New Horizons College, Minna

End of 1st Term (2020/2021 Session) Newsletter

Saturday 19th December 2020 (4th Jumadah Awwal, 1442AH)

**“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows” – Sydney J. Harris**

**“When you are going through hard or difficult times, and you wonder where is Allah, just remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.” – Nouman Ali Khan**

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatul-lah Wa Barakatuh.

Dear parents,

We give thanks to Allah (SWT) for seeing us through the first term, primarily due to all the worries and concerns we all experienced when our children were resuming amidst a raging Covid-19 pandemic. It has not been easy getting the students to continually wear their masks and subjecting them to sanitizer spray irrespective of the number of times they walk through the corridors in the school block amongst other locations where they are encouraged to follow this routine.

Unfortunately, as we were all begging to relax thinking the worst was over concerning the pandemic, it appears there is a resurgence brought about as a result of a spike in Europe and the rest of the world, which now seems to be here with us in Nigeria. As a result, the school will be postponing resumption by one week (Resumption is now Saturday 9th January and Sunday 10th January), this is to ensure that all students returning get to do a COVID-19 test at least two days before resumption (this is important because many parents appear to have made holiday plans to go overseas with their children)

Below are the highlights of this report:

1. Abridged Calendar for 2nd term
2. Academic Activities
3. Co-curricular Activities
4. Islamiyyah Report
5. Cambridge 2020 Result
6. WAEC 2020 Result
7. New School Fees Account
8. Change in Resumption Date and Guidelines.
9. 1st Term Examination Results
10. **Abridged Calendar For 2nd term**

Saturday 9th January 2021 - SS1- SS3 boarders resume for 2nd term

Sunday 10th January 2021 - JSS1-3 boarders resume for 2nd term

Monday 11th January 2021 - Day students resume/Lessons start

Monday 8th February 2021 - Centralized Tests Begins

Saturday 20th February 2021 - Mid-Term Break

Saturday 27th February 2021 - JSS1 Entrance Exam Into NHC Minna

Saturday 6th March 2021 - Resumption From Mid-Term Break

Friday 9th April 2021 - 2nd Term Examinations Begin

Saturday 24th April 2021 - Vacation Day

1. **Academic Activities**

Before the resumption of students, teachers were put through a series of workshop on getting them to use a real-life application to teach abstract ideas or concepts, which was in preparation for making it our teaching theme for this term and session. Teachers were also trained on curating online content and video editing, in the eventuality of schools not opening physically. Below are some of the ideas and activities carried out or implemented this term:

* Application of mathematical principles to real-life and students connected activities
* Science department and science students produced hand sanitizers for use by security men and woman, who sanitize the hands of staff, students and visitors at designated points within the school
* Zoom mathematics online quiz competition
* Automatic waste bin by SS2 science students
* Home Economics students produced organic soap and body cream
* Basic Technology students have started laying blocks for the construction of their outside basic technology workshop.
* Weekly Mathematics Puzzle Competition.
* Weekend mathematics Clinic for all classes.
* Group and individual academic counselling sessions
* Academic support lessons for new students and transferees was organized, as was their academic and behavioural performances monitored.
* Centralized test conducted for all students to assess how much learning has taken place. Teachers set questions with more emphasis on applied problems. The performances were commendable even though it fell short of what was the outcome in 2nd term before the lockdown. We are optimistic with more practice on how to attempt applied questions, and with being more settled after seven months of lockdown, their performances should get better.
1. **Co-Curricular Activities**

Due to restriction on sport by following COVID-19 guidelines, the school suspended most sporting activities for students until after resumption from the mid-term in school. However, club activities continued unabated with more emphasis on skills acquisition, among other activities. Below are some activities that students were engaged at:

* Poetry slam competition organized by languages department for NHC students
* 1st position in a Spelling Bee Inter-school competition
* 3rd position in the Beyond School Community Online ICT Challenge competition organized for secondary schools. It was a US Embassy Nigeria supported programme.
* Class meetings held by the Students Affairs Office
* Capacity building training session held for hostel staff on ‘Being Proactive’, ‘Begin With the End in Mind’ ‘Put First Things First’, etc.
* JSS1-3 students participated in the Big Life Adventure training which is a personal development and leadership training and coaching session for students. Some of the topics included: Making a difference, Believe in Yourself, Take Action, Be Persistent, etc.
* Life Coaching Session arranged by a parent and carried by Life Coaches from Abuja.
* Enlightenment on health issues for students
* Smart learning series where students watched videos on learning style and study habits in the morning before lessons start.
* Student-led initiatives became popular this term with the support of the office of Director Training and Research. Some of the initiatives included digital and whiteboard animation, graphics, talks on religion, etc.
* Muslim Influential figures series, where students learnt about Muslim scientists made discoveries in surgery, mathematics, medicine, engineering, etc.
* A workshop on Emotional Intelligence was organized for heads of department.
1. **Islamiyyah Report**

