



# INFANT JESUS ACADEMY

CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL

## TERMLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2021/2022

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

Email: [enquiries@ijaasaba.com](mailto:enquiries@ijaasaba.com)

Website: [www.ijaasaba.com](http://www.ijaasaba.com)



Dear parents and carers,

Grace and peace!

Although being just one term into the new academic year, it is safe to say this has already been a highly successful year.

Since September:

- We have welcomed our largest cohort of Year 7 (JSS1) learners for several years. This is a tribute to the hard work we have put into improving our school, since January 2021, including the effort that has been made to rebuild relationships between the governing body, the school leadership, parents and carers, the Ministry of Education at federal, state and local government level and to build new relationships with Nigerian and international stakeholders.
- Welcomed our first group of Year 7 Day School learners, who have settled in wonderfully well, registering NO negative behaviour, incidences or incidents of concern since joining us. They are a fantastic group of learners, whose attitudes to learning, whose personal conduct and whose love of learning all speak very clearly for themselves. We are proud to have them as members of our school community, and we look forward to seeing the day school continuing to grow, whilst indeed the boarding school continues on the trajectory of growth that it too is on.
- On Sunday 3 October 2021, we held one of the most successful Graduation and Thanksgiving Days in our recent history, with learners, staff, parents and carers of the governing body (including our Proprietress) commenting upon how pleased they were with both with the day itself and with the young people whose successes it celebrated and recognized. It was wonderful to see so many of our learners leaving school able to exercise

choice and control over the next stages of their lives, doing so both in Nigeria and in other countries around the world. We pray their continued and unfettered success!

- Our learners have experienced good success in the Principal's cup and in other sporting events within the Delta State.

We have seen similar success in other co-curricular events, too. On 11 October 2021, our young ladies were invited to participate in celebrating the Annual International Day of the Girl Child at the State Government House under the umbrella of Delta State Girl Child Empowerment Office.

- On Friday 22 October 2021, learners were visited by the local Rotary Club. In this visit, learners were taught about matters of bodily health and joined with Rotary Club representatives in planting trees in the school gardens.
- On Tuesday 9 November 2021, our young people were also privileged to have been invited to TrendFM radio station to celebrate their sixth anniversary.
- On Tuesday 9 November 2021, we registered NO unauthorized staff absences, NO un-covered staff absences, NO staff lates not notified to the office with good reasons, and NO lates to school amongst our day school learners. Literally EACH and EVERY member of our school community was where they were expected to be, when they were expected to be there. This is a very significant development, not least because of the raised standards it shows we are now achieving as a school.
- On Saturday 4 December, our learners were involved in a Languages Olympiad event in Saint Patrick's College Asaba and we await the result.

However, as we have declared many times already, we are not content to

simply rest on the laurels of our successes. As a school, it is our genuine conviction that we owe it to our young people to continually strive for better. As such, we have continued our drive for improvement in the following ways:

- In September, we undertook a week of In-Service Training (INSET) on a range of issues, including 'What does it mean to be an international school, with a British Principal?', 'School Improvement Priorities – a three-year strategy', 'Examination analysis – using data to tell a story', 'Departmental self-evaluation and improvement planning', 'The IJA Professional Standards – raising standards across the entire staff', 'The IJA Teacher Standards', 'The IJA Leadership Standards for Teaching and Support Staff', 'Appraisal and line management – the honest conversations that drive school improvement', 'The GROWTH mindset – the basis of staff appraisal', 'Human Resources as a facilitator of high support and high accountability', 'Learning and teaching innovation – towards a learning-centred, research-led, data-driven pedagogy', 'Monitoring – the shared responsibility of all staff', 'The role of the pastoral system in promoting our target school culture', 'Behaviour for learning – a learning-centred, formative approach to improved personal conduct amongst learners', 'Information management – 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions to information management and communications', 'Operations – offering strategic solutions to operational challenges', 'Financial management as a middle leader', and 'Making the curriculum accessible to all learners'. Staff left the week feeling energised, enlightened and empowered; and the impact of the week is set to continue reverberating across the academic year.
- Informed by our examination results, and with the help of our various interactions with you throughout the previous academic year, we have created an 18-page school improvement plan. Within it, we have identified six key areas of focus

