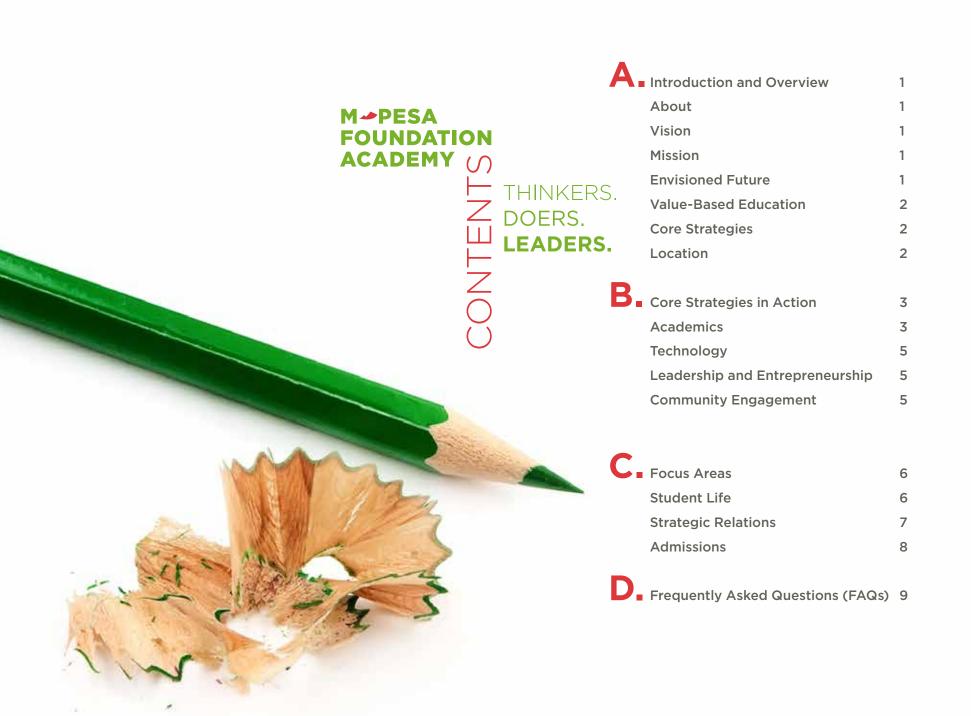
# M-PESA FOUNDATION ACADEMY

**PROSPECTUS** 





# /ISION

To develop transformational leaders through innovative approaches to education.

# MISSION ABC

The M-PESA Foundation Academy is a state of the art, co-educational and residential high school providing world class Kenyan education. Driven by leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation, The Academy serves talented but economically disadvantaged students with demonstrated leadership potential.

To be a leadership development institution for high school students providing high quality education to nurture the next generation of transformational leaders.

## **Introduction and Overview**



## Envisioned Future

- We will be the top leadership development institution globally.
- We will attract exceptional, motivated and talented students.
- We will always have the students' needs at the core of our educational model, ensuring that none of the students under our care fall behind. They will find value in education, whatever their strengths, aspirations and interests.
- We will attract the best educators who are committed to continually improving the ways in which students are taught.
- Students who graduate from The Academy will be leaders in their fields of interest, such as business, academia, politics, sports or the arts. They will be the entrepreneurs and community leaders who will drive Kenya forward.

- The Academy will adopt and develop innovative pedagogical approaches that we will share with other high schools across Kenva.
- We will partner with leading institutions from around the world to open up paths to tertiary education and employment for our students.
- We will leverage technology to ensure that we provide access to quality education resources to students within and beyond the walls of The Academy.

**Value-Based Education:** The following values drive life across all elements of The Academy for educators, learners and staff:

EXCEILENCE We are exceptional people committing to personal and shared achievement.

Responsible Citizenship We value compassion and care for those around us as we contribute to the common good.

Curiosity We are invested in and take ownership of our teaching and learning in order to constantly grow.

Accountability We hold ourselves and others responsible for decisions, attitudes and actions taken.

Leadership We have the courage to challenge the status quo in order to inspire and lead positive change.

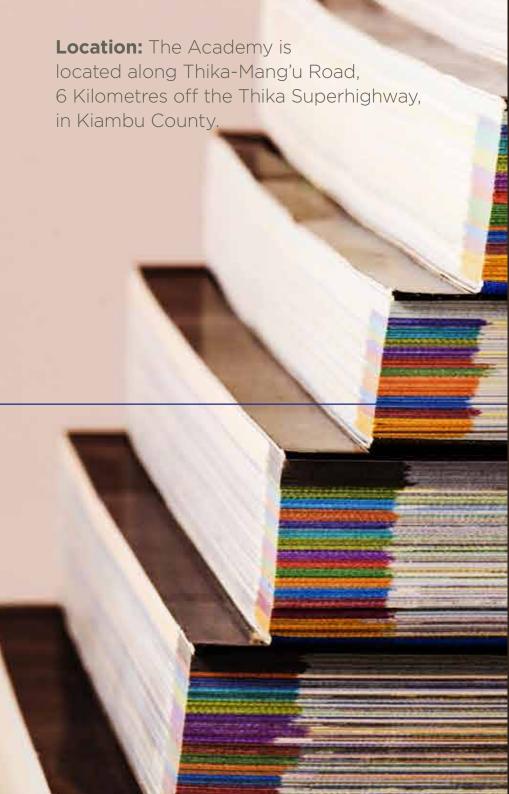
Innovation We see problems in our communities as opportunities for transformative action.