The term’s Islamiyyah activities began with the sorting out the surahs of new and transfer students as it was written in their admission application forms. Immediately after this, an orientation for the Islamiyyah malams in line with COVID-19 guidelines was held. This was to prepare them for resumption for the new session. Other activities this term have included:

* Screening of new students for placement into Beginners, Intermediate and Advance classes of New Horizons College’s Islamiyyah.
* Re-screening of returning students by their malams, before a final screening in the presence of 4 malams carried out to ascertain the appropriateness of promoting them.
* Training of malams on how to adapt their methodology to incorporate modern ways of teaching Islamiyyah
* Creation and adaptation of daily/weekly report for the Islamiyyah
* Test and Islamiyyah exams conducted for all students
* Holiday assignment was given to all students.
1. **Cambridge 2020 Result**

Alhamdulillah, we were pleased when we received the Cambridge result and carried out an analysis of the results. It was gratifying that the assessment of students work was rated in accordance with the teachers’ expectation and the assessment of each child’s performance. We have restarted the process of building on this result.

**Please see the analysis of the result below:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SUBJECTS | DISTINCTION | CREDIT | PASS | FAIL | NO OF CANDIDATES |
| ENGLISH | **10** | **4** | **-** | **-** | 14 |
| MATHS | **7** | **5** | **-** | **-** | 12 |
| PHYSICS | **5** | **3** | **1** | **-** | 9 |
| CHEMISTRY | **4** | **4** | **-** | **-** | 8 |
| COMPUTER | **5** | **-** | **-** | **-** | 5 |
| HISTORY | **-** | **1** | **1** | **-** | 2 |
| ECONOMICS | **3** | **1** | **-** | **-** | 4 |
| ISLAMIYYAH | **-** | **-** | **1** | **-** | 1 |
| BIOLOGY | **2** | **1** | **1** | **-** | 4 |
| ART | **2** | **-** | **-** | **-** | 2 |
| TOTAL | **38** | **19** | **4** | **-** | 61 |

**Distinctions: 62.30%**

**Credits: 31.15%**

**Pass: 06.56%**

**Fail: 0.00%**

**Total 100%**

1. **WAEC Result 2020**

This result is truly a reflection of the sacrifices made by the students in staying in school during the Christmas break and beyond before COVID-19 pandemic forced them to go home. During the lockdown, they were forced to relearn how to learn virtually, something they had never done before. There were ups and downs, but they stuck through it, and the results are a testimony of the hard work they put in.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL** | **%** |
| DISTINCTIONS : **342** | **51.98%** |
| CREDITS : **251** | **38.15%** |
| PASSES : **48** | **7.29%** |
| FAILURES: **17** | **2.58%** |
| GRAND TOTAL: **658** | **100.00** |

Please see the analysis of the result:

 **Percentage Distinctions and Credits : 90.13%.**

1. Students with 5 Credits and above including Maths and English =  **63.01%**
2. Students with 5 Credits and above with either Maths or English = **34.25%**
3. Students with 5 Credits and above with neither English nor Maths = **2.77%**
4. Student with less than 5 Credits = **0%**

