



INFANT JESUS ACADEMY

CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL

TERM I NEWSLETTER

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TERM I 2022/2023

What an amazingly successful start we have had to this new academic year – and to our twentieth year of service as a school!

We kicked off in September with a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the phenomenal examination outcomes of learners in the outgoing Years 9 and 12:



- In Year 9, learners achieving four credits (including English, Maths, Basic Science & Technology and National Values) in the NECO BECE examinations rose to 80% compared with 55% the year before. The number of learners achieving four credits, in the same subjects, all at Grades A or B, rose by 10 percentage points.
- In the Year 9 State BECE examinations, 100% of learners achieved four credits (including English, Maths, Basic Science & Technology and National Values) at grades A or C.
- 100% of Year 12 learners sitting the WAEC examinations achieved five credits (including English and Maths) at Grades A or B, as compared to 64.7% (in 2020) and 84.6% (in 2021).
- Nearly half of all learners sitting the Year 12 JAMB examinations achieved 250 marks or more.

As some of you may know, our thanksgiving service was the last service under the chaplaincy of the Revd Father Charles OKEKE, who introduced to us, in that service, our new chaplain, the Revd Father Israel DIBIA. We welcome Father Israel and his team to our school, and we pray for Father Charles in his new assignment, as we look forward to a long and spiritually fruitful relationship with the new chaplain.

There can be no question as to whether our reach for excellence – the place in which we “do our best and make our best better” – is paying dividends in the lives, choices and life chances of our young people! Indeed, not only are we seeing these dividends in examination results, but the excellence to which we aspire is also evident in the way learners are conducting themselves beyond the world of formal academia. More than half of all learners have achieved reward (or, “R”) points since September, with a number of these learners having crossed the threshold to be able to claim a prize. Alongside this, the proportion of learners repeatedly earning sanction (or, “S”) points has sharply reduced.

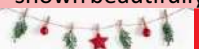
In addition to this excellence, it has also been wonderful to see how the remaining two elements of the IJA Way – integrity and Christian servanthood – have been showing themselves in the attitudes and personal conduct of our young people. Being aware now of the steps we have taken to guard against examination malpractice, standards in integrity observed by our young people, during assessments and examinations, have been raised. The way our learners now enter the examination hall in total silence – bags safely stored away, pockets empty and equipment out – and remain silent for the entire examination, until they leave the hall again, is exemplary. The support they lend to each other during the Study Support Periods between examinations, as well as in the small acts of kindness they have been showing to staff and to each other around the school each day, have shown beautifully that Christian servanthood is indeed becoming more

and more a part of our day-to-day school culture.

Whereas September 2021 saw us halt the trend of annual reductions in the number of learners on roll, this September saw us deliver our first rising roll (the first increase in the overall number of learners on roll) in several years. In fact, the rise has been so sharp that around 47% of learners now attending the school joined us in this academic year. We celebrate all new learners, parents/carers and families; and we welcome you warmly into our school community. It has been delightful to see you all settle in so quickly with the help of our continuing learners and their families and with the support of staff from across the school. It was equally delightful to watch our new learners immerse themselves, so fully, in the activities put on for them during their Induction Week in September.

Although the work we have been doing together for the past two years – in the background, in the classroom and in the hostels – has indeed produced the robust infrastructure of policy and practice needed to support the growth we have seen, the sheer scale of growth has nonetheless brought with it some unique and very exciting challenges. Needless to say, we appreciate the promptness and sensitivity with which parents and carers have raised concerns, as and when these have arisen, so we can address them quickly. We are grateful, too, for the support you have given to us as we have worked hard to tackle the one or two challenges encountered, whose advent has been more systemic than local in origin.

In seeking to deliver a balanced educational experience, we have continued to develop our co-curricular offer. We call this our “co-curricular” offer (and not our “extra-curricular” offer) because we believe that learning should be about life and not only academics. Therefore in the informal activities we run outside of the formal classroom setting, learning occurs alongside the formal – and not in addition to it. In this spirit, we were proud and excited to receive Faith Academy (Ugbolu) onto our school site, for a friendly football match between us and them this term. Of course, the fact our team won the match made it even more exciting! We congratulate Team IJA on their skill and their sportsmanship – and we congratulate all learners present for the match on the very gracious and respectful way in which we received our guests and made them feel welcome, even in their defeat!



