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Message from the CEO

Stepping into the full-time CEO role has not been easy, but it has been deeply energising and full of opportunity. This academic year can truly be defined as an Awards Year, with multiple recognitions already received and many more on the way.

We are proud to share that at the Empower Her Awards 2026 (3rd Edition) by Nation Media Group – Women in Leadership Awards, Acorns International Schools was honoured with two prestigious awards.



Ameena Lalani
Chief Executive Officer

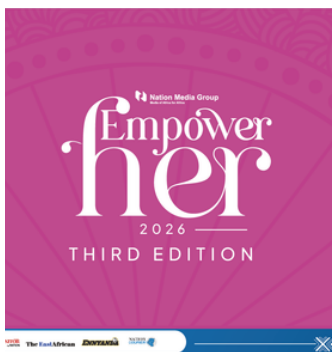
Empower Her Award

This award recognises organisations that actively promote gender equality and ensure strong representation of women in management and decision-making. At Acorns, we are proud to have 65% women representation in leadership, going well beyond the 50% benchmark, reflecting our intentional commitment to inclusive leadership.

Woman of the Future Award

This award celebrates organisations with impactful initiatives that advance gender balance in the workplace. It acknowledges systems, policies, and structures that empower women to grow, lead, and rise within the organisation. At Acorns, we continue to build pathways that support and elevate women at every stage of their professional journey.

These awards belong to every member of our staff, women and men, where equity, excellence, and competence are the foundations for leadership, growth, and success. At Acorns, we truly live our mission every day: inspiring and empowering. These recognitions reflect who we are, a community where leadership is by design, not by accident, and where equity, opportunity, and empowerment are deeply embedded in our culture.



Chiefs' Office

I am pleased to inform you that we now have a complete Chief Office team alongside me. Together, we are focused on ensuring that the Acorns International Schools Group not only meets compliance and academic expectations, but grows as one learning community, sharing best practices and driving continuous improvement across all campuses.



Lynn Bugaari Muhangi
Chief of Human Resource



Jane Namagembe
Chief of Operations



Waseem Anwar
Chief Finance Officer



Caroline Nganda
Chief of Academics



Heads of School Meetings

Our engagements with all Heads of School are now more structured and purposeful, creating stronger alignment, accountability, and collaboration across the group.

Board Governance

Our Board is also taking strong shape with the induction of new members. Our recent meeting at the Chief Office reflected honest conversations, shared responsibility, and a clear strategic direction.

You can find our Board Members, Chief Officers, and Heads of School, who collectively lead and shape the Acorns International Schools Group here: <https://acornsschools.com/leadership/>



There is so much happening across our schools, with full details shared in each campus newsletter. Here, I will highlight one key moment from each:

Acorns Kisaasi – Inclusion Champion Award

We are proud to share that Acorns Kisaasi was honoured to receive the Inclusion Champion Award from the Raphatale Foundation. This recognition celebrates our ongoing commitment to supporting children with special needs and disabilities, as well as their families. It also acknowledges our efforts to champion inclusion and actively challenge stigma within our community.



Acorns Bunga – Bunga @10

As we celebrate 10 years of the Bunga campus, we are marking this milestone by giving back to our community. A community run will be held on 18 April 2026, followed by a celebration on 24 April 2026. We look forward to the full Acorns community coming together for this meaningful initiative.



Acorns Lubowa – World Scholar’s Cup 2026

Acorns Lubowa proudly hosted the regional round of the World Scholar’s Cup, bringing together 28 schools from Uganda and Rwanda, with more than 900 students and 100 educators. It was truly a celebration of learning, collaboration, and student excellence.



Acorns Kigali – Education Ministry Visit

We were honoured to host officials from the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) through NESA at Acorns Kigali. The visit enabled rich, constructive discussions on aligning with national expectations and our future direction.



