

Dear Parents and Friends,

I trust that you are healthy, happy and content. In two weeks' time, this term will be at its end, and after the Easter break, the rush of examination activities will befall us with all intensity. So, I would encourage those students who have the privilege to enjoy a break to make the most of it.

Since beginning times, almost every history and culture has celebrated the ***beauty of poetry***. Epics such as the Iliad and Odyssey, the Epic of Gilgamesh, and Beowulf celebrated man's struggles, while Shakespearean sonnets captured the exquisiteness of poetry. Edgar Allen Poe credits poetry for being the "rhythmical creation of beauty in words." Not forgetting our own Wole Soyinka, Ben Okri, Chinua Achebe, Jimi Solanke, Mabel Segun, etc. With such accolades, one cannot ignore the importance and enrichment that poetry brings to any curriculum, in any language. However, poetry is so much more than meter and rhyme for the versatility of this medium lends itself to any lesson, any grade level, and every student.

As such, we celebrate poetry at James Hope College, and I want to share some poems written by our own budding poets in this newsletter. A generic title, ***'The Last Page'*** was given and students had to write about this using their own words. Please enjoy this as we enjoyed it when it was presented at a recent assembly – these creations are insightful, touching and comes from innovative minds and vivid imaginations.

In conclusion, ***'What can a pencil do for all of us? Amazing things. It can write transcendent poetry, uplifting music, or life-changing equations; it can sketch the future, give life to untold beauty, and communicate the full-force of our love and aspirations'.***

Here is wishing you a splendid evening.

Yours truly



Abraham P. Swart  
Principal

## **POETRY MATTERS – THE LAST PAGE**

<b>THE LAST PAGE</b> <i>by Zara Sani-Musa, Year 8</i>	<b>THE LAST PAGE</b> <i>by Victoria Okorie, Year 11</i>
<p>Lord, save the last page for me</p> <p>At the twilight of history When all is said and done Poses and gaits have come undone And all truths have come to bear Nothing more but the end story Tragedy, comedy or happily ever after</p> <p>Now at the dawn my history The peregrination of life burning and scalding me The wind portending tales of its acquaintances The knowledgeable and the ignorant, The strong and the weak, The brave and the cowardly, All working together simultaneously for and against each other In this battle of wits that is life</p> <p>Pray, what's life without its trials? That separates the chaff from the grain The captain that has paid the storms their dues</p> <p>For he has been weathered by the waves of crests and troughs And now wizen, he knows that It's not the speed you start, Nor how hard you run, But how true you are While the frothy bubbles are swept As the oceans foams unto the shores.</p> <p>I say; Book me a place in the lap of victory For to stay true is to earn the medallion As history takes its course, Only the virtuous emerge victorious Surely, good is good No matter Me, a line in the last page of history Whence those golden names will forever be cast in stone Thence I shall have the last laugh Everlasting</p> <p>The world is a book, And a life a line in a page...</p>	<p>Walking down this road, Wonder how the journey will end. When I look back at journey past. Time spent, Like an athlete racing for gold. All boils down to one moment When it comes to an end Like an expectant mother Not knowing my fate. Will I get there? Like student, puts hopes and dreams on paper I walk. Will I get there? Like a ship sailing day and night Struggling against the turbulent harsh waves On I walk Will I get there? Secrets flood my memories Story left untold One more thing racks my mind: One more hurdle to leap How do you know? Myself I ask Has the end come? Is it worth the wait? Will my walk lead to fruition? Crossroads dwell I. Path to take? Which way my story leads?</p> <p>The last page, the unexpected. O heavens! make my last page a joyous one.</p>

**THE LAST PAGE** *by Ucheci Anyanwu Year 11*

A lot to say, a lot to do  
But what is the point when all ends in flame?  
Day by day fight I to turn the page,  
Grief and anguish sweep through me.  
How do we create a new chapter when hate  
rule our hearts?  
Hate created by our ancestors, hate that fuels  
the unending cycle of bloodshed,  
Spreading through the pages,  
like gun powder for being different.