for this academic year, which we have also shared with learners. First, we will be intentional in ensuring all members of our school community know the right way to do things at IJA – this, we call “The IJA Way”. Second, we will work to ensure everyone makes progress in their learning, whatever their previous achievements. Third, we want all school leaders to be 100% focused on improving the wellbeing and outcomes of our learners. Fourth, we want to ensure that what our young people learn prepares them for success in tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Fifth, it is important to us that life in the boarding house is made more comfortable. Sixth, we will ensure that each of the first four priorities are implemented in both the boarding school and the dayschool.

- We have made huge strides in raising professional standards across the school by creating and implementing the IJA Professional Standards, Teacher Standards and Leadership Standards and embedding them into staff appraisal arrangements which have themselves been implemented this half term. Within these arrangements, performance is judged against the relevant standards and is triangulated with examination results, CPD and performance targets set at whole-school, departmental and individual staff level.
- Heads of Department and Directors of Learning have now taken a lead role in analysing performance data, relative to their departments. This analysis has then informed departmental evaluation and improvement planning; and an improvement plan is now in place for each academic department across the school, with Heads of Department and Directors of Learning each being held to account, through Line Management and Appraisal, for their progress in implementing the plan for their team.
- With the help of Mr N. Igbinidu and our House Parents, we have introduced new systems to ensure standards are monitored daily, and maintained, in the Hostels. Improvement there has been dramatic. The cleanliness, tidiness and order by which the entire hostel area is now characterized are undeniable; and so too is the positive impact upon the personal disciplines and sense of community now immediately apparent amongst learners, as a result. The

quality of learning now taking place during Prep time is measurably improved, with the impact being seen in assessment and examination outcomes.

- We have now started the process of reviewing our whole-school curriculum (more information will come to you on this very soon – please look out for it!) and we have reviewed and updated our Provisions policy, in light of our revised food budget for boarders.
- To ensure our young people are safe and secure and that they are handled by staff who are clear on the way we do things here, we have implemented a comprehensive induction programme for new staff, in which the 'IJA Way' is spelt out clearly, with boldness and with no apologies, in detail. As part of this induction, staff are trained on our local arrangements regarding security and the safeguarding of learners; and colleagues receiving this training are made to sit an assessment and pass, achieving not less than 70%. This is in addition to the references and background checks we now pursue for each new member of staff we employ. To further ensure the safety of our learners, we have also changed our security detail at the gate. The new security operatives there also help us ensure electricity and water remain at optimal levels 100% of the time. Water shortages and lengthy power outages during peak hours are now things of the past.
- As a school, we have implemented systems to closely monitor absences (both authorized and unauthorized – with persistent absence being pegged at 10%) and returns-to-school (both late and on-time) amongst learners. Records of all such absences are now being kept in our central file, ready to be reported upon both internally and externally, as and when requested – including by colleges and universities to which learners may apply, when their academic journey at the school is ended.
- We have started to build relationships with a school in Britain, designed to help us tap into leading edge educational provision as it exists there and thereby position ourselves as a leading British International School within our area. Through this relationship, a good deal of work has been done to define and refine our practices in whole-school strategic leadership and management, including and especially in the leadership of both learning and Human Resources. On 24

November, for example, members of the SLT and the Learning & Teaching Innovation Focus Group, spearheaded by Mrs G. Ugwuogo, Associate Assistant Principal, were privileged to receive CPD training in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Being provided by a mainstream school in the UK whose SEND provision is a beacon of provision within their local government area, this training has instantly set our school apart as being at the helm of making learning genuinely accessible and profitable to all young people. Key elements of this training will soon be rolled out across all staff – teaching staff and support staff. We are excited about the links we have built with this school and about the benefit this will bring to the families and communities we serve.

