

New Horizons College, Minna

End of 2nd Term (2020/2021 Session) Newsletter

Saturday 10th April 2021 (27th Shaban, 1442AH)

“When the world pushes you to your knees, you’re in the perfect position to pray.” – [Rumi].

“Nothing can happen to us except what Allah has ordained for us. He is Our Master. It is in Allah that the believers should put their trust.” (Qur’an, 9:51)

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatul-lah Wa Barakatuh.

Dear parents,

Alhamdulillah, all praises are due to Allah, the One who is worthy of the best of honours and praises, the One whose mercy has permitted us to be alive to witness another Month of Ramadan.

This 2nd term has been one of the most challenging terms for as long as we can remember! We have worked harder than ever to contain the spate of behavioural challenges from students, because these challenges may eventually derail their academic progress if left unchecked.

This report will in sha Allah shed more light on the behavioural challenges and how we addressed some of them and other noteworthy areas in terms of the school’s general administration of students’ activities during the term.

Below are the highlights of this report:

1. Abridged Calendar for 3rd term
2. Academic Activities

3. Co-curricular Activities
4. Islamiyyah Report
5. GCE 2021 Result Analysis
6. Disciplinary Matters
7. Expulsion of 5 SS3 students and Suspension of Others
8. Checking of 2nd Term Result Online
9. New School Fees structure
10. Resumption Slip for New Session in September/October 2021
11. Resumption Date/Time for 3rd term.

1. **Abridged Calendar For 3rd term**

Saturday 15 th May 2021	-	SS1- SS3 boarders resume for 2 nd term
Saturday 12 th June 2021	-	Visiting Day/ PTA General Meeting
Wednesday 16 th June 2021	-	Centralized Test Begins
Saturday 10 th July 2021	-	Midterm Break for Eid Adha
Saturday 24 th July 2021	-	Resumption from Eid Adha Mid-Term Break
Thursday 29 th July 2021	-	Promotion Exam Begins
Saturday 14 th August 2021	-	Prize Day/End of Session

N.B: Resumption and Vacation dates are provisional; hence, they are subject to changes based on the Niger State Private School Board and Ministry of Education instructions.

2. Academic Activities

The academic theme for teachers this term has been to implement a deeper application of ideas and topics to real-life situations. In contrast, this helps students see a connection between what they are being taught in class and how they can be used in different fields or cases in real life; all other academic matters have revolved around this theme. Activities this term have included:

- Support lessons for students with weak results from the first term.
- Names of students with academic and behavioural challenges are submitted during departmental meetings with action plan made to address their challenges.
- Class visits by HOD's and S.M.'s
- Introduction of the use of tablets to JSS3 for learning purposes
- Awareness training for teachers on how to identify children with learning difficulties and special needs.
- Handwriting training for teachers was conducted by a resource person from Lagos.
- Cambridge IGSCCE online training for eight teachers
- Accreditation and approval was given to NHC to run a GCE centre for private candidates; the first GCE exam for private candidates was conducted in Tafsir Hall.
- Centralized Tests conducted successfully for JSS1-SS2 students. The performance was commendable considering the complete introduction of real-life application to learning.
- MOCK exam for SS3 currently ongoing and to be concluded on 21st April.
- 2nd term examination for JSS1-SS2 has been conducted and concluded.
- Saturday Maths clinic continued
- Intra-class spelling challenge
- Centralized test (C.T.) conducted and post C.T. counseling support rendered to students who underperformed.
- Checking of student's notes intensified.

- Introduction to Career Choice organized for JSS3 students; part 2 is to come up in sha Allah in 3rd term.
- Counseling support offered to SS2 subject choice combination.
- The academic adviser attended to 120 cases; 78 issues were career-related, while the remaining 42 were academic in nature.

