

May 2018

OLASHORE

Alumni Magazine

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WITH FIRST CLASS
DEGREES**

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GIRL RETURNS TO
ALMA MATER 17
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AFRICA TOP
SCHOOLS AWARD**

Mayowa Obeisun
BAGS PHD FROM UK VARSITY



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Indigene Scholarship Scheme



The Indigene Scholarship Scheme offers scholarships to students attending the Local Authority Primary School in Iloko town which is the school's host community and to students attending primary schools in Oriade LGA in Osun State. The Scholarship covers full tuition and boarding throughout their stay in the school.

As a school, we are keen to see the scholarship programme extended to accommodate more students. There are so many students with the potential to benefit from an Olashore education. Every day, thousands of children across the nation give up on their dreams for an education as a result of lack of funds. We may not be able to help them all but we can help some. We believe investing in the future of these ones is the right thing to do and you can be a part of this project.

You can contribute by making payment into the scholarship account:

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Account number
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Bank name
Access Bank PLC.

...and together, let's make a difference.

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From the Editor!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to another edition of the Olashore Alumni magazine. In a bid to serve you better, we have made some changes to the magazine in terms of design and contents.

The school continues to follow the progress of her graduates as they go on to break records and do us proud in their various fields. Special congratulations to all our first class graduates. In this edition, we feature four of them who not only graduated with first class degrees but also received outstanding awards from their respective universities.

We celebrate Dr Mayowa Obeisun (Class of 2005) who recently bagged a PhD from the University College London. We would like to use this opportunity to appreciate our pioneer Head Girl, Mrs Kikelomo Banjo nee Abiola-Cudjoe, who paid a return visit to her alma mater 17 years after graduation. Mrs Banjo has gone on to achieve great success, becoming the first female Head of Operations at Maersk Line Nigeria. We would also like to thank all alumni who joined us at the Olashore Open Events.

We love to hear about your success. Do you have a story to share or do you know someone who does? Contact us on alumni@olashoreschool.com.

Here is saying a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of this magazine. Feel free to send your contributions, suggestions and articles to us. Also join us on Facebook on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/437262322951232/>, follow us on twitter @olashoreschool and connect with us on LinkedIn by searching for Olashore International Alumni Networking Group.

Thank you.



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Principal's Message

Welcome to this edition of the alumni magazine. During the coming year, as we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the school, we will enjoy many celebrations. Speech and Prize Giving Day was an initial high point. We were pleased to receive Mrs Kikelomo Omolara Banjo nee Abiola-Cudjoe as the guest speaker. Mrs Banjo was one of the pioneer students of Olashore International School and the first Head Girl of the school. It was a pleasure to hear her stories of the school at that time and also to reflect on the success she has had following her graduation. We are proud of her success at Maersk Line, becoming first female Head of Operations in Nigeria.

The third term is a busy time at school, particularly for Year 12 students. This year's set have distinguished themselves by both their behaviour and exam results so far. This year showed the best overall performance in IGCSE in the history of the school. I would like to particularly commend the students who gained five or more grade A*/A in their subjects: Ginika Kalu, Patrick Ogunbufunmi, Omobolaji Olalere, Aminat Yakubu and Olabode Ige. Over one-third of all grades achieved were A*/A reflecting the hard work put in by students and staff in preparing for these international examinations. Their JAMB-UTME results were also outstanding and as such we expect these results to be followed up by excellent WASSCE results when they are released. Their Valedictory Service takes place on Saturday 16th June and they will be formally inducted into the Olashore Alumni. All current alumni are welcome to attend the ceremony which starts at 11.00 a.m. in the Oba Okunade Sijuwade Hall.

As we celebrate with Year 12 students graduating from Olashore International School, it has also been great to receive news of so many alumni graduating from universities around the world. Some of them are featured in the magazine. We also like to celebrate with you on the



D.K.Smith

school's social media accounts. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by searching for @olashoreschool to keep up-to-date on your fellow alumni. This term's magazine has great news from a few alumni; we must congratulate Chinazo Peace Eze (Class of 2012), Oluwatobi Agbaje (Class of 2012), Abdul-Hafiz Alako (Class of 2012), Tunmike Olowe (Class of 2012) who all graduated with first class degrees from their respective universities. We also celebrate Dr Mayowa Obeisun who obtained a PhD from the University of Sheffield. Please share your news stories with us so that we can celebrate with you.

I would like to thank all alumni who joined us for the Open Events in Ibadan, Ekiti, Warri, Port Harcourt and Lagos.

Finally, I would like to remind you of some initiatives in the school to provide opportunities for Olashore Alumni. For those of you who have recently graduated and are looking forward to NYSC, Olashore would be happy to welcome you to carry out your NYSC in the school. If you are posted to Osun State, or would like to be, please email Mr Rufai (hakeem.rufai@olashoreschool.com). If you join us you could be involved in a number of projects in the school including developing our social media presence, working with the school to gain ISO

accreditation or extending the alumni network. We also always have opportunities for medical doctors looking to complete the NYSC year. This would involve working in the school clinic along with supporting the health workers in Iloko. Alternatively, if you have an idea for a project that could move the school forward during your NYSC year come and talk to us.

The second initiative is aimed mainly at those of you who graduated a little earlier. The Board of Governors is aware that many of Olashore's pioneer students are now settling down and have families of their own. In order to support alumni who would like their own children to benefit from an Olashore education, the Board will grant a 25% scholarship on tuition fees to the children of alumni. We look forward to beginning to develop second-generation Olashore alumni. Enjoy this term's magazine and I look forward to hearing from and meeting more of you very soon.

Our Alumni Continue To Make Us Proud

Olashore wins Akintola Williams National Youth Debate Finals

By Temilade Ladejobi

Olashore International School has emerged the winner of the 2018 edition of Akintola Williams National Youth Debate finals. The finals were held at Meadow Hall College in Lagos State.

The school was represented by Chidera Olalere, Lateefah Mutiu and Netochukwu Kalu. Chidera Olalere was declared the best speaker. Olashore debate team beat all zonal winners to emerge as the national champion. In the 2017 edition, Olashore took second place.

The Akintola Williams National Youth Debate is an annual event organised by the Nigeria-Britain Association in conjunction with Association of International School Educators of Nigeria, AISEN, in honour of Mr Akintola Williams.

