

ACORNS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | BUNGA

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Message from The CEO



Exciting updates from the Acorns Group of International Schools

As we bid adieu to Term 1 and 2024, the transformation of Acorns is complete! Students, teachers, and staff are embracing the new brand with renewed energy and purpose. Here are the latest updates from our campuses:

Acorns Kisaasi

We're thrilled to announce the completion of the Multipurpose Building and the nearing completion of the Secondary Building's top floor! These spaces include:

- Examination Halls: Dedicated, isolated spaces for exams.
- Multipurpose Event Area: For assemblies and small gatherings.
- Library Extension: Expanded with additional bookshelves and study areas.
- Lunch Area: A dedicated serving point and dining area for Secondary students.
- Gym: Enhancing Secondary PHE lessons, equipped thanks to PTO funds raised during the 2023 Family Fun Day.
- Our heartfelt thanks to the PTO for their support!



Acorns Bunga

This term, our students showcased their diplomacy and public speaking skills by participating in Model United Nations (MUN) debates at the International School of Uganda and Aga Khan High School. They tackled critical global issues, demonstrating exceptional performance and representing Acorns with pride.



Acorns Kigali

Congratulations to Acorns Kigali for being named Best International School of the Year for the third year in a row! This remarkable achievement reflects the team's dedication and excellence.



Acorns Lubowa

Watching the new Lubowa campus take shape is a journey of pride and nostalgia. The structures reflect Acorns' standards and values, symbolising our commitment to excellence.



Board Meeting Highlights

Our recent board meeting was a success, fostering collaboration and fresh ideas. It included campus visits to Bunga and Lubowa and set the stage for future growth. We eagerly anticipate the next meeting at Kigali.



Service Initiatives

Service is at the heart of Acorns. The directors' support for Nangwa Nursery and Primary School in Mukono continues to provide over 290 children with free tuition and meals. This initiative empowers young learners and embodies our mission to make a lasting impact.



Pupils On Assembly (Nursery)



Pupils At The Sign Post (Nursery)



African Education Festival 2025

I'm thrilled to announce that my abstract has been selected for the African Education Festival 2025! I'll be presenting a workshop in Kigali, furthering our mission to advance IB education in Africa.



Dear Ameena,

Thank you for submitting your abstract to the African Education Festival 2025. We are delighted to inform you that your submission has been selected for presentation at the Festival. Congratulations!

Acorns Campus Exchange

In January 2025, I look forward to updating you about the Acorns Campus Exchange. In March 2025, a selected group of students and staff from the Bunga and Kisaasi campuses will visit our Kigali campus.

Wishing everyone a joyful and restful holiday season! As I always like to conclude, let us embrace this time by being a little more humble, a little slower, a little more forgiving, little more smiles, and little more giving!

Happy Holidays!

Ameena Lalani
Head of School/CEO

Emails: headofschool@ais.ac.ug
ceo@ais.ac.ug

Message from The Head of School



Dear Acorns Family,

As the term draws to a close, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared. This term has been a vibrant tapestry of learning, leadership, and memorable experiences that reflect the spirit of our school.

A Gracious Welcome to Our Esteemed Board

Members:

It was a privilege to host our distinguished Board members, who visited to connect with our community and share their invaluable perspectives on our growth and strategic direction. Their steadfast commitment to our vision strengthens the solid foundation of excellence and collaboration that defines our school.



Introduction of Our Heads of Departments

This year, we are pleased to introduce our new **Heads of Departments**, who are dedicated to enhancing the learning experience across all age groups.

Head of Early Years & Learning Support Services (LSS) - Ms. Mumtaz:

We warmly welcome Ms. Mumtaz from India as our new Head of Early Years and Learning Support Services. She holds a Master of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor's in Special Education (Learning Disability). With extensive experience in the International School sector, particularly in IB schools, we are confident that the Acorns family will greatly benefit from her expertise. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Hanifa, who has been serving as Acting Head of Early Years. We are proud to have her as an integral part of our team.

Head of Primary - Ms. Carolyn:

As many of you already know, Ms. Carolyn, with her Degree in Education, is dedicated to laying a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, and social skills for our younger learners. Her unwavering commitment continues to inspire and guide our primary students.

