



## END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a great pleasure and privilege working with you our dear parents, our wonderful hardworking students and our indefatigable teachers during the just concluded and most challenging 2019/2020 academic session.



### OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES MATTER

The session started off on a good and exciting note with our students' growth and development spanning the academic, physical, emotional and social parameters. During the Christmas Term, we had our 22<sup>nd</sup> Founders Day Anniversary & Prize Giving Ceremony on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 which included award of prizes and scholarships to deserving students. Also our outgoing Head Girl, Catherine Halim had her book, "Stranded in Delusion" launched during the programme. This event was preceded by our Family Fun Day complete with rides and games on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 as part of our Founders Day celebrations. We also had a wonderful and highly entertaining special drama presentation- "The Harvest of Corruption" at MUSON Center on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The cast was made up of our SS3 students and was directed by our English and Drama Teachers. We had our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Fair on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to provide our senior students with post-secondary study options information. Our Christmas Carol – "Joy to the World", took place on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The term was concluded on that Joyous note after our Mufti day followed by the Open Day.



For the **Easter Term**, we had the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of our Inter house Sports Competition on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020, while the Junior Drama Troupe of Dowen College, mainly made up of junior students had a scintillating performance of "Okikiro" in the School Hall, complete with lights and all, on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of our "Songs of Praise" took place on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 while our Vocational Arts Day took place on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Red Tie Dinner which the students enjoyed very much took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020. In addition to the academic activities which students were engaged in, they also participated in various inter house competitions, debates, quizzes, club activities, excursions, field trips and other co-curricular activities, catering for their social and emotional wellbeing.

Unfortunately, we were just about to commence the Easter Term examination for the JS1&2; SS1&2 classes when suddenly the COVID 19 Pandemic got underway and the Federal and State Governments had to close down all schools to prevent the spread of the virus. The mock examinations for the JS3 and SS3 classes had been concluded before the lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

With the onset of the **Summer Term**, and the Pandemic in full force, we had no choice but to switch our academic activities to our e learning platforms. Subsequently, for the next 17 weeks, we had to come to terms with the new realities engaging students. Thus, we started our e learning programme on various platforms starting with a blend of tert.me and our school website. We then added on Zoom sessions followed by migrating all academic learning resources to our Moodle platform via our school website.



Throughout this season, our students have been and continue to be the real heroes. We salute their courage, commitment, resilience and willingness to learn. We must also congratulate them for doing so well in the continuous assessments and the examinations.



We also remain sincerely grateful to you our dear parents for your great and unwavering support as partners. You enabled your children through the provision of a conducive learning atmosphere including facilitating the needed data, power supply and devices for your children. Many of you reached out through calls, emails, text messages in your bid to travel the journey with us with words of commendation, counsel and prayers. We appreciate you all.

We are thankful to have a great team of dedicated teachers who gave up themselves selflessly during this period. We appreciate their commitment and doggedness throughout.

We must appreciate our Board of Governors, ably led by Dr. O. Phillips for their untiring support and tenacity throughout the period.

**IGCSE Results:** We congratulate our SS3 students and their parents for a wonderful 2020 IGCSE results. The summary of the analysis is as follows –

A* Grade	- 11%
A*- A Grades	- 34%
A*- B Grades	- 65%
A*- C Grades	- 94%

Overall Pass 100%

**Summer Term and End of Session Reports:** These have been released and forwarded to your e mail addresses. Please note that under the COVID 19 pandemic, the end of session report and promotion guidelines were compiled using the following as directed by our management Christmas Term 50%; Easter Term 25% and Summer Term 25%.

**Holiday Assignments:** The details of the Holiday assignments for JS1&JS2; SS1&SS2 students are already available on the Moodle platform. As usual, these assignments will form part of the Continuous Assessment for the Christmas Term 2020/2021 Academic Session.