Olashore Scholarship Examination to hold in May

The annual Olashore International School Scholarship and Open Weekend will take place from 4th-6th May, 2018 at the school premises in Iloko-ljesa, Osun State.

The scholarship is offered in two categories, the academic scholarship and the indigene scholarship. The academic scholarship is open to all Year 7 candidates that have received and accepted an offer of admission from the school while the indigene scholarship is open to Year 6 students in primary schools in Oriade Local Government Area of Osun State.

Successful candidates will be offered full tuition throughout their stay in the school.

Olashore School Receives 2018 Africa Top Schools Award

The Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Olashore International School, Iloko-ljesa, Mr D.K.Smith has received the 2018 Outstanding Schools CEO Awards by Africa Brands Review. The award was presented at the 2018 Africa Top Schools conference which held in Lagos.

One of the key criteria for the award is that the school must have an excellent track record of producing first class degree students in top ranked universities globally.

Commenting on the award, Mr Smith said,

‘This is a validation of the school’s commitment to giving each student an all-round education that allows them to go on to be successful in higher education both in Nigeria and abroad. The performance of a school’s graduates speaks volumes about the school and the quality of education being provided.’

The 2018 Africa Top Schools Awards by Africa Brands Review seeks to celebrate excellence among secondary schools in Africa.

Olashore Signs MoU with Alliance Francaise

As part of our commitment to academic excellence and global citizenship, Olashore International School signed a partnership agreement with Alliance Francaise in February.

The agreement was between the Embassy of France, represented by the Director of Alliance Francaise in Ibadan, Mr Nicholas Michelland and Olashore International School represented by the Principal & CEO, Mr D. K. Smith.

Following the signing of this agreement, the

Embassy of France will include Olashore International School on the list of partner schools and this will enhance the school foreign language development plans. The students and staff will partake in French language awareness activities. They will compete with other schools in drama/theatre, songs, quiz and debate, all performed in French. This will further expose students of Olashore International School to the French language and culture.





Mayowa Obeisun
Bags PhD in Chemical
Engineering from U.K. Varsity

Dr Mayowa Obeisun is an alumnus of **Olashore International School** (Class of 2005). He recently graduated with a **PhD degree in chemical engineering** from the **University College London**. Prior to this, he obtained a **BEng degree in chemical engineering** and an **MSc in environmental and energy engineering** from the **University of Sheffield**. He works with **Ayming Consulting Group** in the **U.K.**

Everyone has a story behind their choice of career. Why did you decide to become an engineer?

Societies need engineers that can and will change the world. Meeting today's growing global energy demands, coupled with safeguarding our environment is what intrigues me. I studied chemical engineering because of its increasingly significant role in our society, particularly across a variety of industries from energy generation to environmental technology. It is an extremely versatile subject, which provides a unique opportunity to be involved in the development and manufacture of a wide range of products, an aspect that interests me.

What would you say is the most difficult part of your job?

The most difficult part of the job is interacting with different people and adapting my communication and interaction skills to suit different clients. As we are all aware, everyone is different and what works for one may not work for another. This has however provided me with the key relationship management skills which I believe will help me in the future.

What accomplishments are you most proud of as an individual and on the job?

Earning my PhD degree from University College London which regularly ranks amongst the best 10 universities in the world is my biggest achievement so far. I did this while publishing six papers in highly rated scientific journals and attending scientific conferences around the world (U.S.A., Germany, Mexico, Turkey and Croatia) to present my work. I am very proud of this because I have been able to make significant contributions in my field of study. With respect to my job, my biggest achievement will be that within a short period of time I'm being charged to lead teams and work on massive projects which indicate a high level of trust and respect for me from my bosses.

What are the opportunities for advancement for you in this field?

Huge! There is a professional ladder from a consultant – senior consultant –

manager – senior manager – director, but I personally don't see myself climbing through the ladder entirely as that will take the best part of seven to ten years and I have other plans.

What other plans do you have?

Professionally, 10 years from now I see myself in a role (preferably my own business) where I'm involved in designing strategy and maintaining our operations/clients. Personally, I will be married with kids and be thinking about school fees (laughs).

Do you see yourself returning to Nigeria in the future to contribute to its development?

Definitely! I love my country so much and I would love to contribute to its development.

Aside from engineering, what other things are you interested in?

I have a strong interest in renewable energy (biofuels and fuel cells). Outside of work, I enjoy sports, social activities, fine dining and travelling. I am a big sports fan. I watch football (Liverpool FC), tennis (Rafael Nadal) and Formula 1 (Lewis Hamilton).

Who are your role models?

My father (Asiwaju Rotimi Obeisun), Martin Luther King and Barack Obama are my role models.

How did OIS prepare you for university and the real world?

The biggest thing OIS did was to prepare me for an independent life. I came to OIS as a 10-year-old boy and had to live away from home. I think people underestimate how difficult that can be but what it does is prepare you for life itself. The educational standard is very high and I personally benefitted from that especially in the early years of my university. OIS is above and beyond the current state of the art in terms of secondary schools in Nigeria. You also get to meet and interact with people who are potentially the future leaders of Nigeria.



Chinazo

Oluwatobi

Abdul-Hafiz

Oluwatunmike

First Class Degree Holders

Meet alumni who
graduated with
first class degrees



Chinazo Peace Eze

Chinazo Peace Eze graduated with a first class degree from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette where she studied geology with a minor in mathematics. She is the university's 2017 Outstanding Graduate, an award given based on leadership, scholarship and service. In this interview, Chinazo Peace Eze speaks of her journey to academic excellence.

How does it feel to graduate with a first class degree from a U.S. university?

It feels amazing to know that I have made myself and my family very proud. I consider this one of my greatest achievements.

Did you set out to graduate with a first class?

Yes, I did! Having this mindset from the beginning helped me focus on what was important.

What would you attribute your success to?

I would honestly say it is God. I know I worked very hard but at the end of the day, human effort is nothing without God's favour. I tried to maintain a healthy balance between the academic, social, spiritual and physical aspects of my life. Having a planner was definitely helpful and so was surrounding myself with focused people who wanted the same thing I did.

Why did you study geology?

I chose to study geology (petroleum) because it is a science that incorporates all the other sciences and some aspects of engineering. I loved that interpretations are backed by data and personal creativity or point of view. The math minor was added because maths had always been my favourite subject.

Why did you choose to study at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette?

