



19th August 2016

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to the 2016 - 2017 Academic Year at the Aga Khan Academy. It has been a real joy to see your children back at school this week and when asked if they were pleased to be back, there was a big cheer from them! We extend a warm welcome to parents of our new Year 1 students at the Academy, as well as to four other students joining us in Years 2, 4 and 5.

In class this week



We also welcome new staff members to our teaching faculty:

- Ms Nuala Alibhai joins the Academy as the new Learning Support Coordinator.
- Mr Simon Ndaire joins us as a Junior School Music teacher and will be working closely with Mr Zacharia Makinga who is now teaching Music in the Middle Years Programme.
- Mr Kepha Obiri, Mr Titus Mutemi and Ms Fridah Gatwiri successfully completed their IB Teacher Preparation Programme with us and have been appointed as permanent full-time teachers.
- Mr Anthony Ndungu has been appointed as the Academy Head of Sports and fortunately, will still be teaching some lessons in the Junior School. He has also kept his office in our school and so will still be very present in the lives of our students!

Our sister school, The Aga Khan Academy, Mozambique is growing in numbers of students with the opening of the Middle Years programme next year. Here at the Junior School we have two of their teachers working with us this year, to gain further experience working in an established PYP school. Ms Atalia Matola will be working closely with Ms Evelyn and Ms Salima in Year 5. Mr Pinto Joao is joining the Year 4 team, teaching alongside Ms Michelle Perez.



Our Junior School staff have been back at school since early August and had a fruitful week preparing for the school year. I am most proud to have such a committed and dynamic team working with your children this year.

Junior School Faculty and staff for 2016 - 2017

The following table is a list of the teachers and administrative support staff working with your children this year:

Principal	Ms Isla Gordon
Vice- Principal/PYP Coordinator	Ms Khona Bhattacharjee
Year 1 team	Ms Leonida Sangale, Mr Andrew Jones (Teacher Support and & whole school Literacy Mentor), Ms Anne Weke, Mr John Mbindyo, Ms Attiya Ayoob
Year 2 team	Ms Enitta Olang', Mr Titus Mutemi, Ms Harsha Khataw, Ms Dorcas Kisilu, Ms Christine Robertson (Teacher Support and whole school Mathematics Mentor)
Year 3 team	Ms Hope Lumbukeni, Ms Ruth Msae
Year 4 team	Ms Michelle Perez, Ms Anuradha Mohsin, Mr Pinto Joao
Year 5 team	Ms Evelyn Awino, Ms Salima Nanji, Ms Atalia Matola
Kiswahili (Year 4 & 5)	Ms Esther Kariuki
Trans-Languaging and Kiswahili support	Mr Kepha Obiri
Music	Mr Simon Ndaire
IT	Mr Victor Wamurwa
Art	Ms Mary Wanza
Head of Sports (Academy)	Mr Anthony Ndungu
P.E.	Ms Fridah Gatwiri
Learning Commons (Librarian)	Ms Kristine Leabres
Learning Support	Ms Nuala Alibhai, Ms Amita Dave
Swimming	Mr Abdulmalik Abubakar, Mr Solomon Shingira
Administrative Support	Ms Rebecca Davis, Mr Tungwa Nyiro, Ms. Eunice Indulachi

Up-coming events

Parent Information Evening

Next Thursday, **25th August, 2016**, is the **Parent Information Evening** running from **5.00 – 7.00pm**. It is really important that you attend this event. There will be an opening session with the Junior School Leadership Team and our newly appointed Librarian, as well as two other sessions with your child's class teacher and the single subject teachers (Art, Music, IT, Kiswahili, P.E). The evening will start at the Commons at 5.00pm after which we will proceed to the Junior School.

Workshops for Parents

May I also draw your attention to the dates for upcoming workshops:

- Thursday 1st September, 8.00am – 9.30am: Introduction to the PYP (Library)
- Thursday 8th September, 5.00pm – 6.30pm: Introduction to the PYP (Library)



We recommend that all parents new to the Primary Years Programme (PYP) attend one of the sessions.

Calendar of Events for the year

Attached with this newsletter is a Calendar of Junior School Events for 2016 - 2017, as well as *Start of the Year Guidelines for Parents* with general information about daily Junior School routines. In July a summer mailing was sent to parents with information about the start of the year, as well as a list of various documents. We ask that, if you have not done so already, to return the medical information questionnaire about your child to the school office in hard copy or by email. It is really important that we have the most up-to-date information on file. We have attached with this newsletter, the documents which was sent out in July, to parents.

We also asked parents if they would be interested in us running an after-school programme, for which there would be a daily/weekly fee to cover costs, to let us know. This programme would include a snack, some outdoor activities, as well as reading/homework time and would run from after lessons/enrichment clubs until 5.00pm. Please email the office at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org if you would consider enrolling your child in this for one or more days of the week. With enough interest, we can pursue this service.

As per the calendar of events, Enrichment activities for Years 2 – 5 on a Monday and Tuesday are due to start the week of Monday 29th August 2016. Information on the activities will be shared with you next week.

LAMDA lessons will begin on **Wednesday 24th August**, on the following schedule:

Year 1	Wednesday	3.00pm – 3.45pm
Year 5	Wednesday	3.45pm – 4.45pm
Year 2 & 3	Thursday	2.50pm – 3.30pm
Year 4	Thursday	3.30pm – 4.15pm

For further LAMDA information, please contact Jean Hughes on Tel: 0733 626 264 or jean.hughes.007@gmail.com

I very much look forward to seeing you next week at the Information Evening and wish you and your children all a healthy, happy and fulfilling school year ahead.

With kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

Attachments

1. Start of the Year Guidelines for Parents at AKAM
2. Junior School Calendar of Events 2016-17
3. AKAM Calendar of Events 2016-17
4. AKAM Student Medical Information Form
5. Stationery requirements
6. AKAM Contact List Form
7. Car Sticker Request Form
8. New School Uniform supplier information

