

3 July 2026

Dear Parents and Friends,

I trust that all is well.

The Graduation event last Saturday was a magnificent affair and a well-deserved send-off to the class of 2026. Achievements and accolades were the order of the day, with speeches and well wishes from our founders and the guest speaker. Here is a link to a short clip of the event:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ip8a5N5CNbiJoSmrmFQN26cLoIDJelMA/view?usp=drivesdk>

We have noticed that, increasingly, some of our day students come to **assemblies** on Mondays and Fridays without their blazers. These are to be worn on special events as well, such as the annual Prizegiving this coming Thursday. Parents, please do your duty.

A gentle reminder that students will receive hard copies of their **final reports** on Thursday, including the **term fee invoice**. Parents are requested to discuss the school reports with their child and pay the invoice by the due date. If you have any challenges meeting the payment due date, you must request an extension by writing to the principal. No student will be allowed to return to campus, day or boarding, without payment or approval of an extension.

In conclusion, novelist Franz Kafka shared, "***Start with what is right rather than what is acceptable***"; and philosopher and writer Khalil Gibran wrote, "***Work is love made visible. And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy***".

Let's be kind to each other until we meet again.

Yours truly,  
**Abraham. P. Swart**  
Principal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

### Remnants of the Term

1. Due to the ongoing wet weather, there will be **no** Saturday Sports on Saturday, 4 July 2026.
2. The Year 9s will **continue** their BECE exams on Saturday and Monday and conclude on Tuesday.
3. The annual Prizegiving will be held on Thursday, 9 July, and starts at 9:00 am sharp.
4. The minutes of the last PT forum, 6 June 2026 will be available on the Educare portal by the end of today.

### FUTURE EVENTS

Date	Event
<del>26 April 2026</del>	<del>Boarders return to JHC from 2:00 pm onwards</del>
<del>27 April 2026</del>	<del>Whole school resumes</del>
<del>27 April – 18 June 2026</del>	<del>WAEC examinations</del>
<del>01 May 2026</del>	<del>Workers Day (Public holiday)</del>
<del>09 May 2026</del>	<del>Visiting Day for Parents of Boarders</del>
<del>12 – 21 May 2026</del>	<del>Cambridge Checkpoint Examinations for Year 9's</del>
<del>18 – 22 May 2026</del>	<del>Continuous Assessment week for Years 7, 8, 10 &amp; 11</del>
<del>22 May 2026</del>	<del>Last day of half term and pick-up at 3:30 pm</del>
<del>25 May – 29 May 2026</del>	<del>Mid-term break</del>
<del>31 May 2026</del>	<del>Boarders return to JHC from 2:00 pm onwards</del>
<del>01 June 2026</del>	<del>Whole school resumes</del>
<del>06 June 2026</del>	<del>Virtual Parents Teachers Meeting</del>
<del>12 June 2026</del>	<del>Democracy Day (Public Holiday)</del>
<del>15 – 19 June 2026</del>	<del>Examination week</del>
<del>27 June 2026</del>	<del>Year 12 Graduation</del>
09 July 2026	Annual Prizegiving & <b>End of term</b> (students can be uplifted after the event)
23 August 2026	Year 12's return for IGCSE preparation
04 September 2026	Staff INSET Day
06 September 2026	New Year 7 Boarders resume from 2:00 pm onwards
07 September 2026	Year 7 Orientation
07 September 2026	Boarders return from 4:00 pm onwards
08 September 2026	Whole school resumes

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)

## **MINUTES OF JAMES HOPE COLLEGE PARENTS' TEACHERS' FORUM (PTF) VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE 2026**

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

### **Introduction**

The Principal of James Hope College welcomed all staff and parents to the Parents' Teachers' Forum (PTF). He thanked all parents for complimenting the efforts of the school in promoting academic excellence among the students at James Hope College.

The Principal gave an update on the ongoing solar project and mentioned that the project had not yet been handed over to the school. He assured parents that all necessary safety measures would be taken to prevent any accidents.