Why don't we praise our differences?  
Why scorn those that break out of the chain?  
Why disdain those with other tongues?  
Why the trigger for being different?  
Why do brothers pull the rug?  
For races, religions, cultures, colours?  
Let's love,  
Let's melt in one another  
For the last page of the human age  
Shall uplift the soul.

**THE LAST PAGE** *by Akajiugo Amucheazi, Year 11*

Tears streamed down my eyes as I heard the  
worst:  
Sophie was dead; all the blame fell on me.  
Grief struck as I felt my emotions burst.  
I knew a secret I should have let free,  
And perhaps, she would not have lost her life.  
Who would have guessed icy death would be  
so cruel?

All her life she'd lived simply, without strife,  
Feeding peasant who grew up eating gruel.  
Now fear I may have come under a curse,  
For an act I have assessed as unwise.  
Forever, my cursed heart shall I nurse,  
Sleep tormented by your virulent cries.  
I shall mourn you for the rest of my days,  
For your last page ignites my soul ablaze.

**THE LAST PAGE** *by Fejira Mejire, Year 10*

Looking out the window  
Of my wobbly, crumbly house  
Children playing down the street

My heart churns inside,  
Chest thudding sickly by  
Breast awaiting elusive joy  
Their peals of laughter ringing  
In my ear even after,  
All have packed and gone

Looking around in sorrow  
At my wobbly, crumbly house  
Cannot but feel I'm alone

The glory, fame and riches  
I had possessed, coveted  
Had all brought me pain

Family, friends, evaporate  
My plight known far and wide  
No children of my own

Sea of pain and anguish  
About to swallow me,  
Love forsaken and forgotten.

**THE LAST PAGE** *by Morolayo Asalu, Year 8*

The last page I write to thee;  
It hurts like a sore stung by a bee.  
I tremble and lay to write,  
What I feared of despite.  
The little of all the pain,  
And in the end, nothing to gain  
A piece of the confined slave,  
That no human being could save.

The last page I write to thee,  
The truth, a hard-barked tree  
I wish I had listened to you,  
But it couldn't have been that true.  
It all seemed like fantasy,  
So impossible to be.

It was falling ice on a hot, summer, day-  
There was absolutely no way!

The last page I write to thee,  
I wish it wasn't so for me.  
You told me but I couldn't believe.  
The price I paid was having to leave.  
I was dragged and asked to write pages.  
Yours was the last and it took me ages.  
I wish I wasn't in this cell.  
I heard them call it hell.

**Bravo** and **Encore** to our budding writers and poets, we are proud of you!

## REMINDERS

### HUMANITARIAN DAY CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the parents for all the contributions. These were delivered to the various needy organisations and they uttered a loud chorus of appreciation.

### WAEC EXAM TIMETABLE

We are still waiting on the official exam timetable to be issued. This is expected circa, 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and after this then we can **confirm** the travel arrangements for our Year 12 students.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

	Benin-Abuja-Benin	Benin-Lagos-Benin
<b>Departure</b> - Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April for Years 7, 8, 9 & 10	11:55 am	12.10 pm
<b>Departure</b> – Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April for Years 11 & 12		
<b>Return:</b> Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	10:25 am	10:45 am

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

### FUTURE EVENTS

Date	Event
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	CIEA Check Point Exams for Year 9's
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	School breaks for Easter for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Short Easter break for Years 11 & 12
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	ALL Students return to College
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Years 7, 8 & 10 Academic Review Day
24 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2019	Half-term break Term 3 for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 ONLY
29 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Year 12 Graduation Ceremony
11 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Annual Prize-Giving & End of Academic Year
25 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	New Year 12's Return for IGCSE exam Preparations
7 <sup>th</sup> of September 2019	Orientation for New Year 7's

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