



INFANT JESUS ACADEMY

CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOL

OLD ANWAI ROAD
OPPOSITE GOVT. HOUSE
P.O. BOX 148, ASABA
DELTA STATE

Email: enquiries@ijaasaba.com
Website: www.ijaasaba.com

TERMLY NEWSLETTER

2nd Term 2020/21

Dear parents and carers,

Having told staff, in January, of my intention to spend the early days of my tenure learning about the school, its learners, and its community, the business for which all Principals are appointed - that of ensuring the highest possible standards in educational provision - is now well underway. As Principal, the activities I have directed in the three months of this term, which are also the first three months of my Principalship here, have been guided by the three priorities to which you have often seen and heard me refer. These priorities are: first, the safeguarding of learners and ensuring the health and safety of our staff; second, promoting a school experience in which outstanding learning and teaching are the daily diet; and third, embedding a culture in which success is celebrated and the drive for improvement is continuous.

To improve arrangements for safeguarding learners and ensuring the health and safety of staff, we have:

- Re-set the relationship between the school and our security company, so that it is now the constructively critical, plain-speaking and mutually supportive relationship it must be for them to deliver the high-quality service we want for our learners and staff; and
- Implemented a 'reasonable adjustments' protocol, to enable a swift and supportive return to work for staff who have been absent due to serious or prolonged sickness.



To help us promote outstanding learning and teaching as the daily diet, this term:

- After many months of searching for candidates who are not just 'good teachers,' but who are the *right* teachers for *our* learners, we have now appointed Miss Oghwere, as Teacher of Government & Civic Education, and Mr. Odigwe as Teacher of Computer Science. We are delighted to welcome them aboard and we are excited about the positive impact they will have upon learners from within their respective areas of specialism.
- We have introduced a Learning & Teaching focus group, responsible for helping us develop a whole-school approach to delivering the curriculum, that is data-driven, learning-centred, and research-led.
- We have overhauled the processes by which senior leaders, middle leaders and class teachers are appointed, to ensure they are fair and robust and that they are linked to key professional competencies. This means that staff appointments will now feed directly into our core purpose as a school - that of 'making learning happen'.

To begin embedding a culture of celebration and continuous improvement, our first term together as school and Principal has seen us:

- Restructure the Senior Leadership Team, to provide the framework for whole-school line management and to drive immediate improvements in leadership and management and the related systems of support and accountability for staff;
- Improve the internal communication systems at senior and middle leader levels, to ensure a more orderly flow. This means staff, learners and stakeholders are better able to obtain information they need, when they need it. In turn, this is beginning to improve our handling of sensitive information, whilst bringing our data protection practices into closer alignment with standards to which we must adhere in extracting the greatest benefit from our status as an international school;
- Streamline procedures around staff absence, to support improved provision in the classroom, by virtue of better staff wellbeing and more consistent levels of staffing at key pressure points throughout the school year;
- Clarify the proper channels to use in making complaints, or raising concerns, as parents and carers, and implement a 'next working-day acknowledgement and 10 working-day feedback' protocol for all complaints received through these channels;
- Implement a range of measures to drive up standards in our kitchen provision and to target the human and material resources required to secure their effectiveness.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Payment of School Fees

School fees assist us in the general running of the school, in maintenance and in carrying out all essential repairs before and during term.

The breakdown of Third Term school fees for 2020/21 is as follows:

3 rd Term	Returning Students Fees
Tuition and Boarding	260,000
Maintenance fee	10,000
End of session party	5,000
ICT fees	5,000
Total	280,000

Payment of Third Term fees is expected on or before 18 April 2021, the date on which school resumes; and it is important that fees are paid on time, to ensure the uninterrupted learning of your child.

We appreciate each of you, therefore, for your quick and prompt payment.

Fees for learners in terminal examination classes - Year 9 (JSS3) and Year 12 (SS3) - should be cleared before they return. This includes both Third Term fees and any other fees still outstanding (like examinations fees, extension class fees and graduation ceremony fees).

Please note that learners in examination classes are not eligible for concessions on Third Term fees; and learners in these classes, without a 'zero' balance, will not be admitted into examinations.

This is in addition to the more-than 40 meetings, 30 parental complaints, 30 individual and corporate letters to parents, 18 hours of staff job interviews, 16 lesson observations and pieces of detailed written feedback to the teachers concerned, 10 hours of inspecting the school site ahead of directing urgent improvement works, and three visits from the office of the Chief Inspector of Education, including two unannounced inspections and one visit from the Chief Inspector herself, to which I have given personal attention as Principal - and all the other work staff have done to improve life across the school from within their various areas of responsibility.

