

New Horizons College, Minna

End of 1st Term Newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024 (12th Jumada II 1446AH)

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 Most Worthy of adoration and praise. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, the Eternal and Absolute. He is the Sovereign, the Pure, the Perfect, the Bestower of Faith, the Overseer, the Almighty, the Compeller, and the Superior.

We are undoubtedly living in challenging and trying times, which makes it essential for us to continue seeking Allah's guidance and intervention through prayers and righteous actions. May He bring ease and an end to these challenges, Amin.

We thank Allah for granting us the grace to complete this term, and we pray for His mercy to navigate successfully through the 2nd and 3rd terms ahead.

This newsletter, in sha Allah, provides an overview of the key activities and events from this term.

Below are the highlights of this report:

1. Abridged Calendar for 2nd Term, 2024/2025 session
2. Academic Activities
3. Co-curricular Activities
4. Islamiyyah Report
5. SS3 students to stay back to prepare for GCE exams in January 2025.
6. 2025 World History Excursion of Civilizations, Peoples and Culture
7. Review of Boarders Feeding Levy and Introduction of Transport levy
8. Checking Exam Results and Behavioural Report Online
9. Resumption Date/Time for 2nd term, 2024/2025 Session.

1. Abridged Calendar for 2nd Term, 2024/2025 Session

- **Saturday, 4th January 2025:** Resumption of Boarders for 2nd Term
- **Monday, 6th January 2025:** Day Students Resume / Lessons Begin
- **Saturday, 1st February 2025:** Visiting Day / PTA General Meeting
- **Thursday, 6th February 2025:** Centralized Test Begins
- **Saturday, 8th February 2025:** Entrance Exams for JSS1 Students
- **Friday, 14th February 2025:** Centralized Test Ends
- **Saturday, 15th February 2025:** Mid-Term Break (In-School) Begins
- **Saturday, 22nd February 2025:** Inter-House Sports Day
- **Wednesday, 12th March 2025:** 2nd Term Examinations Begin
- **Friday, 21st March 2025:** 2nd Term Examinations End
- **Saturday, 22nd March 2025:** Boarders Vacate for 2nd Term Holiday
- **Saturday, 19th April 2025:** Entrance Exams for JSS1–SS1
- **Sunday, 20th April 2025:** Boarders Resume for 3rd Term

2. Academic Activities

Before the resumption of this term, we initiated academic activities with extensive training and retraining of our teachers. The focus was on applying real-life contexts to learning (bridging theory and practice), identifying and supporting students with special needs, and Cambridge IGCSE training. The term's academic goals and success criteria were also clearly outlined.

Below is a summary of key activities and programs our students and staff engaged in during the term:

- **Diagnostic Tests and Support Lessons:** Administered for all new students.
- **Re-assessments for Students with Special Needs:** Tailored learning arrangements and designated special exam centers were provided in preparation for first-term examinations.
- **Academic Counseling:** Offered to transferees in JSS2, JSS3, and SS1.
- **Academic Orientation:** Organized for transfer students to guide subject combinations and for JSS1 students to familiarize them with the school's systems.
- **Extra Support Lessons:** Arranged for new and transfer students struggling with Mathematics and other subjects.
- **Saturday Maths Clinic:** Continued successfully from the previous session.

- **Real-Life Context Teaching:** Teachers emphasized practical application across all classrooms.
- **Cambridge Lessons:** Delivered consistently to SS2 and SS3 students.
- **Science Practical Classes:** Conducted on Saturdays for SS2 and SS3 students to reinforce theoretical knowledge.
- **Class Visits by Management:** Intensive visits were conducted to monitor and support teaching and learning processes.
- **AI Training for Staff:** Focused on integrating AI tools to enhance teaching and academic work.
- **Research-Based Learning:** Encouraged through the ICT center, promoting innovative and self-guided learning approaches.
- **Centralized Test Results:** Conducted successfully with significant performance improvements across the board. Notably, 12 SS1 students (primarily boys) made the Principal's Honor List by scoring 18/20 in 12 subjects, despite stricter criteria. In the JSS classes, 3 students achieved similar exceptional results.
- **Post-Centralized Test Counseling:** Provided targeted support for students who underperformed.
- **Brainiac Mathematics Competition:** Organized to foster excellence and competitive spirit.
- **Academic Advisory:** Group and individual counseling sessions were held for SS1 students, addressing challenges like parental decisions against the school's academic recommendations and follow-up for struggling students after the Centralized Test.
- **Introduction of Computer-Based Exams:** Implemented successfully for JSS2 to SS3 during the first-term examinations.

These initiatives are part of our commitment to delivering a well-rounded and impactful academic experience for all students.

3. Extra-Curricular Activities

At New Horizons College, we place equal emphasis on extracurricular activities, ensuring a holistic development approach that complements our academic curriculum. Below are some of the key activities and events from this term:

- **Excursion to Peaches Bakery:** Organized for Commerce students to gain practical business insights.
- **Inter-School Spelling Bee Competition:** Students showcased their spelling prowess.
- **Care Club Hygiene Talk:** Delivered at GSS Minna, where sanitary pads were distributed to promote menstrual hygiene awareness.
- **Football Achievement:** The school team secured 4th place in the Baba Brighter Football Competition for Private Schools.
- **Train-the-Trainers Course:** Conducted for SS1 and SS2 students to deepen understanding of Islam and dispel misconceptions.
- **Sports Engagements:**
 - Staff football match with Al-Ansar School in Abuja.
 - Football and basketball matches with Al-Ansar School, Abuja.
 - Football match with Esteem Boys, Lokogoma, Abuja.
- **Writing Workshop:** Facilitated by Sister Naima Roberts and another international guest, inspiring students to hone their creative writing skills.
- **Spoken Word Competition:** Two students represented NHC in a contest organized by the Abuja Schools Association.
- **Coaching and Mentoring:** The Student Affairs Department conducted personal mentoring sessions for students with behavioral concerns and guided them through the *Big Life Adventure* program, covering topics such as personal hygiene, gratitude, and the Jannah mindset.
- **SS3 Night:** A memorable event organized by SS3 students.