- We have also entered into discussions with a local Primary School, in which together we are exploring the possibilities for shared Continuing Professional Development opportunities between our schools. Locally, this is a pioneering move and is one that both schools have welcomed, as we seek to build upon the transition experience of learners from Year 6 into Year 7 and to make globally outstanding learning the daily diet for all of our respective learners.

As one reasonably expects in any school in which change is taking place, and in which professional development is encouraged, we have also said our goodbyes to some staff and have welcomed some others. This term, we have parted company with:

- Mr P. Enemosah from the Science Department, who has moved out of the area to be closer to his family;
- Ms O. Igbonkwu, as a School Nurse
- Mr A. Medi from the Science Department, who has gone on to pursue some fantastic research opportunities in the pursuit of his PhD;
- Mrs I. Ogwu from the Cleaning Team;
- Ms A. Omo-Osagie, from the Languages Department;
- Mrs E. Omoru (“Grandma”, House Parent in the girls' hostel), who left us to enter retirement;
- Mr S. Rotimi, as a House Parent;
- Mrs A. Uzomah from the Vocational Studies Department, who has been promoted within the Ministry of Education; and
- Ms M. Odorume, from the Humanities Department who will be relocating to

Whilst goodbyes are never easy, we have also been delighted to welcome:

- Ms S. Okocha, a former Headteacher who joined us as House Parent
- Mr S. Fasika, a qualified Teacher of Mathematics, joining as House Parent
- Mr J. Ebie, an economics graduate with a background in sales and tax administration, who also joins us as House Parent
- Mr R. Onokpiti, a former Head of Science, who joins us as Teacher of Biology

Additionally, we said congratulations to House Parent Miss Peace, who became Mrs Peace in August; and to Mr Chibuzor who also married in August.

You will appreciate, I am sure, that the work going on behind the smiles with which we greet our learners every day, and the increasing professionalism of our interactions with you as parents and carers, is massive! This is because the work of raising standards for the benefit of our young people is itself massive. We – whether staff, parents and carers, or governors – must not be distracted from this work. Neither capacity, will, nor moral correctitude permit us the luxury of entertaining anything that takes our eye off the ball. Why? Because our young people deserve better than that; and, by God's grace, we will work together to dismantle every barrier to them receiving everything they deserve from their school experience.



This term has indeed been a great term for us. We have been working hard together to make sure our learners, both day learners and boarders, have the best school experience. In achieving that, the following has been put in place for them:

- ATV room
- Swimming classes
- Participation in the Principal's cup
- An increased food budget

We have also reviewed our survival kit of items and equipment learners should keep with them whilst in school. More information will come to you on this very soon.

### **COMPETITIONS**

It is our desire learners participate in both Inter-school and Inter-house competitions because these offer a chance for learners to gain substantial experience, showcase skills, analyze and evaluate outcomes and uncover personal aptitudes. They also encourage learners to adopt innovative techniques and develop their ideas and abilities. Ultimately, these competitions are geared towards putting our learners on the front line to exposing them to the larger society, and to reaching lofty levels of competence and performance to their limits.

So far, Term 1 has recorded competitions in Essay writing, inter – class debates, and spoken words. It has really been amazing. We have also participated in three key competitions. They are:

- **Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Ltd (NPDC)/Seplat Pearls quiz Competitions** – We emerged among the best eight schools in Delta State.
- **Royal National English Olympiad Competition** – We are awaiting the result of this competition. It was written on Saturday 4 December 2021.
- **Mathematics Olympiad Competition** – We exited at the second stage.

We have identified our strengths and weaknesses, and we intend to build upon these towards improving our performances next season.