A Introduction and Overview -

#### **Core Strategies**

- Dedicated focus on student needs to ensure that no student is left behind
- Deliberate investment in professional development for educators
- Purposeful use of technology to support teaching and learning while developing technology-savvy learners and educators
- Intentional investment in the arts and sports
- Focus on leadership and entrepreneurship education to ensure learners develop mindsets, skills and approaches to spur positive change

Graduates of the M-PESA Foundation Academy will become leaders who will drive forward Kenya's development: innovators, entrepreneurs, and strategic thinkers with a global perspective.



#### Background

M-PESA Foundation has made significant investments in existing educational institutions. Building The Academy is in keeping with our continued commitment to transforming lives in Kenya.

In pursing this commitment, The Academy focuses on two core objectives:

- 1. Sustaining an innovative way of delivering KCSE
- 2. Integration of entrepreneurship and leadership into the culture of the school

#### **Envisioning Innovation**

As well as investing in and training educators, The Academy has also provided an environment in which they can rethink the way KCSE subjects are delivered to ensure students mixed ability and needs are at the core of learning, while leveraging technology and keeping teachers engaged as key facilitators in the education process.

The Academy delivers and practices the following key skills for the future in diverse and exciting ways:

- · Critical thinking
- Communication
- Analysis and problem solving
- Collaboration
- Curiosity
- Leadership

**Core Strategies in Action** 

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Learning is experiential and goes beyond listening to the teacher disseminate knowledge and test accuracy. The approach involves elements such as collaborative, blended and self-directed learning. In addition, there is a vigorous study skills programme in place, ensuring that students are well prepared to sit for the KCSE assessment at the end of their 4 years in high school.

Consistent with the Kenya Ministry of Education guidelines, students have a choice of the following subjects:

#### **Group II**

Biology Physics Chemistry

#### **Group I**

English Kiswahili Mathematics

#### **Group III**

History & Government Geography

# B

# **Core Strategies in Action**

#### **Group IV**

Home Science
Art and Design
Agriculture
Woodwork
Metalwork
Drawing and Design

# Metalwork Drawing and Design Computer Studies Building and Construction

#### **Group V**

French
German
Music
Business Studies

In addition to examinable subjects, The Academy offers supplementary subjects to fulfil students' other educational needs.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

Technology is a key aspect of life at The Academy, building key skills across the community regardless of areas of interest. In leveraging technology to support teaching, learning and operations, we invest in the following areas:

- a. Teaching and learning
- b. Administration

#### LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This is an overall leadership development programme that nurtures students' skills and builds a culture that enables positive change. This programme covers social and servant leadership, emotional intelligence, working in teams, simulating real life challenges and failures, elevator pitching, etc. The Academy cultivates students' ability to innovate, irrespective of their academic strengths or weaknesses. Students work with teachers and one another to design projects that can solve real world challenges.

#### a. Teaching and Learning

Blended Learning: Our model incorporates both direct teacher-student contact time and online learning opportunities. As a way of accommodating diverse learning styles and to ensure that no student is left behind, blended learning allows for collaboration, use of online tools to practicing concepts and access to curated and open academic content.

Resource Management: The Academy maintains a digital resource bank of recommended and approved learning materials and other relevant resources from around the world to which students and educators have access.

### **Core Strategies in Action**

# B

#### b. Administration

The key functions of The Academy are managed through central technology applications. This includes finance administration, facilities management, catering management, student management and residential life management, among others.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community engagement arm of The Academy is aligned to the value on Responsible Citizenship value. As the school is a community in itself, and as a way of demonstrating gratitude for the opportunities they enjoy, every member of The Academy community is expected to commit to some form of community engagement, action and service.

This programme is planned in the following key ways:

- 1. Sharing Academic Resources The Academy will share the knowledge that has been tried and tested at the school. The Academy is building a data bank of accessible online resources in the form of recorded lessons, learning materials and teaching tools.
- **3. Community Service (Internal) -** Every aspect of the school has a community engagement arm. All the clubs and societies that students are involved in will be required to hold regular in-house community events.
- 2. Community Service Projects (External) Each student is required to participate in a community service project, guided by faculty and staff members. The students and faculty members will work alongside members of the community to ensure that these projects meet the community's needs.