Ameena Lalani
CEO Group of Acorns International Schools

Email: ceo@acornsschools.com

Message from the Head of School



Behaviour and Motivation Policy Revision - A Restorative Approach to Growth

Our Heads of Early Years, Primary, and Secondary have worked collaboratively to revise our Behaviour and Motivation Policy. This updated policy reflects our continued commitment to inclusion, wellbeing, and the holistic development of every learner. The revised policy bridges the strengths of our previous approach with a stronger, more intentional focus on restorative practices. Rather than viewing behaviour simply as something to correct, we recognise it as an opportunity to learn, reflect, and grow. Our aim is to support students in understanding the impact of their actions, repairing relationships, and developing the skills needed to thrive as responsible, caring members of our community.

At its core, the policy is grounded in the IB Learner Profile and aligns with our vision of inspiring and empowering each learner to achieve their personal best.

Revision Highlights and Alignment Throughout the Policy

- Restorative Approach: A clear shift towards reflection, accountability, and repairing harm rather than punishment.
- Consistency Across the School: A unified framework from Early Years through Secondary, ensuring clarity for students, staff, and families.
- Focus on Positive Behaviour: Expanded use of recognition systems, including House Points, to celebrate effort, growth, and contribution.
- Anti-Bullying Ethos: Proactive teaching through PSPE, assemblies, counselling, and awareness initiatives.
- Safeguarding First: Clear non-negotiables around prohibited practices to ensure dignity, safety, and respect for all students.

Early Years

- Behaviour as Learning: Behaviour is understood as part of child development, with every moment seen as a teachable opportunity.
- Focus on Self-Regulation: Strong emphasis on helping students recognise and manage emotions with adult support.

Primary

- Structured Behaviour System: Use of the Behaviour Clip Chart to support clear, consistent expectations and reflection.
- Balanced Motivation: A combination of intrinsic motivation and external recognition, including House Points and classroom systems.
- Restorative Consequences: Emphasis on repairing harm, rebuilding relationships, and learning from mistakes.

Secondary

- Student Ownership & Accountability: Strong emphasis on independence, personal responsibility, and academic integrity.
- Detention as Reflection: Structured, in-school detentions focused on restoring behaviour rather than punishment.
- Recognition of Excellence: House Points awarded for leadership, service, effort, and academic achievement.

This revised policy represents an important step forward in strengthening a positive, inclusive, and supportive school culture. We are excited to continue working in partnership with our students and families to nurture not only academic success, but also character, responsibility, and a strong sense of community.

Click this [link](#) or use the [QR code](#) to view the full policy from our website.



Campus Flooding and Construction Over the Term Break

This rainy season, we have experienced some minor and more significant flooding across the campus. Thank you for your patience, particularly when this has affected drop-off and pick-up times.

We are pleased that the improvements made in previous years have been effective in preventing water from entering learning spaces and directing water to the main drainage areas.

Planned construction works over the Term Break will address current concerns and further strengthen our campus infrastructure.

Rachelle Hale-Molo
Head of School

Email: headofschool@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Early Years



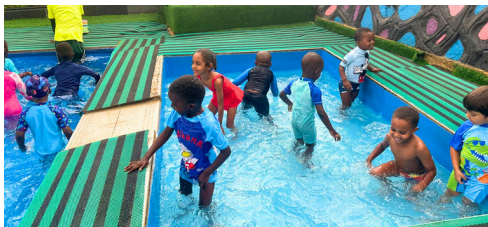
With a brief yet action-packed March behind us, we reflect on the rich learning that took place in classrooms, where students consolidated their understanding and took confident next steps, alongside memorable shared experiences such as the EYP field trip, Francophonie Day celebrations, and class assemblies. Here is a glimpse into the past term as we look ahead to Term 3.

Assemblies

Each class proudly shared a snapshot of their learning during assemblies. It was wonderful to see the students grow in confidence as they spoke, performed, and expressed themselves. The performances reflected both students & teachers' enthusiasm and effort. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend and for your support with costume items, which helped bring the performances to life!

