman Mwachizi who presented an electrostatic precipitator to control air pollution and Telvin Kameta who showcased a bump detector gadget that aims to reduce road accidents.

Makande Girls High school and Aga Khan High school students who attended the exhibition were impressed by the innovative ideas and the construction of viable solutions that were presented by the 16 year olds.



This year's 23rd Annual Middle School Model United Nations (MSMUN) conference was held from Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th January 2017 and a group of sixteen students participated actively in the conference. They demonstrated very good communication, critical thinking and reflection skills whenever they stepped on the podium to speak. Apart from what they were able to show case, they also learnt a lot in relation to international issues that require collaboration. To have a glimpse of how our students fared on, follow the link below for some of the videos:



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2-zuLE7R7p8TUhVaDIwaC1EdE0>

On Monday 13th February 2017, we will start the anti-bullying week where the school in conjunction with SRC will undertake activities to create awareness on how to discourage this destructive behaviour. As a parent you can play a role in this and below is a note about bullying from our School Psychologist giving some pointers as to what you can do:

You've come home after a long, hot day from work, and your child is throwing a tantrum on how he's been made fun of his name, more often than not the first reactions sound something like:

1. *Oh, just ignore them!*
2. *You have a beautiful name*
3. *Who's he to say that, look at his name!*

More often than not, as a parent, we tend to brush it away. It just seems so petty. We may even (and forgive yourself if you!), wish they would just suck it up. What's the big deal?

*Remember, **bullying is always serious.** For you, maybe it doesn't even count as bullying, but if your child is struggling with the scenario, try and use that as a basis to gauge the severity. Let your child's feelings be the judge of how to approach it. When you do this, you will be able to empathize with your child. You must let you child see that if they take it seriously, so do you!*

Teaching them to hit back or ignore might not be the best 'get-backs.' Sometimes, we also feel that if intervene and confront the parents of the bullies, it will arrest the situation. Take caution here. If another parent comes up to you and reports that your child has been bullying theirs, you will quick to come to their defence, especially if this is done publicly.



*The best ammunition for children is **confidence**. Teaching them to stand up confidently, making eye contact and making a quick change of conversation can do wonders. This equips your child with self-esteem; the ability to be confident about themselves. When they have this, they have won half the battle. This is something that can be developed even before they experience the first bully.*

Please note that the fault is neither theirs, nor in your parenting, if they get bullied. Please be sure to bring forward any concerns you might have to the school. We can work with you in supporting your children.

Upcoming events

14th February – Settling report for new students released to parents

20th to 22nd February – IB Multi programme Evaluation visit

20th to 25th February – EA MUN trip to Nairobi

21st February – French Development Agency (AFD) representatives visit the Academy

23rd to 26th February – Taita expedition by residential students

23rd to 26th February – February break (Residential students return by 26th)

27th February to 8th March – DP2 Mock examinations

1st to 8th March – Year 10 Mock examinations

1st to 3rd March – Book Fair

3rd March – Inter-House Swimming Competition

Have a wonderful week!



Kind regards,
Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School