# OLASHORE Alumni Magazine





# **OLASHORE**

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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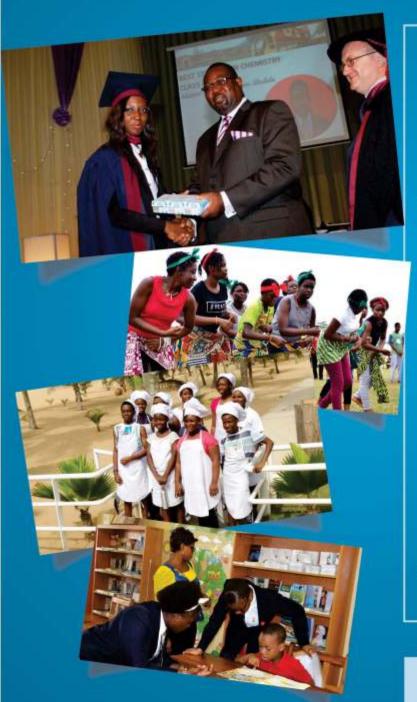
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# Indigene Scholarship Scheme





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

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



You can contribute by making payment into the scholarship account:

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Account number
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Bank name
Access Bank PLC.

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# From the Editor!

t is a great pleasure to welcome you to another edition of the Olashore Alumni magazine.

The school continues to follow the progress of her graduates as they go on to break records and do us proud in their various fields. Following our report on alumni who graduated with first class degrees in the last edition, we received news of more alumni graduating with first class degrees. In this edition, we feature two alumni - Similoluwa (Class of 2014) and Emmanuel (Class of 2012).

Special thanks to Mr Bankole Alao for being a part of the class of 2018 Valedictory Service. His presence was an inspiration to the students. Mr Alao is the cover of this edition as he shares with us his journey after Olashore International School in an exciting interview.

This year, the school will be celebrating its 25th anniversary and we would like to use this opportunity to ask our alumni to be part of all the activities lined up to celebrate this milestone.

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

Here is saying a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of this magazine. Feel free to send your contributions, suggestions and articles to us. Also join us on Facebook on

https://www.facebook.com/groups/437262322951232/, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @olashoreschool and connect with us on LinkedIn by searching for Olashore International Alumni Networking Group.

Thank you.



# CONTENTS

**6** Principal's Message 7 News

8 Cover

Principal's Message

18

An Interview with Bankole Alao Co-founder & CEO Pepper Rest Africa

12
Achievement
Alumni Graduate
with First Class
Degrees

Event

22
My Olashore Experience
as an Alumna

23 Celebrity Alumni Obinna Okwodu

### **Principal's Message**

elcome to this edition of the alumni magazine. The 2017/18 academic session was a very exciting and successful one as the school gained recognition nationally and internationally for the success of students and alumni both recent and longstanding. Academically, students within the school achieved the best results in the history of the school, the school received an Outstanding Learner Award from the British Council/Cambridge International Examinations for the performance of students in the IGCSE examinations. Alongside this recognition of academic success, two Olashore International School students were recognised by COBIS, the premier international schools association, for their outstanding achievements within the school community and nationally. We saw students graduating with first class degrees from universities locally and internationally. I, even, received the 2018 Africa Outstanding School CEO Award for consistent top level performance by Olashore graduates. In addition, 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. To cap the year, in July, Mr. Bode Olanipekun, who graduated from Olashore in 1999 became the youngest SAN in the history of Nigeria. He will be joining us as Guest Speaker at this year's Speech and Prize Giving Day. All alumni are welcome to attend the event which is scheduled to take place by 2pm on November 10.

As a school, we are very proud of the success of our alumni. Special thanks to Mr. Bankole Alao, Pioneer Deputy Head Boy for joining us at the 2018 Valedictory Service. He shared with us stories of the success of Olashore alumni as well as his own experience working with leading tech companies before setting up his business.



