

ACORN'S

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | KISAASI



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Student Council Updates

At Acorns International School, we believe in helping every learner grow and shine by offering opportunities that support their all-around development. Through the Student Council, students practice key Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills such as leadership, self-management, and organization, while also sharing their voices, collaborating as a team, and helping shape the school community.

Student Council Investiture

On September 9th, we celebrated our Student Council Investiture, where the outgoing council proudly handed over to the new team of leaders.

Each member took a pledge to serve their peers and uphold the values of our school, a promise to lead by example, listen to student voices, and work together to inspire others to achieve their best.

We are excited to see the creativity, energy, and ideas this new Student Council will bring to our school community!



Meet our 25-26 Student Council!

Executive Committee

President: Aidan
 Vice President: Julia
 Secretary: Pauline
 Treasurer: Angel
 Service Captain: Ayden
 Co-Curricular Captain: Shahan



House Captains

Earth: Divya
 Water: Soadd
 Air: Giovanni
 Fire: Sabrina
 Metal: Andrea
 Light: Latin



Class Representatives

MYP1: Disha, Raufah, Manha
 MYP2: Raphael, Nilay, Yumna
 MYP3: Natasha, Kaala, Gavin
 MYP4: Amelia, Elaine, Gabriela
 MYP5: Lorna, Reuben, Tehseen
 DP1: Titiksha, Daniella
 DP2: Abigail
 A2: Kimberley



PYP Vice House Captains

Earth: Veera
 Water: Elena
 Air: Naya
 Fire: Tarig
 Metal: Myra
 Light: Yohan



EYP Vice House Captains

Earth: Greta
 Water: William
 Air: Saira
 Fire: Axel
 Metal: Mariana
 Light: Alexandra



Message From the CEO



It has been a true honour (and at times overwhelming) to oversee four schools. While the responsibilities continue to grow, this journey has also provided me with invaluable opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

Last academic year, we proudly celebrated 41 graduates from the IB Diploma Programme and Cambridge A Levels across our campuses. These bright young people are now thriving in 15 different countries, pursuing studies and careers in education, health and medicine, business, psychology, engineering, law, international relations, technology, environmental studies, architecture, and the creative arts. Their journeys reflect the strength of a global-minded, holistic education.

I am delighted to share that all four schools are flourishing and making waves in their own unique ways:

Kisaasi – Our flagship campus has once again delivered excellence, producing exceptional results!

- 92% pass rate in IBDP, with more than 50% of students achieving 30+ points.
- 95% subject pass rate with 85% students awarded MYP Certificates
- 100% pass rate with our A Levels candidates.

Bunga – Continues to shine, setting high standards in academics and co-curricular activities, with learners achieving remarkable outcomes.

- 99% subject pass rate in the June IGCSE examinations
- 100% pass rate in the Cambridge Primary Checkpoint exams

Kigali – The growth here has been inspiring, with outstanding results that reflect the dedication of our teachers and the resilience of our students.

- 80% pass rate in A Level.
- 94.7% subject pass rate in IGCSE
- Perfect scores in Science, Math, and English in Primary Checkpoint.

ACORNS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | KISAASI

DP Candidates

92% Pass Rate

Jemimah Samalie Rida

MYP Candidates

95% Subject Pass Rate

Raphael Aneeba

A Levels Candidates

100% Pass Rate of Full A Level Candidates

Omkar Ella Almeida

ACORNS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | BUNGA

Primary Checkpoint May 2025

100% RESULTS

Louise Anthea Mwiza Adhiew Deng Ethan Bayita Ssekatawa

Brian Mbweli Yvonna Awet

IGCSE Candidates June 2025

99% RESULTS

Alia Precious

Keitrah Atarah Naveed

ACORNS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | KIGALI

A Level Candidates June 2025

80% RESULTS

Ineza Linda Mubwani Papiro Jude Umese Denise Immaculate

Primary Checkpoint May 2025

100% RESULTS

Andy Kesi - English 50/50 Philip Karingoma - English 50/50 Moses Katuraga - English 50/50 Albert Kesi - English 50/50 April Nyirakazi - English 50/50

IGCSE Candidates June 2025

94.7% RESULTS

Blanca Izaro Hani Atachkar Samantha Mahoro

Achilleus Ruhama Olive Othman Elzer Levi Kira Estifanos

Lubowa – The campus is now open, and everyone is settling in well, with students, staff, and parents embracing the vision and culture that make our community special. Already at 100 students, the campus is buzzing and thriving.

