

“What students know is no longer the most important measure of the quality of education. The true test is the ability to engage with what they do not know, and to work out a solution.”

- His Highness the Aga Khan at the opening of the Aga Khan School in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic, 2002

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KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN



AGA KHAN LYCÉE

Fall 2018

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English and Math Upgrading at AKL

AKL has recently introduced a number of strategies to upgrade English and Mathematics teaching and learning

The current English Language Programme at AKL is being upgraded to meet international standards. The upgrading process focuses on developing communication skills and setting up students for future academic and professional success.

This programme is already being implemented in grade 10 and 11

English medium classes. It provides students and faculty with exposure to modern and classical literature, native English speakers, and university lectures, among others. Over time, the programme will expand to lower grades across all mediums. Furthermore, all



UK-based math teachers and math teachers from AKL and AKS in Osh spent 6 days together developing AKES teachers' math pedagogy skills

faculty and staff will also engage in professional development that aims to upgrade their English language abilities. We will also be receiving new English language books that compliment our curriculum and aim to deepen our students' critical thinking skills and broaden their cultural awareness.

Simultaneously, AKL's math programme is also in a process of being upgraded across all mediums. It focuses on pedagogy and curriculum development, and aims to engage students across abilities and learning styles while creating more practical and applicable lessons.

To achieve these aims, the Aga Khan Lycée has recruited the assistance of two international specialists: first, Naseem Jaffar, a mathematics and pedagogy specialist and volunteer consultant

from the USA who also provides advice and training to the University of Central Asia (UCA); and second, William Phillips, a full-time English language and pedagogy specialist from Ireland. They will work to build and implement the courses in partnership with Cambridge University in the UK and UCA's SPCE in Khorog.

Furthermore, IPD expert Mamadnazarbekov Komil conducted a one-week course on Relevance Pedagogy for AKL staff. The course focused on developing new approaches for pedagogy and the holistic development of



1,050+

students enrolled at AKL in Grades 0-11

100%

Grade 11 State Exam pass rate

95%

of our 2018 graduating students were admitted to post secondary institutions

Welcome



Dear Parents and Guardians, Teachers and Students,

It is with pleasure that I resume my role as the director of AKL having been a proud director of this school for ten years following the foundation of our school. We are off to a great start to this academic year with many great accomplishments already under our belt. As you may have noticed, our school is undergoing many changes not only in its physical structure, but also in the programming that we are offering. We have set high standards for ourselves and we are committed to meeting them so that we can offer a holistic, high quality and relevant standard of education to our students and faculty. To achieve all of our goals, we rely on the close collaboration, support and contribution of parents and guardians, students and staff. We look forward to a wonderful rest of the year and to further fruitful endeavours. I wish you all good health and success in your academic work.

Muallim Davlat Khudonazarov

New Year, New Faces

Please join in us in welcoming the following staff to the AKES team in their new roles:

- Khudonazarov Davlatnazar** - School Principal
- Mansurov Mansur** - Vice Principal Academics
- Amonbekov Khiradjon** - Academic Administrator
- Mukairshoeva Mavzuna** - Professional Development Trainer - English Dept.
- Mirzoev Saidsho** - Learning Resource Centre Manager
- Mastonov Maston** - Facilities and Maintenance Officer
- Azizbekov Faromuz** - Physics Teacher
- Lutfisho Dunyobegim** - Tajik Language Teacher
- Musifshoeva Munisa** - English Language Teacher
- Mamadasanova Firuza** - Pre-Primary & English Teacher
- Atobekov Davlatmamad** - Chemistry Teacher



Over 300 Books in 30 Days

AKL student, Mizhgona Davlatova, wins first place in the Republican Bibliomathon Competition

How many books do you read every month...besides the ones you're supposed to read for school? One? Maybe two? How about more than 350? For Mizhgona Davlatova this is not an anomaly; rather, is it an accomplishment that led her to a first place finish at the Republican Bibliomathon competition held in Dushanbe, during this past summer break.