**2020 WAEC RESULT ANALYSIS FOR 73 STUDENTS OUT OF 73**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **SUBJECTS** | **DISTINCTION** | **CREDIT** | **PASS** | **FAIL** | **NO OF STUDENTS** |
| **1** | **ENGLISH** | 17 | 54 | 2 | - | 73 |
| **2** | **MATHS** | 14 | 28 | 19 | 12 | 73 |
| **3** | **BIOLOGY** | 5 | 17 | 2 | - | 24 |
| **4** | **IRS** | 53 | 20 | - | - | 73 |
| **5** | **GEOGRAPHY** | 9 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 24 |
| **6** | **ECONOMICS** | 3 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 31 |
| **7** | **PHYSICS** | 34 | 21 | 2 | - | 57 |
| **8** | **CHEMISTRY** | 7 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 51 |
| **9** | **HISTORY** | - | 7 | 1 | - | 8 |
| **10** | **LIT. IN- ENG.** | 5 | 10 | - | - | 15 |
| **11** | **AGRIC SC.** | 4 | 1 | - | - | 5 |
| **12** | **F/NUTRITION** | 10 | - | - | - | 10 |
| **13** | **T/DRAWING** | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| **14** | **F/MATHS** | 4 | 6 | - | - | 10 |
| **15** | **VISUAL ART** | 1 | 6 | - | - | 7 |
| **16** | **F/ACCOUNT** | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| **17** | **D/ PROCESSING** | 69 | 4 | - | - | 73 |
| **18** | **C/EDUCATION** | 73 | - | - | - | 73 |
| **19** | **COMPUTER** | 28 | - | - | - | 28 |
| **20** | **B/ELECTRONICS** | - | 2 | 3 | - | 5 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **342** | **251** | **48** | **17** | **658** |

1. **New School Fees Account**

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause parents, but we are forced by the decline in services provided by our current bankers. We repeatedly tried to engage them on it; promises are made, but after a while, the services deteriorate again. As a result, we have decided to move our school fees account to Zenith Bank.

Henceforth, parents are to make all payments to our Zenith Bank account as follows:

**Account Name. New Horizons College**

**Account No: 1016164601**

**Bank: Zenith Bank**

We have included Zenith Bank tellers in the envelope students are to take home.

1. **Change in Resumption date and resumption Guidelines**

As a result of the spike in COVID-19 cases currently in Nigeria, we are shifting the resumption date of the school from 2nd January 2020, to 9th and 10th January 2020, this is assuming the Niger State Government and Federal Government do not extend the resumption date. All things being equal, SS1-3 are to resume on Saturday 9th January 2020, while JSS1-3 are to resume on Sunday 10th January 2020.

This is to give parents enough time to do COVID-19 test for their children at least two days before resumption. **Please note, no student will be allowed to resume without evidence of a COVID-19 test result**. Also, as was the case in 1st term when students resumed in October, the following guidelines and requirements will apply:

* No staff, student, parent or visitor will be allowed into the compound if his/her temperature exceeds 37.5 oC . In addition, no one will be allowed to enter the compound without wearing a facemask or using hand sanitizer
* Parents must ensure students resume with a minimum of 3 pocket-size sanitizers as well as either 2 packets (containing a hundred pieces each) of disposal face masks which must have the name of the student-written with a permanent marker, or a minimum of 6 cloth face masks with the name of each student embroidered on such masks.
* On resumption day, SS1-3 students are to resume on Saturday 9th January before 5 pm, while JSS1-3 are to resume on Sunday 10th January before 5 pm. Social distancing measures have been put in place to ensure overcrowding does not occur at financial clearance points and Hostel check-in points.
* All boys are to have their luggage screened in the Tafsir hall. Clearance will be done in batches. We will in sha Allah work as quickly as possible. We ask parents to be patient during the entire clearance process.
* Parents of day students are to ensure day students are brought early enough to process them through temperature checks, use of hand sanitizers and other checks, to reduce delays which may cause them to be late for lessons.
* Parents are to caution their children not to violate the measures put in place for their own protection; these include, hugging each other, clustering in each other’s rooms and crowding such rooms, not using their masks, arguing that COVID-19 doesn’t exist, etc.

In sha Allah with all these measures put in place, we are hopeful that this term will come and go without any serious health concern of any nature including coronavirus.

* **Lastly, with regard to resumption, we want reassure parents about reports of kidnapping in Niger State which have made headlines of late, are not happening in the capital but hundreds of kilometers away from Minna; also, neither is it along the Minna-Suleija route which almost all our parents’ ply. In addition, the Niger State Police headquarters and Government house are not more 400metres to 1 kilometers away from the school.**
1. **1st Term Examination Result**

Due to the shortness of the term and our plan to ensure students got the statutory nine weeks of learning before exams, students will not be given their report due to exams ending just a day before their departure home. However, the results will in sha Allah be ready for viewing and to download by Thursday 24th December 2020.

Parents are to go to [www.nhcminna.org](http://www.nhcminna.org), click on ‘Parents’ to reveal the result checker page. Then enter your child’s admission number (To be written on the envelope given to new students and transferees) and click on report sheet from the dropdown menu, before clicking submit.

We wish our children a peaceful and enjoyable holiday. May Allah bring them safely to Minna when the time for resumption comes around.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.



Mustafa Mas’ood

Principal