



# ASTS

## Silver Jubilee



Chief Jimi Solanke  
applauds Olashore  
Drama Troupe

Students rewarded  
at 2018 Speech and  
Prize Giving Day

Alumnus  
Bode Olanipekun  
becomes Nigeria's  
youngest SAN

Questions students  
should ask at a  
university fair





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# School Transport Service

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The school is aware of the efforts Parents and Guardians make to come to school each visiting day, resumption and end of term. We would like to let you know that if you are unable to make each trip personally, parents in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja have come together to arrange group transport system from those cities to school on key dates.

If you are interested in your child or yourself joining the organised transport, please contact the parents listed below.

## Resumption and Closing Days

### Lagos

Kayode Elliot

Tel: 08029662214

E-mail: [kayode.o.elliott@exxonmobil.com](mailto:kayode.o.elliott@exxonmobil.com)

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E-mail: [okpolodike@yahoo.com](mailto:okpolodike@yahoo.com)

### Abuja

Bar. Bernard Afu

Tel: 08033204077

E-mail: [bernardafu@yahoo.com](mailto:bernardafu@yahoo.com)

### Visiting Days

Mr. Aderele Ladejobi

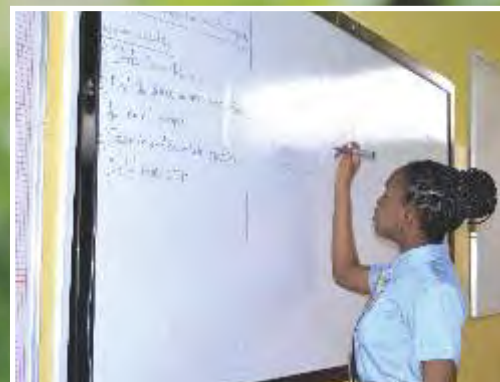
Tel: 08055000580

E-mail: [ade\\_ladejobi@hotmail.com](mailto:ade_ladejobi@hotmail.com)

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# Explore...



Olashore International School believes in the dignity and worth of each student and recognises the importance of mutual responsibility in the world community.

The school believes that each youth should have the opportunity for education consistent with their individual capabilities and with their personal and social needs.

The school believes that change is a

constant factor in life. Education, therefore, should encourage in students the development of values and thinking processes which will facilitate their intelligent adaptability in a changing society.

The school believes that learning is an unbroken activity continued throughout an individual's life span. Education, therefore, should foster independent thinking, exploration and experimentation as a lifelong process.





Great Vision.



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# Contents

DECEMBER 2018

<b>News</b>	12	<b>Interview</b>	28
Olashore kicks off 25th anniversary celebration with press conference		Bode Olanipekun: Nigeria's youngest SAN	
<b>Event</b>	15	<b>Health</b>	38
Year 11 students organise anti-malaria campaign in Iloko		Student wellness	
<b>Event</b>	19	<b>Article</b>	50
Students celebrate teachers on World Teachers' Day		Questions students should ask at a university fair	



## 14

'My experience at GYLC'



## 30

British Council honours Olashore



# Hurray! We are 25

There has been an atmosphere of celebration this year as the school marks its 25th year. In January 1994, the school opened its gates to welcome the first set of 100 students into Year 7. With a vision to deliver quality education and develop leaders for the global society, our founder Oba Oladele Olashore set the ball rolling and there has been no turning back.

Academic success is the foundation of an Olashore education and our exceptional results and international recognition over the years speak for us. For an

organisation to exist and still be as relevant today as it was at its founding is a significant accomplishment. Our vision today remains as strong as it was when the school was founded. The true measure of our success is our students and we are proud to say we have a growing alumni of over 2000 students who are excelling in their various fields. At Olashore, we believe that the strong foundation built during six years at the school provides the platform for our graduates to carve successful careers in the 21st century.

As you flip through the

pages of this magazine, we hope that you are able to gain a glimpse of what we do at Olashore International School. Feel free to send in your comments, questions or suggestions to [oasis@olashoreschool.com](mailto:oasis@olashoreschool.com). Don't forget to follow us on all our social media handles @olashoreschool.

So much have happened over the years and as we celebrate this important milestone in the school's history, one thing is certain – we will continue to develop global leaders that our nation and the world need. ▣



39

Faith Unah:  
Beauty & Brains



40

Unbundling the  
myths of limitation



48

Trailblazing digital  
trading

**W**elcome to the first edition of Oasis for the 2018/19 academic session; which is also the school's 25th anniversary. We are looking forward to an exciting year as we celebrate the success of the students and alumni over the past twenty-five years. We have already hosted events in school and around the country this term as you will see in the magazine.

“

**We are confident that the education offered at Olashore is world class and truly exceptional in Nigeria and we like to take every opportunity to share our successes with as wide an audience as possible.**”

To launch the 25th anniversary, we hosted a press conference in the school office in Lagos alongside the unveiling of the 25th anniversary logo. This was an opportunity to share the success of students and alumni to a wider audience and it has been great to see this reflected in both print and online press in recent months. We are confident that the education offered at Olashore is world class and truly exceptional in Nigeria and we like to take every opportunity to share our successes with as wide an audience as possible.

The school play is always a great event both for students learning and to display their talents. This year we have chosen to showcase the play as widely as possible and the students have already performed in Abuja, Ibadan, Lagos and Osun State. The play this year is *Etti: All eyes on you* by Chief Jimi Solanke and it was a pleasure to welcome him to the performance in



D. K. Smith, Principal

Lagos. He gave great encouragement to the cast and performing arts staff, suggesting that the interpretation offered by the school was insightful and would influence how he produced the play in future. We look forward to performing in other venues in the coming term.

One of the high points of this term was Speech and Prize Giving Day. This was a great day to celebrate the success of students inside and outside the school during the 2017/18 academic session. Students across all year groups received prizes with scholarships awarded to the top three students in each year as well as ten new students in Year 7. We also celebrated the students who won national and international prizes in 2017/18 including the female football team, the instrumentalist, the school debate team and the winners of awards from COBIS and Cambridge

International Examinations.

Celebrating current students is always the focus of Speech and Prize Giving Day, but it was also a day to celebrate alumni as we welcomed back Bode Olanipekun as the Guest Speaker. Bode was a member of the pioneer set, joining the school in 1994 and graduating in 1999. He was recently appointed as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), the youngest in the history of Nigeria. The success of Bode and other alumni in recent years is a reflection of the strong foundation given by an Olashore education.

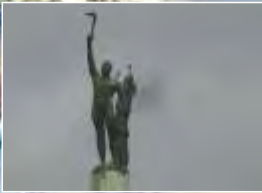
I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and it helps you to gain an insight into why Olashore students have been successful throughout the past twenty-five years and why the current generation will continue to become leaders in Nigeria and beyond. 📖



**Image:** Place D'Etoile Rouge

The Place de l'étoile is a landmark in Cotonou. It is a large crossroads in the city of Cotonou. It is a monument formed by a giant circle in the centre of which is a five-pointed star painted red. At the centre of the star stands a tower surmounted by a statue of a brave man.

Source: WIKIPEDIA



Words for  
Thought

Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out - **Robert Collier**

The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle - **Steve Jobs**

The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit - **Nelson Henderson**

It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation - **Herman Melville**

Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success - **Henry Ford**

I'm not upset that you lied to me; I'm upset that from now on I can't believe you - **Friedrich Nietzsche**

A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier - **Tom Stoppard**

For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness - **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends? - **Abraham Lincoln**

Do you know what we call opinion in the absence of evidence? We call it prejudice - **Michael Crichton**

You can have it all. Just not all at once - **Oprah Winfrey**

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take - **Wayne Gretzky**





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Site.



# AUSTIN FRIARS

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"I initially left school at the end of L6th to work in the family business but was given the opportunity to pilot the *Austin Friars Internship* programme which would allow me to finish my A' Levels (giving me the option to go to University) whilst simultaneously working one day a week. I jumped at the prospect as I was missing Friars' Rugby and the School community. My standard week was in School

Monday - Thursday, and working on a Friday. Experience of this real-world working environment helped develop social time-management and teamwork skills that differ to those traits learnt in a school environment. It is by no means an "easier" route, as the work load has different demands to that of the traditional route, however, it opens up more opportunities for those like me, who didn't know what they wanted to do at age 17/18. I now work as a Personal Trainer on Cruise Ships around the world."

**Henry Berry - Former Pupil**



"I left Friars in 2013 after 6 happy years at the school. Taking advantage of the mass of opportunities available to me, I was the 1st XI Hockey captain and Deputy Head Girl which provided my first real 'management' opportunities during my VI Form years. I went on to study Business

Management at Northumbria University which included an industrial placement year at GlaxoSmithKline. I graduated with a first class degree last summer and shortly after, began my permanent role in supply chain management back at GSK. The community spirit and emphasis on things other than just academics at both Friars, and then Northumbria University, has set me up with a wide portfolio of professional skills, which I am excited to apply in my graduate role at a world-renowned organisation!"

**Connie Wainwright - Former Pupil**

To enquire, or for more information, email [admissions@austinfriars.co.uk](mailto:admissions@austinfriars.co.uk)



# What are you thankful for in 2018?

Vox Pop

Tola, Year 9

I'm thankful for the fact that I attended my first inter-school competition, which was part of my bucket list. I'm thankful for all the opportunities I had this year. I'm thankful for my family and being able, by God's grace, to see the end of this year.