### **INTERVENTION LESSONS**

Parents and carers who are interested in intervention classes should inform the Vice Principal, Mr Acheka, once payment is made to the school account. This is to

ensure that your child is assigned the appropriate subject teacher and that this happens on time. Please contact Mr Acheka on **08146065626** or by emailing him at [m.acheka@ijaasaba.com](mailto:m.acheka@ijaasaba.com), with your child's name and the subject(s) required.

Parents intending to register their children for Intervention classes within the term can pay the sum of N15,000 per subject into the school account and thereafter inform the Business Manager about payments made for easy and prompt reconciliation.

### **EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS**

We shall commence the registration of our learners for external and foreign examinations on 10 January 2022. To this end, please note the following:

- i. Year 9 (JS3) learners are expected to submit their Primary 6 certificates or broadsheets where their names appeared on resumption. Similarly, the Year 12 (SS3) learners that joined us mid-stream (in Year 10 or Year 11) should submit to us the broadsheet of the Year 9 (JS3) BECE result from their school.
- ii. Where available and for all foreign examinations, learners are expected to submit the data page of their international passport.

**Checkpoint:** The Cambridge Checkpoint Examination is compulsory for all Year 9 (JS3) learners. Parents and carers are encouraged to embrace the checkpoint programme and enroll their child(ren). The registration fee is ₦180,000, the study materials for three subjects is at the cost of ₦21,000 and the deadline for payment is Friday 14 January 2022.

- iii. The West African Examination Council (WAEC) has made the National Identity Number a prerequisite for those registering the May/June 2022 WAEC examination. In view of this, parents and carers are asked to seize the holiday opportunity to register their child(ren) especially those in Year 12. This is aimed at ensuring we avoid any harrowing experience during the registration of our learners.



## EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS FOR THE 2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

Please find below a table showing all examinations for learners of the Infant Jesus

S/N	EXAMINATION	ABOUT THE EXAMINATION	COST OF EXAMINATION	DEADLINE	EXAM DATE
1	International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)	It is based on the Cambridge GCE O - level syllabus and is recognized as being equivalent to the GCSE. The IGCSE is an international alternative to many popular national curricula. It prepares learners for A levels and is accepted by many universities as entry requirement.	Minimum number of subjects is five at the cost of <b>₦450,000.00</b> Additional subjects attracts <b>₦80,000 ea ch.</b> Study materials for five subjects is at the cost of <b>₦60,000.00</b>	14 January 2022	May/June
2.	Cambridge Checkpoint (Year 9)	Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint tests have been designed to assess learners at the end of Cambridge Secondary 1(Equivalent to JS 3). It prepares learners for the Cambridge IGCSE. It provides schools with an external international benchmark for learner performance.	<b>₦180,000</b> without study materials. Study materials for three (3) subjects at <b>₦7,000</b> each.	14 January 2022	April
3.	Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). <b>For Year 12 learners only</b>	This is administered by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) as a pre -entry assessment test into Nigerian Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.	<b>₦40,000.00</b> Lesson, Exam registration and study materials.	31 December 2021	April
4.	West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) <b>For Year 12 only</b>	WASSCE is the standardized test administered by the West African Examination Council to candidates at the completion of the 12 <sup>th</sup> grade (SS 3) in the secondary school.	<b>₦90,000.00</b> ( for both the WASSCE and NECO SSCE)	31 December 2021	May
5.	NECO Senior School Certificate Examination (NECO)	This examination is administered by the National Examinations Council. It is the Nigerian indigenous version of WASSCE			June
6.	NECO Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). <b>For Year 9 only.</b>	This is the Junior version of NECO SSCE administered by the National Examination Council NECO. It is taken by candidates transiting from the 9 <sup>th</sup> of junior secondary school.	<b>₦60,000.00</b> (for both the NECO BECE and Delta State BECE)	31 December 2021	April
7.	Delta State Basic Education Certificate Examination	This is administered by the Delta State Ministry of Education to learners transiting from the 9 <sup>th</sup> of junior secondary school. It is wrongly referred to as junior WAEC.			June