Head of Secondary - Mr. Patrick:

Leading our secondary department, Mr. Patrick, who is currently pursuing his Master's in Education, emphasizes academic excellence and equips our older students for future success. His vision and leadership are instrumental in preparing our students to achieve their full potential.



Mumtaz Samnani

HoD Early Years & LSS



Carolyn Nakawunde

HoD Primary



Ojara Patrick

HoD Secondary

We are excited about the impact our Heads of Departments will have on the continued growth and success of our students!

Global Perspectives: UN Model Debates

Our students shone on the international stage at the UN Model Debates held at Aga Khan and the International School of Uganda. Engaging with peers from diverse backgrounds, they tackled global issues with insight and diplomacy, showcasing their ability to think critically and lead effectively.



Leadership in Action: Prefects' Council Handover

In a spirit of continuity and growth, our outgoing prefects handed over the mantle of leadership to the new council. This event was a testament to the dedication and integrity of our student leaders, who continue to embody the values of responsibility and service.



Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating break, and I look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting term.

Evelyn Twebaze
Head of School

Happy Holidays!

Emails: headofschool@oakinternational.ac.ug

Student Council 2024 - 25



Amir Kawooya

Head Prefect



Elijah Kox Mwesigwa

Speaker



Ariella Pedun

Deputy Speaker



Efrata Berhane

Sanitation & Health



Divine Felisa

Academics & Library



Naomi Isaias

Time Keeper



Akuol Bol

Deputy Time Keeper



Liam Ssekatawa

Current Affairs - Primary



Minyang Dhieu Dok

Current Affairs - Secondary



Ghezala Mirzad

Entertainment



Yonas Adhanom

Games & Sports



Madina Ismaili

Deputy Games & Sports



Sosuna Tadese

Fire House Captain



Brian Mbweki

Water House Captain



Yostina Isaias

Air House Captain



Naomi Berhane

Earth House Captain

Message from The Curriculum Coordinator



As we come to the close of a successful term at Acorns International School, I would like to take this opportunity to share some key highlights and initiatives we have introduced this year. There have been many exciting developments, and we are looking forward to the continued growth and achievements of our students and staff.

Careers Day - Insights from Professionals

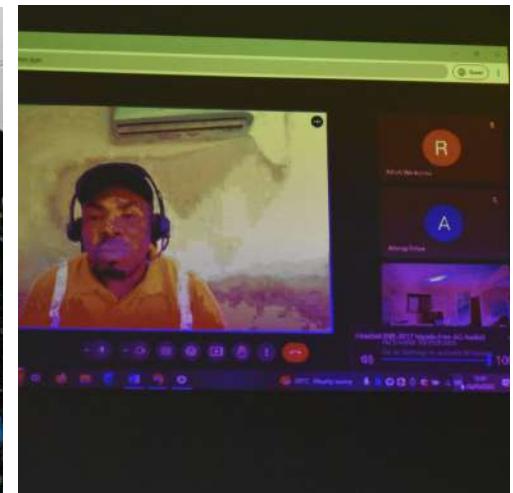
Our Careers Day was a remarkable success, with professionals from various industries coming in to share their expertise and career journeys with our students. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about different fields, the responsibilities and skills required, and the educational paths that lead to these professions. We believe this experience will inspire our students to think broadly about their futures and encourage them to pursue their passions.

Our students had an inspiring day at the hospital, where they gained a unique insight into the wide range of roles that contribute to its daily operations. From human resources and information technology management to the dedicated medical practitioners, they learned how each department plays a vital part in delivering excellent patient care. The experience not only broadened their understanding of healthcare but also sparked interest in the diverse careers that support the well-being of the community. It was a day of learning, exploration, and discovery!



Coffee with the Curriculum Coordinator (CCC)- A Collaborative Approach

This term, we held a special Coffee with the Curriculum Coordinator event, where parents had the opportunity to meet with teachers and learn about how we can work together to improve reading and writing outcomes at Acorns. Collaboration between parents and teachers is essential in supporting student success, and we appreciate the involvement of all who attended.