Mrs Surakat

I am thankful for a lot of things this year 2018. I am thankful for good health, for a wonderful family and for the gift of sleeping and waking up. I am also grateful to God for my wonderful husband and for so many blessings which I either know about or do not know about at all.



Obehi, Year 7

I am thankful for everything God has done for me this year. I am glad that I came to one of the best schools in Nigeria and I am making good friends. I am thankful for being part of the top ten in my set and I am thankful for being alive.



Shola, Year 11

I am thankful for everything God has done. For how He has protected my family and friends. I am especially thanking God for my sister's life and her children.



Mololuwa, Year 9

I am thankful to God for everything my siblings and parents have done for me.



Ela, Year 12

I am thankful for the gift of life, for some beautiful and true friends, for answered prayers and for my desired post as the media prefect. I am also thankful for my loving family.



Timilehin, Year 7

I am thankful for my parents and everything they have done for me.



Gaffar, Year 12

I am thankful for being able to see this year. I am thankful for my family, being able to complete my IGCSE and I am thankful for all the talents God has given me and all the prayers he has answered.



Ashley, Year 12

I am thankful for being able to complete my IGCSE, I am thankful for being able to be elected as a prefect. I also thank God for my family and friends and for all the support he has given me.



Mr Salami, ICT

I thank Almighty God for ordering my steps, His faithfulness, presence and grace upon me and my household.



Mr Alabi, Languages

I thank God for his direction, faithfulness and mercy. I am, without any iota of doubt, a favoured child.



Mrs Oladejo,  
Head of Junior Students

I am thankful to God for my family. I'm also thankful for the new job they just provided my younger brother. I thank God for his provisions and protection. Finally, I thank God for all of my children in OCB.



# Olashore kicks off 25th anniversary celebration with press conference



Olashore International School kicked off its 25th anniversary celebration with a press conference. The press conference was held on the 2nd of November, 2018 at the school's Lagos liaison office. It was a platform for the members of the board to discuss the progress of the school over the last 25 years as well as let the public into the various activities lined up to

celebrate the school's anniversary.

In attendance were the Chairman, Board of Governors, Prince Abimbola Olashore, Members of Board of Trustees, Prince Taiwo Olashore, Prince Kehinde Olashore, the Principal & CEO, Mr D.K. Smith and gentlemen of the press. Sixteen pressmen from the various media houses across the country were in attendance. ■

## Alumna joins school medical team



Dr Oluwayanmike Olowe has joined the Olashore International School medical team. Dr Olowe graduated from the University of Ibadan with a degree in medicine. She is currently carrying out her mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme in the school. Dr Oluwayanmike Olowe graduated from Olashore International School in 2009. ■

## Year 7 students receive personal iPads

The Olashore International School Technology Enhanced Learning continues to expand as the Year 7 students formally received their iPads. Since 2016 all students entering Year 7 have received an iPad as part of their learning

materials. The iPads were presented to the students and their parents by the Principal and CEO, Mr D.K. Smith. The Year 7 students are privileged to have the new iPad 6 which was released earlier this year with a specific focus on education. ■



## Entertainment Club visits the Ooni Palace

By Folusogbon Olapoju

The OIS entertainment club went on a road trip to the heart of all Yoruba Culture, Ile-Ife. At Ile-Ife, the group visited the Ooni of Ife Palace. At the palace, a guide showed them around. The students got to see the burial places of some of the richest and oldest kings said to have lived over 400 years ago, the royal gallery and the great court of appeal.

Next, the students went to the national museum where they saw several kinds of pottery and earthenware, ancient structures and were told the stories behind them. The students learnt a lot from the guide who was very keen to tell all she knew. ■



## Principal decorates Year 8 students for completing Khan Academy's 5th Grade

Four students in Year 8 who have completed their 5th Grade mission in Khan Academy have been given badges. The star-badges were presented to them during the year group assembly in week 5 by the Principal and CEO, Mr D.K. Smith. During the first week of the term, twelve students were

decorated. Alfa Saleh who completed grades 5 and 6 was awarded two badges. According to Mr Bako, who is in charge of the Khan Academy in school, the awards are expected to be presented to the students at the end of each continuous assessment. ■





## Olashore students attend EducationUSA fair

By Kemi Oni and Lateefah Mutiu

As part of enhancing students' progression to world-class universities, Olashore students attended the

EducationUSA fair in Lagos. The event was organised by the United States Embassy in Nigeria as they hosted representatives from 45 universities in the United States. The fair provided an opportunity for students and

parents to receive information on admission requirements, study permits and learn about the scholarship opportunities and financial assistance to international students. The atmosphere at the fair allowed the students to be

free and comfortable while getting information. 📄

*Kemi Oni and Lateefah Mutiu are in Year 11*

## Olashore organises higher education fair

As a learning community committed to academic excellence, a Higher Education fair was organised with a network of colleges and universities to provide parents of Year 12 students with a wide range of opportunities to further develop their academic excellence, personalised educational experience and skills to compete in a global environment.

The fair also provides students with higher education opportunities across the world with details of suitable courses available at a wide range of quality

universities and study institutions. Scholarship information was also provided to both parents and students for consideration by the partner institutions based on set criteria. Fourteen institutions participated in this year's fair: Ashbourne College, UK; Austin Friars, UK; Bronte College, Canada; Fullford Preparatory College, Canada; Duke of Edinburgh; African Leadership Academy, South Africa; Academic City College, Ghana; Pan-Atlantic University, Nigeria; Admiralty University, Nigeria; Bridge House College, Lagos; Westerfield College, Lagos;

Multi-Plan Pathway College, Brookline Consult, Lagos and

TGM Education, Lagos. 📄



Newly sworn-in junior prefects.



# My Experience at GYLC



**"The programme featured different activities such as tours round astonishing areas, seminars by world-renowned speakers and exploration times."**

By Oluwaseun Sule

The Global Young Leaders' Conference is a leadership training programme held every year by Envision. I was given the opportunity to attend this event during the summer vacation in 2018.

The ten-day programme was filled with a lot of activities. On the first day we were warmly welcomed and given identification cards. Then we were immediately engaged in "icebreaking" activities. Everyone present, a total of about 400 "scholars" as we were called, were later divided into 16 country groups of 20-22 people and I became a proud member of the People's Republic of China.

The programme featured different activities such as tour of astonishing areas, seminars by world-renowned speakers and exploration times in which we just ride around and see what we can spot around the vicinity of the area. This was lovely because I had never been to those parts of America before, and I was greatly entertained as well as educated. The most interesting parts of the programme were the visits to the White House, Abraham Lincoln Monument, Times

Square, the numerous shopping opportunities, the exploration opportunities in Washington D.C. and New York City, and finally, the cruise around the Hudson River.

I am so glad that I attended this event because I got a chance to improve my leadership skills. I learnt a lot of new things and got to interact and make friends with people from different nationalities, cultures and beliefs both inside and outside my country group. It is of great certainty that whoever attends the GYLC will come back with heightened leadership skills and will be ready to face problems in the 21st Century. 📌

*Oluwaseun Sule is in Year 12*





## Year 11 students organise anti-malaria campaign in Iloko

By Feyishola Lamidi

**Y**ear 11 students of Olashore International School have organised a malaria awareness programme in their host community, Iloko. The programme

took place at the community health centre.

Everyone present was tested for malaria by the school medical staff and free treatment given. The students created posters which were placed on the walls of the

community health centre and presented a drama that showed how to stay protected against malaria.

It will be recalled that earlier this year, the students organised a free malaria test for children in the community.








# Year 11 students undergo leadership course

By Netochukwu Kalu

O lashore International School remains committed to developing 21st century leaders. The annual Year 11 leadership training programme in partnership with Life-Builders, a non-governmental organisation, is one of the platforms for achieving this. This year's theme was 'Entrepreneurial Leadership'.

At the leadership centre in Ibadan, the students had a series of sessions ranging from mindset restructuring, assertive communication, business planning to sexuality education.

The students also learnt about the different skills needed to be successful entrepreneurs and leaders. As part of the programme, the students visited the University of Ibadan and were received by the Aquaculture and Fishery Management Faculty Head, Prof Ajayi. 












# Continuous Professional Development Programme (OIS-CPDP)

By Mr Olayinka Thomas

The OIS-CPDP experience for the session started with the pre-resumption staff development programme at the beginning of the term. The programme featured topics such as effective management of classroom resources, effective lesson delivery and assessments: focus on standards and rounded off with a CPDP review and planning session for term 1.

The CPDP sessions take place every weekend and all academic members of staff are scheduled to participate in one of the training sessions monthly. So far members of staff have participated in a number of online training opportunities this term including the British Council moderated teaching the core skill courses, Partners Schools Global Network (PSGN) Online Support Systems (OSS) modules and Council of British International Schools (COBIS)

webinars.

The main objective of OIS-CPDP centres on the consistent support of teaching and non-teaching staff with adequate and up-to-date training opportunities geared at helping everyone to keep improving their pedagogical, personal and professional skills. 

*Mr Olayinka Thomas is the Senior Master*



# Students celebrate teachers on World Teachers' Day

O lashore joined the rest of the world to celebrate World Teachers' Day 2018. This year's theme was 'The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher.' According to the UNESCO, the theme was chosen to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), where education is recognised as a key fundamental right. A right that cannot be fulfilled without qualified teachers.

On this day, the students celebrated their teachers and praised their contributions to their development.👏





## Management meets with new parents

By Mr N. Bako

During the first visiting weekend in the term, the school held a forum for all parents who are new to the school.