As part of the competition, students are judged on the number of books read and are quizzed by a panel on the content of some of the books. Participants presented the list of books they read to the panel, which must include pieces from classic Tajik-Persian literature, contemporary authors who sing of homeland, and at least four books on the history and culture of Tajikistan. Mizhgona's favourite book is entitled "The Four Dervishes".

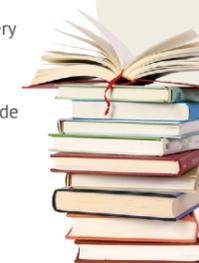
"I read because it lets me travel to new and different places," said Mizhgona. "I think that every AKL student should have the opportunity to read all of the books that I've read."

Beyond being an avid reader, Mizhgona is also a national chess champion and a seventh grade student in the Aga Khan Lycée's Tajik-medium stream.

"We are very proud of her and impressed, and we will also learn from her as her knowledge grows," said Sayli Navruzbekova, Head of the English Department at AKL.



Mizhgona Davlatova, a seventh grade student in AKL Tajik-medium stream, brings home a first place finish after competing in the Republican Bibliomathon competition. Her favourite book is a Tajik novel entitled "The Four Dervishes".



Class Olympiads (Grade 6-11)

10-19

Our students took part in Olympiads in the following subject areas: Tajik, Russian, English, Geography, Biology, History and Law, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and IT. Students then went on to compete at the Regional Olympiads in November 2018.

Visit of His Excellency Emomali Rahmon

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Students and teachers from AKL were busy with preparations for His Excellency President Rahmon's visit. A number of our students and teachers were selected to greet the President, with songs and dances on his visit to Badakhshan.



President's Day

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Students and staff participated in activities through which they learned about His Excellency President Rahmon and his leadership in Tajikistan. Our history teachers led seminars that explored how His Excellency President Rahmon has led Tajikistan through many challenging times.



Retrofit Updates

To ensure the health, safety, and security of building occupants and assets, a retrofitting process is currently underway at AKL. It tackles a number of key priority areas that will enhance and support learning and teaching at AKL. We are ensuring that building follows international best practice on seismic design, that there will always be clean and safe water available at our facilities, that they will be warm and comfortable for learning all year round, and that the building meets fire safety code.

Currently, there are 38 new classrooms in use in B, C, and D Blocks. Over last few months, we gained access to a new gymnasium, cafeteria, office spaces, art room, music room, computer and technology labs, and auditorium (currently in use as the Learning Resource Centre). The entire retrofitting process, including the building facades, will be completed by August 2019.



We would like to thank all of our students, families, and staff for their flexibility in working around new classroom arrangements, timetables, and other adjustments in order to accommodate this process.



A Summer Upgrading Programme participant works to grasp math concepts.

Summer Programmes

Over the summer break, AKL remained a buzzing hub of creativity and learning. We hosted a number of programmes that were accessible to students across Khorog and the surrounding districts.

Our Summer Upgrading Programmes supported grade 8 and 10 students' to develop their mathematics and English language skills. Students read novels, engaged in debates, and developed their critical thinking abilities. Moreover, students in the third to eighth grades had the opportunity to participate in the Let's Speak Programmes in which they used drama and acting as a medium through which to enhance and improve their English speaking, listening, and comprehension abilities. The programme concluded with theatrical performances put on by the students. Overall, approximately 300 students across GBAO benefitted from our summer programming.

Finally, AKES hosted six volunteers from Canada who led a variety of LEGO Robotics programmes in which students explored simple machines, programming, and tied their knowledge back to water use and distribution in the Khorog context. Watch our students in action here: <https://bit.ly/2PxCww5>



Into the Future...

