

New Horizons College, Minna

End of 2nd Term Newsletter

Saturday 14th April, 2026 (25th Ramadan, 1447 AH)

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 Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh,

Dear Parents,

All praise is due to Allah, who has spared our lives to witness yet another blessed month of Ramadan. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, and Allah is the Greatest. He is Allah, besides whom there is no deity: the Sovereign, the Pure, the Perfect, the Bestower of Faith, the Overseer, the Exalted in Might, the Compeller, the Supreme.

We are truly living in trying and difficult times, which makes it all the more necessary for us to continue seeking Allah's intervention through prayer and righteous action. May Allah bring these challenges to an end. Ameen.

This report will, in sha Allah, shed light on the activities and events of the first half of the second term.

Below are the highlights of this report:

1. Abridged Calendar for rest of 2nd and 3rd Term.
2. Academic Activities
3. Co-curricular Activities
4. Islamiyyah Report
5. Adjustment to Calendar for 2nd term
6. Reminder on School's policy on taking children for Umrah and Hajj during term time
7. Boys Attitude to eating 'Swallow'

8. Sleeping Habits of students at home
9. SS3 Boys poor attitude to studies
10. Checking of CA 1 and 2 results
11. Resumption Date/Time after Mid-Term

1. **Abridged Calendar For 2nd Term Ending & 3rd term, 2026/2027 Session**

Sunday 5 th April 2026	-	Resumption of Boarders
Tuesday 7 th April 2026	-	Revision for 2 nd term exam starts
Friday 10 th April 2026	-	Revision classes end
Monday 13 th April 2026	-	2 nd Term Examination starts
Wednesday 22 nd April 2026	-	2 nd Term Examination ends
Thurs – Sun 23 rd -26 th April 2026	-	End of 2 nd term break in School
Monday 27 th April 2026	-	3 rd Term Begins/Lessons Start
Saturday 23rd May 2026	-	Students vacate for Eid Adha Break
Saturday 6 th June 2026	-	Boarders Resume from Eid-Break
Saturday 4th July 2026	-	Visiting/Open Day
Thursday 9 th July 2026	-	Promotion Exam Begins
Saturday 25 th July 2026	-	End of Term/Prize Day

2. **Academic Activities**

Our main focus remains on helping teachers strengthen the real-life application of learning and deepen cross-departmental collaboration. Teachers were required to incorporate these ideas into their lesson plans using a set of clearly defined criteria. Heads of Department then followed up by observing teachers within their departments to ensure that these concepts moved from theory into actual classroom practice.

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

- Internal workshops were organized as refresher courses for teachers in preparation for the new session.
- There was strong emphasis on practical work across all departments. For example, the Science Department carried out projects such as catfish and electrolysis, while the Vocational Department handled projects such as tie-dye, business card creation, solar fabrication, and Haiku poetry for Qur'an.
- Extra support lessons were organized for students with deficiencies in Mathematics, English Language, and some other subjects after the centralized test.
- The Saturday Maths Clinic has continued to focus on differentiated support for Mathematics challenges, with students grouped into three levels per class.
- Cambridge lessons continued for SS2 and SS3 students.
- A centralized test was conducted for all students. There was an unprecedented increase in the number of students on the Principal's Honour List in both the junior and senior secondary categories.
- Data analysis of the centralized test was carried out to review the performance of all students, especially those with weak academic results.
- Teachers are now being fully encouraged to collaborate with colleagues from other departments. For example, Mathematics teachers collaborated with Economics and Science teachers, while the Social Studies teacher collaborated with an external guest speaker on drug trafficking.
- The Academic Adviser organized career guidance sessions for junior students and helped them understand the basic elements of career testing. There was also follow-up support for students with poor academic performance after the centralized test. In addition, the Academic Adviser reviewed the placement test conducted last year for the current SS1 students to assess how they have progressed so far.