The event held at the Royal Park Hotel. The forum was a platform for the new parents to meet and discuss with the management of the school on the mission and vision of the school. It was also an opportunity for new parents to contribute to the development of the school by making suggestions. They were also able to seek clarification by asking questions on areas of concern.

During his presentation, the Principal and CEO, Mr D.K. Smith revealed to the parents the benefit of an Olashore education as it focuses on developing 21st century global leaders. The parents were happy and commended the school generally for its transparency in dealing with parents.

*Mr N. Bako is the School Registrar*







## 25th Anniversary: Olashore Organises Inter-School Debate Competition

Oforitsete Iluwa

**A**n inter-school debate and public speaking competition was organised as part of the numerous activities lined up to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Olashore International School.

Among the schools invited were Ibadan International School, Capital Science Academy, Thomas Adewumi International College and Iloko Model College. These schools faced each other head to head in a British parliamentary style debate.

In between the competition was an opportunity for Olashore students to display their talents. Munachi Okey-Nzeakor thrilled the participants with her sonorous voice as she sang "Opportunity" while Alfa Saleh demonstrated his skills on the saxophone.

The public speaking session was just as exciting as the debate. The students spoke passionately and boldly. At the end of the competition, TAICO emerged as the winner while Olashore and CSA came in second and third place respectively. 🏆

*Oforitsete Iluwa is the Female Special Duty Prefect*





# Students rewarded at 2018 Speech and Prize Giving Day



By Fisayo Aromolaran

Academic excellence is the foundation of an Olashore education and Speech and Prize Giving Day allows the school to give recognition to students who have excelled in individual subjects, shown all-round

academic ability, as well as those who have excelled in activities that develop 21st century skills.

Bode Olanipekun, the Managing Partner of Wole Olanipekun and Co., was the guest speaker at the event. Bode is the youngest Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN)

and an alumnus of Olashore International School. In his address, he urged the students not to let anything hinder them from being successful.

The highpoint of the day was the award ceremony where scholarships were given to top performing

students.

The event also featured musical and dance performances by the students.

*Fisayo Aromolaran is the Junior Media Prefect*









# Nigeria turns 58

By Rereloluwa Adeoye

Staff and students of Olashore International School joined the rest of the nation to celebrate Nigeria's Independence Day. The day which is usually an exciting day for both students and staff began with a special assembly in the hall. Students were colourfully dressed in their cultural attires.

The assembly began with the singing of the national anthem in Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and English language respectively. After that, there were presentations by different groups in the school. First was the media presentation. The Year 11 government students made a video which showed how Nigeria gained her independence. A student, Unuwa Michael, presented a poem, titled, 'Forever at Peace' that outlined the battle Nigerians had to fight to gain independence. The Year 7 students performed a beautiful song on freedom and lastly, there was a fashion parade. People with lovely attires got the opportunity to majestically walk all the way to the stage and strike a pose.

Immediately after the assembly was the march past and due to the rain, the march past took place on the Water Meadow. March past is a very important part of independence celebration as all the houses take part and the best house receives a trophy. Yellow House received the trophy in the senior category while Red House received the trophy in the junior category. 🏆

*Rereloluwa Adeoye is in Year 7*





# Silver Jubilee: Olashore International School celebrates 25 years of developing leaders



Olashore International School was founded in 1994 by Oba Oladele Olashore, CON. The 2018/19 session represents a very special point in the life of the school as twenty-five years ago the first set of Olashore students joined the school. Among that set, and the twenty-four sets that have followed them, are many who have gone on to success in higher education and to become leaders in their field.

Academic success is the foundation of an Olashore education. 2017/18 saw the school once again achieve exceptional results in both national and international examinations. With five students achieving 5 or more distinctions at IGCSE and one third of grades being A\*/A, the school celebrated its best international examination results ever. This was matched by outstanding performance in both WASSCE and JAMB-UTME. The school was, once again, recognised by Cambridge International Examinations as one of the Top Schools in Nigeria with the 2016/17 Deputy Head Girl, Halima Salaudeen recognised as the best student in economics in Nigeria.

Over the years, we have seen our

students graduate with first class degrees from universities across the globe. In 2017 amongst our first class graduates were, Peace Eze (class of 2012), who graduated from University of Louisiana, in the U.S.A., Tobi Agbaje (class of 2012) who graduated from Lancaster University in the U.K. and Oluwatunmike Olowe (class of 2013)

graduated from Redeemers University here in Nigeria. 2018 saw more first-class honours with Emmanuel Pius-Ogiji (class of 2012) graduating from the University of Manchester in the U.K. and our 2014 deputy head girl, Similoluwa Oladimeji (class of 2014) graduating from the University of Birmingham in the U.K. with first class honours in law.



Peace Eze



Kikelomo Banjo





Gbubemi Fregene

However, our expectation of Olashore graduates is not just academic success but all-round exceptional performance. We continue to see this during their time at university with a recent graduate recognised for the Best Mechatronic Engineering project by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in the U.K., as well as graduates taking leadership roles in societies at their university. Iremide Arowolo, our head girl in the 2015/16 session, is currently in her second year at Loughborough University and has already been elected the vice-president of the Nigerian Students Society. She is also taking a leading role in supporting children with special needs in the local community and using her vacation to participate in the Innovation Driven Enterprise Academy, a programme to develop entrepreneurship.

A very positive side-effect for



Bankole Alao

*Academic success is the foundation of an Olashore education. 2017/18 saw the school once again achieve exceptional results in both national and international examinations. With five students achieving 5 or more distinctions at IGCSE and one third of grades being A\*/A, the school celebrated its best international examination results ever. This was matched by outstanding performance in both WASSCE and JAMB-UTME.*



Nsikan Essien

parents at Olashore of the success of our graduates and the all-round education that Olashore offers is the increasing number and value of scholarships that Olashore graduates are being offered by schools and colleges in the USA. Over the past three years, we have seen students offered up to \$50,000 dollars per year in scholarships to attend leading universities in the U.S.A. In fact, two of the students from the 2018 graduating class were in such demand that the colleges that they applied to entered a "bidding war" in terms of the value of the scholarship offered with each finally receiving \$35,000.

At Olashore we believe that the strong foundation built during six years at the school and developed at the university provides the platform for our graduates to carve successful careers in the 21st century. Our graduates cut across all field of endeavours and are taking leading roles in their various fields. Some of our graduates include Mrs Kikelomo Banjo. She was the pioneer Head Girl of Olashore International School and has gone on to become the first female Operations Manager for Maersk Line in Nigeria, breaking the glass ceiling and showing that leadership is not gender biased. Gbubemi Fregene, who is a celebrity chef known by the name Chef Fregz, Media Personality, Gbemileke 'Oscar' Oyinsan, Bankole Alao, the pioneer Deputy Head Boy, who is the co-founder and CEO of Pepper Rest Africa, a tech start-up which is facilitating increased person to person commerce on the African continent, Nsikan Essien who was employed by Rolls-Royce straight after college, Mr Bode Olanipekun who recently became the youngest Senior



Gbemileke 'Oscar' Oyinsan



Oluwatunmike Olowe





Bode Olanipekun

Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and many others too numerous to mention. They are shining examples of what can be achieved building on the firm foundation laid by an Olashore education. In 2018, this success was showcased internationally as two of our alumni were recognised by Forbes in their 30-under-30 list of young men and women who will have a significant impact on the continent. Obinna Okwodu was

*Our current students indeed have outstanding role models to look up to and to emulate.*

*Developing leaders for the 21st century is a key part of our mission statement and one we are committed to. One of the ways we accomplish this is through our bespoke leadership programme based on the social change model of leadership. This is based on our belief that all students can be leaders and that leadership is about creating positive change in your community.*



Obinna Okwodu

recognised for his innovative start-up which is changing the property rental market here in Nigeria while Folarin Falana popularly known as Falz was recognised for his impact in the entertainment industry across Nigeria. The school takes pride as the only school on the continent who can claim two graduates on that honour roll.

Our current students indeed have outstanding role models to look up to and to emulate. Developing leaders for the 21st century is a key part of our mission statement and one we are committed to. One of the ways we accomplish this is through our bespoke leadership programme based on the social change model of leadership. This is based on our belief that all students can be leaders and that leadership is about creating positive change in your community. A key part of the Olashore Leadership programme is service to the community. This takes many forms and includes Olashore students providing tutorial classes for children at local government primary schools, a student led malaria awareness programme for



Folarin Falana

children in our local community and, during the term 2 vacation, Year 10 students stayed in school for an extra week to spend the time refurbishing the local health centre. This leadership training programme is transforming Olashore students and also transforming the lives of people in our local community in Iloko. The success of the programme is widely recognised and in recent years it has been showcased internationally at the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) conference in the U.K. and the BETT MENA education technology leadership summit in Abu Dhabi.

As we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary year of Olashore International School, we look back on the success, not just of 2017/18 but twenty-five years of success. The success that we celebrate is the result of the hard work and commitment of staff, students and parents throughout twenty-five years and we look forward to working together to continue to meet the challenge to develop future leaders for Africa and the world.🌍





# Bode Olanipekun: Nigeria's Youngest SAN

**B**ode Olanipekun is the Managing Partner in the law firm of Wole Olanipekun & Co. He was recently sworn in as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. He is presently the youngest holder of this prestigious rank and achieved the feat before attaining the age of 12-year post call as a qualified lawyer in Nigeria. He was a member of the pioneer set of students admitted to Olashore International School and graduated in 1999. In this interview, Bode talks about his decision to become a lawyer and more.