### KEY DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday 9 January 2022 – Resumption for Term 2 2021/2022 Academic session (Monday 10 January 2022 for Day learners)
- Sunday 30 January 2022 – Visiting day (Day and Boarders)
- Saturday 12 February 2022 to Saturday 19 February 2022 – Mid-Term Break
- Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022 – Extension classes for Year 9 and Year 12
- Sunday 20 February 2022 & Monday 21 February 2022 – Boarders and Day learners return from Mid-term Break respectively.
- Sunday 20 March 2022 – Visiting Day (Day and Boarders)
- Friday 8 April & Saturday 9 April 2022 – Term 2 Holiday Begins for Day learners and Boarders respectively.
- Sunday 24 April 2022 & Monday 25 April 2022 – All learners resume for Term 3.
- Saturday 2 April and Saturday 7 May 2022 – Entrance Examination (admissions)

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### 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 the term. There has been an upward review of school fees as can be seen below. Siblings discount also applies.

For returning learners, the breakdown for the Term 2 school fees is as follows:

TERM 2	RETURNING LEARNERS FEES ₦
Tuition/Boarding	280,000
Maintenance	20,000
ICT fees	10,000
Interhouse Sports fees	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,000</b>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Learners in examination classes are expected to pay the balance of their session school fees (Terms 2 and 3) upon resumption for Term 2.

Furthermore, it is now mandatory that any parent requesting concessions does so **at least two (2) weeks** before resumption by completing the Application for Concessional School Fees through this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/MFReezPGiE> If approved by the governing body, you will be required to bring a post-dated cheque for the balance amount upon resumption, which will be presented at the bank upon expiration of the concession window. Also, you will be required to sign an undertaking at the Bursary Department before collecting clearance. This is a requirement for admission into the school for parents who are unable to make complete school fee payments before resumption.

**Please note that applications for concessional school fees for Term 2 closes on Friday 24 December 2021 at 6:00pm, to enable us to process the applications received and give feedback to parents before resumption. Learners in examination classes will not be given any further fee concessions.**

In addition, examination class learners are expected to pay for their external examination and other fees upon resumption to enable prompt registration for the examinations.

The table below shows the cost of external examinations to be registered for by learners in examination classes:

S/N	DESCRIPTION	YEAR 9	YEAR 12
1	Delta State BECE, NECO BECE	₦60,000	-
2	NECO SSCE & WASSCE	-	₦90,000
3	JAMB	-	₦40,000
4	Extension Classes	₦25,000	₦35,000
5	Graduation fees	-	₦30,000
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>₦85,000</b>	<b>₦195,000</b>
6	Cambridge CheckPoint. Study materials for three subjects is at the cost of <b>₦21,000.00</b>	N180,000	
		₦ 21,000	
7	Cambridge IGCSE (5 subjects minimum) and N80,000 for additional subjects. Study materials for five subjects is at the cost of <b>₦60,000.00</b>		₦450,000
			₦ 60,000
	<b>GRAND-TOTAL</b>	<b>₦286,000</b>	<b>₦705,000</b>

### 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](mailto: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.



### Supporting Your Child's Learning

In response to parental request, we are delighted to suggest (below) some ways you can support your child's learning this Christmas.

#### English language

Task your child(ren) to learn at least two new words every day. This include, knowing the part of speech, transcription, and meaning of the words.

#### Literature

Supervise your child(ren) in studying two literary concepts from the three genres of literature each day and teach them these studied concepts.

#### Igbo

Supervise your child(ren) in learning the greetings and everyday Igbo words used for communication.

#### French

Task your child(ren) to learn by heart, French greeting words and words used in daily conversations.

#### Science

Parents should discuss with their children the ailments currently in Nigeria.

- Lassa fever
- Pneumonia
- Coronavirus.

Discuss about their causes and preventive measures.

