

# RAK Academy Secondary School Newsletter



## Welcome back to RAK Academy



Dear Parents and Students of RAK Academy Secondary School,

Welcome to the new school year, 2018-19. I hope that you have had a lovely summer break. This year, a secondary school newsletter will be issued every two weeks. The aim is to highlight the achievements of pupils, to celebrate success, and to make you aware of changes, initiatives and events that are taking place in Secondary as the three terms roll by.

This will be an exciting year at RAK Academy Secondary. There are many new developments, new improvements and initiatives under way. We will also follow the progress of these in this newsletter.

This is my second year at RAK Academy and I look forward to meeting with you all again during the year. Please do not hesitate to contact the office for queries and suggestions.

I hope that you will join with me in wishing all our students and staff the very best for the Academic year

2018-19.

Edward Bantry White

Head of School

## Meet our new Executive Principal

It has been my great pleasure to meet with so many of our fantastic students and parents since the start of the school year. The welcome I have received is much appreciated and I look forward to moving the Academy forwards over the coming months and years.



Undoubtedly there are issues to tackle but, working and talking together as a team, there is so much that this group of schools can achieve. We have a huge amount to be positive about and to celebrate, and my aim will be to ensure that we properly harness all that talent and potential in our Academy community and in RAK as a whole.

There are many exciting plans afoot so watch this space and thank you again for all your support.

Steve Geraghty

### PARENT INFORMATION EVNINGS:

Year 7 - 26th September

Year 8 - 24th October

Year 9 - 24th October

Year 10 - 10th October

Year 11 - 17th October

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## A new beginning at our secondary school: Expectations and Aspirations

As the new year begins, we have raised our expectations and aspirations for the whole-school. Students will be expected to be properly dressed in school uniforms, to be in school every day and to be working to their very best effort. In the coming weeks, a school tie will be introduced for all pupils in Years 7-11. We expect all our students to be wearing the correct uniform, including black shoes. Our uniform is about identity, a sense of belonging and a sense of preparation for the school day ahead. It is important that students honour and respect this.

With regards to attendance, our expectation as a school is to see students in school for a minimum of 95% of school days. There is a direct correlation between days absent from school and academic performance. Students will not be allowed to sign out from school unless in emergencies or for unavoidable appointments. We will be contacting families of students who are not meeting the minimum attendance target to help them to improve.

## Secondary Leadership Team

At RAK Academy Secondary School, we are continuously looking at ways to improve how we cater for all of our pupils. A larger Secondary Leadership Team has been appointed to assist us in this task. The team members are:

Edward Bantry White, *Head of Secondary*  
Colin Guyton, *Deputy Head, Curriculum and Academic*  
Eileen Addis, *Deputy Head, Pastoral Student Care*  
Leonie Holness, *Student Support and Transition*  
Andrea Taylor, *Staff and Student Development*  
Phillip Lee: *Standards and Quality Assurance*  
Ben Mousely, *Student Data Manager*  
George Heusner, *IB Diploma Coordinator*

Together, we will be working with Students, Parents and Staff to build on the work of the past and drive us all to new levels of achievement, aspiration and expectation.

## Pastoral Team

Our Pastoral Team, consisting of Heads of Year, led by Mrs Addis, will work closely with families to ensure student well-being. This year, the Heads of Year for each year group are:

Year 7: Judy-Ann Denton Green  
Year 8: Kishon Green  
Year 9: Dafydd Helps  
Year 10: Ayman Samad  
Year 11: Petal Campbell-Williams  
Years 12 and 13: Mr Bill Addis

A branch of Education in Lebanon  
in the heart of the community  
RAK Al Khaimah Academy أكاديمية رأس الخيمة

### RAK Academy School Uniform

**Dress code**

Shoes	Plain black, with flat heel, no white or coloured logos, stripes or soles.
Trousers	Navy blue, loose-fitting school trousers (no jeans or combat style pants with outside pockets) OR Navy blue long skirt. (Black colour for Years 12 and 13).
Jacket	Students must wear the Navy blue school zip up jacket only – NO other jackets. Girls' hairstyles should be neat and of a modest style and of a natural colour. Boys' hair must be well off the collar at the back and off the ears and face.
Hair	A watch may be worn but no more than one stud per ear. Nail polish and Make-up are NOT allowed. (Discrete Make-up may be worn in Years 12 and 13).
Jewellery / Make-up	

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## New Staff

As every year, we welcome a number of new teachers to our team. This year, we have the pleasure of introducing the following teaching staff to the community.

