New Horizons College, Minna

Mid-term Break (3rd Term) Newsletter

Saturday 10th July, 2021 (2nd Dhul Hajj, 1442AH)

**““A child educated only at school is an uneducated child.”– George Santayana**

**“There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent.”– Mahatma Gandhi**

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatul-lah Wa Barakatuh.

Dear parents,

All praise be to Allah, the One who is worthy of the highest honour and praises, the One who is as He praises Himself; the Mighty, the Wise. Alhamdulillahi Rabbil Alamin.

When we look back at how bleak the security situation appeared before resumption for 3rd term, which resulted in the postponement of resumption, we have many reasons to be grateful to Allah that we were able to resume successfully and go through this term right up to midterm. We appreciate the confidence parents showed in our ability to secure the school by allowing their children to return to school.

This report will in sha Allah shed light on the activities and events from the beginning of term, right up to the week of vacation for mid-term.

Below are the highlights of this report:

1. Abridged Calendar for 3rd term
2. Academic Activities
3. Co-curricular Activities
4. Islamiyyah Report
5. JAMB 2021 Result Analysis

1. Checking Centralized Test Result and Behavioural Reports Online
2. New School Fees structure
3. Inter-House Sports Update
4. Resumption Slip for New Session in September/October 2021
5. Resumption Date/Time for 3rd term.
6. **Abridged Calendar For 3rd term**

Saturday 10th July 2021 - Midterm Break for Eid-ul-Adha

Saturday 24th July 2021 - Resumption from Eid-ul-Adha Mid-Term Break

Thursday 29th July 2021 - Promotion Exam Begins

Saturday 14th August 2021 - Prize Day/End of Session

Saturday 9th October 2021 - **Resumption for New Session (2021/2022)**

**N.B:** Resumption and vacation dates are provisional; hence, they are subject to changes based on the discretion of Niger State Private School Board and Ministry of Education.

1. **Academic Activities**

The academic term started with a refresher course on application of ideas and topics from different subjects to real-life situations. This was in furtherance to our goal of fully implementing the concept across board. We also agreed to give extra support to students with academic challenges. Below are some of the activities thus far:

* Support lessons for students who had low grades in second term.
* Friday departmental meetings to discuss students’ academic performance and challenges continued.
* Other students observed to be struggling academically during the term also given extra academic support.
* Use of CCTV to monitor teaching and learning in the classroom.
* Special Education consultant engaged to work with students who have learning difficulties; a report to be given to the parents of such students.
* Cambridge IGSCE online training for three new science teachers
* Centralized Tests conducted successfully for JSS1-SS2 students. The performance was commendable. For the first time ….. students qualified to be on the principal’s honor list by scoring 28/40 in 7 subjects and above in the JSS classes, while those who qualified in the SS classes score 18/20 in 7 subjects and above.
* Intra-class spelling challenge
* Post C.T. counseling support to be rendered to students who underperformed upon resumption from mid-term break.
* Implementation of research-based teaching and learning.
* Weekly Mathematics competition held.
* Career counseling awareness conducted for JSS3 students to help the students in the process of subject selection and to ensure an ‘informed career choice’ decision.
* Placement assessment counseling (PAC) is currently on-going for JSS3 students. The result of this exercise is expected to be ready at the end of this session.
* Individual academic counseling support for various students with academic challenges was organized.
* Group career counseling sessions organized for selected groups of senior students; need-based subject selection and combination orientation conducted for some students in SS1 and 2.
* Participated in Maths Cowpedia competition (Results not yet out)
* Muslim Global Connect Online Quiz Competition (We are in the semi-finals stage)
1. **Co-Curricular Activities**

The focus this term was advancing students’ training in their various areas of interest. The activities and events this term was as follows:

* Class-by-class mentoring meetings
* Capacity building training for student affairs and hostel staff commenced. (Emotional & Social Intelligence)
* Big Life adventure: personal development and leadership training for JSS1-3 continued
* Involvement of parents to join in counseling of their wards through phone calls and video calls.
* Observational visits to check on students by student affairs during sports, lessons, club meetings, and in the hostel.
* AskDin, Q & A session on faith with Bro. Nuru Lemu and Principal held on Friday 2nd July, 2021
* Online Spark Quiz Competition
* Low-key Inter-house sports preliminary activities
* Female students only entertainment night
* Staff versus SS2 students match which staff won by 3 goals to 2.
* Horizons Flash Fiction Internal writing competition
* Literature Night
* A night of Literary performances organized by Languages department.
* Speakers’ Corner organised for the members of Public Speaking Club
* New skill classes introduced – Photography class and Writing Class
* Spoken Word Poetry class: The online phase was concluded while the face-to-face phase will follow after the midterm break, insha Allah.
1. **Islamiyyah Report**

The term’s Islamiyyah activities were about consolidating our internal mechanisms and control. Below are activities for this term:

* Training of islamiyyah  Mallams on the new upgraded version of daily/ weekly progress report methods.
* Providing mini training on need-base for mallams regarding effective ways of conducting Islamiyyah classes.
* Students’ progress reports are analysed and reviewed periodically for more effectiveness performance
* Increased accountability of Mallams with regard to managing students’ behaviour.
* Entrenching and harmonizing of Tajweed scheme for Intermediate and Tahfiz levels
* Implementation of harmonized and Centralised Test system as obtained in our normal academic system.
1. **JAMB 2021**

We are very pleased with the outcome of the JAMB results for 2021. Our target has always been to get our children to pass even if there is a national failure as was the case this time around. The SS3 students practiced past questions repeatedly. We were also fortunate to learn of the change in textbooks some weeks before the examination.

