



Term 1

Monday September 7th — Thursday December 17th 2020

Welcome back to all pupils

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed back Year 7- 10 this week. With Years 11-13 returning last week we are now offering lessons to all pupils albeit on our staggered timetable. In particular, I wish to welcome all pupil and families new to the school. Having lessons online with classmates and teachers that you have never met must have been a somewhat surreal experience. I have wondered whether teachers have turned out to be taller than pupils have expected having only previously seen them on a computer screen!

CATs

Our in-class end of term assessments takes place next week. These tests allow pupils and teachers to review the understanding gained over the last few weeks. These are typically low-key affairs managed directly between class teachers and their pupils. However, with the constraints on pupils attending school this Half Term we have had to create a whole school structure to ensure each pupil can take tests on the days that they are in school.

A separate document has been shared with all families both explaining the system and providing the timetable for each Year Group. CATs begin on Monday for older pupils and from Tuesday for our younger year groups. Please note that during the “cat days” pupils will either be in school taking tests or at home/boarding house revising for the next days’ tests no lessons either live or face to face take place on these days. For younger pupils attending school on Monday 12th, a supervised revision will take place. They should be all appropriate materials required to prepare for the following day’s tests with them. Classes resume the day after all tests for that year group have concluded.

Green VS White section: Week beginning Monday 12/10 sees the following sequence.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Sixth Form Fairs

While BIS offers its own very successful A-Level classes to our own Sixth Form, I do understand that some of our families will be looking for Sixth Forms in the UK, USA and elsewhere.

Typically, it is this time of year that we see many schools visiting Lagos either under their own auspices or as part of a fair. This year many if not all of decided not to do so. However, if you are considering international boarding for your child in 2021 do continue to check the press and online publications for details of virtual fairs.

Online Classes

There has been disruption to some online classes over the last week. Some of these issues can be traced back to school and we are working hard to resolve these as speedily as we can others have been at the pupil's end. If your son or daughter is experiencing connection issues please encourage them to reset their own connection, check that they do not have other apps that use internet connectivity running in the background (updates and downloads are the two most problematic but Facebook/Instagram et al particularly when the video is set to play automatically can also slow the connection and if possible make use of a wired rather than a wireless connection. For some pupils using the teams' APP on a device rather than the web browsing version has made a considerable difference to the quality of the connection. If a pupil is unable to receive a stable connection all lessons are recorded and can be accessed again/later via their TEAMS classrooms.

Completion of return to school forms.

Prior the commencement of school on site a link to a form was sent to all families. We have a statutory requirement to collect this information as it forms part of the basis upon which we have permission to reopen. If you have not yet completed this questionnaire can I ask that it is completed by the end of this weekend.

Pickup

Thank you to all families for the manner in which they have contributed to the smooth and prompt pickup of pupils at the end of the day. 7-9 will continue to be collected from the south fork with 10-13 waiting at the usual canopy pickup point.

We have trialled a shorter lunch throughout this week as there is a limit to the activity's pupils are able to take part in once they have had their lunch. As a consequence, I can confirm that afternoon (period 5) lessons will start at 1.10 each day rather than 1.35. This means that pupils will finish lessons at 2.00 pm and are available for collection soon thereafter. **All pupils must be collected no later than 2.30 pm.**

In more usual times we have a greater degree of flexibility on when pupils should be collected. However, at present, we need to lock down the campus as begin our daily deep clean and fumigation as soon as the last day pupil has departed.

Wet Pickup

We have been fortunate enough to have avoided the worst of the rains during afternoon pickup (the same cannot be said for the white section's Tuesday drop off, from which many of us are still drying out). However, at some point our luck will run out. In the event of a wet pickup, I do not wish pupils to be standing outside for any longer than absolutely required. Therefore, the following system will run in the event of substantial rains at pick up time.

- Years 7-9 pupils will remain in their class bubbles supervised by their teacher.
- Year 10 will be supervised in the dining room with Year 11 in New Horizons and Sixth Form under the canopy.
- Cars should proceed to their normal pick up zones. Once parked they will be met by members of the security team who will ask for the pupil's name. This will be relayed to the supervising teams in the locations above and the pupil will be released to the car.
- Pupils should arrive in a school equipped with an umbrella and/or raincoat (available from the school shop)

The process will clearly take considerably longer than our usual system but will ensure that we shield pupils from the worst of the rain.

Meetings with the Principal

For the welfare of our students at this stage of reopening we are limiting the number of visitors coming onto site. Therefore as a temporary measure, my usual drop-in meetings will not take place. This, of course, does not mean that I will be unavailable to parents; I will make every effort to hold as many parents meetings by phone or Zoom as possible and there will be a limited number of face to face meetings taking place each week. Appointments for both virtual and onsite meetings can be booked via my PA on 0908 701 4833 or email: principalspa@bisnigeria.org