His presence was an inspiration to the graduating class. More students continue to graduate with first class degrees and I must congratulate Similoluwa Oladimeji (Class of 2014) and Emmanuel Pius-Ogiji (Class of 2012), who graduated with first class degrees from their respective universities. It seems like only yesterday that Simi graduated from Olashore. They are both featured in this edition. I would like to also congratulate and thank Dr. Oladoyin Olaosebikan (Class of 2008) on a successful NYSC year. She served as a doctor in the school clinic. The staff and students will miss her, however, I am very pleased that Dr. Oluwayanmike Olowe (Class of 2009) has joined us to undertake her NYSC year with us. Just like Dr. Olaosebikan and Dr. Olowe, alumni who have recently graduated and are looking forward to NYSC, are welcome to carry out their NYSC in the school. You don't need to be a doctor! If you are posted to Osun State, or would like to be, please email Mr. Rufai(hakeem.rufai@olashoreschool.com). There are numerous opportunities for you in the school.

As we begin a new academic session, the school will celebrate its 25th anniversary. I am particularly excited and look forward to an exciting year of events being lined to celebrate this milestone. We have a number of events taking place

in the school where we will compete with some of our old rivals in sports, debates and quizzes. We'd love to welcome alumni who are based locally to join us and support the current Olashore students. In addition we have plans for a number events around the country as well as a major programme around Founder's Day. In November, the school play will be performed in Abuja, Ibadan and Lagos. In December, the Friends of Olashore plan to host an event in Port

Harcourt. This will be a great opportunity for alumni and their families to get together and I hope the current students who are based in Port Harcourt will be able to attend and perform. For the Founder's Day celebration, which will take place on Saturday 9th February due to the elections, we are expecting a very special guest to join us. Dr. and Mrs. Burgess, the founding principal of the school, has agreed to attend. In addition to the ceremony in the morning we will also be hosting a formal dinner in the banquet hall at the Royal Park Hotel on the Saturday evening and we would love as many alumni as possible to attend. As we are aware so many members of the Olashore School community would love to attend and catch up with Dr. Burgess we will also host an additional event in Lagos for those who are unable to attend the Iloko event.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the Board's plans to support alumni who would like their own children to benefit from an Olashore education, the Board will grant a 25% scholarship on tuition fees to the children of alumni. We look forward to beginning to develop second-generation Olashore alumni.

Enjoy this edition of the magazine and I look forward to hearing from and meeting more of you very soon.



# **Halima Achieves Highest Score Nationally** in IGCSE **Economics**

ormer Deputy Head Girl, Halima Salaudeen has been recognised by the British Council and Cambridge International Examinations for achieving the highest score in economics in the IGCSE examination.

This follows the last year's success where another student, Mofiyinfoluwa Okupe, was recognised for having the highest English Language score in Nigeria.

# **Principal Smith Speaks at BETT Conference**

rincipal and CEO of Olashore International School, Mr D.K. Smith was part of the panel of discussion on International Schools in Focus at the BETT MEA 2018, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirate.

The event was organised to discover ways to implement policies and technologies to keep schools ahead of the curve. Mr Smith was part of this cuttingedge discussion to bring solutions to education internationally. The Olashore leadership programme was at the centre of discussion at the event as the Principal shared how the programme based on the Social Change Model of Leadership can develop leadership skills in the students while simultaneously having a positive impact on the local community.

## Olashore Students Receive COBIS Award



Olalere and Taslim Salaudeen, have received the 2018 COBIS Student Achievement Awards. Chidera Olalere was recognised for her 'Sustained, High-level Contribution to the Wider Life of the School', and Taslim Salaudeen for 'A Single Act of Bravery'. The students were awarded at the COBIS Annual Conference in London in May.

The award is given in the following categories: Outstanding Academic Achievement; Sustained, High-level Contributions to the Wider Life of the School: Significant Contributions to

wo students. Chidera Fundraising Activities and A Single Act of Bravery.