Each school is not only thriving academically but also nurturing well-rounded learners who are prepared to contribute positively to their communities. I am deeply grateful to our staff, parents, and students whose unwavering commitment makes this success possible.

Together, we continue to build a legacy of excellence in education across all our campuses.



Ameena Lalani
Head of School/CEO

Emails: headofschool@acornskisaasi.com
ceo@acornsschools.com

Message From the Deputy Head of School

Senior Leadership Team Changes



I thank you for showing Ms Nina a warm Acorns welcome as she joined us mid-September as Head of Admissions and Advancement.

Ms Nina has joined us from Tanzania with over 10 years of experience heading school admissions, communications, and administration at an IB Continuum School.

As she joins our Senior Leadership Team, we look forward to the fresh ideas she will bring.



In previous communication, I shared that Ms Andi, our Head of Early Years, would be relocating after Term 1. We are delighted to share that she has decided to remain with Acorns Kisaasi through the school year.

We look forward to her continued leadership of EYP.



IB Evaluation Visit

Our IB Visit is quickly approaching!

For families new to Acorns, we are proud to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum school, which emphasises growth and reflection. Every five years, IB schools must take part in an evaluation cycle designed to strengthen teaching and learning.

Over the last 5 years, we have completed:

- Self-Study: Taking an in-depth look at the IB Standards and Practices and how well we meet them.
- Programme Development Plan (PDP): Through the Self-Study, the community identified Wellbeing for the PDP. Developed Plans are ongoing for Child Protection, Staff Wellbeing, Diversity, Equity, Justice and Inclusion (DEIJ), and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).
- Preliminary Review: Last May, our Curriculum Coordinators completed IB-mandated documentation that communicates how our programme practices meet IB standards.

The final step is to complete the visit, which will be conducted in November. During this visit, we will welcome IB leaders to provide us with feedback, celebrate what we do well and guide our next steps.

OCTOBER

- 13th Staff in Service (No Classes)
- 14th Students Return from Break
- 13th-17th Staff Appreciation Week
- 14th SEC Service and Internships Start
- 14th EYP & PYP Family Check-In Meetings Start
- 18th SEC Family Check-In Meetings
- 20th World Inclusion Day Observance
- 27th-31st Book Week

NOVEMBER

- 8th Talent Hunt
- 24th PYP Internal and MAP Assessments Start
- 27th SEC Assessments Start

DECEMBER

- 13th SEC Staff in Service
- 15th-17th SEC ATL Workshops
- 16th EYP Sports Day
- 17th PYP Sports Day (No Classes for EYP)
- 18th SEC Sports Day (No Classes for EYP & PYP)
- 19th 3-Way Conferences (No Classes) / Term 1 Ends

Save the Date

Rachelle Hale-Molo
Deputy Head of School

Visit acornskisaasi.com/admission/ to download the full 25-26 Calendar!

Emails: deputyhos@acornskisaasi.com

Zero Week

In August, before students return, “Zero Week” marks the beginning of the academic year for both new and returning staff. The week was filled with orientation activities, opportunities to build connections, and time to settle in and establish a foundation for a successful year ahead.

Professional development was a key focus, including sessions on school policies such as Child Protection and Safeguarding, the Code of Conduct, Behaviour and Motivation, among others. These initiatives help prepare our teachers for an academic year of growth, discovery, and achievement.



Open Day

Thank you to all the families who joined us for Open Day! Your enthusiasm helped set a wonderful tone for the year ahead. Open Day provided a fantastic opportunity for students and families to meet their new teachers, connect with our PTO representatives, and learn more about updates to our academic and co-curricular programmes.



Message From the Head of Early Years

The first half-term has flown by, and what an exciting start it has been! Our youngest learners have stepped into school life with confidence, settling into new routines, embracing their classrooms, and making new friends along the way.