These activities reflect our commitment to fostering a well-rounded educational experience that nurtures talents, builds confidence, and strengthens character.

4. Islamiyyah Report

The new Islamiyyah supervisor and his team resumed from the mid-term break with the same dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated earlier in the term. Below are the key activities undertaken by both staff and students:

- Regular **Qur'an Recitation and Memorization Classes** continued seamlessly.

- The **Islamiyyah Malams** completed recording and entering the second continuous assessment scores for all students, including addressing and updating any missing records.
- Students successfully completed their **Islamiyyah Exams**, and the malams assessed and recorded their scores.
- A **Workshop for Malams** is currently in the planning stage, aimed at fostering comprehensive improvement in teaching and learning during the 2nd term.
- The **Assessment Results** for new students, conducted before their class placement, will be shared with parents in the near future.

5. SS3 Students to Stay Back for Extension

As part of our commitment to ensuring SS3 students excel in their GCE examinations, the school has arranged for them to remain on campus for intensive tutoring. Instead of the usual 1st Term examination, they will write a **Pre-GCE Examination**.

This approach will allow us to analyze the results and identify areas of weakness, particularly in **Mathematics and English Language**, to provide targeted interventions.

We humbly request all parents to join us in praying to Allah for the success of our students.

6. 2025 World History Excursion: Civilizations, Peoples, and Cultures

Based on the strong interest indicated by parents, we are pleased to announce that, **in sha Allah**, the planned excursion to **Morocco** will take place in April 2025. Information about the trip has been shared with parents who wish to send their child(ren).

We are currently in the process of gathering the necessary documents to secure letters of introduction from the **Niger State Ministry of Education** and the **Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, both of which are essential for visa processing.

For further details regarding the excursion, please contact the Registrar at **08052662218** or the Landline at **08062218664**.

We look forward to providing students with an enriching and memorable educational experience.

7. Review of Boarders' Feeding Levy and Introduction of Transport Levy

During the recent Online PTA Executive and General Meetings, the following decisions were discussed and agreed upon to address the financial challenges arising from current economic realities:

Feeding Levy

All boarders are required to pay a feeding levy of **N90,000** for the 2nd and 3rd terms. This adjustment is necessary due to the rising costs of food and related items. The school has absorbed significant financial strain, resulting in a **N17 million deficit** at the end of this term.

Weekly feeding and related expenditures, including charcoal, cooking gas, perishable and dry goods, amount to **N4,864,700**, excluding salaries for cooks, dishwashers, and related staff. This levy ensures that we can maintain the quality and quantity of meals provided to students.

Transport Levy

A second levy, the **Transport Levy**, has been introduced to support staff retention. At the beginning of the term, the spike in fuel prices led to resignations and notices of resignation from both junior and senior staff, who struggled to afford transportation costs. Others resorted to tardiness or voiced their grievances about the burden.

To address this, the school implemented a transport subsidy for staff:

- **N20,000** for teaching and administrative staff
- **N15,000** for cleaners, security staff, and other support roles
- **N3,000** for part-time staff

This measure, while effective, resulted in a **N13.3 million deficit** for the 1st term alone, which is unsustainable. Additional financial strains include escalating costs for petrol, diesel, NEPA bills (rising from N1.2–1.5 million to **N2.5–2.8 million monthly**), and maintenance expenses.

Parental Contribution

To mitigate these challenges, it was agreed during the PTA meetings that all parents would contribute a **N25,000 Transport Levy** per term for the 2nd and 3rd terms.

Future Fee Adjustments

The school management has also informed parents that these levies and deficits are not sustainable long-term. Therefore, all levies will be consolidated into a **general fee increase**, effective from the next session in **September 2025**, to ensure financial stability and continued excellence in our operations.

We thank you for your understanding and continued support in these challenging times.

8. Checking Exam Results and Behavioral Reports Online

Alhamdulillah, the 1st term examinations have been successfully concluded. Parents can access the various reports on the following dates:

- **Principal's 1st Term Newsletter:** Available from **Monday, 16th December 2024**
(<https://www.nhcminna.org/newsletter/>)
- **Pocket Money Report:** Available from **Tuesday, 17th December 2024**
(<https://www.nhcminna.org/resultchecker.php>)
- **Academic and Behavioral Reports:** Available from **Thursday, 19th December 2024**
(<https://www.nhcminna.org/resultchecker.php>)

To access the reports, click on the provided links, which will guide you to options for selecting the desired report.

9. Resumption Date/Time for 2nd Term

The school will, **in sha Allah**, resume on **Saturday, 4th January 2025**, and all boarders are expected to arrive **on or before 5 PM**.

We pray to Allah to protect our children during the holiday and to bring them back safely to school for the new term.

Parents of **JSS1 students** and **Transferees** (new JSS2–SS1 students) are kindly reminded to notify the school in advance if any situation arises that might delay their child(ren)'s timely return.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.



Mustafa Mas'ood
Principal