**You come from a family of lawyers; did this influence your decision to become one?**

Hmmm, yes, my dad is a lawyer and all four children are lawyers. My sister who was also at Olashore School is now a lawyer. Let me put it this way, I have never thought I was going to go into a different profession. Though my dad did not insist that I should be a lawyer but I cannot write off his influence because I grew up to see him as a very hardworking professional and to the glory of God he succeeded at it. So I think I just chose this line, there was no compulsion.

**Does your family background make it easier for you or does it put pressure on you?**

Okay, to be honest, it did not put any form of pressure on me because I am this type of person that I appreciate my capacities so I time myself based on what my capacities are. I will say there was no pressure. On the contrary, it did not also make it easier for me; it made it difficult because the expectations were heightened. It also invited a lot of attention and focus on me so it actually made it more difficult so to speak.

**What kind of law do you practice and why?**

Okay, so, in answering that question I will just backtrack to moments before now, that is to my academic qualification. I have a master's degree in admiralty law and commercial law so I will say that is my co-competency. I have also been practising



Mr. Bode Olanipekun, Managing Partner, Wole Olanipekun & Co.

law for 12 years and in my period of practice, I have gained experience and also deliberately acquired expertise in a wide range of other areas of law: constitutional, interpretational enforcement, statutory enforcement as well, election litigation and criminal law. I also work in a law firm that is departmentalized. We have quite a number of departments that attend to legal needs; I am a partner so I supervise quite a number of firms so there is a lot of expertise in that field.

**What does being a SAN mean to you especially as you attained one at a young age?**

A very difficult question but I had always aspired to be one. Of course I realised that the ultimate decision-maker in elevation is God and I had always put it before Him so when it happened this year the immediate feeling was one of thanksgiving to God and also a prayer for enablement to meet

up with the responsibilities. This is because to me the rank comes with a few privileges but the responsibilities are more important than the privileges. Those are the things that actually count for me to be able to meet up with the responsibilities that come with the rank.

**Can you give us an insight into what it really means to practice law?**

That is something that could take us a whole day but I will just try to identify a few. The legal profession is a profession of trust. By this I mean if there is someone that requires the service of a legal practitioner to provide a solution, that person is coming to disclose a lot of confidential information to the legal practitioner. There is an expectation of a very high level. One needs to manage that information confidentially and to also deliver a tailor-made service that meets the expectation of the client. So in giving you an insight to what it means to be a



legal practitioner that sort of exemplifies the high burden of responsibility that is placed on a legal practitioner to manage the expectations, manage the information and deliver the result to the best of his ability. This is carried out with a very high level of integrity that really is the underlying foundation and consideration, and you know you build on that foundation, diligence, consistency, consistent improvement and self-development.

#### **What is a typical day like for you?**

A typical day starts from about 2 am in the morning up till 4 am. I tried to catch 2 hours sleep between 4am - 6am because I realized those hours are very critical, it gives me a lot of stability and balance throughout the day. I get up at about 6:00am, if it is a day I am not out of Lagos where I am ordinarily resident then I catch some family time with my wife and kids, I have a three-year-old daughter I drop her at school at about 8 am or shortly before 8 am and head to court or the office or to attend to meetings and other engagements. Now that I am a SAN, fortunately, my cases are called early so really I don't stay as long as I used to stay in court. That runs till whenever, I do not have a closing time. I typically stop work when my body system tells me that I need to go and take a rest. What I want to achieve every day is to get a minimum of 4-5 hours of sleep and double rest with family time and work and of course enough time to reflect and pray.

#### **As a lawyer, what skills are important?**

Your vocal skills must be very sharp and you keep sharpening them. You must be able to process information very quickly so your tolerant time to provide solutions must be very quick. You must be an average reader. I try to read almost anything that comes my way particularly if the content is not distracting. And like I have said diligence and integrity are important. You must not look for shortcuts or quick gains that are not sustainable in the long run

#### **What do you like best and least about your job?**

I like the opportunity to provide solutions when people have challenges. My job creates a platform for me to help people and put a smile on their faces. I am always very excited when people leave me happier than when they came because they have been able to get some level of comfort, solutions and even when you do not succeed eventually people are happy that you have given your best.

There is this impression about lawyers that lawyers might not exactly be truthful people, which clearly I tell people again, that it is a conclusion that is premised on a very faulty basis, there is actually no basis for it. I say that the courtroom is the most difficult place to tell a lie aside from the fact



Mr. Olanipekun

that in giving evidence you swear an oath, the lawyer is actually looking for an opportunity for you to lie and just expose you the same way the people from the opposing side are looking for an opportunity for a lawyer to misrepresent facts so as to expose that lawyer as lacking integrity. That is a perception most lawyers are really working hard to correct but the perception is one that does not have a verifiable basis and again we really cannot do much about how people decide or what impression they decide to have so we live with that. Now that is something I do not like.

#### **If you did not become a lawyer, what career path would you have chosen?**

To be honest, I really do not know because I had always aspired to be a lawyer right from when I was in Olashore International School. In fact, my classmates back then in Olashore International School held a session for me and all of them were just talking about our secondary school days when they used to refer to me as the Senior Advocate of Nigeria, so I did not consider any other option to be honest.

#### **What are your other interests?**

I am a member of the Gideon International where we distribute Bibles for free. I am the coordinator of the Professional Service Group of the Nigeria British Chamber of Commerce. I find time to exercise and spend with friends so that one does not become an island. I also spend quality time with my family.

#### **Can you tell us a bit about your educational background?**

Oh yes! I was at Olashore International School between the years 1994 to 1999, I then proceeded to the University of Lagos. I graduated from the University of Lagos in

2005, went to the Nigeria School of Law and graduated in the year 2006. I attended the University of Wales and obtained a Master's Degree in 2007 and I have been back practising law ever since then. Of course, I also engage in quite a lot of self-development and I have been to the Harvard Law School for training and quite a number of other institutions globally.

#### **As someone who has received both local and foreign education, how would you compare the educational systems?**

The way I will put it, there are avenues for improvement in both systems. What local education in Nigeria gives you is a lot of toughness and tenseness so you're taught to be able to withstand different conditions, which is why it is easy for Nigerian youths to excel on the global stage when they get to institutions of learning abroad. Generally they just find things easier because of the local training they have received here so there are always avenues for improvement. Local education in Nigeria also has a lot to offer in the global stage because it is not just a coincidence that a student who has had Nigerian training excels extraordinarily in the global world.

#### **What is the most important advice you have ever received?**

I have received a lot of advice from parents, teachers, my wife, my colleagues, even people younger than me and I value all. So, I cannot say which is the most important advice I have received but I will just pin down this advice which is that I must always make an income that I can publicly defend as diligence and integrity are two virtues that would never fail any professional.

#### **Who are your role models and why?**

Clearly, my father is my biggest role model because he is a man that I have been very close to and I have been watching him, not cut corners but climb the ladder to success patiently, diligently and also building his life on values such as integrity, hard work and inflexible faith in God. I can write volumes of books about my father because he is the biggest influence on my life.

#### **Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?**

I will keep improving myself and I will always keep looking for the best for me. Excellence has no maximum achievement.

#### **Do you have any advice for students contemplating the legal profession?**

Summary of what I have been saying is that you can never compromise diligence, you cannot compromise integrity, you cannot compromise honesty and you must always strive to provide service of the best quality. These are all that you learn in Olashore International School because this is the place where all these virtues were formed in me. ■



# British Council honours Olashore

**H**alima Salaudeen, former deputy head girl, was honoured by the British Council at the 2018 British Council Recognition and Outstanding Learners Award Night. The award recognises the exceptional performance of learners around the world in Cambridge examinations and Halima received this award for having the highest score nationally in economics in the IGCSE Examinations.



**What do you have to say about the news of the award?**

Saying I am thrilled would be an understatement. It gives me a lot of joy to know that I performed so well in what has been my favourite subject since I started taking it - economics. I feel humbled

Halima Salaudeen

and grateful to have fared well enough to be recognised in such prestigious light. I am grateful to God, who nothing is possible without. He has guided me through tough times and has always been with me. I am also thankful to my parents, who are ever supportive. Furthermore, I give credit to my teachers at Olashore. They were always very encouraging and helpful. This group of people comprises the support system to whom I owe this award.

**What would you attribute this feat to?**

I honestly do not think I would have been able to perform as I did, without God's grace and blessings. It is one thing to work hard, but I believe that

without God's blessings, one's hard work could end up being in vain. I have been brought up to be resilient, so that has continuously urged me to always put my better foot forward, and to never give up. To be honest, I believe my love for economics also contributed to this feat as it is a subject I love so much.

**What does the award mean to you?**

When I heard I had received the award, I was so elated and my heart was truly filled with joy! It was very heart-warming to realise that my efforts were not in vain.

**You are currently a student in South Africa. Any challenges so far and how are you dealing with them?**

Nothing good comes easy, and I knew this before I decided to attend ALA, where I have been exposed to a very rigorous curriculum. Balancing my academic commitments with extra-curricular activities can prove difficult at times. However, I began my journey at ALA with the end in mind. I have never taken my eyes off the ball. This coupled with the knowledge that no situation in life is permanent has helped me overcome the challenges I have faced thus far.

**Any final words**

My sincere gratitude goes to every single member of the management team, for helping to shape and guide me through the six years I spent at Olashore. This experience is a huge part of who I am today and my journey through life. 🙏

**Nothing good comes easy, and I knew this before I decided to attend ALA, where I have been exposed to a very rigorous curriculum. Balancing my academic commitments with extra-curricular activities can prove difficult at times. However, I began my journey at ALA with the end in mind. I have never taken my eyes off the ball.**





# Orientation exercise holds for new students

By Rereloluwa Adeoye

**A**s part of measures to help new students settle in and adjust to school life, an orientation exercise is held at the beginning of the school year.