3. **Co-Curricular Activities**

Our motto this term was giving students a hands-on training or education in their various areas of interest. The activities and events this term was as follows:

- Regular class meetings
- Capacity building training for student affairs and hostel staff conducted. (Udemy, skills share, etc)
- Big Life adventure: personal development and leadership training for JSS1-3
- Observational visits to check on students by student affairs during sports, lessons, club meetings, and in the hostel.
- AskDin, Q & A session on faith with Bro. Nuru Lemu and Principal held on three occasions this term
- Online Science Quiz Competition
- Art/craft/cultural competition for schools in Niger state
- Neuro-Linguistic programming by outside coaches from Abuja.
- Low-key Inter-house sports prelims.
- Female only cultural night.
- SS3 Fun night'
- Pre-Ramadan football competition.

4. **Islamiyyah Report**

The term's Islamiyyah activities were all about strengthening some of the policies and initiatives introduced in First term. Please see below activities for this term:

- Refresher training conducted for malams on Covid-19 protocols of social distancing, use of sanitizers and mask, and their enforcement during Islamiyyah.
- Employment of an additional malam to reduce the workload of existing malams.
- Implementation of students' daily progress and the tracking mechanism and weekly analysis of the resultant data.
- Feedback to parents of students with behavioural issues during Islamiyyah.
- Harmonized Islamiyyah C.T. and exams- no malams invigilated their class during the oral exam.
- Monthly meetings between malams and their supervisors.

5. **GCE Result 2021**

NHC Minna enrolls students for GCE to give them the experience of sitting for an external examination, this is in order to identify areas of weakness and work on such areas subject by subject. This opportunity always serves to boost their confidence and ensures they are well prepared before WAEC comes around.

Please see the analysis of the GCE result below. The exam office has gathered data on students who had were unable to obtain credit grades in Mathematics, Literature in English, Physics Chemistry, etc. We intend to get them to re-write the same papers, and have the teachers use the data to identify what led to their inability to get credit grade, so that they are better prepared for WAEC.

NEW HORIZONS COLLEGE, MINNA.

2021 GCE RESULT ANALYSIS FOR 70 STUDENTS

2020 GCE RESULT ANALYSIS FOR 74 STUDENTS

SUBJECTS	DIST.	CREDIT	PASS	FAIL	NO OF STUDENTS	SUBJECTS	DIST.	CREDIT	PASS	FAIL	OUT-STANDING	NO OF STUDENT
ENGLISH	49	21	-	-	70	ENGLISH	37	34	3	-	-	74
MATHS	28	19	18	5	70	MATHS	25	24	16	9	-	74
BIOLOGY	5	12	8	-	25	BIOLOGY	3	13	8	-	-	24
IRS	27	23	7	-	57	IRS	42	24	8	-	-	74
GEOGRAPHY	16	14	4	-	34	GEOGRAPHY	10	13	2	-	-	25
ECONOMICS	14	17	3	2	36	ECONOMICS	12	13	8	1	-	35
PHYSICS	18	20	9	2	49	PHYSICS	10	23	23	1	-	57
CHEMISTRY	15	20	7	1	43	CHEM.	24	26	3	-	-	53
LIT. IN- ENG.	2	7	10	-	19	LIT. IN- ENG.	-	4	10	1	-	15
AGRIC SC.	3	1	-	-	4	AGRIC SC.	2	1	-	-	-	3
F/MATHS	5	3	4	-	12	F/MATHS	4	4	3	-	-	11
F/ACC.	1	2	3	-	6	F/ACCOUNT	2	1	-	-	-	3
C/EDU.	38	27	2	-	67	C/ED.	28	15	7	-	1	51
T/DRAWING	-	-	-	-	-	T/DRAWING	9	3	-	-	-	12
TOTAL	221	186	75	10	492	TOTAL	208	91	12	12	1	510

2021 ANALYSIS

2020 ANALYSIS

TOTAL	%	DISTINCTIONS : 208	40.%
DISTINCTIONS : 221	44.92%	CREDITS : 198	38.8%
CREDITS : 186	37.81%	PASSES : 91	17.8%
PASSES : 75	15.24%	FAILURES : 12	2.4%
FAIRLURES : 10	2.03%	OUTSTANDING : 1	0.2%
GRAND TOTAL :492	100>00%	GRAND TOTAL : 510	100>00%

6. Disciplinary Matters

The level of indiscipline we have had to deal with this term is unprecedented. Our student affairs department and hostel staff have had to work harder than ever in order to contain and stymie the tide and deluge of cases coming their way. This has resulted in more phone calls to parents and counseling sessions.