As you are aware, the break into which we are now entering will be an extended one, due to the National Sports Festival, due to happen shortly. However, when we return to school in January, we fully expect to hit the ground running. Our Directors of Learning have been asked to revisit their Schemes of Work, to make it more possible for more learners to access Checkpoint and IGCSE examinations by being taught the relevant material alongside that prescribed for WAEC and NECO.

As we continue our move towards more modern ways of doing things, we will also continue the onboarding processes for our new electronic behaviour and information management system, commenced in Term 1. We will be in contact with you with further information on what this means for parents/carers and the school and the way we all work together to continually enhance the learning experience of our young people. You will also be hearing from us in connection with celebrations marking our school's twentieth birthday.

Indeed, having had a successful Term 1, our return in January promises to build upon this. We are excited about the journey we are on; and we are elated to be on it with our parents/carers, our learners and our entire school community.



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.

For returning learners in the boarding school, as well as learners in the day school (Year 7), the breakdown for the Term 2 school fees is as follows:

Boarding learners	Returning Learners#	Day School Year 7	Returning Learners#
Tuition/Boarding	280,000	Tuition	110,000
Maintenance	20,000	Maintenance	10,000
ICT fees	10,000	ICT fees	10,000
End of year party	10,000	End of year party	10,000
Total	320,000	Total	140,000

Please Note: The breakdown for day learners represents fees for learners in Year 7 day. The school fees for day learners increases by N5,000 for each class, meaning that learners in Year 8 will pay N145,000 and so on.

Concessions

It is now mandatory that any parent requesting concessions makes their request **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, these parents will be required to bring a post-dated cheque for the balance 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 Business & Finance Department before collecting clearance. This is a requirement for admission into the school for parents who are unable to pay their fees in full before resumption.

Applications for Term 2 close on Friday 30 December 2022, at 6:00pm. This is to enable us to process the applications received and give feedback to parents before resumption. We are unable to process any request not made in this way; and we are likewise unable to process any requests for Term 2 after this date.

Fees for Learners in Years 9 and 12

The second instalment of school fees for learners in examination classes (Years 9 and 12) must be paid upon resumption for Term 2. The second instalment of school fees for these learners is:

Year 9	N. 493,500
Year 12	N. 493,500

Learners who have made termly school fee payments for Term 1 will be expected to pay for Term 2 and Term 3 upon resumption. Additionally, learners in examination classes who have previously not made payment for external examinations and other fees are expected to do so upon resumption for Term 2 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 N	Year 12 N
1	Delta State BECE, NECO BECE	70,000	-
2	NECO SSCE % WASSCE	-	110,000
3	JAMB	-	45,000
4	Extension classes	30,000	40,000
5	Graduation fees	-	50,000
	Sub total	100,000	245,000
6	Cambridge Checkpoint	200,000	-
7	Cambridge IGCSE (5 subjects minimum) and N100,000 for additional subjects		500,000
	Grand total	300,000	745,000

Pocket Money Balances

Parents and carers should confirm their child(ren)'s pocket money balances with the Business & Finance Department before school resumes so that any deficit balances can be cleared. We do not wish to send learners home for the non-payment of school fees or 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.

Shuttle Bus Service for Day Learners

Parents and carers who wish to have the IJA school bus pick up and drop off their child(ren) daily can subscribe to our shuttle bus service at a termly rate of N40,000, subject to distance and/or other relevant factors. This sum should be paid within two weeks of Term 2 commencing.

Method of Payment

Fees and balances can be paid by any of the following methods:

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



The school bank account number is:

Account Name: INFANT JESUS ACADEMY LTD.

Account Number: 1016239381

Bank: UBA BANK (for all fees)

Evidence of Payment

Evidence of payment must be presented to the Business Manager, Mr Chukuka 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, or via Whatsapp on 08134190778. Parents and carers are reminded that presenting cheques that cannot be paid due to insufficient funds is a crime attracting stiff legal penalties.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Lunchtime arrangements are the same for day and boarding learners. However, lunch is not included in the fees paid for day learners and is available, at additional cost, upon request by parents and carers.

Learning & Teaching Update

As you will have heard, teachers at the Infant Jesus Academy are transiting from 'Teaching and Learning' to 'Learning and Teaching'. This means we are encouraging our learners to take greater responsibility of their learning. It also means that what is delivered in the classroom takes greater account of the individual learning needs of our young people and that learners are engaged in a lot of learning activities. Research also has shown that learners who engage each other in learning tasks remember material better and figure out how to apply and extend their new knowledge more effectively.