#### STUDENT LIFE

#### Residential Life

The Academy is fully residential. All students, as well as most faculty members, live on campus. This is a comfortable and safe environment, in which students practice their value-based education and leadership. Each residential floor has a live-in faculty member who is in charge of the overall wellness of the students. The spaces in the residential floors are designed to promote a healthy social livelihood.

#### Sports

Each student at The Academy is required to engage in sports. In line with the value of excellence, both faculty and students involved in the sports programme are dedicated to daily and weekly practice regimens that lead to regular competitions amongst school teams and in tournament pools with other institutions.

#### Wellness

The wellness team of professionals is responsible for the general wellness of the students, staff and faculty members at The Academy. Beyond attending to physical and mental health needs, the wellness coaches have designed programmes for the community to maintain a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit.

#### Arts

The Art Department designs and executes elective classes outside of the examinable subjects to allow the students interested in the various arts to hone their skills in their areas of interest. There are dedicated studios and spaces for these seminars, in which teachers provide structured guidance to students so that they develop their skills throughout their time at The Academy.





#### Mentorship

In each faculty, selected staff and community members act as advisors to a group of students. These adults are responsible for monitoring, advising and ensuring the comfort of the students and for making sure that the students are living up to expectations in terms of their academics, sports, arts, enterprise, leadership and extracurricular activities. There is a family dinner each Wednesday where mentors spend time with their protegês.

#### Work

Students at The Academy are expected to work for a certain number of hours each week. The stipend they receive in return is used to meet their own personal expenses, or some portion thereof. The students also attend regular money management training sessions.

# Focus Areas C

#### STRATEGIC RELATIONS

#### Sustainability and Partnerships

The Academy has a dedicated department ensuring institutional sustainability. The Academy is conscious of the importance of leveraging key partnerships in order to strengthen and continually expand its capacity to innovate and deliver quality education in a cost effective and sustainable way.

#### Higher Education Guidance

This department is dedicated to ensuring the successful transition of students from high school into their desired educational futures. Members of this team assess students' higher education needs for the best-fit higher education options. In addition, this department works with institutions that would offer placements, scholarships and financial aid to students.

#### Careers and Work Experience

The education offered by The Academy is accompanied with real world work experience. Working closely with the university guidance team, the Careers Department engages students from the moment they arrive at The Academy until well beyond their high school graduation to ensure they obtain relevant work experience.



#### Application to The Academy

Admission is evaluated on the following criteria:

- A. Academic Excellence
- B. Leadership and Entrepreneurship Potential
- C. Financial Need
- D. Responsible Citizenship
- E. Critical Thinking
- F. Problem Solving

Applications are accepted from students from all counties in Kenya.

The admissions cycle runs from May to November each year, and consists of filling and returning an application form and a multiple stage evaluation process, including telephone and in person interviews for selected applicants.

#### Orientation

Student orientation takes place between January and February each year. These two months form the basis of a lifetime of leadership learning to positively transform Kenya, Africa and the world.

Components of orientation include:

- a. Introduction to rigorous leadership development and entrepreneurship learning
- b. Teaching and practicing how to use technology efficiently and effectively to bridge educational gaps and allow for accelerated educational growth
- c. Building the culture of The Academy through value-based education
- d. Basic introduction to higher level Maths, English, Science, Languages and active reading

Focus Areas C



#### a. Where is the school located?

Along Thika-Mang'u Road, 6 Kilometres off the Thika Superhighway, Kiambu County.

#### b. Why build a school instead of investing in already existing schools?

The M-PESA Foundation has made significant investments in existing educational institutions. Building The Academy is in keeping with our continued commitment to transforming lives in Kenya.

#### c. How is your school different?

The core academic curriculum at the M-PESA Foundation Academy is the Kenya National curriculum because we believe in building and enhancing our Kenyan curriculum. We invest in continuous research to ensure that we cover the academic concepts required in exciting and innovative ways. We also focus on entrepreneurship and leadership giving students time to learn outside the classroom, explore the arts and take part in sports.

d. How many students are going to be admitted and what are the total numbers?

We admitted a total of 96 Form 1 students in 2016 and hence forth we shall be admitting a total of 180 students each year.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

#### e. How will admissions information be availed?

Admissions information and application materials will be available online and with county and sub county representatives by the May of any year.

#### f. How is the school going to be run and governed?

The Academy is run by a Chief Executive Officer who reports to The Academy's Board of Management.

#### g. Is the school public or private?

The Academy is a private school, offering the Kenyan national high school curriculum, KCSE.

#### h. Will any fees be levied?

The majority of the students attending The Academy will be from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and will therefore not pay school fees.









#### **M-PESA Foundation Academy**

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