We are so proud of the progress they have already made; from growing communication and social skills to developing perseverance and curiosity, at every step, they have filled our hallways with joy and laughter. With events like Family Day, CCC, and Global Village, it's been a vibrant and memorable start, and we can't wait for all that's still to come!



Andi Haskins
HOD Early Years

Email: earlyyearshod@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Early Years Curriculum Coordinator

This term's CCC focused on "Inquiry Through Play in the Early Years Programme." Families explored how play supports learning across key academic areas through interactive, hands-on activities similar to those in class.

A highlight was the reflective discussion, where parents shared questions and challenges about supporting play at home. As a follow-up, families received session slides, sample play-based activities, and a suggested home schedule to help weave play into daily routines.

We look forward to hearing how these ideas are working at home and how play continues to support our learners' growth.



Caroline Nganda
EYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: eypcordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Head of Primary

The first half of this term has been wonderful, with our PYP students settling in well and happily adapting to life in the new classes. We warmly welcome all the new families who have joined us this academic year; we are delighted to have you in our community.

Highlights of the term so far include the PYP6 Unit in Action, which was both informative and inspiring, as well as the Global Village events that celebrated creativity and innovation.

We look forward to many more exciting learning experiences and memorable moments ahead as we continue this journey together!

PYP6 Unit in Action: A Celebration of Cultural Heritage

Our PYP6 students recently brought their Unit in Action to life under the theme “Who We Are.” They explored cultural heritage, reflecting on how communities shape identity and influence our worldview.

Working in groups, students researched their cultures and confidently presented traditions, artefacts, foods, and stories. Their creativity emphasized the importance of preserving cultural practices amid global influences.



Shallon Baguma
HoD Primary

Email: primaryhod@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the PYP Curriculum Coordinator

MAP Assessments

PYP1-6 completed their MAP assessments from September 1st to 16th. These computer-based tests take place every term. Conducting them at the start of the year provides teachers with a baseline of student performance, helping to shape their teaching methods and learning experiences.

Coffee with Curriculum Coordinator

The first CCC of the year happened on September 17th. This event is pivotal in fostering a strong relationship among the school, parents, and the wider community. During the first CCC, we focused on Guided Reading within PYP - a key element of developing a child's reading skills. Parents who attended went through the process, the teachers go through as they teach, as well as gaining insight into how student reading levels are tracked throughout their time in PYP.



Jamal Makki
PYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: pypcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Head of Secondary



The new academic year has started on a positive note. Our Secondary students have been actively engaging in both academic and extracurricular activities, developing valuable 21st-century skills. They have participated in enriching experiences such as the Global Village, Academic Integrity workshops, Career Days, and Spanish Heritage Month. In addition, they planned Service activities through various clubs and visited the Katoogo community to carry out their community service.

Important Reminders

- **Punctuality:** We have noticed challenges with punctuality. This is a reminder that students should arrive at school by 7:35 AM, as lessons begin promptly at 7:45 AM. Arriving on time helps your child make the most of their learning and ensures a smooth start to the day. Persistent late arrivals will be followed up by the school and may result in further consequences.
- **Attendance Excusals:** Submit any absence or tardy notices via Toddle Attendance Excusals.
- **On-Campus Sickness:** If students feel unwell at school, they must report to the nurse. The school will contact parents, and students should not do so themselves
- **Sickness:** Keep unwell students at home to prevent spreading illness.
- **Return to School:** After extended absences due to sickness, please inform the Head of Secondary via email to support the monitoring of your child's progress

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a productive and a healthy learning environment!

Shirin Bagchi
HoD Secondary

Email: secondaryhod@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the MYP Curriculum Coordinator

MYP 1–4 MAP Assessments

Between Tuesday, September 2nd, and Friday, September 5th, our MYP 1–4 students completed their MAP assessments in reading, language usage, mathematics, and science. These electronic standardized tests are administered twice a year and give us valuable insight into student progress across specific skill areas. The results will help refine teaching approaches and strengthen learning experiences in the months ahead.



