



Term 1

Monday September 7th — Thursday December 17th 2020

PTA Christmas Celebration

The Christmas celebration: A chance for parents, staff and pupils to meet around a fire, enjoy musical performances and even join in with the choir will take place in school grounds on Friday 11th December from 6pm. The evening will conclude with fireworks display.

The event is free of charge for all families who are members of the PTA (PTA dues paid for 2020/21 academic year).

I hope that as many families as possible will be able to join us for this evening. Not only will it be an enjoyable event it will also allow the children to see another step towards a more usual school experience

Return to school

I was delighted to welcome our Years 10 and 11 back to full-time school on Monday. Just over 90% of pupils in these years resumed classes.

From Monday 16th, Years 7-9 may also join us for lessons Monday – Friday each week.

As lunch has now been returned 1 hour in length school will close at 2.35 pm each day. Cars should aim to arrive in school no earlier than 2.15 pm.

While pupils will be in school full-time lessons will continue to be taught in year group bubbles with all COVID protocols firmly in place.

This next step in reopening is a significant one as it is almost 9 months since we entered lockdown and the pupils are undoubtedly pleased to be back. However, this break in normal routines has meant that various “interpretations” of school uniform have crept in.

Continuation on Return to school

From Monday 16th it is expected that every pupil meets all of our uniform expectations. In particular, I would draw attention to:

Hair length:

Boys hair should be short (typically setting 3 on a barber's trimmer) and of uniform length throughout with no patterns cut in. Girls' hair **MUST NOT** be longer than collar length, unless it is their natural hair and, in **ALL** cases, must be firmly tied up above collar length throughout the school day. Many of our girls have had extensions added during the lockdown period. This **IS NOT** an accepted part of school uniform and should be corrected before **school resumes on Monday**.

Footwear:

Shoes should be formal black leather **NOT** trainers. Trainers which are leather are not permitted. I understand that with restricted travel and the recent return to full time schooling some families will not have had the opportunity to purchase formal shoes for this academic year. If this is the case, please email your son or daughter's form tutor to confirm that they have your permission to wear an alternative while new shoes are purchased. This "shoe amnesty" will end at the start of Term 2. In the meantime, all footwear must be black, neat and without a raised heel.

All other uniform expectations are outlined in the attached document.

Due to our covid 19 protocols, the following exceptions to our uniform rules continue to be in place

- No ties should be worn
- Blazers should not be worn although an official (badged) school jumper may be worn
- The reason for these exceptions is that neither ties nor blazers can be easily washed on a daily basis.

Meetings with the Principal

I am available to meet with any parent **each day of the week**. An appointment system is run to avoid parents needlessly waiting if my diary is full as well as to ensure that sufficient time is set aside to discuss issues fully and without interruption. Please contact the Principal's PA on **0908 701 4833/0814 813 9481** or **email: principalspa@bisnigeria.org** to book an appointment.

I do appreciate that it may be more convenient, particularly for shorter meetings, to meet having dropped off your child in the morning. With this in mind 8.15—9.15 each day has been set aside for this very purpose. **No appointment is necessary**.

The relationship between school and parent is crucial to both the happiness and academic development of each child in our care. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any issue that you would wish to discuss.

PTA: Elections to the Exco

Thank you to all parents who have submitted nominations for the vacant roles within the PTA Exco. All current members of the PTA may vote via the ballot box in school reception from Tuesday 17th Nov to Friday 20th Nov. Results will be announced shortly thereafter. The Ballots can be collected from reception

Years 7-10 and 11-13 examinations

Please note that all examinations take place in the week beginning 30th November. For Years 8-10, this is one week later than previously stated so as to compensate for lessons lost due to the recent protests and their aftermath. Year 10 exams start on Monday 8th, Years 7-9 exams from Wednesday 10th with all examinations concluding on Friday 12th.

These examinations will focus on Term 1 work AND where appropriate also test work completed at the end of Term 3 of academic year 19/20. Pupils will be guided on this by their teachers and a summary will be shared with parents at the beginning of next week.

Years 11,12 and 13 mock examinations will now take place at the end of January rather than the beginning. This is again to allow for more teaching and to ensure that pupils are not disadvantaged should they be required to self-isolate after travelling during the Christmas break.

Pupil in the News

I was delighted to read the excellent piece on Anna Akwukwuma, our former Head Girl in the This Day newspaper. A copy of the article can be read here:

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/11/12/positioned-to-break-boundaries/>

Earlier this year Anna won the inaugural Memorial Medal of HRH Oba Idowu Abiodun Oniru which is awarded to the student who has encapsulated all that we wish to engender in our young people; academic excellence, a commitment to making the very best of their talents, a willingness to contribute to the community around them and the ability to lead. I am pleased to see that these qualities shine through in this article. Well done Anna.

Upcoming Calendar Events

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| Saturday 14 November: | 1 st Entrance Examination for 2021/2021 Session |
| Monday 30 Nov— Friday 4 Dec: | Exams for Years 7—10 |
| Friday 11 December: | End of the Year Musical Activity |