It is a university with a good reputation and Louisiana is known for its amazing culture. It helped that the area is warm because I do not like the cold.

You were vice president of the University Honors Council, a multicultural officer for

the University Program Council and secretary for the African Students Association to mention a few. How were you able to manage these involvements so it didn't affect school work?

I was very involved in various organisations because I enjoy being a part of something greater and it also helped me develop my leadership and communication skills. My school work got affected sometimes but I was able to manage by planning my day and tasks ahead of time. Sometimes it could mean staying up for a few hours to complete my school work.

Did being female in any way pose a challenge to you?

Yes. As a female in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) field, I was often underestimated by male and even female students, professors and professionals. This is very common in the world today but I am glad that things are changing for the better.

If you had to do it all again, what would you do differently?

I am happy with the decisions I made so far but if I were to change anything, I would have believed in myself earlier.

How do you recall your time as a student at Olashore International School?

Sending me to OIS, in my

opinion, was one of the best decisions my parents made for my siblings and I. It was there I learned to be self-driven and motivated. At a very young age I learned that if you don't do something yourself, no one will do it for you. I also made wonderful friends and memories there.

What is your advice to those who want to achieve the same feat as you did?

The mind is a very powerful tool and it is important to utilise it. Always keep your eyes on the prize and learn to have an open mind because you never know where life might take you. Also, make sure to enjoy your journey in the university because you will never get those years back.





Oluwatunmike Ireoluwa Olowe

Oluwatunmike Ireoluwa Olowe graduated with a first class degree in economics from Redeemer's University, Ede. She is currently carrying out her mandatory National Youth Service Corps scheme in Lagos State.

How did it feel to graduate with a first class degree from a private university?

It felt wonderful to graduate with a first class degree in economics from Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State. My hard work had finally paid off!

How easy was this feat?

It was easy and at the same time not so easy. It was easy because I set out to get a first class right from my Year 12 in Olashore International School, and I worked hard by reading and prioritising right from my first semester. On the other hand, it wasn't so easy because of the stress of juggling a lot of courses each semester.

So you had set your target before you gained admission into the university?

Yes, I did. I set out to graduate with a first class right from Year 12 when I heard about some past Olashore students graduating with a first class. I think a number of them graduated with first class degrees that year and I felt like if they could do it so could I.

What did you do differently to accomplish this?

The only thing I did differently was to prioritise. I did what I was meant to do at the right time. I was focused on my goal.

What would you attribute your success to?

I attribute my success to God and hard work. A lot of hard work went along with prayers. Also, I had a good support system.

Why did you choose to study at Redeemer's University and why economics?

I've always loved economics right from my days in Olashore when I offered it as one of many subjects. The moment I knew I was staying back in Nigeria for my first degree, I had to ask myself what I wanted in a university. I wanted a school that will encourage learning without being stuffy, good academic environment with good hostel facilities. Redeemer's University fits the description of what I wanted when I considered the options I had at the time. I also wanted to avoid the delays usually associated with strikes in the public universities. It was my desire to complete the course within the stipulated time and not have to incur extra years due to incessant strikes.

How involved were you in other school activities?

I was involved in a number of leadership activities. I was the president of the Students' Welfare Scheme (STUWES) and the financial secretary of the Redeemer's University Economics Students' Association. I was also the Assistant Course Representative throughout my stay at the university.

What is next phase for you?

I am currently carrying out my NYSC in an investment and securities trading company. I'm gaining a lot of experience that I believe will be useful in my career as a Financial Economist. After NYSC, the next phase is to go for a master's degree in Financial Economics abroad, hopefully on a scholarship.

Abdul-Hafiz Ladipo Alako

Abdul-Hafiz Ladipo Alako graduated in 2017 from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom with a first class degree in mechatronic engineering. He also received the following awards: Best Student Certificate, Lancaster Award Gold Certificate, and Institution of Mechanical Engineering (IMechE) Best Project Award in Mechatronics Engineering. He is currently a graduate intern at Siemens Limited Nigeria.

How did it feel to graduate with a first class degree as well as receive the award for best student in your set from a U.K. university?

I feel relieved. All the hard work, extra effort and long hours I put into it were crowned with success, thanks to God. The course was very demanding. I had to commit long hours especially with challenging projects. I had to work on and deliver tangible innovative results to receive a good grade.

Did you set out from the beginning to graduate with a first class?

Yes, I did. This has always been one of my goals. It was an important stepping stone for me to achieve my long-term life and career goal of becoming a world-renowned scientist, inventor and innovator in my chosen field of study. Goals I am still working towards.



What were some of the challenges you faced while in school?

The main challenge I faced was with my health, both physical and mental. Mental health is often taken for granted in our culture and not acknowledged but I think it's very important because it affects one's confidence, motivation, work ethics, and relationships with others whom we interact with. What helped me was I had people who cared - my parents, the porters at university and some good friends who supported me one way or another through this journey. To them, I am thankful.

What would you attribute your success to?

God first, putting in the extra effort and hours to make sure I was always on track with my studies and meeting up with course work deadlines. I was bold enough to speak up and approach my professors when I wasn't clear about the course. I also made sure I learnt from my mistakes after each test or coursework feedback in preparation for future examinations.

Why did you choose to study at Lancaster University?

Lancaster University has one of the most conducive atmospheres for academic study and research in the U.K. It is located in the countryside. This made me very comfortable to focus on my studies coupled with the fact that as a famous university, I was never too far away from any facility I needed during my stay. The collegiate system was also very important because it meant I had a dedicated college staff that I could always approach for any advice or support I required.

You received the Lancaster Award Gold Certificate. What specific activities did you do to qualify for this?