Coffee with Curriculum Coordinator

On Wednesday, September 17, we hosted our Coffee with Curriculum Coordinator (CCC) event, led by our Learner Support Team. Families joined us for an Inclusion & Enrichment Workshop themed “Partners in Progress: Identifying and Removing Barriers to Students’ Learning Together.”

Over the course of the one-hour workshop, parents explored how inclusion and enrichment are practised at Acorns, learned about the different tiers of support available, and discussed practical ways that school and home can collaborate to support every child's growth.



Academic Integrity Workshops

On Friday, September 19th, MYP1–5 students participated in Academic Integrity workshops. These sessions emphasized building arguments using the ideas of others while acknowledging their contributions, expressing personal perspectives, and producing original work in their own voice. Students also received guidance to continue developing these essential academic skills.

MYP5 Information Session

Our MYP5 Information Session for parents and students took place on Thursday, September 18th, at 3:30 PM in the Multipurpose Hall. The session covered what to expect in MYP5, the importance of academic integrity, eAssessment registration, and strategies for effective time management. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to a productive discussion.



Sam Weavers
MYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: mypcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the DP/A Levels Curriculum Coordinator

This September, our DP community engaged in three key events that strengthened student and parent understanding of the programme:



Extended Essay (EE) Unpacking

DP1 students took part in a focused workshop introducing the Extended Essay, exploring its expectations, assessment criteria, and research planning milestones.



Coffee with the Curriculum Coordinator

Parents joined an engaging conversation over coffee, focusing on career pathways and the role of predicted grades in shaping student futures. We are grateful to all who attended and contributed meaningfully. Parents who were unable to join are warmly encouraged to reach out to the Curriculum Coordinator for individual guidance and support.



Academic Integrity Family Workshop

Parents and teachers gathered to reflect on the importance of academic honesty. Using real-life scenarios, the session deepened our shared commitment to responsibility, ethical research, and integrity in learning. We sincerely appreciate all who attended and encourage families who could not be present to reach out to the Curriculum Coordinator for follow-up discussions.



Kanyesigye Kenneth
DP/A Levels Coordinator

Email: dpcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message From our Counsellors

Introducing Safer, Smarter Schools – A Fantastic Boost to PSPE Curriculum!

We are thrilled to share that starting this term, our students in EYP2 through DP2/A2 will be taking part in Safer, Smarter Schools, a world-class personal safety and abuse prevention programme. Every student in these grades will have between 4 and 10 lessons per year.

What makes this such a great fit for our current curriculum? Not only does it reinforce many of the values we already teach: respect, kindness, safety, and emotional awareness. It gives students concrete tools:

- how to recognise unsafe situations
- build support networks
- speak up when something feels wrong.

We believe this will make our community even stronger, safer, and more caring, and that's something we can all celebrate.

Part of this programme is Safer, Smarter Families. It supports parents and caregivers too: there's a toolkit for parents and guardians with tips, resources and videos, bridging school and home in safety education.

For more information visit safer-smarter-schools.org or get in touch with the respective school counsellor.

Emma Kimani
Primary Counsellor

Email: primarycounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

Lieke Caldenhoven
Secondary Counsellor

Email: secondarycounsellor@acornskisaasi.com



**Safer, Smarter
SCHOOLS**

Message From the Learner Support Team

Supporting Every Learner

The Learner Support Team, helps identify and reduce barriers to learning across the school.

We use a three-tier model to ensure students get the right support at the right time.

- Tier 1: We work with teachers in classrooms to embed inclusive differentiation practices that benefit all learners.
- Tier 2: Students needing extra support attend Enrichment sessions to build skills and confidence. This may be through one-to-one lessons or in small group lessons.
- Tier 3: Learners requiring additional support receive Individual Education Plans and accommodations that fit the need of the student.



Create a **POSITIVE**
and **INCLUSIVE**
Learning
ENVIRONMENT



International Conference on Inclusive Education

In August, 10 members of staff represented Acorns Kisaasi at the conference.

Mr Douglas, our Secondary Learner Support Services Coordinator, was among the selected panelists.