### **Academic Update**

The Vice Principal (Academic Affairs) echoed the principal's appreciation and thanked parents for their continued support, adding that it is rubbing off positively on the students.

He stated that Term 3 is a short but activity-packed term, which began with the Continuous Assessment tests. He said that assessment reviews had been conducted with the students and that parents could speak with subject teachers if necessary.

He informed parents that the Term 3 examinations would commence from Monday, 15th to Friday, 19th June 2026 while the computer-based Progressive Test would be written the following week, after which normal learning activities would resume.

The Vice Principal (Academic Affairs) stated that the Year 12 WAEC examination was ongoing and expressed appreciation to the parents of the Year 12 students for their support. He mentioned that the current cohort has been outstanding, producing excellent results in the Cambridge IGCSE examinations. He further stated that five students received international awards for their academic performance. He announced that these awards would be presented at the BROCLA Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held at the Civic Centre on Friday, 19th June 2026 at 5:00 p.m. He appealed for similar cooperation from other parents.

Additionally, he mentioned that the Year 9 Checkpoint examinations, as well as the BECE practical examinations, had been completed. He added that the timetable for the BECE examinations was yet to be released but expressed optimism that it would be available before the end of June. He advised parents of day students to ensure that their children revise for their examinations while at home.

The Vice Principal (Academic Affairs) also urged parents to help their children organise their notes and other learning materials in preparation for school.

The Vice Principal (Academic Affairs) provided the following additional updates:

- **Year 11 University Placement:** The university placement process will commence soon.

- **Canada Trip:** There is a slight delay from the Canadian Embassy, but the agents are working to resolve the issue.
- **JAMB Results:** James Hope College Year 12 students performed exceptionally well in the most recent JAMB examination, with the lowest score being 281. However, at the students' request, the results were not published.
- **SAT Preparation:** The school already offers the WAEC curriculum, which aligns with the SAT syllabus. In addition, the school library has adequate resources to support prospective SAT candidates.

### **Pastoral Update**

The Vice Principal (Pastoral) thanked parents for helping to uphold the standards of the school. She highlighted the following events that have been lined up for the term:

- A shopping reward trip for boarders, scheduled for Saturday, 20th June 2026.
- The Memory Lane event in honour of the outgoing Year 12 students.

The Vice Principal (Pastoral) urged parents to:

- notify the school if there are any issues with uniforms.
- inform the school if their child has any dietary concerns.
- ensure their children undergo a medical examination before every resumption.
- ensure their children are dewormed before resumption.
- always ensure their children's uniforms are properly tagged.
- adhere to the time allotted for weekend calls to enable other parents to speak with their children.

### **Co-curricular Update**

The Principal, on behalf of the Vice Principal (IT, Innovation and Co-curricular Activities), who was unavoidably absent, informed parents that all co-curricular activities are ongoing and that, where necessary, some changes may be introduced next session. He mentioned that the school has recorded successes in swimming, martial arts and tennis.

The Principal further stated that participation in the World School Games is currently uncertain due to the crisis in the Middle East region. He assured parents that the school would communicate any updates as they become available.

The Principal urged parents to ensure that their children come to school with the appropriate gear for their activities. He added that the James Hope College sports team uniform is currently being produced and should be ready by next term.

## **FEEDBACK SESSION**

### **Educare Challenges and Building a Well-rounded Student**

A parent expressed concern about difficulties accessing the Educare Parent Portal and requested assistance in resolving the issue. She also enquired about the measures the school is taking to develop well-rounded students at James Hope College.

In response, the Vice Principal (Academic) explained that the school previously used SIMS as its Management Information System but identified the need for a more flexible and customisable platform to better meet the school's requirements. This led to the adoption of the Educare software application. He noted that the Educare platform is still being developed and refined; hence, he appealed to parents for patience during the transition period. He further advised parents experiencing difficulties to contact the IT Helpdesk via email for assistance.