3. **Extra-curricular Activities**

Extra-curricular activities are an integral part of the holistic education offered at New Horizons College, Minna; hence, we give them all the attention and seriousness they deserve. Below is a summary of the activities and events for the term:

- The school participated in the annual HIAFEST competition in culture, drama, and writing for secondary schools in Niger State. At the end of the competition, the school clinched 1st and 2nd positions in Painting, 3rd position in Short Story Writing, and 2nd position in the Quiz category.
- In the Aisha B. Lemu Spelling Bee Competition, the school came first.
- Hausa Language students embarked on an educational visit to Radio Niger.
- During the annual Inter-House Competition, Green House emerged in 1st position, followed by Red House in 2nd, Yellow House in 3rd, while Blue House came last.
- The Students Affairs Department organized “Big Life Adventure” sessions with JSS1–3 students on selected weekends, covering topics such as Having a Jannah Mindset and The Hope and Power of Du’a in Ramadan and Beyond. The department also held group and individual counselling sessions on character, hygiene, task management, and related matters. Class meetings were equally organized for various classes.
- In partnership with the Department of Islamic Studies, a Ramadan Night programme was organized, as well as Deen Craft activities for students during Ramadan.
- The mosque committees of the boys’ and girls’ hostels organized talks, special iftars, Ramadan poster-making, Ramadan-themed craft sessions, and student nasiha to mark the holy month of Ramadan.
- Two AskDIN sessions with Brother Nurudeen Lemu were held, during which students were given the freedom to ask clarifying questions about faith, misconceptions in Islam, and related issues.
- The school relay team participated in the Inter-House Sports competitions of El-Amin International School and Al-Ali International School.

4. **Islamiyyah Report**

The session began with a retraining programme for the Islamiyyah malams, along with planning meetings to strategize for the new session. Below are the Islamiyyah activities recorded since the beginning of this session in September 2026:

- A new policy on punctuality and attendance was introduced as part of efforts to reposition the Islamiyyah for higher performance.
- Weekly targets were set for the students, and so far, 86% have met these targets. From the results of the centralized test concluded two weeks ago, it was observed that 96.3% of the students passed.
- Waleemah screening was conducted for the current SS3 students. The outcome revealed that 62% of the male students have met the minimum target of 5 hifz portions before graduation, while 68% of the female students have also met the 5 hifz target.
- The practice of Islamiyyah teachers submitting their weekly reports on each student has continued. These reports are submitted to the supervisors for review and analysis.
- The usual daily tracking of students has also continued.
- A full-time Islamiyyah assessor has been engaged to assess the system, particularly how the malams and Islamiyyah supervisors are implementing the new framework for our Islamiyyah programme.

5. **Adjustment to second term calendar**

Following a recent adjustment to the school year calendar by the Niger State Ministry of Education, we were constrained to make a slight revision to our school calendar. Kindly note the updated schedule below:

- Sallah Break / 2nd Term Holiday: 14th March 2026 (3 weeks)
- Resumption from Break: Sunday, 5th April 2026 (instead of 28th March 2026)
- Revision for 2nd Term Work: 7th – 10th April 2026 (4 days)
- 2nd Term Examination: 13th – 22nd April 2026
- In-School End of 2nd Term Break: 23rd and 24th April 2026 (2 days)
- Resumption of 3rd Term Work: 27th April 2026

6. **Reminder about School policy on taking students on Umrah/Hajj**

This is to remind all parents that the policy instituted by the founders of IET regarding taking students for Hajj or Umrah during term time remains unchanged. This policy is clearly stated in the documents given to all new parents.

The school will not be liable for any loss of payment or deposit made by parents on behalf of their child if the school declines to release the student in line with this policy.

In addition, we appeal to parents to consult the school calendar before scheduling vacations, family trips, or medical appointments for their children.

7. Boys attitude to eating “Swallow”

We have observed with concern the amount of food wasted in the boys’ hostel on days when solid meals such as tuwo, pounded yam, and similar dishes are served. Upon further investigation through one-on-one interactions with many of the boys, the feedback we received included comments such as: “We don’t eat it at home,” “We do not like it,” “It does not appeal to us,” and “Even my parents know I don’t like it.”