Stationery and Reading Improvement

This year, we made a strong push for stationery improvements, with the introduction of a mandatory dictionary for each student. This is a step towards furthering our desire to enhance reading and writing skills across the school.

We kindly ask parents to support this initiative by encouraging regular reading at home. Please ensure that your child arrives at school each day with a reading book—whether from home or the school library. This simple action can make a big difference in their academic progress.

Top Readers of the Term

We are thrilled to announce the Top Readers of the Term in each class. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding dedication to reading!

Year	August	September	October	November
Y1	N/A	Brilliance	Awab	Gelilah
Y2	Yosyas	Blessing	Malvina	Blessing
Y3	Hayden	Karekedan	Melak	Melak
Y4	Barack	Achol	Ghezal	Grace
Y5	Ariella	Kevina	Ariella	Joanna
Y6	Michael	Louise	Amani	Adhiew
Y7	Divine	Divine	Divine	Bethel
Y8	Ezana	Karniella	Ola	Karniella
Y9	Arianna	Carla	Carla	Fiorey
Y10	Kaila	Miraj	N/A	Kaila

This initiative will continue throughout the year, with more students recognized for their hard work. We know that reading is one of the most important habits for academic success—it improves vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking. Let’s continue to support our students in building this lifelong skill.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

This academic year, we are excited to have introduced English as a Second Language (ESL) to select students, chosen based on their academic performance and teacher assessments. The ESL programme offers significant benefits, providing students with tailored support to improve their language skills and boost their confidence in communication. By catering to each student's unique abilities, we ensure that they receive the guidance they need to succeed in their academic journey. This initiative not only enhances their proficiency in English but also fosters a more inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

Behaviour Reports

In our ongoing efforts to maintain a positive school environment, we introduced behaviour reports this term. We have already seen positive results and are excited to see the continued impact this initiative will have in the upcoming term. Clear expectations and accountability are key in creating a respectful and productive atmosphere for everyone.

Holiday Package for Core Subjects

As part of our commitment to continued learning, we have sent home a Holiday Package for core subjects—Math, English, and Science. This package provides essential practice over the holidays and is designed to help students retain and apply what they have learned. It is important that students complete their work thoughtfully and not rush through it in the final days before school starts. Rushed work often leads to mistakes, which can affect their overall term results. Please ensure that your child returns the completed work on January 7th when school resumes.

Looking Ahead

As we approach the holiday season, we would like to thank our entire school community for your continued support. We are excited to see the progress we will make together in the coming term. Enjoy the holidays, and we look forward to welcoming you and your child back in January!

Thank You for Your Support

A special thank you to the parents who provided their child(ren) with the necessary resources this term. Your efforts in ensuring students have their required materials help limit class distractions and contribute to a more focused learning environment. We also appreciate the support shown through the purchase of learners' books and workbooks. If you have not yet purchased them, please do so at reception to ensure your child has the resources they need.

Warm regards,



Nikita Marcellin
Curriculum Coordinator

Email: curriculumcoordinator@oakinternational.ac.ug

Message from The Acting HoD Early Years



As Term 1 comes to a close, I'm delighted to reflect on the accomplishments of our students. All the students have been engaged in significant learning experiences, achieving outstanding results and developing essential skills. Am incredibly proud of their progress and enthusiasm.

Family Day Celebration

Students and their families came together to enjoy a fun day with different games and activities. It was really amazing to see our students and their loved ones joining and having a great time together!



As we come the end our term, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our students, parents and staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment towards excellence.

We're proud of our students' achievements and progress. We are looking forward to seeing them continue grow and thrive in the new term.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you a restful and enjoyable break.

Best regards,

Hanifa Zalwango
Acting HoD Early Years

Message from The HoD Primary



I am delighted to extend my warmest gratitude to our dedicated parents and children for a successful term. Your tireless efforts and commitment have been instrumental in making this term a resounding success.

This term has been marked by a number of activities, notably our rigorous preparation of candidates for their checkpoint exams as they transition to the next level. To ensure our learners receive comprehensive exam preparation, we have implemented several initiatives:

Enhanced Teaching and Learning:

Our department has aligned its curriculum with the latest exam requirements, introduced regular teacher training sessions, and fostered collaborative teaching practices.