We are aware at IJA that the classroom is where learners spend most of their daytimes, so we make it active to generate energy among them. We also understand that the classroom environment can make or break learning – so we make our classrooms interesting and engaging learning spaces in which to host activities that engage learners and teachers, resulting in effective learning. We do this by varying our approaches or strategies to create favorable conditions for learning and teaching. These strategies allow our learners to actively participate in the process of learning, rather than passively being lectured or just copying notes. These activities make learning 'sticky'. Some of these activities include:

1. **Warm-up activities and 'starters':** these activities are hooks that draw the attention of learners into the lesson and get them thinking from the very beginning. Among the benefits of these activities is that they:

- Create the right energies needed for effective learning
- Create rapport
- Set the tone of activity and participation
- Can be used to revise and consolidate previous learning

2. **Group work:** Learners are put into groups and a task is given to each group to perform.

Working in groups help learners:

- Share knowledge and skill
- Develop leadership and team working skills
- Develop organizational skills

3. **Paired work:** learners work in twos. The benefits of working in pairs include:

- More active participation in tasks
- Better opportunities to evaluate and learn from each other's work
- Opportunity to share knowledge and opinions
- Improving confidence, as learners realize how much they know, or have learnt, about the topic being discussed.



These activities are vital for the holistic development of our learners. They shift learners from being passive to active and maintain their interest, while promoting active participation. They boost their learning experience and help shape their behaviour. These activities also revitalize both the mind and body. Each activity we provide to our learners offers them the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the concepts they have learnt in the classroom.

Feedback from these activities then assists teachers judging the extent of the young person's learning, against the set objectives, thereby helping the teacher better support each learner's progress and achievement.

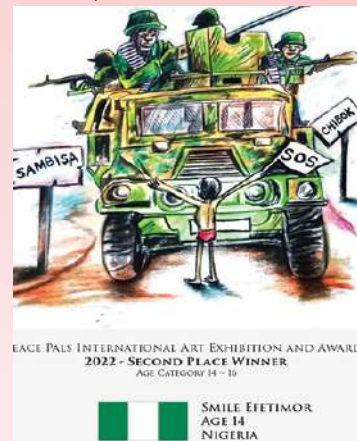
Finally, teachers at IJA are augmenting their practices in collecting and analyzing data from assessments and examinations. This data then helps teachers identify learners who need support and explore ways to help them achieve and exceed their targets.

This informs data-driven intervention for our learners.

Learning at IJA is engaging; and we are in active pursuit of international best practice in the lesson-by-lesson school experience of our young people. As the academic year progresses, therefore, parents and carers will be hearing more and more about how to support us in this process.

PASTORAL INFORMATION

We are extremely proud of Smile EFETIMOR who has become the 2nd place winner in his category (ages 14-16), in the Peace Pals International Art Exhibition & Award 2022. Congratulations, Smile!



School Resumption, Attendance and

Punctuality

The importance of returning to school on time after holidays cannot be overstated. School reopens for Term 2 on Sunday 8 January 2023 (Boarding) and Monday 9 January 2023 (Day). All unauthorised absences will be reflected in school attendance registers, reports and references. The activities of the school day start each day from Monday to Friday at 7:30am. All learners, both day and boarding are expected to be on site not later than 7:25am. Lates will be appropriately sanctioned. Parents and carers who may not be able to meet up with the timings can access the school transportation system. Kindly contact Mr Chuka, our Business Manager, for more details.

Vouchers

Parents and carers of day learners who wish for their child(ren) to buy snacks from the school tuckshop, can now, starting from Term 2, open a voucher account for their child(ren) for snacks during the snack break. Please note that learners are not allowed to come into the school premises with money. Kindly contact Mr Chuka for more details on how to open an account.

General

Please be advised that boarders are to return to school with sufficient pegs upon resumption as it is now mandatory that all clothes hanged must be pegged. They are also to return to school with treated mosquito nets for use at night.

Parents and carers of all learners are advised to provide a ruck sack for their child(ren) sufficient to carry their learning materials. All items should be clearly marked with the learner's

name for the purpose of identification. Names must also be in ALL items of clothing belonging to each learner.

Parents and carers are therefore asked to seize this holiday to register their child(ren).

