



GRACELAND COLLEGE ENUGU

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12th December 2024

Dear Parents,

Christmas Vacation Newsletter

It is with delight that we present this newsletter mainly to inform and to extend greetings of the Yuletide. Also, we are thankful to God for a successful close of the term, for His mercies and the gift of life even in times like this. We pray for God's continued grace, not only to sustain us all, but to grant us the knowledge, understanding and wisdom to raise our young ones into disciplined, functional and responsible members of the society. This is always our ultimate goal.

Academic Performance

The measure of academic achievement of each student is contained in the termly Evaluation Report. Parents should access and download this report from the school's Learning Management System (LMS) with their personalised login details or accounts. We strongly advise that parents should carefully review their children's report with them, holding them responsible and accountable for performance. By so doing, coupled with establishing a standard of high expectations, students are inspired to take ownership of their learning which enhances their overall performance. Parents should not delegate this responsibility. Family time is sacrosanct and parenting the Gen Z and the more recent Gen A should be intentional and strategic.

Holiday Assignments and Online Notes

Mindful of the need to keep our students engaged with learning, we have deployed assignments in core subject areas on the school's portal. The assignments should be done in the respective exercise books for each subject and will be submitted in the first week of school upon resumption next term. Students who fail to do or complete this work will be sanctioned. Also, teachers' notes in all subject areas for the next term will be available on the school's LMS from 1st Jan 2025. These notes should be downloaded, printed, and bound before resumption. As a rule, boarders will not be checked into the hostels without their complete printed notes. We also advise that day students do the same to reduce screen time.

2025 SSCE, BECE, and UTME Preparations

To take advantage of early preparations, we have given all 12th and 9th graders who are preparing for the respective certificate examinations the booklets of comprehensive past questions and answers. All 12th graders who are writing the JAMB examination are advised to commence practicing with the CBT Test Drill kit at home during this holiday. Exam drills and special classes for support will become more intensive from January as we create the atmosphere and put our students in the mood for writing their final examinations. There will be limited Easter break, and parents will be billed for extended calendar.

Reading Culture and Creative Writing

As AI redefines the landscape of education, impacting teaching and learning, we are poised to ensure that our students being digital natives, are not shortchanged. We must intentionally revive the culture of reading and devise innovative ways to promote creative writing. We will inspire, encourage and if need be, compel students to read books from all genres of writing. The art of skillful and creative writing can only be developed by reading extensively. There is no shortcut! We have noted with concern, the dismal quality of writing of students and the poor capacity of reading and comprehension. While some of these problems are attributable to sheer laziness and apathy towards learning, some are the unfortunate result of ignorance and poor parenting through over stimulation from digital devices. We wish to sound the alarm that until we collectively develop a sustainable innovation that will inspire students to read and promote the art of writing, the future may be at stake. We are open to partnering with parents and organizations on the promotion of reading culture and creative writing.

Promoting Discipline

We have observed that while a good number of our students are level-headed, responsible, and well-behaved, there are a few bad eggs who delight in mischief. While we assure parents of our capacity to enforce discipline, in order to create a safe learning community for all, we believe that self-discipline is an internal control which is reflective of values, codes and beliefs imbibed. In view of this, we encourage parents to model the character and values they want children to develop, and to embrace the principle of progressive discipline in dealing with children.

Health and Safety

We are deeply grateful to God for helping us handle a potential death situation through the swift and precise medical intervention of the School Nurse. In view of this, we wish to reiterate that parents should disclose any health challenge of their children to the school. Parents are advised to inform the school of children on medication, so that such medicines are administered through the school clinic. All students who are asthmatic or show symptoms of asthma should ensure they bring their inhaler to school. Boarders who suffer from asthmatic attacks will not be checked into the hostels without inhalers.

New Plan for CBT

Having done a whole school CBT trial to ascertain the strength of our internet signal and the capacity of our Learning Management System to handle the school's population for exams, it is conclusive that the standard approach is to set up a school CBT centre equipped with a minimum of 100 desktop systems. With this new plan, it is envisaged that soon, students will no longer be required to bring learning devices to school in the future.

2025 Community Service Programme

The Community Service Programme for the 11th grade students is expected to commence next term. In the absence of school buses for now, we are compelled to charge a fee of ₦25,000 per student to take care of the students' logistics, branded T-shirts for the programme, and some funds for community work or support. This fee is not added to the school fees but should be paid separately to the Accounts Office for Community Service.

PTA Meeting

On the 25th of October 2024 at the main hall of the high school, a PTA meeting was held. The highlights of the meeting were:

- The principal's welcome address, which called for increased partnership between the school and parents to enhance students' success.

- Need to engage 12th graders maximally with past questions for adequate exam preparation.
- Need to ensure that support classes are available for struggling students.
- Closer supervision to ensure that the food quality is good, and the conditions of preparation are hygienic.
- The need for a seasoned school counsellor to cope with students' psychological and emotional challenges.
- Students' presentation featuring applications developed from coding class.
- Parenting Master Class from Ms. Geraldine urging parents to be active participants in their children's education and proffering strategies.
- Unanimous agreement for the PTA meeting to be held termly at least.

Resumption and Calendar for Next Term

Next term commences on 13th January 2025. Boarders will be checked into the hostels on Sunday, 12th January 2025 from 12 noon, with evidence of payment of fees, printed online notes and complete check-in list items. Please, find the calendar for next term attached.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2025 with God's blessings.



Uzochukwu, D.I.

PRINCIPAL

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