During the interaction between many of the offenders and staff during counselling sessions, we learnt that many parents do not monitor what children are up to during the holiday. Many students stay up from between 1:00am to 3:00am most nights. In addition, we found out that there is little or no monitoring of the use of gadgets and what students see on social media or on the web, neither is there any monitoring of who a child is chatting with when he or she is always on the phone, etc.

We remind parents that raising our children is supposed to be a strong partnership between the home and school. In addition, as parents, we are shepherds and we will all give account to the owner of our flock, who is Allah. There is need for parents to hold up their own part of the contract at home by enforcing those rules or policies enforced in school; some of which includes, sleeping on time, interaction with the opposite sex, praying on time, etc.

Amidst all these challenges, there have been some positives. This includes:

- More boys saying ‘Salam’ when they walk past.
- About 15 girls and 2 boys doing online courses based on individual and personal requests.
- Many students referring other students for counseling.
- More students coming in on their own to request for counseling.
- Class courts and classmates of offender finding them culpable and recommending sanctions.
- Etc.

Statistics of offences were as follows:

- 38 of either reported or seen on CCTV of bullying cases.
- 16 cases of fighting
- 109 cases of lights out violation or making noise after lights out.
- 15 cases of intercepted love letters

- 37 reported cases of use of vulgar language or insults
- 15 reported or captured on CCTV of fighting.
- 10 cases of stealing
- 21 cases of dodging prayers (mostly girls)
- 37 cases of disturbing during prep
- 19 cases of rough play; one of which, boys burning each other with iron!
- One case of cheating during test.
- Two cheating cases during 2nd term examination
- 19 cases of cheating during MOCK and stealing of MOCK exam questions from the laptop of individual teachers.
- 20 cases of hygiene issue

Due to the frequency and number of offences, many counseling sessions and calls were made to parents as follows:

- At least 84 phone calls to parents from students affairs, registrar and both female and male hostels.
- 43 individual counseling sessions
- 12 class counseling sessions
- 156 students had one-on-one sessions with students affairs department (from just 65 in first term).
- Different types of sanctions deployed.
- Installation of more CCTV cameras

7. **Expulsion of Eight SS3 Boys & the suspension of others**

On Wednesday 7th April, 2021, some female hostel students came forward to report a case of exam malpractice on the part of their classmates to the female hostel staff. This was preceded by presentation of the evidence they had succeeded in gathering. The hostel staff examined the evidence and carried out a preliminary investigation to verify the evidence and interview the girls suspected of engaging in the examination malpractice.

The preliminary findings forwarded to the school management revealed that an SS3 boy had used a JSS3 girl as a conduit to send a smuggled flash drive containing soft copies of 8 mock exam questions to his girlfriend, who in turn shared it with five of her friends in SS3. The SS3 girl in question and those it was shared with resorted to involving their academically brilliant classmates in solving some of the questions. Some of those approached to solve the leaked questions were surprised when they saw the same questions in the MOCK papers they were writing; hence, they shared this information with a few of their colleagues, who then carried out an investigation. They submitted the evidence found to the hostel staff, who in turn duly carried out their own investigation and forwarded their findings to the school management to further investigate and interview all the boys and girls involved.