This year, the exercise went on for two weeks. It began with a tour of the school by some prefects. The new students were shown around. This was

followed by an introduction to Head of Years, Homeroom Tutors and the Head of Junior Students. The students were also introduced to study skills and sports; library orientation and registration took place at the library as well as music, drama and orchestra orientation. A team building session was organised for the new students.

The orientation also featured seminars and workshops on how to use

the students' planner, classroom rules and procedures, health and medical personnel, personal organisation with the counsellors, a workshop on dining and dressing etiquette, school squads and extracurricular activities and an introduction to the inter-house quiz. ■

*Rereloluwa Adeoye is in Year 7*



# Chief Jimi Solanke Applauds Olashore Drama Troupe



By Precedence Unuma Michael and  
Netochukwu Kalu

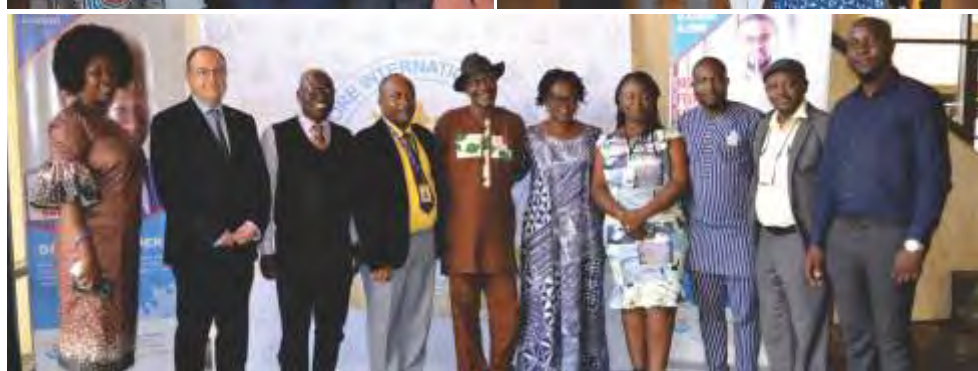
Chief Jimi Solanke has applauded the drama troupe of Olashore International School. He spoke glowingly of the troupe after watching their performance of his work - 'Etiti: All eyes on you' at the Muson Centre in Lagos.

Chief Jimi Solanke, who was present with his wife, couldn't hold back his emotions as he addressed the audience after the play. He commended the students for a job well done.

The play 'Etiti: All eyes on you' highlights the mistakes of our elders as they make secret the most important aspects of our culture that should have been kept open for the youths and







everybody to understudy. Etiti represents both the spiritual and overall belief of people anywhere in the world. In this play, Etiti has been physically brought down to deliver messages from the author on various issues but most especially the problems confronting our youths, as well as the nonchalant attitude of some elderly people in power concerning the present-day predicament of the youths.

The drama troupe performed Chief Jimi Solanke's work twice in Lagos. They performed for a younger audience in the morning and an older audience in the evening and both performances were well received. The play which was also staged in Ibadan, Abuja and Osun forms part of activities lined up to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary.



# Principal Smith hosts top performing students

By Aaron Sholaja

The Principal, Mr D.K. Smith, held a barbecue for the top performing students at the Principal's Lodge. The students were treated to barbecue chicken, chips, salad, ice cream, cupcakes and drinks. They also watched a movie. The evening rounded off with the principal congratulating the students after which group photographs were taken.

*Aaron Sholaja is in Year 8*





# School Excursion The Cotonou Experience



Olashore International School strongly believes that learning occurs beyond the classroom. An integral part of the school's programme is having students take part in various school trips locally and internationally.

Consequently, Year 8 students accompanied by staff travelled to the Republic of Benin for a week. The trip was organised in association with AILF. Their first point of call was Hotel du Lac where they spent their first night. While in Cotonou, the group visited the Place d'Etoile Rouge known as the Red Star and spent some hours at a bakery learning to make croissants and baguettes.

The group moved from Cotonou to Ouidah where they stayed at a resort. At the resort, the students had fun kayaking, playing mini golf and volleyball. They also had French lessons and visited historic sites in Ouidah. The last day of the trip was meant for shopping and the students were taken to the market to buy items before returning to school. 📸





# Olashore Goes Traditional

By Oluwajomiloju Tunde-Oladipo

Nigeria has a rich cultural heritage and the school's traditional day tagged 'OIS goes Traditional' is a platform to display this heritage. As the school held its traditional day, members of staff and students were seen in colourful attires representing the various cultures in Nigeria. The traditional day goes down as one of the most colourful events in the school clearly showing the beauty that exists in our culture. 🌍





# Year 9 and 10 students host Guest Dinner

By Adetola Adefiranye

The Year 9 and 10 guest dinner was held in the school hall. The programme was hosted by Olushola Efuntoye and Collins Ughimi. The event started with an opening prayer by Iyua Azoom. This was followed by a parade where the best-dressed individuals were called out.

The dinner featured various performances including a singing performance by Eyimofe Osinlu, talented Year 11 boys dance presentation and a dance performance by Year 11 girls, which was adjudged the best performance of the evening.

There was a lot to eat and drink and the evening ended on a happy note with everyone dancing on the dance floor.





A healthy school community promotes a culture of wellness for all its members: students, staff, parents and the community at large. Learning to live well is a lifelong journey. Student wellness facilitates the holistic growth and development of students by creating health and preventing health problems. The health and total wellness of the student has always been the core focus of the school health programme and remains so till date.

The school health programme today employs a coordinated approach to achieving this goal. The coordinated school health and wellness approach connects health with academic success, supports student and staff wellness, and contributes to overall student achievement. Some components of the coordinated school health programme employed at Olashore International School are:


Health education is based on topics such as personal health and wellness, mental and emotional health, healthy eating and nutrition. Students learn to make health-promoting decisions and why those decisions are important particularly as it impacts on different aspects of school life.

Health services focus on prevention and early intervention, including the provision of emergency care, primary



Complete well-being includes more than physical and nutritional health. Counselling and psychological services are provided to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health. The clinic and counselling staff work with other concerned staff work to identify and address student psychosocial problems and where necessary, trusted professionals are called in to provide more rounded care to students.

These are health promotion activities that help maintain and improve the health of staff, contributing to improved morale and greater personal

Healthy children have increased capacity to learn and develop the values, attitudes and skills necessary to be competent, effective and resilient adults. This comprehensive approach aims to improve student health and educational success through the creation of healthy school communities. 



# FAITH UNAH

## Beauty & Brains

**F**aith Unah received the award for being one of the top three students in her year group at the 2018 Speech and Prize Giving Day. For one whose personal mantra is “Hard work doesn't kill but makes you stronger”, it came as no surprise that she accomplished this feat. In this chat Faith, who is also the Head Girl, tells us how she stays focused in school.

### Tell us about yourself

My name is Faith Unah. I am 16 years old. I am from Akwa-Ibom State. I am tall and I come from a Christian family of five children.

### How do you feel about your accomplishments?

Well, I am completely thrilled and grateful to God for my achievement. I know I have reached a remarkable level but I want more, I am striving for more and I want to pull as many people as I can into that same light.

### You are one of the top three students in your year group. What techniques did you use to achieve your high academic grades?

I had tutors that taught me ahead of my class. I also had senior students who helped me out in my weak areas as well as motivate me to read. I had reading partners from my set and I also tutored people to help them as well as myself.

### What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is mathematics as it challenges your mind and makes you think outside the box.

### How would you describe yourself?

I am an optimistic person. I am someone who likes to challenge herself; a bold person at heart. I also try to see the good in things and focus on how to make the



Faith Unah

whole good and not just a part.

### What are some of the other activities you engage in?

I take part in sports which include soccer, volleyball, badminton, high jump, long jump and athletics. I also take part in extra-curricular activities such as debate, quiz and public speaking.

### How do you maintain balance?

For as long as I can remember, I have been able to multi-task. I must say that it is difficult on numerous occasions to give priority to all the things being done but I try. A scale of preference comes into play as I give the crucial things utmost attention as well as still do the minor ones to the best of my ability.

### What do you enjoy about OIS?

I enjoy the diversity in their

mode of educating a young child. In OIS, it's not just the books that matter, the extracurricular activities are given importance as well. I strongly stand by the popular saying “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” therefore OIS standard of education does justice in giving every child a complete education.

### How do you avoid distractions as a young person?

To be honest it isn't easy but as the years passed by I made people understand the fact that I have priorities. I can play, joke around and do crazy things but when important things come up I am literally a different person as I like getting the work done well. So the people around me get that and being distracted isn't much of a problem for me.

### What is your future ambition?

I want to be an Electrical and Computer Engineer.

### Who would you say is a 21st century leader?

A 21st century leader is many things. A 21st century leader is someone who leads by example, someone who is ready to serve, someone who is selfless to the core and someone who knows his or her strengths and weaknesses and uses the information to motivate his or her followers.

### Who are your role models?

Kendall Jenner, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and most importantly my loving parents.

### What are your hobbies?

I like dancing even if I am not great at it. I also like singing.