#### Mathematics

Parents help check your child(ren) notebook and ask the following:

- Tell me about a topic that was recently taught in your Mathematics class.
- What did you learn from the lesson?
- State a problem and apply the knowledge learnt.

#### Technical drawing

- Check your child's notes and ask them to give a summary of what they have learnt in school
- Provide learning materials, such as: a calculator, a maths set and a sketchpad

#### Visual Arts

- Look at a painting or drawing together with your child(ren) and ask them to:
  - (a) describe what they see (eg: the colours, shapes, patterns, or lines; the people, animals, flowers, buildings, or any natural geological features)
  - (b) tell you how the picture make them feel and describe the specific features in the picture that make them feel that way.

(c) tell you about the picture's setting: time of year, time of day, period of time. How can they tell?

- Provide art materials for your child, together with a place or space in which for them to create their own art
- Stimulate your child(ren)'s interest by visiting special art events or art fairs together
- Encourage your child(ren)'s creativity by helping them come up with original ideas and building upon them

#### Music

- Attend musical performances with your child. Encourage them to sing, dance or play musical instruments, while you observe and encourage them and praise them for their hard work
- Listening to a piece of music together with you child and ask them to:
  - (a) identify the instruments they hear
  - (b) indicate loud and soft sounds, fast and slow melodies, high and low notes
  - (c) tell you how the music makes them feel
  - (d) clap, tap, or snap with you to the steady beat of the music
- Encourage your child(ren) to learn a new instrument. If possible, buy for them the instrument of their choice.

#### Food and Nutrition

- Encourage your child(ren) to practice the following cooking terms in the kitchen during food preparation:
  - (a) chopping onions, peppers, or tomatoes
  - (b) dicing
  - (c) creaming
  - (d) greasing
  - (e) stirring
  - (f) garnishing
- Encourage your child(ren) to watch cooking programmes or competitions on the television or on YouTube; and discuss with the them the recipe(s) used

#### Prevocational Studies

- Have your child(ren) practice sewing two pieces of fabrics together
- Work with your child(ren) to mend a tear in a garment

#### Humanities

The Humanities subjects are similar in scheme and the way questions are asked.

- Help your child to find out the meaning of the following words:

Highlight, list, explain, mention, state

and differential.

- Encourage your child to read ahead so that he/ she will be able to ask relevant questions during learning and teaching
- See to it that your child do his or her assignments.
- Take your child out for excursion or sight seeing and ask he or she to write a report which you will assess.

### **Computer Studies and Data Processing**

To support your child(ren)'s learning in ICT, parents and carers can:

- Introduce or expose your child(ren) to the various ICT gadgets, used in their places of work or at home and put them through on how they are used.
- Direct your child(ren) to watch online video tutorials on any preferred subject areas such as: Physics, Chemistry, or ICT (Microsoft Office, or graphics programmes such as Corel Draw or Inventor Illustrator, for example). Then ask your child(ren) probing questions about what they have watched. For example: what did you learn about? What do you understand, now, that you did not understand before? If you could ask one question about what you have watched, what would that question be? What do you think might be the answer to that question – and why?
- Task your child(ren) with carrying out a mini-project, such as designing a simple study timetable using Microsoft Word, or a letterhead and logo using Corel Draw.

## **IN CLOSING**

There is no doubt in my mind that the Christmas holiday into which this newsletter accompanies our entrance is well-deserved. I pray, therefore, that we do all take some time to rest. Relax. Enjoy family and friends. Just be human. Let us be sure that, when we return to normal activities in January, that we 'hit the ground running'. The work is great; and we cannot – and will not – come down!

Please be reminded that school reopens for Day learners on Monday 10 January 2022 and for Boarders on Sunday 9 January 2022.

To avoid any negative impact upon their attendance and punctuality figures, it is imperative that parents and carers see to it that learners are returned to school on the right date.

Have a joyful Christmas.

In His royal service,



The Most Revd  
**Dr Otis V. WILKS CMgr FCMI, FCCT**  
Principal.