Addressing the question on developing well-rounded students, the Vice Principal (Academic) stated that the school places significant emphasis on life skills development. As part of this commitment, all students from Year 7 are expected to learn swimming as part of their Physical Education programme. In addition, the school organises leadership development programmes aimed at strengthening students' leadership skills and preparing them for future responsibilities.

### **JHC's Participation in Competitions**

A parent, while citing an instance where she shared information about a competition in which the school did not participate, observed that James Hope College rarely takes part in external competitions and wondered why. She added that her sons had registered for lawn tennis but had now lost interest in the activity.

In response, the Vice Principal (Academic) explained that invitations to external competitions are carefully reviewed and deliberated upon by the School Management before approval is granted. He emphasised that the school does not shy away from participating in competitions. However, due consideration is given to factors such as timing, student availability and the level of preparedness of the students to ensure meaningful participation and optimal performance. He cited examples of external sporting and essay competitions in which the students had participated.

### **A Grateful JHC Parent**

A parent praised the efforts of the school in developing the students, citing her child as an example. She explained that her son had become more responsible since joining the boarding residence.

### **Inter-House Sports, White Shirts and Student Responsibility**

A parent commended the school for reintroducing weekend sports activities and encouraged the school to continue training students to excel in athletics. He also suggested that the school should consider organising annual inter-house sports competitions.

The parent further observed that the white school shirts tend to become discoloured over time and urged the school to investigate the cause and address the issue.

In addition, the parent expressed concern about how well students are prepared to navigate life beyond their time at James Hope College. He recommended that prefects be given greater responsibility in certain aspects of student life to provide them with practical leadership experience and better prepare them for future challenges.

In response, the Principal explained that the school's inter-house sports competition is currently held biennially due to the relatively small student population. He, however, expressed optimism that this arrangement may be reviewed from next year in light of the anticipated increase in student enrolment.

Regarding the issue of the white shirts, the Principal stated that the school had also observed the discolouration and was exploring ways to address the laundry-related concerns contributing to it. Another parent suggested that the problem might be linked to the quality or texture of the fabric being used.

### **School Communication, Extra-curricular Activities, Break Times and Meals**

A parent advised that communication between the school and parents should be further strengthened. She also recommended that the school clearly define and prioritise its extra-curricular activities to prevent an excessive number of programmes and ensure that students remain focused.

The parent sought clarification on the following issues:

- The activities undertaken by students after examinations.
- The duration of break times during the school day.
- The possibility of including more vegetables in students' meals.
- The perception that teachers are sometimes given priority over students.

In response, the Vice Principal (Academic) agreed that the school should maintain a clear set of core objectives and assured parents that efforts would be made to streamline activities in line with the school's priorities.

He explained that students sit for the Progressive Test following the Term 3 examinations and subsequently resume normal learning activities.

Regarding break times and meals, he stated that the school operates a 15-minute morning break and a 40-minute lunch break each school day. He further clarified that teachers do not receive priority over students during meal service, as meals for staff and students are served separately. However, he acknowledged concerns about queuing times and indicated that the school would review the process to improve service efficiency.

The Principal added that the school's lunch menu is available on the school portal and encouraged parents to review it and provide feedback where necessary. He further

noted that the school holds periodic food quality assurance meetings, which include student representatives, and he invited interested parents to participate in these discussions. He also informed parents that boarding students now receive afternoon snacks during weekends.

### **Washing Machines and Watching TV**

A parent asked why students are not allowed to use the washing machines in the boarding residences. It was explained that students are required to wash their personal items (e.g. pyjamas, underwear, etc.) by hand and are therefore not permitted to use the washing machines for such items.

Regarding the request for students to be permitted to watch the World Cup, the Principal explained that students have an established television viewing schedule in the boarding residences, which is strictly adhered to.

### **Sign Language Classes**

A parent enquired about the discontinuation of Sign Language classes as part of the regular programme and expressed concern that they had been converted into a club activity. She appealed to the school to sustain the programme, noting that Sign Language is an important life skill.

The parent also recommended that career counselling should commence from Year 7 rather than at the end of Key Stage 3 to provide students with earlier exposure to career planning and guidance.