Charity Kathoni Riungu
Primary Learner Support Services Coordinator

Email: pyplsscoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Douglas Akena
Secondary Learner Support Services Coordinator

Email: seclsscoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Parent Teacher Organisation

The 2025–26 PTO Board is excited to warmly welcome the Acorns community to a new academic year and to introduce this year's PTO Board members!

This year, the PTO's self-appointed Leadership is:

- **Chairperson:** Danish Dulo
- **Vice Chairperson:** Shweta Hirani
- **Secretary:** Irene Tayebwa
- **Vice Secretary:** Abwin Sarah Emojong
- **Treasurer:** Awien Akol
- **Vice Treasurer:** Caroline Nganda



Along with the PTO Leadership, there are 17 other PTO volunteers representing parents and staff from all Acorns Programmes.



PTO Goals for 25-26

This academic year, part of our Home Clothes Day collections and other fundraising efforts will be directed towards teacher appreciation and student recognition across various disciplines throughout the year. We will keep you updated on this year's new initiatives and goals through Toddle Announcements and Newsletters. Look out for details on upcoming PTO events such as Sip and Share and Family Fun Day.

Thank you for the Continued Support!

Your consistent engagement and involvement in school activities have made, and continue to make, a significant and powerful impact on our community. Together, we will achieve even greater progress

We look forward to an effective collaboration with all members of the Acorns Community on various planned initiatives for this year that indeed shall benefit our students and their environment, where their learning experiences can thrive and foster a stronger sense of unity.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and donated to PTO previously. We look forward to your participation and support in future events. Your humble support has been and will continue to be invaluable to us, and indeed, we could not accomplish all this without you!

Together for our children!

Danish Dulo
25-26 PTO Chairperson

Email: pto@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Head of Administration

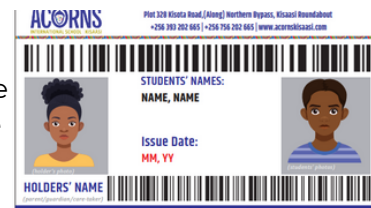
Health & Safety

We've noticed a recent trend of fevers often beginning with sore throats. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are fully recovered. Should the nurses contact you, kindly respond promptly, as some cases may be urgent.



Family IDs

We appreciate everyone who continues to use their family IDs daily, as well as those who keep us updated in case of any changes regarding pick-up. We encourage the rest to do the same, preferably through their child's HoD or Ms Rosyelene via admin@acornskisaasi.com



Respectful Interactions

As we continue to guide our staff to treat families with respect, courtesy, and professionalism, we kindly ask that parents, guardians, and drivers do the same when approached for Family IDs or any other requirements to access the school, academic buildings or offices.

If you ever feel that a staff member has not acted as they should, please know we are always just an email or a conversation away. Together, we can maintain a supportive and respectful school community.



Evacuation Drill

On August 29th, our students took part in the first evacuation drill of the academic year, an exercise we hold each term. These drills keep both students and staff prepared while giving the school an opportunity to improve our systems where needed. We appreciate everyone's effort and participation.



Rosyelene Ampumuza
HoD Administration

Email: admin@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Head of Finance

Recommend Acorns!

We offer a 15% reduction in one Term's fees following the recommendation of a newly enrolled student.



Fee Payment Deadlines

Term 2 payments are due January 14th, 2026

Term 3 payments are due April 21st, 2026

Late payments will incur a 5% surcharge.

For bank payments, email your receipt to accounts@acornskisaasi.com

Cash payments must be made in US dollars, series 2013 or after, and free from marks.

After-School Daycare

After-school care is available at a casual rate of \$5 per 30 minutes. Regular after-school care hours end at 5:30 PM. Students picked up after this time will incur a charge of \$5 per 15 minutes.

Transport

We have 2 spacious 40 seater buses and a 15 seater van.

For inquiries, contact accounts@acornskisaasi.com

Sridevi Challa
HoD Finance

Email: finance@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Specialties

ISSA League and International Sports Highlights

This term, our students are set for an exciting season in the ISSA (International Schools Sports Association) League!