### What is your advice to other students who want to accomplish the same feat as you have?

Give yourself some credit and praise for the work you have done; don't put too much pressure on yourself. Make sure you prioritize and give the important things thorough attention. Try to delete the bad comments and criticism from people and be the author of your life. Don't let failures bring you down but let them push you to be the best you can be and make you strong. Most importantly, pray and believe in yourself. 🙏



# Unbundling the myths of limitation

Excerpts from the speech delivered by Bode Olanipekun(SAN) the Managing Partner, Wole Olanipekun & Co. and alumnus at the 2018 Speech and Prize Giving Day of Olashore International School.



Mr. Bode Olanipekun, Managing Partner, Wole Olanipekun & Co.

**T**oday's event is a very momentous landmark in my life. Standing on stage at the Oba Okunade Sijuade hall as guest speaker at this year's Speech and Prize Giving Day elicits within me the trio of fulfilment, pride and above all, appreciation for the opportunities I have been blessed with from my days here as a student and thereafter. Sitting to the right of this hall as a male school prefect, sometime around 1997, I was engulfed, still and captivated listening to the Late Chief James Ajibola Ige, SAN (whose oratorical prowess rightly earned him the title of Cicero) deliver a very inspirational and deeply intuitive speech at the Prize Giving Day ceremony of that year. I still remember with glee, the charge given to us that day (when Nigeria was still under the firm grip of military dictatorship) by the late Cicero (who then was the Baba Oba of Iloko Ijesa) that the darkness generated by a congregation of a million evil people cannot do as much as put out the light of a single candle. On that blessed and decisive day, I thought to myself that, God willing, I will one day merit an invitation as guest speaker at a Prize Giving Day ceremony of OIS. I dare say that I stand on the threshold of

**“Evidently, nothing is impossible, and I therefore deem it auspicious to speak today about the assurance that nothing is impossible in the aspiration that I am able to convince a few people that limitation might only be a myth after all that can not only be overcome, but that can also be relegated to non existence.”**

history today, as an alumnus of this great institution to share a few thoughts with an audience of privileged people who have today, connected me directly with my not too distant past and worthy formative beginnings. Coincidentally, Chief Bola Ige spoke here in 1997 as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and today, to the eternal glory of God, at a few years over half the age that the late Genius Chief was in 1997 (he was born in 1930), I stand before you all, a product of OIS who is also a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. Evidently, nothing is impossible, and I therefore deem it auspicious to speak today about the assurance that nothing is impossible in the aspiration that I am able to convince a few people that limitation might only be a myth after all that can not only be overcome, but that can also be relegated to non existence. Against the foregoing background, may I stand on all existing protocol but single out Prince Abimbola Olashore and Mr. D. K Smith who, without doubt have been striving relentlessly to keep pushing the frontiers of excellence so that products of OIS will continue to remain reference points for outstanding achievements using the foundational elements of Honesty,



Integrity and Honour that are instilled in every student that passes through the four walls of this institution. This definitely was the dream of the progenitor of the OIS race – the irresistible and motivational enigma, Kabiyesi Oladele Olashore, who though he has exited the borders of mortality; his indelible footprints still abound in remarkable success stories that OIS Alumni have been recording across the globe. I celebrate with the awardees of today. You must deservedly feel a sense of fulfilment that all your individual efforts to excel are being appreciated by your school and peers with a demand to do more. Your parents and family members must be very proud of you. Your individual successes that are being celebrated today are direct fallouts of the limitless opportunities that OIS provides. I am also a beneficiary and indeed, proudly (as one of the first students to populate OIS when its doors for service opened on 9th January 1994), I am one of the first set of beneficiaries of and from this 'theatre of dreams'.

Sorry, I could not resist the temptation of referring to the pseudonym of my favourite football club - Manchester United FC's home stadium but appropriately so. I remember vividly as if it just occurred yesterday, watching the Champions League finals that was played in Camp Nou in Barcelona at the OIS Principal's Lodge, with the founding Principal, Dr. D. F Burgess (a man of limitless capacity to think and massive intellectual fecundity) on 26th May, 1999 when Manchester United came from a one-goal disadvantage to win the Champions League final against Bayern Munich by a 2-1 goal margin. I walked from the principal's lodge to the senior boys' hostel that evening assured in my mind beyond any iota of doubt that dreams can be enlivened!!! Limitations are myths!!! Impossible is nothing!!! Most importantly, to him who believes, all things are possible!!!! Today, I will tell you stories about people, mostly as young as or younger than you are, who chose not to be underlings. Stories of people who redefined adversities, derived inspiration from problems, and demystified limitations. I will situate these stories within what I have framed as 'the three myths.' I will also propose practical ways you can demystify these limiting untruths.

### The Three Myths of Limitation


A myth is an untrue, untested and unproven but widely held belief which has been deemed as true for a long

**“Some might think that you are young, so you are not expected to contribute to the society, take up responsibilities, engage in socio-political discourse, think of an innovative idea, and certainly you cannot own a business.”**

time. We have overtime tied our limitations to myths bordering on people, place and time. They are untrue. But we, and many others, have believed them for a long time.

**The People-Myth of Limitation:** There are two dimensions to this myth hinging on the experience of other people and their words. The first leg of the myth is that 'if it has not been done by people, then, it cannot be done', and the second is that 'those who give a negative assessment of your potential know what they are talking about'. Neither is true. You must have heard about Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb and how many times he failed before perfecting it. The only problem with that story is that Edison did not invent the light bulb. Years before Edison, there had been experiments with the light bulb. Edison's predecessors were unable to develop resistant, durable and commercially viable light bulbs. But he was not limited by the failures of others or their expressions that it could not be done.

**The Place-Myth of Limitation:** The place-myth is one of the most popular myths of limitation. The idea that where you were born, the country you live in or the school you attend can limit who and what you become in life. Well, this is true only to the extent you permit it and you are willing to use your location as an excuse for not dreaming more and becoming better.

**The Time-Myth of Limitation:** Some might think that you are young, so you are not expected to contribute to the society, take up responsibilities, engage in socio-political discourse, think of an innovative idea, and certainly you cannot own a business. The misimpression can be created that at a young age, there is plenty of time ahead in the future to do something meaningful with life, so you can just enjoy the pleasures of youth for now. In the end, being young explains all maladies. These are the time-myths of limitation, and they are untrue. Events around the world prove this. Young people are getting involved more and more in socio-political discourse. Simply read up the story of Shubham Banerjee, who at 13, designed an affordable braille printer to be used by visually impaired people. Ask Mikaila Ulmer, the 13-year-old Chief Executive Officer 'Me & the Bees Lemonade', a business which she started at age 4 when she made lemonade using her great grandma's recipe and submitted it at a children's business fair. A myth is only as powerful as you make it. Permit your mind to dream big. Write down your dream, imagine ways you can achieve the dream and write it down, then begin to work on it. Remember, you are not too young. 



Mr. D.K. Smith, Principal, OIS, Alfa Saleh and Mr. Olanipekun



# The Sardines win big at 2018 PTA Swimming Gala



By Oluwakemi Oni

The Sardines have emerged as the winners of the relay event at the 2018 PTA Swimming Gala. The relay event which is the most anticipated category at the swimming gala had four teams compete for the 'Big Fish' trophy. They were Sharks, Piranhas, Stingrays and Sardines.

The swimming gala also featured a championship round for individual swimmers from the various year groups. The winners in the girls' category were Rereloluwa Adeoye, Eliora Okpara and, Netochukwu Kalu; and for boys, Chimmy Chidi-Ogbaji, Olaolu Lamikanra and Ethan Nwaogu.

*Oluwakemi Oni is in Year 11.*





By Jewel Agbara

**R**ed House has emerged as the winner of the inter-house volleyball competition in the girls' category while Green House emerged as the winner in the boys' category. Green House won the intermediate and senior category but lost the junior category to Blue House to claim the victory. 🏐

*Jewel Agbara is in Year 10*

# Inter-House Volleyball Competition





# Inter-school basketball match

By Aduragbemi Jojolola

Olashore International School played against Iloko Model College in a basketball friendly match.

The match commenced with a jump ball, during the course of the game, some recurrent fouls were committed. At the end of the first quarter, Iloko Model College (IMC) was leading with three points. The game continued and the second quarter lasted for another 7 minutes with OIS leading this time. There was a timeout.

The match resumed with no changes made by either team. The game went on and after another 5 minutes, a timeout was called by IMC which gave them the opportunity to change their game plan and relax for one minute. The third quarter ended with OIS leading. At the end of the fourth quarter, OIS was still leading IMC with a score of 22 – 07 points. The match ended in favour of OIS. ▣

*Aduragbemi Jojolola is the Sports Prefect*





# Alumnus Graduates with First Class in Engineering

**E**mmanuel Pius-Ogiji (Class of 2012) graduated with a first class honours degree in engineering from the University of Manchester. In this interview, he speaks about his feat and his time in school.

## How did it feel to graduate with a first class degree?

It felt really great. It was a huge sigh of relief knowing those 5 years in the university and in fact, 20 years of education as a whole was crystallized at that moment. All the hard work, sacrifice and all that went into the degree yielded a favourable outcome.

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

I always want to come out with the best possible result from anything I go into and really a part of me felt that not aiming and doing all that is necessary to make a first class would be a disservice to the results and accolades I have luckily been able to gather in my lifetime especially from Olashore. In fact, setting targets is something I started whilst at Olashore in Year 7; my dorm tutor Mr Desalu had us submit targets at the start of a new CA session or just before exams.