We wish to reiterate that mobile phones are not allowed in the school premises. Any learner found with a phone will have that phone confiscated.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Extra Lessons

Parents and carers intending to register their child(ren) for extra lessons within the coming term can pay the sum of **N15,000 per subject** into the school accounts, and thereafter inform the Business Manager about the payment(s), made for easy and prompt reconciliation. Once payment is made, parents and carers are also asked to notify the Vice Principal, Mr ACHEKA Michael. This to ensure that your child is assigned the appropriate subject teacher and that this happens on time. Mr Acheka can be contacted on **08146065626** or **07056982562** (Whatsapp) or by email at m.acheka@ijaasaba.com, with your child's name and the subject(s) requested.

Parents and carers are advised to use school reports to help them identify subjects in which any extra lessons may be needed.

Holiday Assignments

To be attached to the Term 1 reports are sets of take-home assignments that have been designed to engage learners during the holiday period. Parents and carers are encouraged to support their child(ren) in ensuring these assignments are given the necessary attention. Assignments form part of our continuous assessment grading system. They are to be completed at home and submitted upon resumption to the various subject teachers.



Extension Classes

The extension classes for Year 9 and 12 learners will run from Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February 2023. These learners will not partake in the mid-term break.

External Examinations

Parents and carers of the present Years 9 and 12 should please note the following:

- Year 9 (JS3) learners are expected to submit their Primary 6 certificates or broadsheets where their names appeared upon resumption. Similarly, Year 12 (SS3) learners who joined us mid-stream (in Years 10 and 11) should submit to us the broadsheet of the Year 9 BECE result from their school.
- For all IGCSE and Checkpoint examinations, learners are expected to submit the data page of their international passport or National Identification Number slip for registration.
- Cambridge Checkpoint examinations are compulsory for all Year 9 learners. Please contact the Business Manager for details of registration fees and enrollment procedures.
- The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) have made the NIN a prerequisite for Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination. The system allows the registration of minors provided there is a NIN from the parent or guardian to evidence their consent.

Learners must have an active registered phone number for the generation of the profile code for their JAMB registration. Learners in Year 12 are therefore allowed to come to school with a **non-smart phone with a registered SIM card** (irrespective of the network) for the purpose of generating the profile code required for the registration. The SIM card should be recharged with the sum of N500. These phones must be submitted to the Vice Principal, Mr ACHEKA Michael, upon resumption on Sunday 8 January 2023 for learners who are yet to submit.

Parents and carers of Year 12 learners are advised to support their child(ren) in completing the JAMB registration form given to them. The completed form should be returned to the Vice Principal, Mr ACHEKA Michael upon resumption in January 2023.

Please contact Mr Acheka on 08146065626, or by email at m.acheka@ijaasaba.com, for further clarification.

Key dates and upcoming events

- Sunday 8 January 2023 and Monday 9 January 2023 – All Day and Boarding learners resume for Term 2.
- Sunday 29 January 2023 – Open Day (Day and Boarding)
- Saturday 18 February 2023 to Saturday 25 February 2023 – Mid-term break
- Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 24 February 2023 – Extension classes for Years 9 & 12
- Sunday 26 February 2023 and Monday 27 February 2023 – Day and Boarding learners return from Mid-term break
- Saturday 18 March 2023 – Visiting Day/Inter-house sports (Day and Boarding)
- Friday 7 April 2023 and Saturday 8 April 2023 – Term 2 holiday begins for Day and Boarding learners
- Sunday 23 April 2023 and Monday 24 April 2023 – Day and Boarding learners resume for Term 3.

IN CLOSING

As we enter into this extended Christmas break, it is my prayer that each of us takes the time to reflect upon the goodness of God and upon the reassuring fact of our residence in His mind. Of a truth, this is precisely what the birth of the Christ child into human time and space signals to us. We – you and I – are on God's mind. We, and our human affairs – our weaknesses, our frailties and even our strengths and successes – are important to Him. We, and they, are important enough for God to step in, to intervene on our behalf and to do so in a form with which we can identify; and He does so with the intention of removing the barrier that would otherwise stop us from being all He has in mind for us to be. It seems to me that, somewhere within these truths, is a highly potent message about who we are, and what we are here to do for our young people, with God's help, as a school community. I pray the Lord illuminates that message to each of us over this Christmas break.

Until we meet again in January 2023, may the Lord bless you. May He keep you. May He cause His face to shine upon you. May the Lord be gracious to you and lift His countenance upon you; and may He give you peace.

Happy Christmas, when it comes!

I greet you all in the love of Christ.


The Most Revd

Dr Otis V. WILKS CMgr FCMI, FCCT
Principal