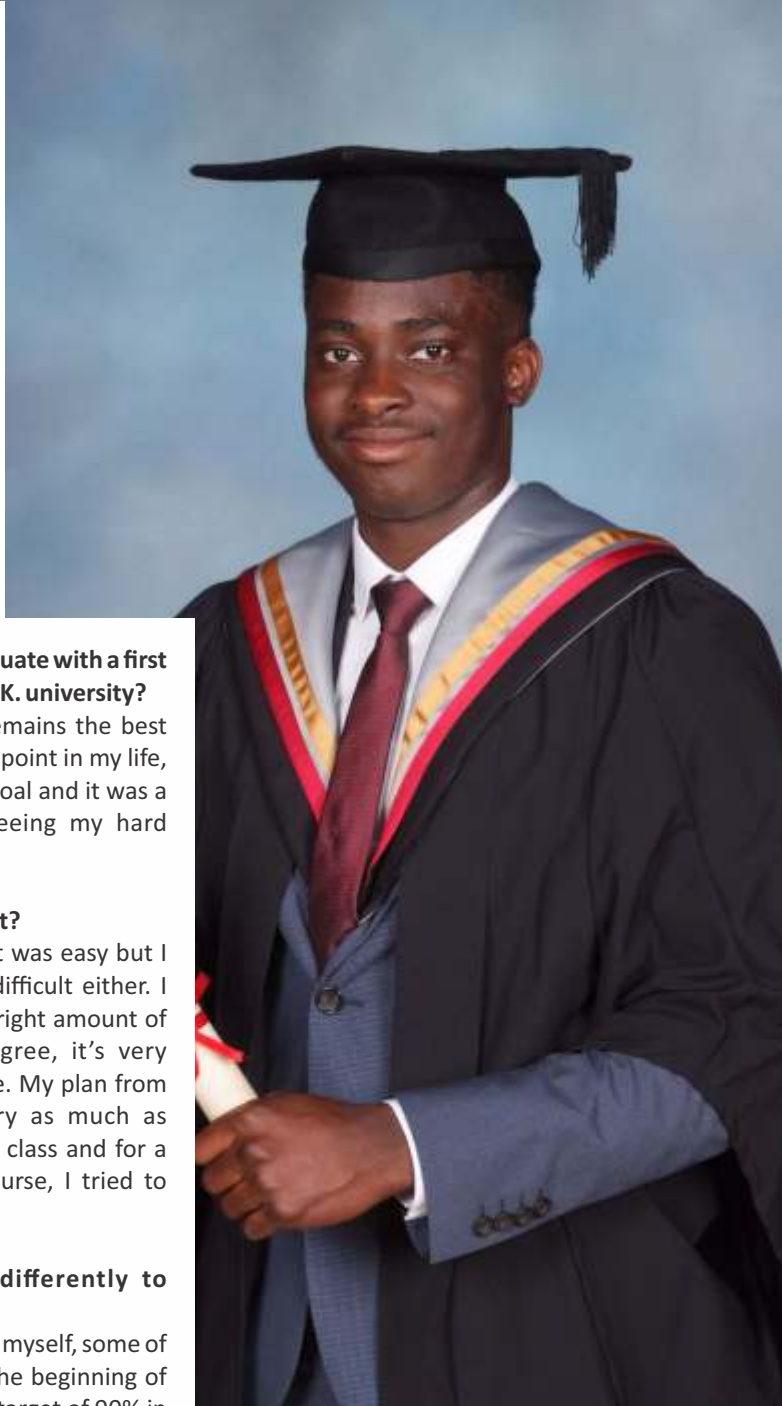
The Lancaster Award has a defined set of activities required to be completed in fulfilment of the award. These include attending career workshops, participating in volunteer activities within the Lancaster community, helping to run a club or society recognised by the student union, and holding a part time job alongside your university studies. To obtain the award, I had to fulfil all of these requirements, from which I detailed and highlighted instances where I demonstrated a set of skills such as leadership, teamwork and time management which I developed from participating in these activities.

You also received Institution of Mechanical Engineering (IMechE) Best Project Award in Mechatronics Engineering. What was the project about and what does the award entail?

The project focused on designing and developing key components of a novel microfluidic cellular detection system. I received the award for scoring the highest mark among other Mechatronic Engineering students on my individual dissertation project.

What is the next phase for you?

I am currently working as an Intern to gain more professional experience, while I seek admissions and scholarships to pursue a PhD in my intended field of specialisation.



How did it feel to graduate with a first class degree from a U.K. university?

It felt great! It still remains the best day of my life. At that point in my life, that was my biggest goal and it was a very good feeling seeing my hard work pay off.

How easy was this feat?

Well, I wouldn't say it was easy but I wouldn't say it was difficult either. I just believe with the right amount of work put into a degree, it's very achievable for anyone. My plan from the onset was to try as much as possible to get a first class and for a major part of the course, I tried to keep to that plan.

What did you do differently to accomplish this?

I set a lot of targets for myself, some of them unrealistic. At the beginning of my third year, I had a target of 90% in every course I took. And although I eventually didn't come close to meeting this, the fact that I had this target made me put my all into my courses.

You must have encountered some challenges while in school. What were they?

I think my biggest challenge in school was essay writing. By the end of my second year, I realised that I was not doing very well in essays. To this end, in my class selection for my third year, I tried as much as possible to avoid courses which were concentrated on written work, going for courses that had more tests. Also when carrying out my final year project, I developed a close relationship with my supervisor who guided me through the process.

Oluwatobi Agbaje

Oluwatobi Oluwatoki Agbaje graduated from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom with a first class degree in accounting and finance. He also received the Lancaster University Award. He is currently carrying out his National Youth Service Corp scheme at Meristem Nigeria.

What would you attribute your success to?

My success was as a result of the relationships I had. In third year, I made friends who shared the same objectives as I did and were studying similar courses. My small group had a healthy competition where we would strive to get the highest mark in every test/exam. I always wanted to be ahead in the group, so this fueled me to study more. Even in situations when I was not the best in the group, we all did well so we were happy either way.

How involved were you in other activities as a student?

During my final year, I tried to make my time as productive as possible. I wanted to be in a situation where when I was not doing school work, I was doing something that would still benefit me positively, taking on roles including being a student ambassador at the management school, a student mentor to two first-year students, volunteering at UNICEF on campus, analyst at the investment and finance society etc. I particularly liked doing these things because they got me out of the library (all work no play makes Jack a dull boy) and they also impacted me positively. They didn't affect my school work because I used them as a break from school work.

You are currently serving. How is that working out for you?

Yes, I am. Actually, my service year is coming to an end soon. Nonetheless, my service year has been great so far. I am lucky to work in the investment banking division of a financial services company. Through this experience, I have learnt a lot about the industry which I believe would be very useful in my career. Also, I serve as the president of my Community Development Service (CDS) group and through this role I believe I have gained a few skills.

What is the next phase for you after NYSC?

Although my NYSC year is almost done, I can't say I have a very concrete plan. I plan on doing a post-graduate degree, either a master's degree or an MBA right after or in the near future and I have started working on some applications. In the meantime, I plan to study for a professional examination I am writing in June.