Revision and Practice:

We have provided an array of past papers for weekly revision sessions and facilitated access to online platforms offering practice exams, interactive lessons, and personalized feedback.

Support and Guidance:

Revision sessions have been organized to provide additional support and guidance outside regular class hours.

Progress Monitoring and Feedback:

Regular progress monitoring has been implemented to track candidate performance, identify areas for improvement, and provide constructive feedback.

As we conclude this term, I urge you to continue working together to ensure the success of our children. I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating holiday. Thank you for your unwavering support.

As we conclude this term, I urge you to continue working together to ensure the success of our children. I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating holiday. Thank you for your unwavering support.



Carolyn Nakawunde
HoD Primary

Email: hodprimary@oakinternational.ac.ug

Message from The HoD Secondary



As we embark on an exciting journey towards the Lower Secondary Checkpoint and IGCSE examinations, we are thrilled to share our intensive teaching and learning programme designed to empower our learners to achieve their highest potential. Our diverse initiatives aim to provide comprehensive support, ensuring that every student is well-prepared for their upcoming assessments.

Progress Tests:

Regular progress tests have been administered to monitor student understanding and retention of core concepts. These assessments will help identify areas for improvement and guide our teaching strategies.

Extensive Homework Schedule:

We have implemented a structured homework schedule to reinforce learning. Core subjects (English, Science, Mathematics) are assigned homework in week one, followed by non-core subjects (ICT, Geography, Sociology, Business, Economics, Arabic, Literature-in-English) in the subsequent week. This approach allows students to focus on one set of subjects at a time, enhancing their learning experience.

Revision Workshops:

We will organize regular workshops focusing on key subjects next term. These sessions will provide students with the opportunity to review important concepts, practice past papers, and clarify any doubts with their teachers as they prepare for mocks and end of cycle examinations.

Peer Tutoring:

To foster collaboration and reinforce understanding, we encourage students to form study groups or pair up for peer tutoring sessions. This initiative not only enhances academic performance but also builds confidence and teamwork among students. Our small class sizes makes this an effective approach, productive and easy to manage.

Online Resources:

Our school has provided access to various online learning platforms that offer interactive lessons, quizzes, and additional practice materials, such as Seneca learning, kahoot, twinkle, A-Z learning, etc. These resources have been invaluable for students seeking extra support outside of the classroom. We have access to Tutopiya, TeachMe Economics, IGCSE AID, CIE Notes, GoStudent, and RevisionMaths, among others.

Mock Exams:

We have scheduled mock exams under timed conditions to help students familiarize themselves with the exam format and develop effective time management skills. This practice is crucial in reducing anxiety and boosting confidence on exam day.

Feedback Sessions:

After tests and assignments, we hold feedback sessions where students discuss their performance with their teachers. This personalized feedback sessions help students identify strengths and areas for improvement.

We are committed to providing a supportive and enriching environment for our students as they prepare for their Lower Secondary Checkpoint and IGCSE examinations. Together, we can ensure that every student has the tools and resources they need to succeed. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.



Patrick Ojara
HoD Secondary

Email: hodsecondary@oakinternational.ac.ug

Message from The Head of Finance



We deeply appreciate your commitment to clearing school fees on time. However, we note that some families have faced challenges meeting the timelines. To ensure smooth operations and support for all students, please take note of the following guidelines:

NEW Uniforms:

I am excited to announce that at the start of Term 2, we will have some of the new uniform styles in stock!

As this is a transition year, students can continue wearing the previous uniform styles until the end of this academic year. Since we now have stock in all sizes, all students are expected to be in either the previous uniform style or the new uniform style. Home clothes will no longer be acceptable unless for special occasions, such as school events or a student's birthday.

Attached is the price list for the uniforms starting from Term 2.

Fee Payment Deadlines:

- A minimum of 70% of the school fees must be cleared at the start of the term.
- Students whose fees remain unpaid after 10 days will be sent home until the full amount is settled.
- Students with any outstanding fees will not be permitted to begin the new term.

