

## **New Horizons College, Minna**

End of 1<sup>st</sup> Term Newsletter

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (21<sup>st</sup> Jumada 1 1444AH)

***If you defend your children's mistakes one day you'll hire a lawyer to defend their crime. Discipline is not child abuse. - Anonymous***

***"The best gifts to children from their parents is proper upbringing" (Tirmizi)***

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatul-lah Wa Barakatuh.

Dear parents,

All praise is due to Allah, the One who is most worthy of praise and adoration. I testify that there is none more worthy of worship but Allah, the Eternal and the Absolute. He is Allah, other than whom there is no deity, the Sovereign, the Pure, the Perfect, the Bestower of Faith, the Overseer, the Exalted in Might, the Compeller, the Superior.

We truly are living in trying and difficult times, hence the need for us to continue to collectively seek Allah's intervention through prayers and righteous action. May Allah bring these challenges to an end, amin.

We thank Allah for seeing us through this term, and we pray to Him to grant us His mercy to successfully navigate through the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> terms.

This report will in sha Allah shed light on the activities and events for this term.

### **Below are the highlights of this report:**

1. Abridged Calendar for 2nd Term, 2022/2023 session
2. Academic Activities
3. Co-curricular Activities
4. Islamiyyah Report
5. Opportunity to learn Chinese Mandarin
6. 2023 World History Excursion of Civilizations, Peoples and Culture
7. Reminder on PTA Security levy and Boarders Feeding Levy

8. Checking Exam Results and Behavioural Report Online
9. Checking Centralized Tests Result and Behavioural Reports Online
10. Resumption Date/Time for 2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2022/2023 Session.

1. **Abridged Calendar For 1<sup>st</sup> term, 2022/2023 Session**

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	-	Resumption of Boarders for 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	-	Day Students Resume/Lessons start
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	-	Entrance Exam for JSS1 Applicants
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	-	Centralized Test Begins
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	-	Centralized Test Ends
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>	-	<b>Students depart for Election Break</b>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	-	Resumption from Election Break
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	-	Inter-House Sports Final
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	-	Virtual PTA General Meeting
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term examinations start

2. **Academic Activities**

Our main focus this term has been to get our teachers to continue to consolidate on real life application to learning. We continued to ensure that teachers threaded this concept into their lesson plans using a set of laid down criteria. Heads of department scrutinized the lesson plans and followed up by visiting teachers under their departments to ensure the concept moved from theory to practice in the classroom. Additionally, we have begun to make incremental steps in terms of ensuring that no child is left behind when it comes to children with special learning needs.

Below is a summary of activities, events, and programmes in which students and staff have been engaged with this term:

- Diagnostic test and support lessons for transfer students who resumed with JSS1 students.

- Assessment done for students with special needs and special learning arrangements made for them; special exams centre allocated to them during First term's examinations.
- Academic counseling for all Transferees in JSS2, JSS3 and SS1
- Academic orientation for transfer students on subject choice combination, and full school orientation for JSS1 students.
- Extra support lessons arranged for new and transfer students struggling with mathematics and other subjects.
- Saturday Maths clinic continued from last session.
- Greater emphasis on teachers applying 'Real Life Context' to teaching and learning in the classrooms.
- Cambridge lessons continued with SS2 students.
- Pre-GCE Mock conducted for SS3 as a diagnostic test to assess their readiness for GCE examinations which they have since concluded.
- Science practicals conducted on Saturdays for SS2 and SS3 students.
- Seasoned external WAEC coordinators with decades of experience in coordinating and marking WAEC examination papers, engaged for eight weeks to prep SS3 students in Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Biology, to prepare them for the GCE examinations.
- Intensive class visits by school management team to keep tabs on teaching and learning in the class.
- Encouragement of Research based learning through the use of the ICT center.
- The first Centralized test for this term was conducted and results were released. Alhamdulillah there was a great improvement in performance all round. Worthy of mention is the result of the SS1 students. The criteria for being put on the Principal's Honor list was moved from getting 90% and above in 7 subjects to 8

subjects, yet a total of 46 SS1 students made the honor's list out of a total of 72 senior students, which is a new record in the school! In the JSS classes a total of 28 students made the honor's list.