EYP Field Trip

The EYP Field Trip to Kid's World Play Park was a highlight of the term! Students continue to fondly recall their special day out, from the excitement of riding the school bus to the joy of playing games together and exploring the space with their friends. A picnic lunch and time to cool off by splashing in the pool rounded out the day of excitement. It was a full day of happy moments, growing independence, and memorable shared experiences beyond the classroom walls.



Andi Haskins
HoD Early Years

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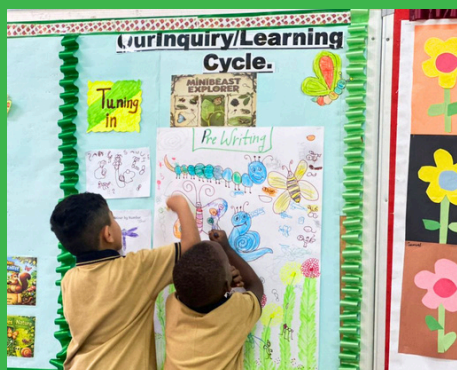
Message from the EYP Curriculum Coordinator



It has been a successful term, with students demonstrating growing confidence, curiosity, and independence in their learning. We have especially witnessed how far they have come during the recent class assemblies, where students confidently shared their learning and expressed their ideas.

In Unit 4 (How the World Works), students explored how things change, grow, and function through sensory play, investigating minibeasts and life cycles, and understanding weather and its impact on daily life. We have now begun Unit 5 (How We Organise Ourselves), which will continue into next term, focusing on community roles, transportation, and how people work together.

End-of-Term 2 progress reports have been shared on Toddle. Kindly take a moment to review them.



Caroline Nganda
EYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: eypcordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Primary

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to appreciate the hard work of our students and teachers.

Highlights included the PYP6 Shadow Days, Family Language Day, Francophonie activities, Stand-Up to Bullying Day, and our fun trips, all of which enriched student learning beyond the classroom.

In class, it has been encouraging to see students deepen their understanding, ask questions, and grow in confidence through inquiry.

Thank you to our parents, teachers, and students for your continued effort, care, and commitment to ensuring a safe and enriching learning environment at Acorns.

No Homework This Term Break

As we head into the Term Break, there will be no homework over this break. This is to give students time to rest, connect with family, and enjoy different activities at home. We encourage you to help them reduce screen time and instead create space for them to enjoy nature and build meaningful family connections.



Building a Culture of Respect

We have been intentionally emphasising respect as a key virtue at school - self-respect, for friends, for teachers, and for the wider community. We are already seeing positive growth in how students relate with one another and take responsibility for their actions. We kindly encourage parents to continue reinforcing this important value at home, so that together we can nurture respectful, responsible, and compassionate individuals.

Use of Smartwatches

We have noticed an increase in students bringing smartwatches to school, which have become a distraction during learning time. To support a focused and productive classroom environment, we kindly request that moving forward, all PYP students should not bring smartwatches to school. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain an effective learning environment for all learners.



Shallon Baguma
HoD Primary

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Message from the PYP Curriculum Coordinator

PYP6: The Road to Exhibition

PYP6 went on their overnight trip to Lakeside Adventure Park. This trip plays a key role in preparing the students for their Exhibition, as they learn to work as a team through various team-building activities and gain independence, which are all transferable skills to their learning.

Students were excited and eager to try out all the activities there, including the obstacle course, orienteering and the popular high ropes course, where the PYP6 students showed that they were great risk-takers!

At the end of Term 3, PYP6 have their Exhibition, which is a culmination of their PYP experience. They have already begun the hard work, exploring a topic they feel resonates with them. All groups have now been paired with an adult mentor to help further facilitate their inquiries. We are excited to see each student continue to grow on their journey.



Jamal Makki
PYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: pypcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Secondary

As we wrap up Term 2, we reflect on a period of growth and learning, highlighted by events such as MUN and the World Scholars Cup. Our secondary students have made commendable progress.