Clubs Information:

We are excited to share the list of available clubs for your planning purposes. Additional details will be provided at the start of the Term 2.

Available Clubs:

- Gymnastics
- Skating
- Football

Please Note:

- Club sessions will take place every Tuesday and Friday, from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM after school.
- The cost for each club is \$100 per term.
- Students may join up to two clubs that best align with their interests.
- Each club will only operate if it has more than 5 participants. To avoid disappointment, we kindly request that you enroll your child as early as possible.

We look forward to an enriching and fun club experience for all students!

PE Set (shirt & pant)	20 USD
Sweater	15 USD
ECD/Primary Skirt	12 USD
ECD/Primary Trouser	12 USD
ECD/Primary Polo	12 USD
Secondary Trouser	15 USD
Secondary Shirt <i>As this shirt is dark red and will leak pigment in the first washes, we recommend washing it separately</i>	15 USD
Secondary Tie	8 USD
A Level Blazer <i>*new item*</i>	45 USD



Attached is the updated fees structure for your reference.
(Click to Download Fees Structure)

We thank you for your continued support and cooperation in ensuring a seamless experience for all members of our community.

Rumina Gaulani
Head of Finance & Admissions

Email: finance@oakinternational.ac.ug

Message from The Head of Admin



One of our key accomplishments this term was the successful implementation of new administrative processes aimed at enhancing communication between parents, teachers, and students. The introduction of our updated parent portal through PTO, class and school groups and check ins have been particularly well-received, making it easier for families to stay informed about their children’s progress and school activities.

This term, we proudly hosted a variety of events that highlighted our students' exceptional talents and dedication. From the vibrant Global Village and the engaging Student Body Elections to the thrilling Spelling Bee and heartwarming EC Family Week, these activities showcased the collective hard work of our staff and the boundless enthusiasm of our students. Spotlight details on these events can be found on the following pages—don't miss out on the fun!

Lunch and Transport Services:

As we look ahead to Term 2, please see below the revised Lunch menu and Clubs Schedule. To help us plan effectively, please register your child for lunch and transport services before the term begins.



Holiday Office Hours:

The school office will remain open during the holidays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM for inquiries and payments except for Sundays and Public Holidays.

Wishing you all a restful break and looking forward to another productive term!



Please Note:

1. Fees for school lunch, clubs, and after-school care are payable in advance.
2. Lunch and after-school care will begin from the first day of school; clubs will start from the second week onwards.
3. Kindly register your child/ren with accounts for lunch latest by 30th December, 2024

LUNCH MENU

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st Course	Chapatti	Fish Fingers/Veg Patties	Sliced Apples	Chicken Sausages/Veg Fritters	Veggie Supreme Pizza
2nd Course	Beans Stew/Veg Stew/Posho/Veg Rice	Tomato Soup/Chinese Spaghetti/Roast Irish Potatoes	Boneless Chicken/C-Nut Sauce/French Beans & Carrots/Brown Rice/Matooke	Goat's Meat/Mixed Vegetable/Jeera Rice/Yams	Potato Gravy/Veg/Chicken Pilau
3rd Course	Coleslaw Salad	Cucumber/Carrot Salad	Banana Cake	Kachumbari	Watermelon Slices
The school reserves the right to modify or replace any day's menu, partially or entirely, based on prevailing supply and demand conditions.					

Aleena Karmali
Head of Administration

Email: admin@oakinternational.ac.ug

Spotlight on School-Wide Events

Week Spotlight: Students Visit La Memorial Hospital

During Career Week, our secondary students had an insightful visit to La Memorial Hospital, exploring various key departments and gaining valuable knowledge about healthcare professions.

The tour included the Emergency Section, where students learned about ambulance services and the critical role of first responders. In the Blood Groups Section, they explored blood typing and its importance in medical treatments. The Pathology Department demonstrated how lab tests help diagnose diseases, while the Radiology Section showcased advanced imaging techniques like X-rays and MRIs used for diagnosing illnesses.

A highlight of the visit was the IT Department, where students discovered how technology supports healthcare. They learned about managing patient records securely and the role of IT professionals in ensuring efficient hospital operations.

