

Dear Parents and Friends,

I trust that this newsletter finds you well. This edition contains a sizeable amount of information, and you are encouraged to save it for future reference.

Firstly, here is a ***note of appreciation*** to the parents who joined us for the ***Parents-Teachers forum (PTF)*** last Saturday. All contributions were welcomed and noted. Be assured that you have been heard, as most matters mentioned have already been addressed and actioned. The ***staff and parents must*** often meet more to share and discuss, not just through the Academic reviews and PTF. I would welcome suggestions from our parents on how to achieve this, and we will make this happen as of September 2024.

The SLT (Senior Leadership Team) has been planning ***events and activities*** for the ***next academic session*** and will share all of this by August 2024 at the latest. We will add another day of co-curricular or enrichment programmes with additional activities, so watch this space.

In conclusion, author Robert Schuller said, ***"Tough times don't last. Tough teams do."*** In its simplest definition, a team consists of more than one person striving to achieve a common goal – this can be a family, a group of people at work, etc. When we experience challenges, any team must pull together and not lose sight of that common goal, as the tribulations are only temporary. Also, Dr. Seuss reminded us, ***"You'll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut."*** Let us be aware of our surroundings, but mainly have an open mind when listening and learning.

Enjoy the time with your treasures during the ***half-term break***, and be safe until we meet again.

Yours truly
Abraham. P. Swart
Principal

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING@JHC?

Pressed for Knowledge: Exploring Greenery Through Herbariums

The **International Award for Young People Nigeria**, also, referred to as the Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) programme, encourages participants to develop an awareness of their surroundings. This includes understanding the benefits a healthy environment provides and the consequences of neglecting it.

Recognising this, our Years 9-11 students embarked on a project to create a **herbarium** – a herbarium is a curated collection of preserved plant specimens used for scientific study and research. This project not only fulfilled the program requirements but also led us on an exciting exploration of the natural world around us. This research and learning culminated in a PowerPoint presentation done by Blossom Unoga (Year 11) and Paul Olisa (Year 9).

From the soothing properties of **aloe vera** to the fascinating **mimosa pudica**, known for its sensitivity to touch, light, and temperature, and even the prominent health benefits the **Hawaiian hibiscus** has to offer - plants offer a captivating window into the world of science. We urge you to take a moment today to appreciate the beauty and benefits of the plants around you. Who knows, you may discover your next skincare product.



Reported by Blossom Unogu (year 11, DoE participant)

REMINDERS

COMMUNICATION & ESCALATION

Parents should keep the College up to date with family circumstances that may affect the schooling of their son/daughter(s). In addition, parents have the freedom to contact the College and request a meeting should they have an issue to discuss. In this scenario, parents should refer to the section below to determine which member of the team is the most appropriate person to help them with the specific issue.

- The Head of Department (academic matters), Year Leader (pastoral matters) and Activities Coordinator (co-curricular matters) will be the first point of communication for parents. A parent can: informally meet after College, book an appointment or email to share information or ask questions.
- The respective Vice-Principals will be the next point of contact after the Heads of Department, Year Leaders and Activities Coordinator.
- Failing the above then the Principal will be the next point of contact.
- Any unresolved concerns will then follow the 'Complaints procedure policy'.

Please see the attached **updated list of College contacts** for academic, pastoral and IT matters.

INCREASE of JHC UNIFORM PRICES

Due to local foreign exchange challenges and other factors, the price of our uniform items will increase. Although we have tried our best to keep the prices low, costs have increased due to global factors in recent times. After carefully reviewing the costs, the new prices are attached, and the ***change will be effective from 1 September 2024***. Our website will reflect the latest prices on the same day. Till then, you can take benefit of the old prices and remember that the number of items you may purchase will be restricted as we only have a limited inventory. We thank you for your understanding and support.

PROVISIONAL 2024/25 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The ***provisional*** academic calendar for 2024/25 is attached. As life can be unpredictable despite our planning efforts, events can be shifted or added, affecting dates. However, parents are encouraged to plan accordingly.

FUTURE EVENTS

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 15 April 2024 | Full College resumes, start of term 3 |
| 1 May 2024 | Workers Day |
| 18 May 2024 | Parents-Teachers Virtual Meeting |
| 13 – 17 May 2024 | Continuous Assessments |
| 24 May 2024 | Last day of College for mid-term break (3:00 pm pick-up) |
| 3 June 2024 | Full College resumes for the final half-term |
| 7 – 14 June 2024 | Term Examinations |
| 12 June 2024 | Democracy Day |
| 17/18 June 2024 | Eid El-Kabir Holiday (TBC) |
| 29 June 2024 | Graduation |
| 11 July 2024 | Annual Prizegiving & End of Term |
| 25 August 2024 | New Year 12 Students return for IGCSE preparations |
| 5/6 September 2024 | Staff INSET |
| 8 September 2024 | New Year 7 Boarders arrive in Student Residences |
| 9 September 2024 | New Year 7 Students Registration & Orientation |
| 9 September 2024 | All other Boarders return after 4:00 pm |
| 10 September 2024 | Full College resumes for Teaching & Learning |

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