THE MIND MATTERS

In this article, Dr Olaosebikan looks at the benefits of having a good mental health

There is a tendency to overlook the issue of mental health in this part of the world due to the traditional abstraction which still pervades till date. Hence, the importance of mental health and issues relating to it is not entirely appreciated. Mental health is our emotional and psycho-social state which dictates how you think, feel and act. We need to understand that mental health is just as important as physical health, just as we are 'physical' beings, we are also 'mental' beings. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood, which is why it is important to raise awareness and get people informed about the benefits of a good mental health. A good mental health is tantamount to a good physical health, excellent work ethics, effective coping strategies, a stable social life and so on.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as 'the emotional and spiritual resilience which enables us to enjoy life and survive pain, suffering and disappointment. It is a positive sense of wellbeing and an underlying belief in our and others dignity and worth. It is influenced by our experience and our genetic inheritance.'

Here are some benefits of a good mental health status:

- **Improved emotional intelligence:** This gives control of outbursts and other displays of emotions, better coping strategies for stress, reduced anxiety, reduced risk of depression, happier moods, etc.

A good mental health is a foundation for an individual's effective functioning and well-being

- **Improved academic achievement:** This is embedded in the fact that memory, a key skill for academic excellence, is highly based on attention which is strongly linked to the background mental state. A depressed individual is likely to keep forgetting things.

- **Improved economic participation:** This means we can make better financial decisions, invest wisely, take on projects with minimal risks, develop a saving habit and plan effectively for retirement.

- **Improved social interactions:** We will be better equipped to have conversations, communicate effectively, understand other people better and manage individual differences.

- **Improved quality of life and life expectancy:** When we have a stable mental health status, the risk of self-harm and suicide reduces, thus promoting a better quality of life.

- **Improved physical health:** This means we will better understand the importance of caring for our body, exercising regularly, eating healthy and avoiding habits that are detrimental to our health such as substance abuse and smoking.

In conclusion, a good mental health is a foundation for an individual's effective functioning and well-being because it allows you to realise your full potential, cope with the stress of life, work productively and make meaningful contributions to the community. Let us make an effort to pursue and maintain a good mental health status and we'd see how our lives would take a better shape.

*Dr Oladoyin Olaosebikan
(Class of 2008)*

Students organise free malaria testing for local children

Year 11 students organised a malaria awareness event for local children in Iloko. The students invited all the children from the local government primary school and other children in the community. The event took place at the community town hall which the students had refurbished as part of their community service project.

All the children present were tested for malaria by the school's medical team which included Dr Oladoyin Olaosebikan (Class of 2008) currently carrying out her NYSC in the school. Those who tested positive received free malaria treatment. The students educated the children on how to avoid malaria using drama, songs and games in both English and Yoruba. The children had a wonderful time and were treated to lots of food and drinks as well as entertainment provided by the students.

The students were also seen working in teams to ensure the success of the event which doubled as a birthday party in honour of our founder, Oba Oladele Olashore.

Faith Unah, a Year 11 student and chair of the planning committee, describing the programme said, 'It was a very fun and interesting one, although stressful at the beginning but the smile on the faces of the children made it worthwhile'.



Alumni Speak at Olashore Open Events

The Olashore Open Events programme which started in Benin City continued with the Chairman, Board of Governors, Prince Abimbola Olashore and Principal & CEO hosting parents, friends and alumni of the school to a cocktail reception in Abuja, Ado-Ekiti, Akure, Ibadan, Lagos, Warri, Port Harcourt and London.

At this year's event, some of our alumni shared their Olashore experience with current and prospective parents as well as friends of the school in groups across Nigeria and in the United Kingdom.

In Akure, Dr Oladoyin Olaosebikan (Class of 2008) attended the event and addressed the parents while in Ado Ekiti, Miss Funmilola Ajisola LUPF (Class of 2014) made a presentation about the school. In Port Harcourt, Mr Tony Okafor (Class of 1999) and Miss Tamara Johnson (Class of 2014) addressed prospective parents. Mr Temitope Runsewe (Class of 1999) and Mr Damilola (Class of 2011) gave an impressive speech in Abuja while Miss Eberechukwu and her sister Miss Chioma Nwachukwu (Class of 2017) spoke glowingly of Olashore at the Warri event.

In Lagos, Miss Mojisola Akande (Class of 2009) made a presentation and in Ibadan the trio of Mr Dara Olaniyan, Mr John Sivebukola (Class of 2014) and Miss Tolulope Sivebukola (Class of 2011) addressed all present at the event.

The event, which is one of the school platforms to relate stakeholders, provided an opportunity for those present to learn more about what the school offers and the direction of an Olashore education in the 21st century.





22nd Founder's Day **Celebration of Achievements**





On Founder's Day at Olashore International School, we reflect on the vision of our founder Oba Oladele Olashore and celebrate the achievements of the school. Since January 1994, when the first set of students were admitted, the school has recorded remarkable achievements. Now approaching its 25th year, the school has continued to provide quality education to children. It was, therefore, an atmosphere of celebration in the school as members of staff and students gathered at the Oba Okunade Sijuwade School Hall to celebrate the 22nd Founder's Day.

The special guest of honour at the event was Prof. Margaret T. Okorodudu-Fubara, an environmental lawyer, the author of the first Nigerian textbook on environmental law and a former parent.

In her message to the students which she titled 'The next frontier after OIS', she asked the students to think about where they would be in the years to come after graduating from Olashore and what they would want to have achieved by then. As an environmental lawyer, Prof. Okorodudu-Fubara gave tips on why everyone should be involved in the prevention of global warming. She ended her message by urging the students to 'consciously strive to make a good mark after leaving OIS, a mark that can never be erased'.

Mr D.K. Smith, the principal, spoke on what makes an Olashore education unique in Nigeria in terms of preparing students effectively for the world they will face after they leave school. He also spoke at length about how the school is using technology to transform learning so as to ensure that students develop the core skills needed for the future as well as giving them the needed advantage.

The school cultural troupe gave the astonishing performance for which they have come to be associated with and this earned them a standing ovation from the guests.

The programme culminated with the long service staff awards given to members of staff who had worked in the school for 10 years and 20 years respectively. This year there were five recipients of the award.



Back to my alma mater!