Management wishes to appeal to parents to encourage their children to be open to trying different foods. This is part of the boarding school experience and an important aspect of preparing them for life. It helps them develop an open mind toward other cultures and ways of living, especially in a multi-ethnic and ever-changing world. More importantly, they do not know where life may take them in the future.

8. Sleeping habits of children during the holiday

Whenever students resume after holidays lasting more than four weeks, we observe that many of them find it difficult to wake up for Subhi. In addition, many tend to break lights-out rules because they are unable to sleep even after lights out, while others are found sleeping in class no matter how interesting the lesson may be. We directed staff members who are close to these students to interview them in order to better understand their sleeping habits at home. What we discovered was that many of our students stay up late into the early hours of the morning and then catch up on sleep after their parents have gone to work. As a result, after repeating this pattern for weeks, their bodies become used to staying awake late at night and sleeping in the morning.

We want to impress upon parents the need for greater vigilance, as this habit can have serious long-term effects and immediate consequences on their children's well-being. Medical studies have shown that teenagers who do not get enough sleep — usually less than the recommended 8–10 hours per night for ages 13–18 — often feel the effects quickly. In the short term, poor sleep can cause tiredness, irritability, poor concentration, weak memory, slower reaction time, poorer school performance, and a higher risk of accidents or injuries. It is also linked to emotional struggles such as anxiety, low mood, and risk-taking behaviour.

In the long term, ongoing sleep deprivation can affect a teenager's overall well-being much more deeply. It is associated with a higher risk of depression, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure. Over time, it can also undermine healthy habits, emotional balance, and day-to-day functioning, which may in turn affect relationships, confidence, and overall quality of life.

Put plainly, lack of sleep in teenagers is not just about feeling sleepy the next day; it can quietly affect the mind, body, behaviour, and future health.

9. SS3 Boys poor attitude to their studies

Many of the current SS3 boys are a cause for concern when it comes to their attitude towards their studies. Their teachers have been dissatisfied with their level of commitment since as far back as SS2. At the end of SS2 in July 2025, they were given tasks to complete before resuming for extension in August 2025. Unfortunately, most of them failed to complete the tasks.

During the extension itself, their teachers expended considerable effort trying to motivate them and get them to take their preparation for GCE seriously. This lack of seriousness continued into the first term, up until the sudden closure of schools by the Niger State Government. Before they went home, more tasks were assigned to be completed and submitted ahead of their online revision classes in December 2025. Yet again, many of them failed to do and submit the assignments.

The plan was to take them through online revision classes and, upon resumption, have them sit for a Pre-GCE examination. Unfortunately, most of them either failed to show up or, when they did join online, participated half-heartedly, arrived late, and paid little attention. Consequently, upon resumption, we were forced to cancel the Pre-GCE examination and instead focus on solving past questions to prepare them for the GCE.

After completing the GCE examinations, they developed a nonchalant attitude towards their regular classes, an attitude that compelled their teachers to raise the alarm with the School Management. Since counselling and disciplinary measures yielded only minimal success, we escalated the matter to the PTA Executive. This led to the PTA Chairman and a former PTA Chairperson coming to the school last week to address them.

We hope that the session by the representatives of the PTA Executive will go a long way in changing their attitude. However, we also felt it necessary to involve you, their parents, so that you may join us in speaking to them.

10. **Checking of First and Second Continuous Assessment Results**

We are pleased to inform parents that Continuous Assessment 1, which was the centralized test, and Continuous Assessment 2, which consists of classwork, assignments, projects, and related assessments, are now available online for viewing.

Please visit the address and enter your child's details to access the result:
<https://nhcminna.org/resultchecker.php>

11. **Resumption Date/Time after Midterm Break**

In sha Allah, students are expected to resume on Sunday, 5th April 2026, on or before 5:00 p.m. However, if extenuating circumstances arise that may prevent compliance with this date and time, we appeal to parents to call ahead before then to inform the School Registrar or his assistant on 08052662218 or 08093958767.

Please note that no bursary staff will be available to clear any student who arrives after 5:00 p.m. on Saturday or anytime on Sunday.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.



Mustafa Mas'ood
Principal