- Career prospects in Science and Technology was organized for JSS3 students
- Follow-up counseling for students recommended for Arts class, and those of them who brought letters of undertaking from their parents, asking the school to allow them to be in the Science stream.
- Post centralized test academic counselling support started for students who performed poorly.
- The Academic adviser carried out the following activities with individuals and classes as follows: Group counselling on improving memory for study for some junior students, learning styles assessments for many students, etc.

### 3. **Extra-curricular Activities**

The school's curriculum does not rest only on academics but extends to extracurricular activities where we apply the same level of attention and energy as is done for academics.

Below are the activities or events

- One of our students placed first in the "Young Nigerian Scientists Presidential Award" competition for Niger state schools.
- Zenith Bank officials organized a seminar for SS3 students under the theme: "World Savings Day".
- Twelve of our students attended a conference sponsored by 'Google Developers Festivals'.
- The school team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in a private school's football competition; the school also placed first in the table tennis event of the same competition.
- Mathematics Challenge and Internal Quiz Competition continued
- Female only Hijab Fashion organized by female students with the support of female staff, to celebrate modesty and fashion.
- Orientation dinner organized for new students

- Treasure hunt organized for new students.
- Maths department organized a quiz and games event.
- Language department held a debate and drama night.
- ASkDIN night held by brother Nuruddin Lemu. This was an event where he answered all faith related questions which students had gathered.
- Train-The-Trainers course in understanding Islam and clearing misconceptions about Islam was organized for SS1 and SS2 students.
- The exit programme for SS3 students has begun with Bro. Nuru Lemu. It started with ideas for a meaningful career with more sessions to prepare them for life after secondary school. Personal development and leadership training for Ss3 students to prepare them for life after secondary school has also started with the duo of sister Salatu and sister Maryam. The same has also commenced for SS1 and 2 students.
- Special baking classes organized for students.
- Hygiene and career talks: both separate events organized by the student's affairs department.
- The student's affairs department was heavily involved in having coaching and mentoring sessions with students who were enrolled for personal mentoring sessions based on behavioural concerns observed. They have also been involved in guiding students through the 'Big Life Adventure', which is a personal development and leadership training for JSS1-3 students. This office has also partnered with the office of the Academic Adviser to arrange career talks for some classes. Other activities of this office for the period under consideration included hygiene talks and having class meetings with various classes, chaperoning orphanage visitations, supervision of online counseling sessions, supervision of students online research and courses, etc.

#### 4. **Islamiyyah Report**

We have gotten feedback from parents on the need to improve our Islamiyyah system, and the school has worked on plans to improve its current system in order to reposition it to achieve more. Below are steps we have taken and steps we have made towards raising the level of our Islamiyyah.

- A refresher workshop for mallams on modern Islamiyyah teaching methodology was conducted by the coordinators.
- Preparation of a new scheme of work to help achieve the desired change.
- Detailed screening of new JSS1 students and transferees to ascertain their true level for the school to build on.
- Introduction of rating/grading system for students and mallams.
- Enforcement of discipline to ensure mallams and students do not come late. This is also to ensure mallams make maximum use of the time available.
- Introduction of both Intra and Inter-class competition
- Introduction of experienced external mallams for checking and mentoring of mallams to commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- Mallams were reshuffled for the different classes.
- Weekly targets were given to students, and at the end of the week the results were collated to ensure that the students had met the target for the week, for the month, and finally at the end of the term. The same is also done for mallams.
- The tracking records are submitted weekly for overall verification.
- Extra lessons are now being conducted for students who are not measuring up or not meeting up their goal for the week or month.
- Tajweed class is now made more activity-based.
- Islamiyyah testing and assessment system now has a rubric which students can use to go through their exam scripts to identify the errors they have made.