Mrs Kikelomo Banjo nee Abiola-Cudjoe visits Olashore International School 17 years after graduation.

Mrs Kikelomo Banjo nee Abiola Cudjoe was a pioneer student and first Head Girl of Olashore International School. She is currently the Operations Manager for Maersk Line in Nigeria covering operations in Lagos and Port Harcourt. She returned to her alma mater as guest speaker during the 2017 Speech & Prize Giving Day. During her visit, she was given a tour of the school. She stated how impressed she was with the transformation and level of development the school has attained. Isibhakhhome Ijewere spoke to her in this interview.

You have a very successful career at Maersk Line. How did you end up at Maersk Line?

That is a very good question because my career in shipping wasn't planned at all. I studied in the U.K. and I got a degree in law and international relations. When I returned to Nigeria, I wanted to go to law school but was informed that I needed a pure LLB degree. At this point, it was either go back to the U.K. or study for an LLB for three years and then go to law school for another two years. I thought to myself, 'five years of studying again, no way'. I was already working in a law firm just to gain courtroom experience. I thought of contacting some barristers I met for a job in their law firm while I decide what I wanted to do. Since I was in Nigeria, the easy option was to do my NYSC. I don't know if it's different now but then corps members were posted to different companies for their service year and I was sent to Maersk Line. That's how my journey in shipping began. I was posted to Maersk Line as a personal assistant to the M.D. That position gave me an overview of shipping activities and logistics. I thought to myself, 'this might not be bad' so I indicated my interest and the company also identified

my willingness to learn. They then put me on the management training programme within the Maersk group where I got to understand the cross-sectional knowledge of the business. I spent some time in trade and marketing. I also did a little stint in customer service and then for the most part, I worked in operations. These are the core areas of business in logistics. I've been in Maersk now for close to ten years and I've put the legal ambition aside. Having gathered so much knowledge in the marine industry, maybe I can someday go back to law for example to learn marine law and take that path. That's how I ended up at Maersk Line.

What are the perks of the job?

I have done quite a few roles at Maersk Line and like I said, I was the personal assistant to the M.D. then I went to the corporate communications role, after that I was in trade and marketing where I was a communications manager. I had this hunger for knowledge of the core shipping business and I wasn't satisfied with what I had been doing so I went into operations. Starting my job was on a large scale. The first job I had was in Dubai and this was the liner operations cluster where we had the entire operations of all our offices in West Central Asia reporting to that office. It was quite a wide scoop for me. I mean I was just starting in operations and handling twenty-three ports. We have ports in every country, in over one hundred and fifty-five countries in the world so you can imagine not knowing anything about operations and then taking twenty-three ports under my portfolio. You asked me about the perks but I would first talk about the challenges



and then talk about the perks. That job was quite challenging but one good thing about Maersk Line is that they really invest in their staff. If an individual exhibits leadership qualities, you are identified and placed on management training programme which is one thing I'm really impressed to see that Olashore International School is focusing on. There are so many perks, you get to travel a lot, there is this level of accountability given to you so you are responsible for the decisions you make. If you are the manager of a team, you are accountable for the decisions you make, and the results your team deliver so it puts that additional level of responsibility on your shoulders where you know that you have to take things up a notch and then deliver. You also have good people relations. The staff there are dedicated and committed people so when you work with them, there is no way you won't become like that. Another perk is the salary, it is sufficient to keep you going. For me it is being able to go to work in a good environment with good people, and with people from multicultural backgrounds.

What do you think led to your success in this traditionally male-dominated world?

It comes down to my formative years at Olashore, the fact that I started off as a leader at that young age, having that 'can do' attitude, being committed and

Photos from Mrs Kikelomo's days as a student



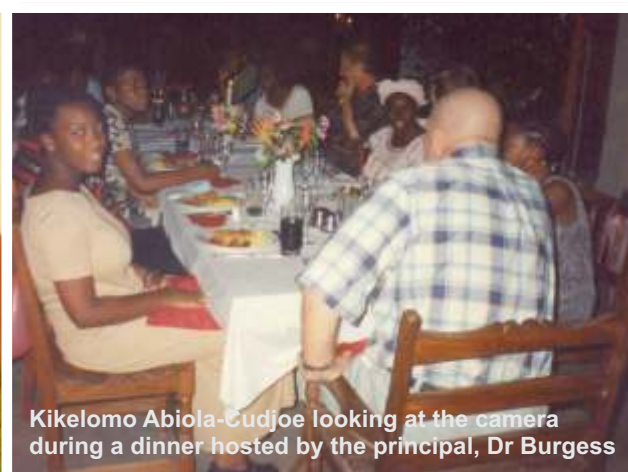
From left to right
Mrs Lesley Burgess (wife of pioneer principal), Adams Ozah,
Olanike Ogunsanya, Olabode Olanipekun, Kikelomo Abiola-Cudjoe,
Akintiran Akintunde, Adeleye Oladipo, Bankole Alao and Nwadiuto Akah



From left to right
Akintunde Akintiran, Mrs Lesley Burgess,
Mr Obiora Onwunabonze and Kikelomo Abiola-Cudjoe



From left to right
Akintiran Gideon Akintunde (pioneer head boy), Aanuoluwapo Jolaoso,
Kikelomo Abiola-Cudjoe (pioneer head girl), Nwadiuto Akah,
Olanike Ogunsanya and Olabode Olanipekun



Kikelomo Abiola-Cudjoe looking at the camera
during a dinner hosted by the principal, Dr Burgess

dedicated. In my current role, I am the first woman to hold such a position. They were very sceptical at first to appoint me for the role because I was a woman and wondered if I would be pushed over but I think as a woman one gets what she wants more easily. There are challenges because the shipping industry is a male-dominated industry. In a management team of forty people, you may only find three women. However, I feel we are equals as long as you can get the job done. We all have our targets irrespective of gender and we all do the needful to meet our targets. You just have to be hardworking, keep moving, striving hard, learning, reinventing yourself, and before you know it, you become a star performer. It has a lot to do with your personal traits and quality and how you develop them over the years and you will see that you will be able to thrive in any

environment.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

The very first one was being the Head Girl in Olashore at a very young age. That was one of my key accomplishments. Joining Maersk Line in my service year was another accomplishment. I also got in to do my postgraduate course and it was really challenging but I was able to sit all six exams and pass with flying colours. Unknown to me, it was what I needed to position me for my next level at Maersk Line as I was then selected to be on the management team training programme.