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

There were quite a number of challenges, I think the major ones that come to mind are, first of all, dealing with adapting to a new country and everything that comes with it in terms of different weather, the way of life to mention a few. In addition to that, another real challenge at least initially was with some practical work. I always tell the story of how on my second day at the university, I stepped into my first lab session and was asked to start soldering components on a board. I kept expecting someone to come in front of everyone and explain how to do it, only to look around and see most of the class going on like they had been doing this for years. That moment kind of let me know that I had some catching up to do at least on that front. Another slight challenge is that I was brought up with the idea of tests and these tests do kind of force you to study and the advantage of that is when you get to studying for an exam, there is only a small portion of the material that you have not gone over before but in university here, it is not the same and as such you have to take that into account in terms of how you strategise.



Emmanuel Pius-Ogiji (Class of 2012)

## What would you attribute your success to?

Well, God first of all. After that, however, I think the main factors were the regular things you hear like hard work, being organised and all that entails which is of course very important but aside from those, key things for me would be the support from my family. Whenever I had issues or hit any roadblock, my parents were always on the phone to listen to these issues, offer advice, encourage me and essentially do whatever was necessary. Again, keeping a close relationship with God helped as it kept me level-headed. I'd also add that in terms of being organised, establishing a daily routine is something I cannot recommend enough as it's an easy way to get yourself to always do what is necessary at a set time. This in turn allows you enjoy your free time more which is also important as things can get overwhelming sometimes and making maximum use of free time to recover was key.

## Why did you choose to study at the University of Manchester?

It was sort of a gradual choice. I knew I wanted to study in the U.K. if possible and when I spoke with my family and they supported the notion, I looked up the top ranking U.K. universities in Electrical and Electronic Engineering which I wanted to study. From that search, I gathered some candidates and when I added in the fact that I wanted to do a foundation year rather than A-levels, that list shortened and at that point, given the history and employability rate of graduates, the University of Manchester rose to the top of the list.

## What was the transition process like for you?

The transition process was not the easiest thing but I think the key thing that helped me

come through it was just the understanding that I have been fortunate to be at such a prestigious institution and allowing issues with transition which in the grand scheme of things are minute to affect me and possibly my results would be quite wasteful on my part.

## Why did you study engineering?

Engineering always appealed to me as a profession just because of the problem-solving nature of it. I want to work and know that what I am working on is either making someone's work or life easier. The type of satisfaction phone engineers, for instance, get when they design phones and know that their work is going to add value to lives around the world. That is the type of satisfaction I want from my working life.

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

I still remember my time at Olashore a lot and find myself reminiscing on it from time to time. So much so that it is hard to believe that it was about 12 years ago that I stepped in as a fresh Year 7 student. I still remember crying about missing home and struggling to adjust like it was a few days ago. My Olashore journey from that point to Year 12 when I was Deputy Head Boy is something that will always stick with me because I would always say those 6 years are really responsible for so many parts of who I am as a person now.

## What impact did Olashore have on you?

Olashore has a mantra that always stuck out to my father and was probably one of, if not, the main reason he decided to send me there and that is how the school aims towards building total children. The school's emphasis on not just academics, but also social and moral aspects were key for me and those sort of social skills helped me whilst settling down into a strange environment. Also, I mentioned how important I think having a daily routine is and essentially, Olashore built that into me with prep times, sports and all that built into a well set up schedule that allows you to be productive whilst not feeling like you are overworked.

## What is the next phase for you?

Right now, I am looking to secure a graduate engineering role which centres on either software development, embedded systems or IT in general here in the U.K. where I can hopefully put my skills to good use whilst also gaining new ones as well as just general experience in the professional work environment.

## Do you have any plans to return to Nigeria?

Home is home for a reason and the door is always open if the opportunity is right. I want to be a positive asset to wherever I go next and if that happens to be going back home, so be it. 🇳🇮



# Alumna graduates with first-class law degree from Birmingham

Similoluwa Oladimeji recently graduated with a first-class honours degree in law from the University of Birmingham. In this interview, she speaks about her feat and what she did differently to achieve excellence.



Similoluwa Oladimeji and her mother

## How does it feel to graduate with a first class from a U.K. university?

It genuinely feels so amazing. I consider it to be one of the greatest achievements of my life so far. Many times, I considered graduating with a first class degree in law to be an impossible feat, however, I kept on reassuring myself to do my very best and leave the rest to God. I am very happy that God was faithful, and my hard work paid off.

## Did you set out to graduate with a first class degree?

Before I began my degree, I aspired to graduate with a first class, however, I found my first year results to be very disappointing, this experience really affected my confidence. By my second year, I still maintained the desire of just wanting a reasonable 2.1, as I considered my law degree to be too challenging. It was at the beginning of my third year that I had a game-

changing experience. I was challenged by one of my close friends, Eniti, to aim for a first class, she told me that I was already working so hard and all I needed was to believe in myself and God more. This experience helped change my mind and really inspired me to aim to graduate with a first class.

## What would you attribute your success to?

Firstly, I believe my degree success is an outcome of God's immeasurable kindness and faithfulness towards my family and I. A key thing I learnt during my degree is the ability to work smart alongside working hard. I became friends with a lot of law students in the year above mine; I received a lot of advice and insight from them. I was also very privileged that a good number of them gave me some of their written works, so I was able to compare in my own little way, what makes a first-class work different from a 2.1 work and below. My entire family were also very supportive, especially my parents and my older brother. Finally, my friends acted as the best support system, we are all very driven and ambitious, and we spent countless hours working together, in and out of the library.

## What were some of the challenges you encountered while in school and how did you deal with them?

In my first year, I really struggled to understand the university system. Studying law was very different from any other thing I had studied in my life. While in my first year, we were already expected to think very analytically and write legal essays with such a mindset, however for me, it was still a very new experience. A good number of people I knew already studied law during their A-Level education, so they didn't struggle as much. During that period, I tried my best to focus on developing myself and my own understanding. I attended a lot of extra teaching sessions organised by



the law school. I also always asked for advice on how to improve from my mates who did better than me and especially from senior law students who were already on course for a first-class.

### Why did you study law?

Growing up, I enjoyed participating in debating and public speaking activities. While at Olashore, I really enjoyed representing the school at AISEN competitions. These activities helped develop my communication and interpersonal skills; as a result, I was advised to study law. During my Olashore days, my favourite subject was economics, so I really struggled when deciding between economics or law as my degree course. I was advised by my parents and older brother to first complete a law degree as I could easily always come back to economics. I am very happy with my decision.

### Why did you choose to study at the University of Birmingham?

After deciding to study law, I wanted to study at a top university of law, not only within the U.K. but in the world as well; the University of Birmingham was a very good fit. The law school at Birmingham is one of the oldest and most respected law schools within the U.K. and my university has maintained a strong tradition of providing world-class degree education for over 100 years. I also really liked the fact that the university is in the young, vibrant, ever-evolving city of Birmingham.

### How was the transition process from Nigeria to the U.K. for you?

Apart from my struggles with my law degree in my first year, I found it very easy to transition to life in the U.K. Apart from the language barrier for some students, I believe the biggest challenge international students face when they come to study in the U.K. is the fact that for most of them, it is their first time being separated from their families. However, after being in Olashore for seven years (including my foundation year), I had learnt how to take care of myself and adapt easily to new situations on my own.

### Did being female in any way pose a challenge to you in course of your study in the U.K.?

I personally did not experience any challenges during my course that related to my gender. Birmingham Law School has a lot of female students as well as a



Similoluwa with a friend

lot of female alumni that are now judges, partners at law firms, working for the World Bank, etc. We always have a good number of female alumni come back to speak to and motivate us.

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

I genuinely would not do anything differently. I believe every aspect of my university journey was specially designed and intended by God. There were moments when I was too hard on myself and had regrets, however looking back, I am very grateful for every challenge and blessing that came my way; they helped shape the person I have now become.

### How involved were you in other school activities at Birmingham?

I would say I was very involved with other school activities during my time at university. Carrying on with my love for debating, I immediately joined the University's Debating Society once I began my degree. In my second year, I was an elected Member of the Public Debates Sub-committee of the society. I placed as a finalist at the Union of West Midlands Universities Pro-Am Debating Competition and as a semi-finalist at the Nottingham Open Debating Competition.

I was also the brand ambassador of Hogan Lovell's law firm at the University of Birmingham during my second year. In my final year, I acted as the treasurer of the University's Sickle Cell Awareness Society. I really wanted to learn about other cultures when I began my degree, so I was a member of both the Chinese and Korean societies. These experiences improved my cultural intelligence greatly. During my time at university, I also successfully completed the University of Birmingham Free Language Programme Chinese Mandarin Level 1 and Level 2 Courses.

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

Very crucial years of my life were spent at Olashore International School, I began as a pre-teen and left as a young adult (18 years old), after completing my foundation year. I am very grateful for my Olashore experience as I had the opportunity to develop myself in all aspects. While at Olashore, I enjoyed sports, QDP (Quiz, Debate and Public Speaking) and leadership opportunities. Being able to complete my secondary school experience at Olashore as Deputy Head Girl was a privilege and a responsibility I can never forget. My favourite Olashore memories involve travelling for competitions with the school's debating team, although we came from different year groups, we all bonded very well and teachers like Mr Razaq and Mr Adeboboye provided the best support. I also had the opportunity to build close relationships with students from the other international schools we met while competing.

### What are your plans for the future?

I aspire to either end up in the legal sector or the business sector later in life. During my degree, I personally enjoyed working for my university and I currently have a full-time summer job with the university. After 2018 summer, I most likely might continue to work for my university and develop skills in the higher education sector or I might decide to go into the legal world directly in hopes of becoming a solicitor in the U.K.