In this final stretch of the academic year, it is important to maintain the academic rigour and high standards expected at this level. Success in secondary school usually doesn't come from a last-minute push; it comes from steady discipline and a commitment to excellence that lasts through the term changes.

To help students return for Term 3 ready to finish the year strong, we stress the importance of keeping a sharp mind and solid academic skills. Over the holidays, we encourage students to stay mentally engaged. One helpful practice is "monotasking", setting aside time to focus on a single activity without digital distractions.

This supports concentration and helps students return refreshed and ready for Term 3. On behalf of the Secondary team, we wish all students and families a restful and enjoyable break.



Shirin Bagchi
HoD Secondary

Email: secondaryhod@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the MYP Curriculum Coordinator

MYP5 Mock eAssessments



Starting March 3rd, our MYP5 students took part in mock on-screen eAssessments to prepare for their final exams in May. These practice sessions are an important step in helping students become familiar with the digital format, exam structure, and question types, while also identifying areas that may need additional focus.

Subjects Covered: Mathematics, Language and Literature, French, Sciences, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary Inquiries.

The results from these mock exams will support both students and teachers in refining study strategies. In addition, practising under timed conditions will help students strengthen their exam time-management skills.



Sam Weavers
MYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: mypcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the DP/A Levels Curriculum Coordinator

IBDP2 and A2 Mocks

Our IBDP2 and A2 students reached a significant milestone in February by completing their Mock assessments. This period was more than just a test of knowledge; it was a crucial opportunity for students to build mental resilience and adapt to the pressure of exam-like conditions. We are proud of their efforts as they continue to develop the personalised study habits and revision strategies that will lead them to success this spring.

Examinations

As we approach the examination season, starting 15th April for Cambridge A-Levels and 24th April for IBDP, we want to wish all our examinees the greatest success. To perform at their peak, we urge students to take intentional care of their health. Prioritising eight hours of sleep, consistent hydration, and regular, nutritious meals will provide the mental clarity and physical stamina needed for what is ahead.

Remember: a healthy body fuels a focused mind!



Kanyesigye Kenneth
DP/A Levels Coordinator

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Message from the Service Coordinator

As a school, we remain committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically capable but also socially responsible and globally aware. This term reflects our students' growth, leadership, and engagement beyond the classroom, as they continue to embody IB values as confident and globally minded learners.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We celebrate students who have achieved their Silver and Gold Awards, as well as those who have completed the Gold Qualifying Journey, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and commitment.



ISU MUN & World Scholars' Cup

Our students continue to shine on the international stage through their participation in the ISU Model United Nations (MUN) and the World Scholars' Cup. These platforms provide opportunities for students to engage in critical thinking, debate global issues, and collaborate with peers from diverse backgrounds..



DPI Colour Fest

Our DPI students successfully led a vibrant Colour Fest as part of their Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) programme. The event showcased their leadership, teamwork, and initiative while bringing our community together in a joyful and engaging way.



Fiona Kinyua
CAS Coordinator

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Message from the Head of HR

At Acorns, we live our vision of inspiring and empowering one another. Each month, we celebrate our Employees of the Month, recognising excellence, dedication, and a strong commitment to our school values. We are proud to acknowledge the following staff members recognised this term and the reasons for their recognition.