AKL Launches the First Ever Maker's Space Programme in Tajikistan

Stanford University engineering students transformed the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) into a stimulating space for grade 5 students where they explored STEAM subjects. This project-based programme encourages participants to think creatively. Students were exposed to virtual reality technology, 3-D printing, solar energy harvesting, circuit building, and much more. The programmes concluded with an expo in which students shared projects that they created on their own that aimed to improve the quality of life in their communities and that imagined new futures. Watch our Makers here: <https://bit.ly/2zUqKe4>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- Sept. 1** - First Day of Classes
- Sept. 29** - Parents' Committee Meeting
- Oct. 4** - National Language Day
- Oct. 27** - Parents' Committee Meeting
- Oct. 31** - End of Term 1
- Nov. 1-6** - Fall Holiday (No School)
- Nov. 24** - Parents' Committee Meeting
- Dec. 27** - Grade 10 & 11 Class Celebrations
- Dec. 29** - Parents' Committee Meeting
- Jan. 1-10** - Winter Holidays (No School)

Check out our students' work in coding here:
<https://bit.ly/2LpF7JN>

Meet Our Student Leaders

A community is a space in which people work together to support one another, and AKL is certainly a community. One of the many bodies that acts as the glue that brings people together is AKL's Students' Council, currently led by Grade 11 student, Imonuil Suleimanshoev, who was elected as the Students' Council President in October 2017.

"If students want to create something or to innovate, we can help them to realize their idea," said Suleimanshoev. "I can talk to teachers, to the leadership at our school and to AKES to make the right connections so that students can organize the things they wish to see."

According to Suleimanshoev, this spirit of encouragement and support is one that governs the principles and actions of the Students' Council. In a matter of a short period of time, the Students' Council has worked to establish a Debate Team at AKL, an SAT Math Club, and has re-established a Guitar Club. It has also initiated the Young Teachers Project that empowers students in grades 9-11 to share their academic skills and strengths with other AKL students. These are only a few of the initiatives that the Students' Council has led and will continue to lead. The next round of elections will take place later in December 2018; stay tuned for the announcement of our new Students' Council in our spring newsletter.

Outgoing Members: Imonuil Suleimanshoev (President), Farangis Mirzobekova (Vice-President), Sherkhon Khudododkhonov (Treasurer), Aisha Toichieva (Secretary), Dilofarid Najmidin (Cultural Representative), Dilnoza Kukanbekova (Children's Rights Representative), Nazarbakht Varanshozoda (Communications Representative), Rauf Alibakhshoev (Education Representative), Akram Davronov (Grade 1-4 Representative), Imir Abdurasuloev (Grade 5-8 Representative)



His Highness the Aga Khan's Birthday Celebrations

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Students prepared a wonderful celebration to honour the accomplishments of His Highness the Aga Khan IV, founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network.

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New Year Celebrations

All students participated in celebrations in their classrooms led by teachers and students to ring in the New Year. Students also participated in sports competitions throughout the holidays.

Where Are They Now?

Universities and programmes where last year's graduates are studying:

American University of Central Asia, Bishkek (16), University of Central Asia, Khorog (12), Tajik-Russian Slavic University (7), University of Central Asia, Naryn (5), FLEX Programme (4), Khorog State University (4), KIMEP University, Almaty (1), Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (3), and others.

Our graduates go on to pursue a wide range of fields of study: Business, Earth Sciences, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Finance, Geography, Hydrogeology, International Relations, Law, Linguistics, Management, Medicine, Pharmacy, Psychology, Hospitality, and more.

We would also like to highlight our students that are excelling at the Aga Khan Academies in Mombasa, Kenya, and in Hyderabad, India.

We are incredibly proud of our students' accomplishments and we wish our graduates all the best in their future endeavours.



Club Offerings

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Drawing Club | Sports Club |
| Music Club | Chess Club |
| Area Studies Club | Coding Club |
| Handicraft Club | Robotics Club |
| Maker's Lab | Math Club |
| English Club | Physics Club |
| Geography Club | Chemistry Club |
| Basketball Club | |



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

AKES is an agency of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) which is a network of 10 private, secular development agencies active in 30 countries working to improve quality of life of people.

www.akdn.org