Karolina Lambert (*English*)  
 Madeline Rogers (*English*)  
 Sanjeev Dayanand (*Mathematics*)  
 Lewis Tillett (*Science*)  
 Petra Achkar (*Science*)  
 William Jones (*Science*)  
 Jane Neasham (*Head of Humanities Department*)  
 Ashleigh Phillips (*Humanities*)  
 Marc Groenewald (*Humanities*)  
 Wendy Rooney (*Swimming*)  
 Jehangir Alam (*Design Technology*)  
 Zak Mumin (*Art*)

## University and Career Guidance

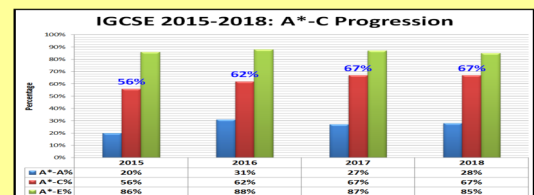
Making the right choices for the future, in terms of career path, and selection of university or college courses is a process involving much thought and dialogue. The process begins with subject choices during Year 9 and continues right up to and beyond final results day in Year 13. I am delighted to inform our community that our new University and Careers Counsellor is **Mr Wadih Abou Aziz**. Based in the Sixth Form Centre, he will be meeting students and parents throughout the year.

## EXAM RESULTS

This year, we have seen further improvement in our examination results and celebrate the successes of many of our students in the official exams.

### IGCSE

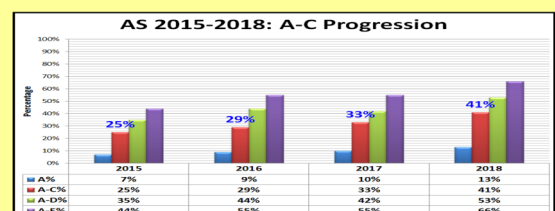
Overall, 28% of all grades received were A\* or A.  
 67% were a C or higher  
 85% were grade E or higher.



Congratulations to our highest scoring student:  
**Alfredo Prodi**, with 5A\*, 2 A and 2 B grades.

### AS LEVEL

13% achieved the top A grade  
 41% of all grades were a C or higher  
 53% were awarded a D or higher.



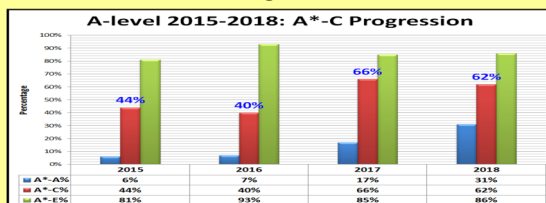
Congratulations to our highest performing student:  
**Eleanor Brown**, with 3 A grades and 1 B grade.

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## A LEVEL

31% of all A2 grades were A\* or A  
62% were a C or higher  
86% were an E or higher



Congratulations to our top performing student:  
**Arsalan Javid**, with 3 A\* and 1 A grade.

## IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

81% of our students were awarded the full diploma  
Our school's average points score was 31.5 points, against  
a World average of 29.8 points.

We had three students score over 40 points out of 45.

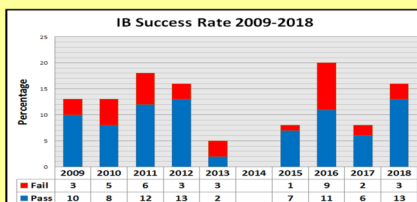
They are:

**Soo Bin Yoon** (42 pts),

**Yoowhan Jeon** (42 pts) and

**Sona Poghosyan** (41 pts).

*This puts them into the top 10% of students worldwide.*



### Average IB Score:

RAKA: 31.5  
World: 29.8

## Academic Performance Tracking

In line with the National Agenda 2021 of the UAE, all students in secondary will take a CAT 4 test. This is more than the required baseline assessment. At RAK Academy, we are also using it to calculate target grades for students. At multiple times during the year, students will be able to compare current progress against expected target performance and to identify improvements required. Target grades will be discussed with both parents and students as part of the ongoing academic feedback and mentoring process. Testing for this began last week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



RAK ACADEMY

**E-Safety**

Week

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018

A week dedicated to the promotion of internet safety, safe uses of technology and becoming responsible digital citizens

Stay Tuned!