- **Polycarp Mugisha (PYP):** Championing inclusion and respect for diverse perspectives, reflecting the value of Pluralism.
- **Sylvia Namudu (Admin):** Proactively upholding school standards and safeguarding procedures.
- **Hawah Namaganda (Admin):** Ensuring student safety and wellbeing in after-school care, embodying Caring.
- **Jessy Musiitwa (PYP):** Promoting inclusion and respect for all perspectives, reflecting Pluralism.
- **Simran (PYP):** Promoting inclusion and respect for all perspectives, reflecting Pluralism.
- **Fiona Mkena (SEC):** Driving student motivation through strong coordination and operational excellence.
- **Jackie Nbwire (EYP):** Inspiring growth and championing ongoing personal and professional development.
- **Alinda Scovia (EYP):** Demonstrating reliability and accountability with consistent excellence.
- **Josephine Namuli (EYP):** Inspiring growth and championing ongoing personal and professional development.
- **Moreen Nabaasa (EYP):** Demonstrating reliability and accountability with consistent excellence.
- **Joshua Orode (SEC):** Achieving 100% attendance, demonstrating outstanding reliability.
- **Jordan Nahabwe (PYP):** Bringing a positive, open-minded, and supportive approach to all work.
- **Jean Manirambona (PYP):** Achieving 100% punctuality, reflecting dedication and Principled action.
- **Alex Bbosa (IT):** Going above and beyond to ensure smooth and reliable operations.
- **Victo Zalwango (HR):** Championing school identity beyond her role, embodying Open-Mindedness and Principled action.

Allison Ngategize
Head of HR

Email: hr@acornskisaasi.com

Message from our Counsellors

Nurturing Respect, Safety, and Student Voice

As Term 2 draws to a close, we reflect on the meaningful moments that have shaped the term.

Students are becoming more aware and aligned with safety expectations, not only at school, but also in the different environments.

The additional programmes focused on safety and student voice have been instrumental in empowering learners to express their thoughts and feelings, while also developing empathy for those around them.

Respect has been a key theme this term, with students exploring how it begins at the individual level and extends through the wider community when consistently upheld. Students are also recognising the strong link between respect for elders, teachers, and peers and success in both their academic and extracurricular pursuits. As we break for the holiday, we encourage parents and guardians to continue reinforcing these values at home.



Emma Kinani
Primary Counsellor

Email: primarycounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

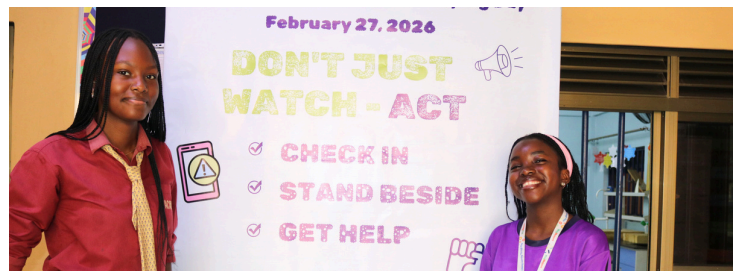
The Final Stretch: Staying Focused and Feeling Good

Secondary students are approaching an important stage of the academic year.

With exams, deadlines, and transitions ahead, this period can feel both intense and demanding. At this point, it's not just about working harder, but working smarter and more sustainably. It's normal for motivation to dip after a long year, but simple routines, setting realistic goals, breaking tasks into manageable steps, and maintaining healthy sleep habits can make a big difference.

Students are also navigating increased academic pressure, and it's important to remember that consistent progress matters more than last-minute perfection. With greater independence comes greater responsibility, and learning to balance school, revision, and personal time is a valuable life skill.

Finally, dear students, you are reminded that you do not have to manage this period alone. Reaching out to teachers, counsellors, or trusted adults when feeling overwhelmed is a sign of strength and self-awareness.



Lieke Caldenhoven
Secondary Counsellor

Email: secondarycounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

Message from Head of Admissions

Transition to Academic Year 2026/2027

As we prepare for the next academic year, we understand that transitions are part of families' journeys, and we are here to support you during this process. If your family will be leaving Acorns, please reach out to us at admissions@acornskisaasi.com so we can assist with the preparation of your exit documentation in a timely manner.

Note to PYP6 Families

An Intention to Return for MYP1 (2026/2027) form has been sent home and is also available on Toddle. As MYP1 spaces are limited, we kindly request your confirmation by 17th April 2026.

Early confirmation will help secure your child's space and support the school in planning staffing and resources.



