



# Academy Senior School Newsletter

Greetings and welcome to the new academic year 2018-19!

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*Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, Head of Academy*



A very warm welcome to all our new and returning students, staff and parents. Although we were on vacation, life at the Academy did not stop. Plenty of maintenance work took place around campus, and for three weeks in July we had the annual Global Encounters summer camp, bringing 60 students from over 30 countries together with a focus on service, leadership and global citizenship.

Class of 2018 students received their IB Diplomas at the beginning of July, with our highest achievers scoring a 42 out of a possible 45. I would like to congratulate all our students and staff for the excellent results, both in the Diploma and in the e-assessments. I wish our alumni all the best as they carry on to university in the next few months, and to everyone else: may you have a year full of inquiry, learning and wisdom.

## *Aaron Jacob, Academy Senior School Principal*

The start of year is always a moment of expectation and excitement for all of us. It is a mixed bag of emotions for new students, and a happy time for returning students. There is a lot of apprehension amongst those who are moving from the Middle Years Programme to the Diploma Programme. Certainly a sense of suspense and anticipation is involved for any student that is all of the above and joining the residential programme. We look forward to this new beginning!

Our MYP and DP results have proved that we have grown from strength to strength and our teachers are here to make a difference. Our Diploma students spent at least part of their vacation completing their Summer Service Internships in various non-profits around the country, using these opportunities to make a difference.

My request to the day scholars: please leave your mobile phones at home, as this is becoming a concern for child safety especially with the random use of social media. The safety of your children is our priority and we will always do everything we can to keep your children safe, healthy and happy.

Another issue that I would like parents to address is the regular and timely attendance of your children. This is something that continues to concern us, especially before the end of term and the start of term. The academic calendar, [which you can access here](#), should assist in planning your child's departure and arrival. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions!



Three Diploma Programme students - Nabil Patel and Rudra Potluri from the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad and Elya Djaffar from the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, accompanied by Economics faculty Jina Saha, are currently attending the Ryerson DMZ Basecamp summer programme. The camp, an intensive six-week programme for young entrepreneurs at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, started on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and is organised by the DMZ Sandbox, an extension of the Ryerson University initiative to provide a real-world space for future entrepreneurs from high schools and colleges. [Click here to read more.](#)

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*Introducing our new faculty...*



- **Surya Prakash Vemparala** is a passionate ITGS & Design teacher, who has worked with the best international schools in India and abroad. He has been teaching technology related subjects for many years, and is a certified IBO examiner and workshop leader.
- **Isabelle Needham-Didsbury** joins us from England as full-time residential counsellor. Her primary goal in life is to be of service to others and to create meaningful relationships, which support individuals to lead happier, more fulfilling lives that enable them to flourish. Prior to training as a counselling psychologist, Isabelle completed her Linguistics PhD at University College London.
- **Saikrishna Ranga** joins us as the Telugu teacher across the Junior and Senior schools. Sai completed his Bachelor's in Oriental Languages from Osmania University and a Masters in Telugu from the University of Hyderabad. He has over eight years of experience teaching across various curricula.
- **Nishi Prasad** is our new Visual Arts teacher who will be involved with the PYP & MYP. She is from Ranchi, Jharkhand, but has come to the Academy from Pune where she worked with Symbiosis International School for several years. She has 12 years of IB experience and holds an MBA in marketing.
- **John Bussenschutt** is the Academy's new Master Teacher - Residential. His previous positions have included leading the boarding and residential programmes at schools in Australia, the Netherlands and India. He is extremely passionate about education, especially working with young people and staff in residential education.
- **Purushothaman J** will be joining as Maths faculty. With a M.Sc and Master's in Education, Purushothaman has over eight years experience teaching the IB MYP and DP. He likes acting and is a lifelong learner, willing to learn and unlearn to make his practice perfect.
- **Sarah Louisa Dazeley** is the new addition to the music department, and she will teach across PYP and MYP. Originally from the UK, Louisa joins us from France where she was teaching music for the past nine years. Her main instrument is the viola. She likes cool weather but despite this, is delighted to be in Hyderabad!
- **George MacPherson** is thrilled to join the Academy as a drama and media studies teacher from Mossbourne Community Academy in London where he taught English, Media Studies and Drama. Before that he was the founder and Executive Producer of youth theatre company Clay & Diamonds, working throughout the UK and internationally with partners including the British Film Institute and National Trust.

## *2018-19 Grade Leaders & Coordinators*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Leader</b>
6	Sudha Dutta
7	Saloni Chesney
8	Anandita Dutta
9	Arpita Trivedi
10	Priyodarshini Das
DP1	Rajesh Kayiprath
DP2	Karuna Arya
<b>Coordinators</b>	
MYP Coordinator	Meenakshi Joshi
DP Coordinator	Sudipta Roy
Personal Project Coordinator	Shweta Deokar
Theory of Knowledge Coordinator	Sudeep Ghosh
Extended Essay Coordinator	Deeksha Pathak

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Coordinator	Venkat Reddy
Internship Coordinator	Pratibha Thimmaraya
Service and Action Coordinator	Honey Bhatia

Please feel free to contact the Grade Leaders for any query or concern about your children. The Managebac platform should be ready by this week and will be a useful tool for you to access information about your child's progress and for a detailed understanding of the curriculum, attendance and any other concerns.

### *International football camp taking place in October!*

An international football coaching camp is being organised from 8th - 19th October (during the mid-term break) for Academy students. Coaches will be coming from Canada and the United States. Details of this camp will be available by the second week of August, after which registrations will open.



### *Upcoming dates*

We start off with the first Saturday school on 11<sup>th</sup> August, with students getting to understand the MYP objectives for the year and also to know the campus and their teachers.

The Academy Enrichment Programme starts on Tuesday 14th August, with the emphasis this year being on sport and inter-house competitions which will be weaved into the programme.

Engage with us on social media! The Aga Khan Academies share fascinating stories, videos and photo galleries on all our social media pages. We also have two ongoing social media campaigns, the Academies Journeys and 60 Stories for 60 Years, which provide interactive and engaging insight into the unique Academies community. Be sure to follow, like and subscribe to our pages so you can stay up to date on all Academies news and never miss out on our exciting updates! Like us on Facebook: @AKAcademies | Follow us on Twitter: @AKAcademies | Subscribe on YouTube: Aga Khan Academies

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