- Primary Basketball: We will be competing with our U11 Boys, U11 Girls, and U9 Boys' teams.
- Secondary Football: Our school is proudly represented by the U20 Boys' and Girls' teams, the U16 Boys' and Girls' teams, as well as the U13 Boys' and Girls' teams.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that our athletes will also participate in the World Schools Championships in Barcelona, Spain (October 9–14). Our U11 Boys, U13 Boys, and U13 Girls' teams will take part in this international competition.



Henry Kalanzi
HoD specialties

Email: specialtieshod@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Service Coordinator

This half-term has been full of meaningful beginnings in Service Learning and CAS. Our students are showing great initiative as they step into projects that connect learning with real-life experiences. Here is a look at what has been happening!



Community Project - MYP3

The MYP Community Project is designed to help students inquire deeply into issues that matter, develop creative insights, and take meaningful action over an extended period of time. It encourages them to become self-directed learners who can investigate real needs, communicate effectively, act responsibly, and take pride in the process of learning as much as the outcome.

This half-term, our MYP 3 students completed Phase 1 of their project. They focused on understanding what the project entails and visited Pearl Junior School to identify areas of need. From these reflections, they are now developing project ideas that will guide their next steps.



DofE Clubs Update

We introduced a new club this half-term: Lather & Luxe. In this club, students are learning how to make detergents, handwash, shower gel, and perfumes. Beyond the practical skills, there is also an entrepreneurial and service aspect — the products made are sold, with proceeds reinvested into the club and directed toward service projects. During Global Village, students showcased their creations to the wider community.



Service Internships in MYP4

On October 16–17, 2025, our MYP 4 students will carry out Service Internships with our partner organisations:

- Uganda Red Cross
- ETA Children's Organisation
- Sanyu Babies' Home
- USPCA Animal Shelter

As we reflect on the first half of the term, it is encouraging to see our students growing as reflective, responsible, and compassionate learners. Thank you to the Acorns community for your continued support in making these experiences possible.

Fiona Kinyua
CAS Coordinator

Email: servicecoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Careers Counsellor

This year's Secondary Careers Week was nothing short of remarkable; offering students a wide range of opportunities to engage with universities and professionals from around the world. Unlike in previous academic years, Careers Week 2025 was spread across several days, featuring two university fairs and concluding with a Careers Day on 25th September.



On 19th September, we hosted a university fair that attracted over 55 university representatives from the UK, Canada, Germany, Australia, Ireland, and more. This was followed by a second university fair on 24th September, where we welcomed 18+ representatives from Canada, Switzerland, Cyprus, Turkey, the UK, Grenada, the USA, and Africa. These fairs gave our students invaluable exposure to diverse universities and admission requirements; including tuition fees, scholarships, accommodation, subject prerequisites, and grade expectations.



The week concluded with an inspiring Careers Day, where two distinguished guest speakers, Ms. Connie Nankya, Marketing and Communications Director at World Vision Uganda, and Prof. Noeline Kirabo, a transformational coach, mentor, author, and social entrepreneur, engaged our MYP1–5 students. Both speakers shared their wealth of knowledge and experiences, encouraged students to pursue their passions, and reflected on the challenges they overcame on their journeys to success.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Ms. Nankya and Prof. Kirabo for their selfless dedication and for inspiring our learners.



Careers Week may be over, but career and university activities at Acorns are ongoing. Student internships will take place from 13th to 17th October, and DP2 and A2 applications are in progress. In addition, one-on-one career sessions with parents and students continue to provide tailored guidance for university applications and broader career planning. Parents are encouraged to book these sessions if they wish to receive personalised support.

For any inquiries or to schedule a session, please feel free to reach out to me at careerscounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

Together, we continue to prepare our students for brighter futures.

Simon Ainomugisha
Careers Counsellor

Email: careerscounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

Global Village



Our Global Village event this year celebrated the Acorns core value of Innovation.

Students across all departments created engaging displays to showcase their learning, highlighting how creativity and resourcefulness can be used to solve real-world problems. From technology-driven projects to hands-on demonstrations, each presentation reflected our students' willingness to explore new ideas and embrace challenges with curiosity. The event was a vibrant reminder that our learners are tomorrow's problem solvers and agents of change.