Nina Benedict
Head of Admissions & Advancement

Email: admissions@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Administration

We appreciate the continued support and collaboration from our school community during this Term.

Dental Health Check Update

A successful dental screening was conducted by Victory Dental Hub. Please take a moment to review the doctors' notes shared with all students who participated, as they provide guidance on the next steps.



Term 3 Clubs & Lunch Registration by 16th April 2026

Term 3 lunch and club registration is now open and can be completed using this [link](#) or scanning the QR Code. Please note that once a club has been registered, switching is not permitted, and payments are non-refundable. Parents are therefore advised to check for any timetable or team schedule conflicts before registering.



Rosyelene Ampumuza
HoD Administration

Email: admin@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Specialties



ISSA EXCOM Meeting

Acorns was proud to host the ISSA end-of-season 2 EXCOM meeting in March! It was a fruitful day of collaboration, with members sharing key strategies to elevate the league experience and streamline upcoming seasons. Season 3, in Term 3, ISSA League will focus on Secondary Volleyball and Swimming.



ISSA League Season 2 Victories

We concluded the ISSA season 2 with the following victories for Acorns: Champions

- U9 Boys Football, U11 Girls Football, and U11 Boys Football, U16 Girls Basketball

First Runner-ups

- U13 Boys Basketball, U13 Girls Basketball, U16 Boys Basketball, U20 Girls Basketball, U7 Jamboree Football gala.



Uganda Aquatics Swimming Gala

Our students represented the school at the Uganda Aquatics competition.

We are proud to mention that Malaika delivered an outstanding performance, securing a bronze medal.

Jamboree Tournament

We hosted a successful Jamboree Football Gala, where our student-athletes demonstrated great skill and teamwork to secure a second-place finish.



Henry Kalanzi
Head of Specialties

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Message from the Careers Counsellor



As we progress through this important stage of the academic year, I am pleased to share that a significant majority of our A2 and DP2 students have received university offers from institutions across the globe. Our students have secured placements in the UK, Africa, Canada, Ireland, the USA, the UAE, Australia, South Africa, Europe, and Asia. These offers span competitive fields such as Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Computer Science.

At this stage, we strongly encourage students and parents to review these offers carefully to determine the best fit and career pathways. Early and informed decisions are essential, as some programmes fill quickly and conditional offers require timely action.

In addition, the Careers Team, in collaboration with the Admissions and Advancement Office, has launched the Alumni Spotlight Series, showcasing alumni journeys, university experiences, and career pathways to support and inspire our current students. Below are some of our featured alumni highlights and where they are now. Read more about our featured Alumni on our Facebook and Instagram pages!



CLASS OF 2023

Aaron Rattos

Recently graduated in January 2026 from Select Aviation College in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.



CLASS OF 2022

Ammar Champeli

Currently pursuing a career in Aviation in Canada as a Commercial Pilot and soon-to-be Flight Instructor.



CLASS OF 2025

Jemimah Barigye Busingye

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering at Kingston University in London



CLASS OF 2024

Panth Dalwadi

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Computer Science (Cybersecurity) at the University of Manitoba, Canada.



CLASS OF 2025

Disha Vinodkumar Nayee

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Technology in ICT at Dhirubhai Ambani University, India.



CLASS OF 2025

Rida Lalani

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Psychology and Health Studies at University of Toronto, Canada

Simon Ainomugisha
Careers Counsellor

Email: careerscounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

International Francophonie Day

International Francophonie Day celebrates the French language and cultural diversity worldwide. At Acorns, students explored this through performances, creative crafts, and interactive activities, celebrating diversity and global connections within our community.



Secondary School Play

Secondary students brought *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare to life in a captivating live production, delivering a memorable showcase of creativity and confidence.



Student-Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences (SLC) provided an opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning journey. SLCs place students at the centre of the conversation, allowing them to confidently share their progress, reflect on their learning experiences and set meaningful goals for the future.