Whereas these developments have been designed to take place without disrupting the day-to-day school experience of our young people, it is true to say that this has been an extremely busy term. This is because the work by which the developments are driven have happened *in addition to* the normal events of the school term. Indeed, our learners have continued learning. They have continued to be the fantastic - energetic, studious, vivacious, and even caring and brilliantly comical - young people it is such a delight to see them being. Our teaching staff have continued teaching: they have continued to give of themselves, daily, to make sure your child receives the education they need to succeed in whatever they choose to do in life. Our support staff have continued to support, providing the infrastructure needed to keep the proverbial edifice that is our educational mission standing firm and sure.

I am very proud of our school community!

PASTORAL & CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Easter Break

The Easter break for this term begins on **Wednesday 31 March 2021** for all learners. Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, and Year 11 are expected back in school on **Sunday 18 April, 2021** while Year 9 and Year 12 are expected back in school on **Tuesday 6 April, 2021**.

We strongly encourage parents/carers to ensure learners observe the appropriate COVID-19 protocols whilst away from school. Any queries in respect to this, or in connection with any other matter regarding the wellbeing of learners, should be directed to Mr Nosa, Assistant Principal at: n.igbinidu@ijaasaba.com.

Extension Classes

Learners in the certificate classes (Year 9 and Year 12) will spend part of the Easter holiday in the school. These young people will be engaged in serious academic work, in preparation for their certificate exams coming up soon. We do not want to leave any stone unturned with respect to their thorough preparation. To this end, we appeal to parents and carers for their usual cooperation in ensuring the punctual return of their children.

E-Reports

In an earlier newsletter we had advised that, going forward, the terminal/sessional academic reports will no longer come as hardcopy but in softcopy, transmitted in Portable Document Format (PDF) through our respective emails. The goal is to optimize the application of current global best practices in educational assessment and quality assurance.

However, we are unable to achieve this without correct email addresses of parents and carers.

Based on the foregoing, parents and carers are asked to update the school with their preferred email address. Please do this by emailing Mrs Ukoha, our School Secretary, at a.ukoha@ijaasaba.com, with the name of your child and their class clearly stated. We would be grateful if this could be completed by Thursday 1 April, 2021.

Intervention Lessons

Parents and carers who would like their child to benefit from intervention lessons are asked to inform the Vice Principal, Mr Acheka, once payment is made to the school account. This is to ensure learners are assigned the required subject teacher and that this is done in a timely fashion. You can contact Mr Acheka on **08146065626** or via email at: m.acheka@ijaasaba.com.

Please be sure to state clearly the young person's name and the intervention subject(s) in which you would like them to participate.

This should be done as early as possible at the beginning of the term.



Pocket Money Balances

Parents/carers should confirm their child(ren)'s pocket money balances with the Bursary Department **before** school resumes, so that those with deficit balances can be cleared.

We do not wish to send learners home for the non-payment of school fees and other balances, as this will be disruptive to their learning. It is imperative, therefore, that this matter is addressed within the timescales outlined and in the ways advised.

Method of payment

Payment of all fees and balances owed can be made by any of the following methods:

- Bank draft
- Bank transfer
- Cash deposit at the bank
- Standing order

Evidence of Payment

Evidence of payment must be presented to the Business Manager, Mr Ogunsuyi, before receipts can be issued. Admissible evidence includes tellers, alert notifications, and any other evidence providing confirmation that is verifiable with the bank. Parents and carers wishing to present these electronically may do so by emailing the Business Manager at c.ogunsuyi@ijaasaba.com.

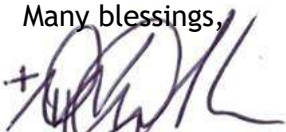
Parents and carers are reminded that presenting cheques that cannot be paid due to insufficient funds is a crime that attracts stiff legal penalties.

Kindly note, every payment (including those for pocket money, activities, and anything else) must be fully written in a student's name as a depositor and purpose for proper identification. Abbreviations of names cannot be accepted.

Indubitably, the brief period of rest into which we are about to enter is well-deserved. However, it is also important that balance is maintained. It is for this reason that teachers have been asked to set work for learners, over the Easter break, whilst at the same time being given guidance on the volumes and types of work they should expect to be completed.

I wish each parent/carer, learner and member of staff a healthy and restful holiday; and I look forward to welcoming each member of our school community back, upon our return, in April.

Many blessings,



Archbishop Otis V. Wilks
Principat



**WE NOW WELCOME
APPLICATIONS
FOR DAY STUDENTS**