##### **5. Opportunity to learn Chinese Mandarin**

The world has become a global village, hence the need for people to be bi-lingual if they are to effectively compete in emerging markets. As a result, New Horizons College in partnership with Dragons Teaching Language Specialists based in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, is in sha Allah starting a Chinese Mandarin Language club next term.

Students will spend a half of the time learning Mandarin online, and the other half using interactive games and activities online.

The modules costs are as follows:

- 16 students will cost 73 Pounds per hour per session, and there are 10 sessions in each term. Cost per student will be  $73 \times 10 = 730$  pounds divided by 16 students. Cost per student is 45.63 pounds. Using the black-market rate of N915 to a Pound (This rate is on or before resumption. Parents may pay in pounds), this comes to:  $N915 \times 45.63 = N41,751.45$ . **When we add cost of internet and supervision, the amount to be paid by each student for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term becomes N55,000.** The lesson will be one hour every week during the weekends.
- 17-32 students will cost 98 Pounds per hour per session.  $98 \times 10 = 980$  Pounds, divided by 20 students and converted to Naira, will be N44,835. **When we add internet and supervision costs, each student will pay N55,000.** This group will be divided into two independent groups.

N.B: Parents who are interested in availing their children of this opportunity should please fill the form at the end of this Newsletter and send back to the school upon resumption.

## 6. 2023 World History Excursion of Civilizations, Peoples and Cultures

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19 pandemic, the school is set to resume its annual world history excursion of people, cultures and civilizations. So far, the school has embarked on excursions to Spain, Greece, China, India, Egypt, Malaysia, South Africa and Turkey.

In sha Allah our planned trip is to Turkey once again in February 2023 during the election break. The excursion is usually in April during the Easter break; however, in 2023 this break falls during Ramadan.

We are now in the period of processing the necessary documents required for the visa interview on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, hence any parent interested in sending their child on this trip will have to submit all necessary documents, passport and meet 50% payment requirement on or before by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. **For more information on the trip, please contact the Registrar on 08052662218 or Landline on 08062218664.**

**7. Reminder on PTA Security & Boarders Feeding Levies**

This is a follow-up to the text messages sent to parents after the last Online PTA General Meeting. The payment response has been low; only 90 parents have paid the boarders feeding out of over 300 plus parents of boarders. As a result of this, the bursary department has been directed to add the unpaid levies to school fees for second term for each student.

As discussed and agreed with the PTA Executive, students whose record show they have not paid the arrears of security levy and 1<sup>st</sup> term's boarders feeding levy, will not be cleared to enter the hostel on the day of resumption.

**8. Checking Exam Results and Behavioural Report Online**

Alhamdulillah, 1<sup>st</sup> term examinations have been concluded and parents can check the results online as from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022 using the link <https://nhcminna.org/resultchecker> . Once clicked, a result checker will open where you input your child's admission number, which will then reveal a drop-down menu with three options provided. This will include, report sheet, students behavioural report and pocket money report. Parents should please endeavor to check the behavioural report of their ward after checking the academic report.

**9. Resumption date/time for 1<sup>st</sup> term**

The school will in sha Allah resume on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, on or before 5pm.

We ask Allah to protect our children during the holiday and bring them safely back to school in January 2022.

Parents of JSS1 students and Transferees (new JSS2-SS1 students) are hereby informed that they are required to call ahead and notify the school if any situation develops which stops or will stop them from returning their child/children on time.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.



Mustafa Mas'ood  
Principal



**Slip For Chinese Mandarin Language**

Name of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in paying for my child to learn Chinese Mandarin.

I am not Interested in paying for my child to learn Chinese Mandarin.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/Date

**N.B: Please tear off and send slip back to the school on or before resumption on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023.**

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