



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

6th February 2018

Dear Parents and Friends,

After a busy half-term, students and staff will have a short respite to re-energize and be ready for another activity-filled half-term upon their return.

Upon resumption, the focus will primarily be the continuation of preparing the Year 9's and 11's for the fast-approaching external examinations with more vigor and vim, and a laser-like focus. Students need to apply the utmost conscientiousness and do more than what is required as staff will expect nothing less than a 101% ***consistent effort***.

What makes you happy or put another way, what will make you happy? Harvard psychologist and Happiness researcher, Daniel Gilbert, author of bestselling book, '***Stumbling on Happiness***', says our beliefs about what will make us happy are often wrong — a premise he supports with intriguing research. He believes that, in our ardent, lifelong pursuit of happiness, most of us have the wrong map. In the same way that optical illusions fool our eyes -- and fool everyone's eyes in the same way -- Gilbert argues that our brains systematically misjudge what will make us happy. And these quirks in our cognition make humans very poor predictors of our own bliss.

Furthermore, he puts it, "If I wanted to predict your happiness, and I could know only one thing about you, I wouldn't want to know your gender, religion, health, or income. I'd want to know about your social network – about your friends and family and the strength of the bonds with them." Deep connections with others enrich our lives and form a foundation for happiness across the lifespan.

The above is important as more people become addicted to social media platforms and different kinds of technology, allowing these to result in a disconnect from reality and society. Technology is important, but it should not be at the expense of relationships, bonds and connections, whether personal, family or community, otherwise we will eventually reap what we sow.

Daniel Gilbert indicates that other indicators of happiness and include, ownership over one's decisions, hard work and feeling competent, and gratitude for your lot in life.

I wish you all the best and enjoy the time with your children.

Yours sincerely
Mr. Abraham Swart
Principal

REMINDERS

REVISIO & IGCSE EXAMINATION PREPARATIONS

Please be informed that JHC has acquired access for **ALL Year 10** and **11 students** to Revisio, www.revisio.co; this is an exam revision tool to assist students to focus and prepare for their IGCSE examinations by completing past examination papers. An added benefit is that it prepares a study plan, indicating precisely how much time needs to be spent, as well as how much preparation has already occurred. Furthermore, teaching staff can access the students work to check on progress, and students have access to this when at JHC and home, 24/7. We ask parents to let your child show you their progress, thus far. Additional preparation measures will be announced shortly.

FIELD TRIPS

Please note that only **written and signed consent** from parents will be acceptable if your children want to be part of a field trip. Just sending an email, text message or phone call is not acceptable. The College needs the completed and signed **CONSENT FORM** which is usually sent well before the anticipated trip. No exceptions will be catered for.

JHC DEAR PROGRAMME

DEAR programme is going from strength to strength and the positive results are already evidenced with students not only reading but understanding how it benefits them. Over the last few weeks several students provided feedback about their readings to the assembled staff and students. We are attempting to make reading popular and chic and even previously reluctant readers are volunteering to share their insights with others. Long may it continue! Students are encouraged over the break to summarise the current books used and bring **two 'new' novels** for the next half-term.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS & DIRECTING COMMUNICATIONS

Parents are requested to regularly read communications send to them via school newsletters and at times electronic mails. Also, if your email address or physical address has changed then the onus is on parents to inform the school. Furthermore, if feedback or a response is required then the response needs to be directed to the email address or telephone number provided. We can all appreciate that if the right person doesn't receive your response then a reply is unduly delayed. Your cooperation and support are appreciated.

HUMANITARIAN DAY DONATIONS

The JHC **Humanitarian Day** is scheduled for Friday, 23rd February 2018, and the Humanities Department will accept donations from parents and guardians and to share with orphans, widows and the needy in the Agbor community. Items such as clothes, shoes, bags, books, etc. will be highly appreciated. Kindly send your donations to the College as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

JHC WORLD BOOK DAY

James Hope College will join other international schools all over the world to celebrate this year's World Book Day on Thursday, 1st March 2018. The World Book Day is celebrated to sensitise the school community on the importance of the library, promote the power of books and inculcate the reading culture in students. This year, our focus will be on **African Literature** and the theme of the event is **"READING AND WRITING: A NON-STOP JOURNEY"**. A renowned author has been invited and he will talk about books, reading and writing. Students will also enjoy the privilege of having an interview session with him. In addition, we will have a Costume Parade for Years 7 and 8 students and these are expected to dress in book character costumes of their choice, for instance, Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Scooby Doo,

Oliver Twist, Okonkwo, etc. There will be special prizes for the **Most Creative Outfit** and the **Best Portrayed Book Character**. **Book donations** from parents to support the event will be highly appreciated.

JHC SCHOOL UNIFORM & LOST and FOUND

All **SCHOOL BLAZERS** are to be **DRY-CLEANED ONLY** before students return to College. Furthermore, please check that the items students return home with are theirs, uniform items as well as personal items. If your child has items which are not theirs then contact the respective house parents for the property to be returned to the legal owner.

TRAVEL INFORMATION:

Here follows the travel information for the **Air Peace bookings** (www.flyairpeace.com):

	Benin-Abuja-Benin	Benin-Lagos-Benin
Departure	Friday, 9 th February 2018 by 11:50 am	Friday, 9 th February 2018 by 11:40 am
Return	Wednesday, 21 st February 2018 by 10:20 am	Wednesday, 21 February 2018 by 10:20 am

Please note that the above timings are **subject to change** by the airline.

As a practice, all tickets should be forwarded to lekkyes.dadwang@jameshopecollege.edu.ng, and sunday.loyede@jameshopecollege.edu.ng at least **two weeks before the departure date**. Also note that the above timings is subject to change by the airline.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Date	Event
9 th February 2018	Half-term starts
21 st February 2018	Students return for second half-term
23 rd February 2018	JHC Humanitarian Day
24 th February 2018	OPEN DAY for prospective parents & students
1 st March 2018	JHC World Book Day
3 rd March 2018	Academic Review for Years 9 & 11 students
17 th March 2018	JHC Sports Day and Parents Visiting Day
28 th March 2018	School breaks for Term 2 holidays
15 th April 2018	Only Year 9 students Return for CIE Checkpoint examinations
22 nd April 2018	Students return for the start of term 3

For more information or clarification on any matter, please feel free to contact me at 0708 396 4440 or abraham.swart@jameshopecollege.edu.ng