



BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1, Landbridge Avenue, Oniru Royal Estate,
P. O. Box 75133 Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

Tel: +234 - 810 177 5545, 01- 2930441
E-mail: principal@bisnigeria.org www.bisnigeria.org

August 19 2020,

Dear Parents and Pupils,

I hope that you have all had a safe and enjoyable summer and are now looking forward to the resumption of school in September. We are particularly excited to welcome our new Year 7 students to the BIS family.

Over the last few weeks, we have been working hard to ensure that BIS meets and then exceeds the requirements outlined by State and Federal regulations for reopening. We are now in a position to open the school safely for all our pupils. However, we are yet to receive a date from which schools will be permitted to open. I had hoped that by waiting until later in August we would be able to provide definitive news on when we would reopen our gate. Unfortunately, I am still not in any position to do so and write now to outline our two-stage approach to the resumption of school.

On Monday 7th of September, school will reopen online. Lessons will be provided to all year groups via the TEAMS platform, with written work being set and submitted via our new e homework system. Pupils will follow their full new 2020/21 timetable. For pupils who were with us in Term 3 of the last school year, this will mean that they will see an increase in the number of direct lessons and a substantial reduction in the number of self-study periods. The timetable day will be the same as if we are physically in school. Pupils will be expected to attend registration at 8 a.m. each day and begin period 1 at 8.15 a.m. Lessons will conclude at 2.35p.m. With homework set for each evening. Lessons will be 50 minutes long, rather than 1 hour, to allow teachers to set up for their next lessons and for students to prepare and login to their new class. Other than for IGCSE classes, P.E. and music lessons will not hold, under this arrangement.

On Monday 7th September, the academic year will begin at 1p.m. for pupils in Year 8-13. At this time, they will meet online with their Form tutors to receive their 2020/21 timetables and to discuss the expectations for online work over the coming weeks. Lessons will formally begin at 8a.m. on Tuesday, 8th September. Year 7 students are advised to attend an online welcome to school at 11 a.m. on Monday 7th and then to meet with their tutors online at 1 p.m. Details on how to access the online system will be sent to all new pupils by a separate email.

From the start of this academic year, we will introduce our new e homework system. "Show my homework" allows teachers to set work for all of their classes electronically, pupils can access this work via a wide range of internet devices and parents will receive their own login details, so that they can view the work set, and check and receive reports on whether the work has been submitted on time via IOS and Android app. As the system will be new to all of our pupils, homework will be duplicated via TEAMS to ensure that each pupil is able to access the work set.

THE GRAND PATRONS:

HIS ROYAL MAJESTY
OBA IDOWU ABIODUN ONIRU (JP)
(Akiogun II) Oniru of Iru land

HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. KALU IDIKA KALU, OFR
Nigerian Representative to
European Union

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REAR ADMIRAL G. N. KANU
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As this is the start of a new academic year, pupils will be required to collect textbooks to support their lessons. To ensure the safe and smooth collection of books, we will open New Horizons Hall at specific times, in the week prior to reopening, for different year groups. Uniform purchases may also be made on these days. The school shop will not be open at other times.

We will move to onsite teaching as soon as we are permitted to do so. Prior to this, pupils will be provided with an online guide to how the school will operate safely upon reopening. Much of these systems will be familiar to our older pupils, as they are an extension of the systems used prior to lock down. In summary:

- The start of school day will be staggered to ensure that social distancing is maintained. Pupils will not be permitted out of their cars, until they have been met by one of our nurses and had their temperature checked. They will then be escorted to our new hand wash stations. Drivers / parents are asked to remain in their cars at all times.
- Access to the campus for all but essential reasons will not be permitted.
- Classes' sizes will be reduced to maintain 2 m separation in all lessons.
- In order to maintain distancing throughout the day it may be necessary for school to run two separate sessions in a day. If we do so, we will do our utmost to avoid parents having children in different sessions.
- Face masks must be worn by all pupils, staff and visitors to school at all times. This rule also applies to all communal areas of our boarding houses.
- Movement between classes will be reduced. Typically pupils will receive most of their lessons in their Form rooms, with movement only to allow the use of subject specialist rooms.
- There will be some contraction in the curriculum; in particular, P.E. lessons (excluding IGCSE) will not take place. Music lessons will also be postponed, except for examination classes. Science lessons will see a reduction in practical experiments with a greater emphasis placed on demonstrations rather than pupils handling equipment themselves. ICT lessons will have additional cleaning protocols introduced.
- Year groups will work in bubbles. This means that interaction between year groups will not be permitted. Arrival, departure, breaks and lunches will be staggered to facilitate this. Cleaning teams will be allocated to year group bubbles, and the movement of teaching staff between teaching bubbles will be reduced as much as possible.
- Boarding will reopen with a maximum of 2 pupils per room and at least 2 meters of distance will be maintained between beds, storage areas and workstations. Weekly boarding will not be permitted. Once pupils have entered boarding, they will not, except in exceptional circumstances, be allowed to return home until the end of the half term.
- Co-curricular activities will not resume in the initial stage of reopening.

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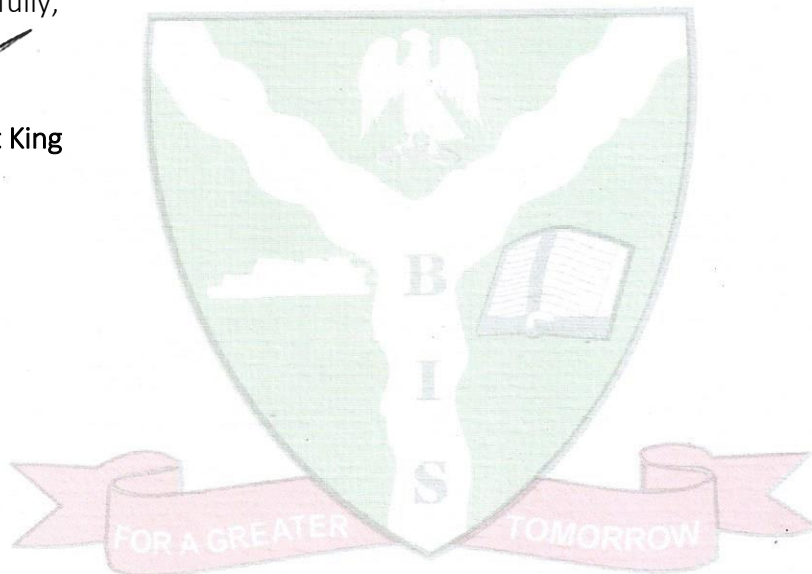
- Adherence to our illness reporting system is a requirement for all pupils attending BIS.
- Pupils who share a house with anyone who is isolating or has come in contact with anyone who has developed COVID symptoms will not be permitted to attend school for 14 days.

More specific detail will be provided prior to the reopening of the campus and is subject to change based on best health advice and regulatory requirements.

As I am sure is also the case with all our pupils and families, I had hoped that we would be in a position to reopen school from the beginning of the new session. However, the safety of our community is paramount and we must maintain our online provision, until both the authorities and we are satisfied that it is appropriate to reopen the school gates.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Stewart King
Principal



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