**External Examinations in Progress:** The SS3 students are currently writing the 2020 WASSCE The examination commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and should be completed in the next few weeks. Some Quality Assurance officers from the Lagos State Ministry of Education visited the school in the course of the examination, they were happy and commended us for the observance of the COVID 19 protocols and our students' conduct. The JS3 students started the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 .Also, we had a visit from officials of National Examinations Council (NECO) to examine the conduct of the examination. Our efforts were commended by the NECO officials. Our standard of safety and health protocols in place was highly commended by State Officials, examiners and Parents.



We had separate meeting with parents of SS3 students and parents of JS3 parents to discuss our safe reopening protocols. We also had training sessions with staff and students separately on observing the protocols.

We look forward to brilliant performances in all our external examinations.

**Proposed Arrangement for Re opening for the 2020/2021 Academic Session** We have formed working groups to look closely at our strategies for the operational plans; academic plans; health and safety plans and our communication plans. As mentioned in our earlier newsletter, we are working on two scenarios for the Christmas Term. This has been done taking into consideration our proposed plan to have only ten students per class group .instead of the regular twenty to observe the required social distancing.

**Option 1: The Enhanced "In-Class" Plan-** We would continue school as normal with enhanced health and safety precautions in place. All students attend with in class learning throughout the duration of the term.

**Option 2: Hybrid Plan or Blended Learning-** This would be a combination of e learning/distance learning and "In-Class" learning with increased health and safety measures which could be done in a variety of ways such as "one week in class" followed by "one week e learning"



The option 2 of blended learning seem more favoured by the State Government

Please see the table below-

Class	Regular	Proposed COVID19 Arrangements	Option 1	Option 2. Hybrid Plan or Blended Learning with Social Distancing In Class Alternate weeks	
				No of Classes "In- Class" Weeks A	No of Classes "In- Class" Weeks B
Year Groups	No of Classes	No of Classes With Social Distancing In-Class	No of Classes With Social Distancing (In- Class)		
SS3	4	7	7	7	7
SS2	4	6	6	6	-
SS1	4	7	7	-	7
JS3	4	7	7	-	7
JS 2	4	8	8	8	-
JS1	5	9	9	-	9
<b>Total No of Classes</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>

This means instead of having the regular 25 classes or Homerooms, our classes have “exploded” to 44 for option 1 or 51 for option 2. This will automatically require corresponding increment in “man-hours” or “teaching periods” for both teachers and home room tutors. However, we are retaining our tuition fees for the Christmas term, with 50% reduction in the lunch fees and the elimination of extra-curricular fees. We intend to avoid all congregational meetings and contact sporting activities during the Christmas term.



Please note that e learning will take place during the period students are not in school for In Class learning. However, the SS3 students will be required to be in school for In- Class learning throughout the Christmas term.

We hope to meet with parents of the different year groups to discuss the health and safety reopening protocols two weeks before we resume for the new session.

We also intend to have training sessions for students in their year groups, as we have successfully done with our JS3 & SS3 students recently.

The dates for the e meetings will be communicated shortly.

## Other Information:

School offices (Admissions, Bursary, and Secretariat) are opened throughout the holiday from 9am to 2 pm.

## Important dates

Please note the following dates:

- ✓ Uniform Store opens on Monday 14th September 2020 (9am- 2pm)
- ✓ Book Store Opens on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (9am- 2pm)
- ✓ Orientation for new students – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 (Scheduled to be communicated)
- ✓ Boarders Resume – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- ✓ Full School Resumes Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- ✓ Meeting Dates for Parents in Year Groups- Two weeks before resumption. Dates to be announced soon



Kindly direct any enquiries to either the Principal, Mrs. Layiwola on 08055461116, Vice Principal, Mr. Olusesi on 08023117787, or the Director of Finance & Admin, Mrs. Borisade on 07086308951 or email us at [dowencollegelagos1997@gmail.com](mailto:dowencollegelagos1997@gmail.com).

Please stay safe.

Thank you and remain blessed.

Yours truly, OUR STUDENTS' LIVES MATTER

**Mrs. Adebisi Layiwola. B. Sc Ed; M. Ed**  
**Principal & Head of School**