In response, the Vice Principal (Pastoral) clarified that the weekend Sign Language classes had not been cancelled and continue to run as scheduled. She explained that, owing to the growing interest shown by students, the programme had been expanded to include day students. Consequently, Sign Language classes are now held on both Wednesdays and Saturdays to accommodate the increased participation.

### **Swimming Gala Feedback**

A parent shared her observations regarding the recently concluded Swimming Gala held at the school. She noted that the same students participated in multiple events and suggested that future editions of the competition should introduce categories such as Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels. She believed that this approach would encourage broader student participation and provide coaches with a better framework for assessing students' development and progress in the sport.

In response, the Principal acknowledged the validity of the parent's observation and thanked her for the suggestion. He explained that the repetition of participants was largely due to the relatively small student population and the fact that the competition was organised on an inter-house basis, with each house fielding its strongest swimmers in the various events.

The Principal assured parents that future editions of the Swimming Gala would be structured to encourage greater student participation. He further stated that

assessments would be conducted across the various sporting and co-curricular activities to monitor and evaluate students' progress and development over time.

### **Announcing and Entering for Competitions**

A parent appealed that parents and students should be duly informed of external competitions to encourage participation by interested students.

The Vice Principal (Academic Affairs), while agreeing that increased student participation in external competitions is desirable, explained that the most recent essay competition had been discovered by a student during the school holiday, after which she registered independently. He assured parents that more students would be informed about and registered for future essay competitions.

### **Missing Items in the Boarding Residence**

A parent appealed to the School Management to continue fostering a greater sense of responsibility among students, particularly boarders. He expressed concern about the frequent reports from his son regarding missing personal belongings in the boarding house and urged the school to reinforce accountability and personal organisation among students.

In response, the Vice Principal (Academic) stated that the school remains committed to instilling in students the discipline of taking responsibility for and properly caring for their personal belongings. He explained that a Lost-and-Found box has been established to recover and store misplaced items until they are claimed by their owners. He added that a teacher has been assigned to display the misplaced items every Friday for students and parents to check after school hours.

He further noted that incidents of theft are extremely rare at the college and that, in most cases, items reported as missing are subsequently discovered to have been misplaced. He assured parents that students are regularly encouraged to keep track of their belongings and conduct thorough searches before concluding that items have been lost.

### **Musical Instruments/Practical Lessons**

A parent expressed her appreciation for the knowledge and skills her son has gained through the school's co-curricular music programme. She mentioned that her son has developed an interest in learning a particular musical instrument and enquired about how the school could support him in pursuing this interest.

In response, the Music Teacher advised that students are welcome to bring their personal musical instruments to school for practice and further development of their skills.

Another parent sought clarification on why the Music programme appeared to focus more on theoretical instruction than practical application.

Responding, the Music Teacher explained that practical lessons form an integral part of the Music curriculum and are taught alongside theoretical concepts. He noted that students are expected to complete their theoretical assignments before participating in practical sessions. He further explained that dedicated practical music lessons are primarily conducted from 7:00 a.m. before the commencement of the regular school day.

Additionally, the Vice Principal (Academic Affairs) stated that Music at James Hope College is offered as a structured curriculum subject and is delivered in accordance with an established scheme of work, which incorporates both theoretical and practical components.

### **Conclusion**

In his closing remarks, the Principal thanked all parents and staff members for attending the meeting and for their valuable contributions. He noted that some of the issues raised could have been addressed outside the meeting and encouraged parents to engage proactively with the school whenever they require clarification or support on any matter.

The Principal reaffirmed that James Hope College will continue to maintain its strong academic focus while also providing a broad range of co-curricular opportunities aimed at developing well-rounded students. He emphasised that students remain at the centre of the school's operations and the vision of its founders and assured parents of the school's commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for every child.

He concluded by informing attendees that the minutes of the meeting would be shared with parents through the Educare Portal and the school's newsletter.

**Meeting ended:** 1:07 p.m.