Alhamdulillah, only two students got below the JAMB cut off mark of 190/400, while the rest of the students scored 200 and above. Please see the result analysis below.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **RANGE OF SCORE** | **NO OF STUDENTS** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| 100-149 | 0 |  |
| 150-199 | 4 | 6.45% |
| 200-249 | 44 | 70.97% |
| 250-299 | 13 | 20.97% |
| 300-349 | 1 | 1.61% |
|  | **TOTAL STUDENTS:62** | **100%** |

**NB: This means only two students are below the usual JAMB cut off mark for admission of 190. Secondly, 93.55% of the students scored 200 points and above.**

1. **Checking Centralized Test Result and Behavioural Report Online**

Centralized tests have been concluded and the results are ready for checking. Parents can check the results online using the link <https://nhcminna.org/resultchecker> . Once clicked, a result checker will open where you input your child’s admission number. A drop-down menu will offer three options i.e. report sheet, students behavioural report and pocket money report.

1. **New School Fees Structure**

It has been about 5 years since the school increased school fees in deference to the PTA Exco, who have had to intervene on more than two occasions by appealing to the school management to shelve school fees increase on both occasions. However, the rise in running costs has been a constant factor that have affected the school’s ability to handle many operational needs.

One of the effects of our inability to raise school fees, has been the stagnation of staff salaries or marginal increases, such that this year alone and within the past four months, we have lost the services of our Assistant Bursar, Physics teacher, Chemistry teacher, History teacher, IRS teacher; we only recently managed to convince the second Physics teacher to withdraw his resignation letter with the promise of salary increase in September, 2021. Some teachers have hinted to us that other experienced teachers are also making plans to leave the services of the school by the end of this session.

If we are to continue to provide services at the current level without lowering quality, then an increase of fees is a reality we must face.

It was based on this reality that we presented an austerity budget to IET Senior Management Board and PTA Exco, which then led to the online PTA General Meeting of 28th March, 2021, where the matter came up for discussion.

The proposed increase was based on a 20% school fees increase (current inflation rate is 17.5%, with no evidence that it will not further rise), but a 25% increase was the school’s preferred increase.

The consensus by the majority of parents who attended the meeting was that a 20% fees increase was inadequate if the school is only going to manage; hence the school should go for its preferred increase of 25%, but with a caveat, which is to ensure the quality of service provided does not drop and that the PTA will take the school to task if they notice any drop in standard or quality.

The new school fees consensus was presented to the IET Senior Management Board and an approval was given for a 25% increase in school fees. This means that as from September 2021 when the new school session commences, boarding fees will be N1,740,875 per session as against the former fee of N1,392,700, while the new day students’ fees will be N746, 820 per session as against the former fee of N597, 460 per session.

Our hope and prayer is that Allah the best of providers provides a way out for all parents to be able to meet their obligations.

1. **Inter-House Sports Update**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were forced to scale down the inter-house sports activities. Unfortunately towards the end of 2nd term, being required by government regulations to close earlier than we envisaged brought the Inter-house preliminaries to a sudden halt.

Upon resumption, we carried on with the inter-house sports competition for the remaining games and sports. The school will however not be showcasing its usual Inter-House final day of athletics because to do so would require about two weeks of practice – and we do not have sufficient time for this.

However, we intend to have a sports night where medals and trophies will be presented and each house will have its house dinner on that night.

Lastly, as per the age-long traditionally, members of respective school houses are to contribute N1,500 towards the house dinners. The hostel staff have given guidance to students who have requested to do more for their houses.

1. **Resumption slip for September/October 2021**

The new academic session will commence in early October 2021, insha Allah. This is subject to the calendar of the Niger State Private School Board, the body under the Ministry of Education mandated to oversee the affairs of private schools in the State. The calendar is yet to be released.

We are currently working on admission for the new session and making budgetary plans for procuring uniforms, teaching aids, equipment, and other equipment. As a result, please fill the confirmation slip brought home by your child and returned when school opens for the mid-term break. We need to ascertain

1. **Resumption date/time for 3rd term**

In sha Allah we will be resuming school after Eid-al-Adha break on Saturday 24th July. The school should be given prior notice of any delay in resumption. Students are still to resume with their facemasks and sanitizers.

We pray to Allah to include us among those who He will permit to gain the rewards of the first ten days of Dhul-Hajj and those who will reap the benefits of the Day of Eid-al-adha.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.



Mustafa Mas’ood

Principal