

Thomas Hibbers



Mr. Hibbers spent several years teaching in his home country, South Africa, before going abroad. His educational development was built with professional workshops in international curricula, and further studies at international universities. In Doha, Qatar, Mr. Hibbers participated in professional development workshops and taught International Baccalaureate classes in the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and the IB Diploma Programme, which overarched in leading the IB curriculum in Qatar, India, China, etc. As a member of the International Baccalaureate Educator Network (IBEN), he became an IB workshop leader to train teachers in IB teaching methodology. In addition,

Mr. Hibbers served as a School Visiting Team Member (IB inspector) to guide schools toward meeting the IB standards and evaluating their progress in doing so all over the world (Latvia, Belgium, Turkey, South Africa, India, etc.)

Mr. Hibbers believes *“that nobody is as powerful as everybody.”* His vision for the IB diploma programme relies on the following key points:

- A commitment toward the common goal of excellence
- The development of a school improvement plan in collaboration with the Head of School and School Management Team, and in alignment with the Board’s vision for the school
- A strategic plan with input from all stakeholders, when needed, and that uses students' talents and interests
- Establishing high expectations of team members (and students), collaboratively setting challenging and realistic targets for each of them to achieve, and forming cohesive teams
- Ensuring that systems and procedures are in place to enable the effective and consistent progression of all staff and students from various backgrounds
- Strengthening learning and teaching through systematic professional development and practical support
- Continuously do upskill workshops for IB faculty, to stay abreast of the latest developments in education and their subject. Thus, allowing students to receive instruction from high qualified professionals, equipped with the latest teaching tools.

Mr. Hibbers will be accompanied by his teaching wife, Lala (Band, Drama and CAS Coordinator), and their Middle School son Agshin. They are excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Lala Hashimova

Hello, my name is Lala.

My friends say I have a bubbling, friendly, and dynamic personality. I was born and grew up in Baku, Azerbaijan where I qualified as a teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in Musicology specializing in Piano. I developed myself further with a Master's Degree in Education from the College of New Jersey (USA). Over the years I developed into a teacher with a total of 27 years of teaching experience and more than 10 years of IB teaching experience in Primary, Middle, High, multicultural, and multi-lingual schools all over the world. I have also gained many years of experience as Head of the Arts Department and CAS coordinator with a track record of successfully leading and teaching all aspects of PYP, MYP, DP as well as Common Core Curriculum in international schools.



As an educator, I believe in a holistic approach to teaching and learning that equips children with an excellent foundation to become lifelong learners. I will apply all of the knowledge, skills, and approaches built up with this experience and qualifications to the benefit of the students and this school community.

I have a happy personal life. In my free time, I enjoy music and being with my family.

Joanna Dempster Bashir



I am originally from Canada and hold graduate degrees in music performance and education. I have been teaching music at different schools for the past 14 years (both in Canada, and at three schools here in Africa) and I am delighted to be soon teaching music in Ouagadougou!

My objective is to create an environment that supports students' engagement, agency, and performance by exploring many areas in music education. I incorporate a balance of both Orff and Kodaly teaching methods that encourage us to think imaginatively, work collaboratively, and reflect deeply on the music we create and perform. In the music classroom, we will practice empathy, discover our unique gifts, use music as a tool for social change, and learn to believe more in ourselves and one another. We will also focus on approaches to learning that overlap with other subject areas, allowing us to transfer our knowledge inside and outside the classroom.

I look forward to creating music with our International School of Ouagadougou students and guiding them in their musical journey. The sense of joy and peace we can find in making and experiencing music is something I have experienced throughout my life and seek to share with all my students. My classroom is always open, so please make an appointment, stop in and join in the fun!