What has been the greatest challenge in your career and how did you overcome it?

The shipping industry, especially my role in operations, has been quite challenging because as you know the operations of every company is

the engine room of the company. Being in a position where I am managing operations from Lagos and in Port Harcourt, so the location can be a challenge. But generally dealing with the kind of people in this industry; being the link between my company and the Nigerian Ports Authority can be very challenging sometimes. There are some concessions I have been trying to get from the government and it can be very difficult to put those things through. You win some, you lose some but you have to keep trying and striving to see what you can really get out of it. I have not been able to overcome all the challenges, some are still there but I have a never give up attitude.

How do you balance your life, family and career?

I get asked that question a lot. I don't know how I do it but I do

it. I just had a baby who is almost two years old now. Since I had her, it's been additional responsibility. It is my husband and my daughter thankfully on the home front. I have a nanny that helps when I am at work. Being in operations is a 24/7 thing so I try to maintain work-life balance. I must say that it's not 100% but I try to make time for family as much as I can. There are times in the middle of the night, when I wake up and get some calls and attend to some issues or sometimes when I have to attend to my daughter. It was very challenging in the early days but now she is grown and I'm better able to manage her as well as work. It can be challenging but it is something that can be done. There are other women that have done it so I am sure I can do what is expected of me.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

By Kikelomo Banjo

1. Challenge yourself to be the best you can

Sometimes the task ahead of you might not be easy. In some cases, you might not even know how to get there. But remember, without commitment, you won't start and without consistency, you won't finish. So just start and somehow you will get into the swing of things. Aristotle once said, 'You are what you repeatedly do'. Therefore, excellence ought to be a habit and not an act. **DON'T YOU FORGET THAT!** Challenge yourself, keep pushing for greater heights, make a difference, do what the other 99% aren't doing. Enhance your life every day by seeking that wisdom and make an impact.

2. Be humble

There is a saying, 'Pride is the burden of a foolish person'. Don't feel too big. Even the Bible says, for the Christians amongst us, 'Let he who stands firm be careful, unless he falls'. In life, there is always somebody, or something, that will humble you. Find someone to help you through life. Most people have mentors who guide them through on their journeys to success. Respect everyone; you never know who could be of help in future.

3. If you are going to do a job, do it right

Sometimes, it could just be the effort/quality of work that could be noticed and I have heard many stories where this type of commitment and dedication have taken people far. Shoot for the stars, be the best that you can be. Know that good enough isn't good enough if it can be better and better isn't good enough if it can be best.

4. Nothing matters but your willingness to succeed

Sometimes, life is not fair and you will fail a few times. It's not about how many times you fall but how quickly you can get up. So even if you fail 7 times, get up the 8th time. Never ever give up. Don't get discouraged or draw on self-pity or make excuses or tell people your problems-this doesn't work. 90% of the people you tell your problems don't really care and the remaining 10% are secretly happy you have that problem. So why bother? Have that willingness to succeed, that hunger for success. In Steve Jobs words, 'Stay hungry, stay foolish'.

Mrs Kikelomo's recent visit to school



Folarin Falana a.k.a. Falz

Folarin Falana a.k.a. Falz was born in Lagos State to renowned lawyers, Femi and Funmi Falana. He had his primary education at St. Leo's Catholic Primary School, Ikeja and Olashore International School, Osun State before proceeding to the University of Reading in the U.K. to study law.

Falz started music as a hobby while in Olashore International School, where he formed a music group with a friend called 'The School Boys'. Falz shot into limelight after his song 'Marry me' which featured Poe and Yemi Alade got him a nomination in the 'Best Collaboration of the Year' category at the 2015 Nigeria Entertainment Awards. That nomination was the beginning of various nominations and awards for Falz locally and internationally. He went on to win the BET Viewers Choice Best International Act Award at the 2016 BET Awards and in 2017, the AFRIMMA for Best Male Act in West Africa.

Falz has been described as an entertainer after winning the 2016 AMVCA for 'Best Actor in a Comedy' for his role in Jenifa's Diary.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To all alumni born in April, May and June

April

Abidoye Oluwatosin Anne
Abitoye Oluwabosoye O.
Ade-Adedeji Oluwatobi A.
Adebayo Oluwaseun Samuel
Adegboyi Adedamola Tiwalade
Adegoke Adebiyi
Aderale Kolade Kehinde
Aderale Korede Taiwo
Aderale Oyinkansola A.
Ade-Unuigbe Jane Adesola
Adeyemi Abimbola
Adeyemi Oluyemi Damola
Agbola Ademidun A.
Agboola Tiwalolu O.
Aghwana Onajite Adeniyi S.
Agunloye Oreofe
Ajifowobaje
Olaoluwa Oluwapamilerin
Akanbe Abiodun
Akanji Babaseindemi B.
Akinwale Oluwadamilare W.
Akinyemi Oluwatosin B.
Akomolafe Ayobami Yewande
Alabi, Abimbola Elizabeth
Alli Omowumi Ololade
Anyanwu Karachi
Aprezi Ekiye Elizabeth
Aromolaran Faderera
Arowolo Oluwabunkunmi M.
Arowolo, Gbolahan Oladele
Aruna Omolade Oyinkansola
Bola-Sadipe Ifeoluwa
Braide Edmund
Ekanem Bassey
Elegbede Motunrola
Eso Olakunle
Fagbemi Tinuola Atinuke
Fagboyegun Tolulope
Fashola Oluwatobi M.
Fatola Omolayo Ololade
Fayemi Olumide
Giwa Aishat Temitope
Green Sharon
Hassan Oluwasoromidayo
Crystal
Jojolola Olasunkanmi
Kester Aderonke Aduke
Keye Opeyemi Abdulmojeed

Kola-Adefem i Omotesho N.
Koyenikan Idowu Toluope
Mayers Oluwarotimi Martin
Michael Ukela
Obeisun Oluwamayowa A.
Obiejese Ugochi Obianuju
Obiora Nnamdi
Oginni Yejide Taiwo
Ogundipe Kasope
Ogunlesi Abimbola M.
Ohamara Stephanie Iheoma
Ojodu Temitope O.
Oke Ajewole Omosola
Okoli, Everest Chukwuemeka
Oladejo Moses Oluwaseun
Olaosebikan Oladoyin A.
Olayiwola Folanmi Hassan
Olugboyega Olujimi S.
Olujimi Foluseke
Omodon Elizabeth E.
Omoleye Oluwabusayo
Omoya Morolake Omolara
Onigbogi Damilare
Onigbogi Funmilola Stella
Opadere Folashade Funke
Osayande Osazemen
Ososanya Adedamola
Owolabi Helen Adeola
Oyediran Ruth
Oyeleke Olufolakanmi O.
Oyinsan Oluwagbemileke
Peterside, Anthony
Runsewe Olufunmilola
Sanni Ismail
Sivebukola, Motopeda John
Sofowora Oluwagbeminiyi O.