### Are you looking to return home?

At the moment, I do not have plans to return to Nigeria to work. I am going to begin my career journey in the U.K. I would still hopefully come home to visit as many times as I can while living in the U.K. ☺



# Bankole, trailblazing in digital trading

**M**r Bankole Alao is an accomplished technology business development leader with years of Africa-wide experience driving revenue by crafting innovative solutions. He is currently the CEO of Pepper Rest Africa, a start-up company he co-founded to facilitate secure trade within and across borders. In this interview, he talks to us about his startup company and much more.



Bankole Alao, CEO, Pepper Rest Africa

**You are a technology business development leader with over ten years' experience. What sparked your interest in technology?**

It all started when I was about to graduate from Olashore. There was a big buzz around PCs, and what was called "the millennium bug" or "Y2K bug". It turned out to be a big hoax because we all thought there was going to be some kind of funny explosion by the year 2000 if computers had not switched over their systems into being year 2000 or Y2K compliant. So that and a bit of exposure by my father to technology sales. My father had an ICT company where he supplied computer consumables and computers to corporate organisations. And of course, we were playing computer games. At that time it was games as basic as

Prince of Persia. All of these sparked my interest and that was why I kind of gravitated towards technology.

**What is the idea behind Pepper Rest Africa and Mobile Culture?**

Ok, first of all, Pepper Rest Africa is a fintech startup. Pepper Rest Africa is a platform that seeks to help people buy more securely, especially when you are buying from a seller who is not physically present or whose items take a few days to deliver or who you have doubts about by virtue of the point of meeting. Maybe you met online, on social media or by referral. What Pepper Rest does is that it enables you to have your money protected as a buyer whenever you are buying these items and until the time when the seller delivers the items to you and you are

satisfied, the money will not be released to the seller. We are what the financial experts call an escrow. We are an on-demand escrow platform but in layman English, we are a protection platform. Pepper Rest Africa is very new. It is something that we are building right now. I am sure, before the end of the year, it will become more pervasive. We are right now at a point where we are acquiring customers and merchant partners. As for Mobile Culture, it was a company I started in 2003 when I was still at the university. GSM had just been introduced into Nigeria. So we were all getting used to things like text messaging and obviously mobile phone calls. At that time, the need arose for people to send bulk messages to their customers and that was difficult using just a phone. So there was that need at



the time which presented itself so I did a little bit of research and found out that there was something called "SMS Marketing" and I set about finding partners who could help build me a platform that did that. So we built a platform. We went about promoting the business and it was quite successful. It was successful enough to get me my first real job. I don't know if the employers at the time realised that the company that gave me the experience for the job I got was actually a company that I founded myself. But of course, the point is, there was a need in the marketplace and we met that need by creating an SMS marketing company. That was what Mobile Culture did for many years until we just had to rest it because the technology and time had passed.

#### Who are the targets and who benefits from it?

Pepper Rest Africa is for people like you and me who want to buy things that we like. When we go online and we check out things, maybe on social media, we see things we like and maybe we don't know the person selling it. Buying and selling are much easier when you know who the other person is on the other side. But the reality of today is that you don't know everyone you want to buy from but you still want to buy. You see a pair of shoes, you like them, you want to buy them, if you keep waiting to find someone who you know to buy from, you may not buy the shoes. So the target for Pepper Rest is the everyday person who wants to buy an item. It goes as far as people who are in specialist industries, like construction who want to buy materials from contractors or from merchants. If we are to refine it even further, I would say that the profile of our best customer is a lady because we found out that ladies are more interested in purchasing things that they see online, whether it be shoes, hair products, beauty products and what not. Yes, that is our target customer.

#### You are doing well in the fields of engineering and marketing. How do you marry the two fields?

What helps me straddle both fields is first, my training. I am a trained electrical and electronics engineer, so that background and foundation helped me understand technology very well. Beyond my university degree, I also very early started getting certified in things at the time like database programming and application development. With that



foundation, understanding technology from a deep level made it quite easy to make the transition into marketing because I found at some point that I had a good flare for creating a product. The career path that really put that out there was a marketing role. So it was only natural for me to start progressing into a more marketing-focus role. But my roots lay very strongly in my background as an engineer.

#### What is the most important piece of advice you ever received?

That is a tough question. Well, the one I can remember now is that what makes you a successful or an accomplished person is not really the absence of

failure. It is really how you react to your experience of failure that will determine if you can be classified as successful or not.

#### What is your vision for the future?

My vision for the future is to be able to influence this continent in the way things are done. My vision is for me to have an impact on the environment where I'm in. I'm learning every day that my impact should not just be restricted to this country, so I have a broader scope. My vision is to influence how things are done especially in the areas that I have chosen to focus on for now. For instance, in the area of commerce, I have decided that over the next five years, I want to be able to beat my chest and say that I have fixed a number of trust issues that we have in commerce on this continent. And then we press a reset button and set a new vision for ourselves.

#### Aside from tech business, what else are you involved in?

Farming. I have an oil palm plantation that I am playing around with right now. It is more of a pet project. I have also got a small trading business that I am looking to build to make it easier for people to be able to access cash, or deposit cash in remote areas or at least at remote hours. I'm also passionate about orphan children. I'm passionate about seeing how we can improve the lots of children who are not as fortunate as we are by at least providing some form of help for them to go through school and to have basic needs. ■

**What helps me straddle both fields is first, my training. I am a trained electrical and electronics engineer, so that background and foundation helped me understand technology very well. Beyond my university degree, I also very early started getting certified in database programming and application development.**



# Questions students should ask at a university fair

**A**s a high school student, college fairs are a great opportunity for you to show your interest in a particular college or university and ask questions about the college. It's always good to come to college fairs prepared and one of the best ways to do that is to prepare some questions to ask the college representatives so that you come across as an informed and serious applicant.

## Before you attend a college/university fair

Find out what colleges are going to be there, and decide which ones you're going to visit. Bring something to write on, a list of colleges you want to visit, and a folder to collect materials. If possible, list the questions you're going to ask. Carry out some research on each school before you go! You want to avoid asking questions when the answers are easily found on the website or questions with a simple yes/no answers.

Here are some great questions you could ask a college representative at a college fair. These questions have been categorised into five major areas: academics, admissions, financial aid, campus life and post-college questions. Even if you don't want to ask all these questions, you should still try to find their answers before you settle for a college.

### 1. Academics

#### What programme(s) is the college known for?

Give the college representative a chance to brag about the college (they love doing that). Ask them what majors or minors are accredited at the university and why. This will give you an insight into what degree programme gets the most resources and which majors are the most competitive for admission.

#### Does the college offer special programmes like independent study, study abroad, etc?

If you already know that you're going to participate in a unique programme like study abroad while you're in college, this is a crucial question to ask. You should make sure that the colleges you are applying to will meet your requirements. Moreover, even if you don't intend to participate in a study abroad programme, you should not rule out the

option by attending a college that does not offer those special programmes. Asking a question like this indicates that you are adventurous, open to new experience, and have thought in-depth about your college career and what you want to do during your years in college.

#### How do first-year students choose their classes?

This is a very important question. At some universities, freshmen are given priority enrollment and can thus begin taking required courses for their degree as soon as they enter college. In other universities, however, freshmen enrol later than other students and are given last priority, making it extremely hard to get into the classes they want. So if you're trying to graduate early or pursue multiple majors in college, you should ask this question to clarify whether that would be possible at the university in question.

### 2. Admissions

#### What is SAT /ACT score range of most of the admitted students?

For study destination in the US, you need to ask questions about the SAT. If you've already taken the SAT/ACT and have received your scores, this question can indicate where you stand in comparison to admitted students and what your chances are of getting admitted. You can also use this to determine whether you need to take the test again to try and achieve a higher score. On the other hand, if you haven't taken the SAT/ACT yet, this question can give you a score range to aim for. This question is also a good gauge of the competitiveness of the college or university. The higher the average standardized test score for the university, the more competitive the school's college admission is likely to be.

#### Are there any specific requirements for certain programmes at the university?

Some colleges require extra application supplements like a portfolio, special interview, or audition (for performing arts majors). These requirements are not always obvious so it might be good to clarify with an admissions expert from the university. If it turns out there are special requirements for the programme you're interested in, you can use the college fair as an opportunity to ask

about and learn more about what the college wants to see in this extra supplement.

#### Are certain majors more competitive than others?

When you fill out your college applications, you will likely have to list an "intended major", and the admissions committee will make a decision on your application based on your credentials and the college's availability in that particular major department. They may even compare your application to other students who also applied to that major. Thus, it's important to know how competitive it is to gain admission to a certain major in a college so that you can plan your college application accordingly. It may be beneficial to list an intended major on your application that is less competitive than your preferred major in order to gain admission to the university.

#### What percentages of applicants are accepted to the university?

This question is a great way to gauge the competitiveness of a university's college admissions. The lower the acceptance rate, the more competitive the university is. You should have a good mix of universities with low acceptance rates and high acceptance rates on your college list so that you apply to a mix of schools.

### 3. Financial Aid

#### What financial aid programmes does the college have?

This is a pretty vague question, and you may not receive a very specific or detailed answer. What may happen, though, is that the college representative will ask you about your financial situation, starting a bigger conversation about financial aid options that are tailored to your specific needs or qualifications. Alternatively, the college representative could refer you to a website or an office that you can contact to find out this information.

#### What is the amount of the average financial aid package awarded to students at the university?

This is an important question not just for you as an applicant but for your family, who may be thinking about how they are going to afford to send you to college in a few years. *To be continued.* ■





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