On Thursday 1st April, the disciplinary committee began investigating and interviewing male and female students suspected of participating in the exam practice from 7:30am to 6:30pm; it was only around quarter to 6pm that the case finally unraveled. The following information was confessed to both orally and in writing by those involved:

- Over three weeks, we systematically obtained the MOCK examination questions from the laptops of our teachers, using flash drives we illegally smuggled into the hostel.
- We approached teachers either in class or in their offices to appeal to them to reteach or explain a concept that we failed to grasp. while they are reteaching or explaining to one or two of us or even more of us; while one of us was searching their laptops for the exam questions. Once found, it is transferred it to a flash drive.
- Sometimes it took more than one attempt to get the exam questions
- We gave some of our mates the questions to solve for us, while we shared the solved questions with other mates.

Based on the findings, we invited the PTA chairperson on Friday 2nd April and presented the findings our investigation. She went through the written confessions of the students, spoke to a couple of them, before the disciplinary committee voted

unanimously to uphold the stipulated punishment of expulsion for those who stole the questions from the laptop of teachers together with their accomplices, while those who recipients of the stolen soft copies of the exam questions were suspended.

After the suspension and expulsion of the students, we have discovered that they got the idea of conniving to get exam questions from their teachers' laptops from a movie titled "Money Heist".

8. **Checking of 2nd Term's Result and Behavioural Reports Online**

Due to the school vacating on the day after exams were completed, 2nd term examination result will only be available as from Friday 16th April after Juma'ah prayers. Parents are to go to www.nhcminna.org/resultchecker, and use the admission number and click the drop-down menu to select report sheet or behavioural report.

9. **New School Fees Structure**

It has been about 5 years since the school increased school fees in deference to the PTA Exco, who have had to intervene on more than two occasions by appealing to the school management to shelve school fees increase on both occasions. However, recent economic developments have led to a rise in running costs resulting in the rise of goods and services, which threatens the school's survival.

One of the effect of our inability to raise school fees, has been the stagnation of staff salaries or marginal increases; such that this year alone and within the past four months, we have lost the services of our Assistant bursar, Physics teacher, History teacher, IRS teacher; we only recently managed to convince the second Physics teacher to withdraw his resignation letter with the promise of salary increase in September, 2021. Some teachers have hinted to us that other experienced teachers are also making plans to leave the services of the school by the end of this session.

If we are to continue to provide services at the current level without lowering quality, then an increase of fees is a reality we must face.

It was based on this reality that we presented an austerity budget to IET Senior Management Board and PTA Exco, which then led to the online PTA General Meeting of 28th March, 2021, where the matter came up for discussion.

The proposed increase was based on a 20% school fees increase (current inflation rate is 17.5%, with no evidence that it will not further rise), but a 25% increase was the school's preferred increase if it is to meet its goals and needs.

The consensus by parents' present was that a 20% fees increase was inadequate if the school is only going to manage, but that the school should go for its preferred increase of 25%, but with a caveat, which is to ensure the quality of service provided does not drop, and that the PTA will take the school to task if they notice any drop in standard or quality.

The new school fees consensus was presented to the IET Senior Management Board and an approval was given for a 25% increase in school fees. This means that as from September 2021 when the new school session commences, boarding fees will be N1,740,875 per session as against the former fee of N1,392,700, while the new day students' fees will be N746, 820 per session as against the former fee of N597, 460 per session.

Our hope and prayer is that Allah the best of providers provides a way out for all our parents to be able to meet their obligations.

10. Resumption slip for September/October 2021

The new academic session is to commence late September or early October 2021. This is subject to the yet to be released calendar of the Niger State Private School Board, which is the body under the Ministry of Education with the mandate to oversee the affairs of private schools in the State.

We are currently working on admission against the new session and making budgetary plans of uniforms, teaching aids, equipment, and other equipment. As a result, please fill the confirmation slip brought home by your child, to be returned when school opens for 3rd term.

11. Resumption date/time for 3rd term

In sha Allah we will be resuming school after Ramadan, on Saturday 15th May on or before 5pm. Students are to resume with their facemasks and sanitizers.

As the Holy month of Ramadan approaches, we pray to Allah to include us among those who He will permit to witness this great Month and include us to among those who will reap all its benefits.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.



Mustafa Mas'ood

Principal