May

Abdul-Rasaq Muktar Alade
Abolarinwa Oluwadamilola
Adamaigbo Goodnews Efi
Adelaja Ayodele Tolu
Ademuson Kanyinsade
Adeniran Ayodeji
Adetola Oluwaseyi Ibereayo
Adewakun Abisola Gbemi
Adeyefa Olusegun
Adeyemi Oluwafeyekemi F.
Adiat Ibrahim Shehu

Agbai Jackson Agbai
Aghwana Oyinkan Christine
Ajisola Ayomide Felix
Akintunji Yewande Eyeola
Akpojotor Ogheneovo
Alako Abdul-Hafiz Ladipo
Alatise Dasola Sherifat
Alejo Gideon Olufemi
Ally Susanna Ayesha
Amrasa, Oghenevwede Evarista
Anumenechi Godwin Junior
Apata Gbemisola Olaiye
Awokunle Victoria Abiola
Awosika Abiola Olufunlola
Bamisile Olaniyi David
Bello Yetunde
Bob-Nabena Dikmoh
Bobo-Jama Opuibise
Bolu Dolapo Adebanke
Bolu Oluwatobiloba A.
Chilo-Offiah Adaeze
Chilo-Offiah Nnamdi I.
Davies-Jones Olubukola A.
Elemo Oluwabukola Yetunde
Emiko, Oritsemuoyowa Abner
Enekwa Chiamaka
Falade Adeboye Olukunle
Folorunso Oluwaseun
George Oluwaseyi Funmi A.
Gidigbi Ayomide Chinaso
Igwe Gabriel
Ikechi Uchendu Chinazam
Ikerodah Aluarezi Agatha
Ishola Taofeek
Lola Awobokun
Makanjuola Leye
Mohammed Adetoun
Moka Kenechukwu O.
Nnabuihe, Chukwuka Ihechukwu
Odhigbo Efetobor I.
Ogunduyile Olamide O
Ogunnubi Elijah
Ogunsanya Oyetura Olamide
Ogunye Yewande
Ojielu Omoye Ehizefua
Ojorongbe Oluwadamilola
Okanlawon
Adedoyin Abdullateef
Okeke, Chioma Oluebube

Okoye Odera Carl
Okoye Uzoamaka Eucharia
Okudolo Kesiena Jesse
Okunade Aishat Oyinkansola
Okunniyi David Timilehin
Okupe Monjolaoluwa A.
Olaleye Christianah Motunrayo
Olaosebikan Olamide Ope
Olaosebikan, Omolola Adunni
Olotu Jeremiah Kehinde
Olowokere Olamide Peter
Omodon Onyebuchi
Omonzane Emanehi
Omoya Omosalewa Olamipo
Onasile Adedamola
Oni Oluwatoyin Abisola
Onibokun Adesoladiti
Onuekwusi Zulumoke
Oredugba Alaba Abiola
Orunesajo Oluwagbemiga
Osakue Efosa Charles
Osifo, Oruaro Jessica
Oso Akinniyi
Oyeyemi Kallyhat O.
Oyibo Biobe C.
Philips Ezekiel
Pius-Ogiji Emmanuel Adole
Popoola Adetomilola
Princewill Alaye
Sami-Orungbe Adebisi
Shaiyen Meyen Myers
Soetan Folarin
Sowemimo Efunkemi
Thompson Adekemi
Tubi Olaoluwa Abimbola
Willie Pepple Iyowuna
Yusuf Oluwakayode T.

June

Abdul Adebola Ibrahim
Abiola Oluwamayowa B.
Abudu Olawale Mustapha
Adebutu Ebunoluwa Oluwatobi
Adeluola Ayodele Kojo
Adeniran Abdulsamad
Adeniran Temitayo A
Adeniyi Babatayo Benjamin
Adenle Yetunde Nkechi
Adeoye Kehinde Oluwatoyin

Adeoye Taiwo Oluwatosin
Adindu Sylvester
Agboola Oladipo
Agunloye Olawale Oladipo
Ahmed Adedotun Oluwaseun
Aina Motolani Olakiitan
Ajayi Oluwatoyin Bukola
Ajayi, Oluwanifemi Oluwadara
Ajibade Omotola K.
Akingboye Temi-Tope
Akin-Idowu, Oluwatobi Feranmi
Akinleye Faramade O.
Akinola Widad Omolola
Alabi Kayode Mahmud
Aluko Raphael Tolulope
Ande Oluwafunmike
Awe Kayode
Awolunate Damilola Janet
Awosemusi Bankole
Babalola Oreoluwa Ayomide
Ben-Agbo Emmanuel
Cofie Bofo Oluwajuwon
Dabiri Oluwajuwalu
Dafe-Akpedeye Fejoro
Daramola Damilola
Depo-Oyedokun Mayowa E.
Doherty Oladipupo Adebayo
Edeki Afueri
Edwin Oluwabunmi Onadjeje
Eze, Philip Chidera
Fadairo Opeyemi Funmilayo
Fagbulu Tanidabi Temitayo
Falana Morolake
Fisher Oluwaseun
Fisher Oluwatoyin
Gbadamosi Mohammed O
George Adegboyega
Giwa Ridwanallah
Guanah, Stephen Ebiakpor
Igbalaye Samad
Ige Ademola
Ikerodah Oshomegie Buzan
Ikuku Obatarhe Ebiye
Iyalla-Harry Immanuel
Johnson Iyabo



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Upcoming school events

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May
4-6

Scholarship and
Open Weekend

May
19

Africa is not a Country

June
1

Vision Day

June
16

Valedictory Service

Nov.
10

Speech &
Prize Giving Day

Feb.
9

Founder’s Day