This experience not only deepened the students' understanding of the medical field but also sparked interest in careers ranging from medicine to healthcare IT.

We extend our gratitude to La Memorial Hospital for this educational and inspiring opportunity!



Exploring the Wild at Queen Elizabeth National Park

Our secondary learners embarked on a thrilling overnight trip to Queen Elizabeth National Park, where they immersed themselves in the wonders of nature. This adventure was not only an opportunity to connect with Uganda's rich biodiversity but also a moment to deepen bonds and learn about environmental conservation firsthand.



A Celebration of Creativity: Art Week

Art Week brought our campus alive with colour, imagination, and self-expression. Students across all grades showcased their artistic talents through various mediums, creating works that inspired and amazed us all. The event culminated in an exhibition that celebrated the power of creativity in shaping young minds.



Global Village

The students showcased their cultural heritage through traditional dances from around the world. It was a huge success with students, teachers and parents putting hands together making the event colourful. We really appreciate your effort and contribution this day.



Book Day Celebration

The students also embraced and celebrated world Book Day. We had several activities in relation to this like dress up as your favorite book character, reading sessions, quizzes and book reviews.





Musical Performance

The musical performance was a spectacular showcase of talent and creativity, with students from all grade levels coming together to create an unforgettable experience. The event featured stunning vocal performances, with soloists and choir members captivating the audience with their powerful singing. The instrumental section brought the music to life, with our talented band playing everything from classsesesesesical melodies to contemporary hits. Drama students also shone with their expressive acting, delivering memorable scenes that added depth and emotion to the performance. And of course, the dancers dazzled with their energetic and graceful choreography, bringing an extra layer of excitement to the show. A highlight of the evening was the fashion show, where students proudly showcased outfits crafted from recycled materials, blending sustainability with style. It was truly a celebration of the diverse talents that make our school community so special!

Swimming Gala

The gala was a showcase of impressive performances of both girls and boys teams during the internal class inter-competition. Students like Adhiew, Asaiah, Athalia, Paul, Elijah, Tory, Ramazan, Mwiza, Bana, Diamanté, and Ariana dominated most of the short-course races. Bana, in particular, stood out by winning the 100m freestyle with a personal best of 1:07.67 and also securing first place in the butterfly stroke. Ariana triumphed in both the backstroke and breaststroke events. Even the Year 1 students stepped up, contributing valuable points to the team's success. The Gala proved to be a valuable learning experience, teaching our students the importance of hard work and preparation for next term's championship, which will be held at different schools. It also emphasized the importance of understanding the lessons being taught and listening carefully to instructions, setting the stage for even greater achievements in the future.



Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent-teacher meetings have been hosted for the candidate classes, ensuring parents are informed and involved in their children's learning process. We believe that parental support is vital to student success. We provide parents with information on how they can create a conducive study environment at home and encourage their children's learning. This has been instrumental in enforcing on homework policy
 Communication and Support: We encourage open communication between parents, students, and teachers. Should you have any questions or require further information about our initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school administration.



Term II Calendar 2024-2025

Term Two

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1st New Year's Day - Holiday
- 6th Staff in service
- 7th First Day of Term II
- 24th CCC
- 26th NRM Liberation Day - Holiday
- 27th Class Photos

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

- 12th ECD Field Trip
- 13th Primary Field Trip
- 13th - 16th DofE
- 14th - 18th Mid Term Break
- 16th Archbishop Janan Luwum Day - Holiday
- 21st Family Language Day
- 24th - 4th Mocks/End of Term Exams
- 28th International Stand-up Bullying Day

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 10th - 14th Science Week
- 14th Science Exhibition
- 18th Francophonie Day
- 19th Students Led Conference (ECD)
- 20th End of Term II / ECD Sports Day (ECD - Y3)
- 20th Students Led Conference
- 21st End of Term II / Sports Day
- 22nd - 26th Acorns Exchange Programme
- 31st Staff in Service

Office Hours

School Days

7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday / School Holidays

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday / Public Holidays

Closed

Term II Begins

JANUARY

7

2025