> Chidera received the award for her immense contribution to the debate and public speaking in the school. She has participated in and won many internal and external competitions including the Akintola Williams National Debate where her team came first and she was recognised as the best speaker.

Taslim, on the other hand, has over the years support and assist the less privileged through his constant donation of relief materials. He has participated in several

school along with his peers. In December 2017, Taslim personally initiated and executed a fundraising campaign to help meet some of the needs of Internally Displaced Persons living in a camp named Sesor in Lagos, Nigeria, due to the Boko Haram terrorist insurgencies. He was successful at this as he raised a total sum of N300, 000 for Sesor before returning to school in January.

The Council of British demonstrated his desire to International Schools, COBIS, is a membership association of British International Schools of global quality and corporate supporting members, representing over the School's Charity fundraising activities in the 500 member organisations.

## Alumnus Becomes Nigeria's Youngest SAN

r Olabode Olanipekun has become the youngest Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, in the history of the country.

This followed the announcement of his conferment as SAN in July. According to the LPPC Secretary, the rank was conferred on the beneficiaries for distinguishing themselves as legal practitioners. Olabode is currently a partner at Wole Olanipekun & Co. law firm.

He graduated from Olashore International School in 1999 and will be the guest speaker at the 2018 Speech and Prize Giving Day in November.





Co-Founder & CEO Pepper Rest Africa

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

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 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

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

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





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

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

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 is 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 it, you want to buy it, if you keep waiting to find someone who you know to buy from, you may not buy the shoes. So the target for the 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.



In this country, the first challenge has to be a validation of your idea. When you decide you want to solve a problem. You need to first find out whether the problem is large enough for someone else to care about paying for it. Because many times you can get very sentimental about an idea that you have and

not look at the facts on ground. So you might like some concept, maybe the concept of hiring out bicycles, for instance. Just for the sake of this conversation, but you don't go down to the nitty-gritty of finding out whether there is a demand for that kind of service. Imagine



might be a market for bicycles. At least, those are safer than cars on the school road. Imagine if you had that idea and never really tested it out by maybe simply just running a few interviews with people who work or school here. You can run the idea, go expend effort on the technology around it and then you break your head trying to push the product and the product would not move because, there is no strong demand. So for me the first challenge that startups here have is the inability or the reluctance to actually test out the ideas whether there is a demand strong enough to justify investing your time and your effort and your money into building the product. Closely after that I would say, funding. Funding, because, as you will find out not every tech or business entrepreneur is skilled in writing code or doing the ground work that is required to build a product. So, if you have an idea, you may need to find experts who can help you translate that idea into a tangible product. And those experts don't always come free of charge. Some of them may not be friendly. They are professionals and they need to be paid. So, these are the hurdles

don't let cars go into the school

campus, who knows, perhaps there

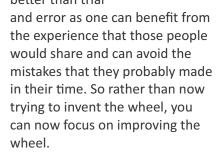


that many start-ups face in terms of translating the ideas that they have. Even in cases when they have tested it and turned it into a product that can actually be used by consumers, they still need to get some kind of user feedback. So I think these two things are usually, the very first set of hurdles you have to cross.

# If there is someone out there who has an idea for a start-up, but doesn't know what to do or how to begin, what will you say to that person?

I will say, find people doing something close to what you want

to do and become friends with them or get introduced to them and ask them questions. I think learning from people is probably the fastest way to deliver or develop one's own idea. This even works better than trial



## 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?

That is a tough question. 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.

# RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

**By Bankole Alao** 

#### 1. Don't dwell on the past

If you spend so much time dwelling on the success of the past, you will be losing grounds on the success of the future. In the same way, if what is in the past is failure, don't spend too much time dwelling on it.

#### 2. Keep looking forward

If you failed at something, don't dwell on it. Look at how you can actually turn things around and make amends for whatever the failure was.

## 3. Believe in your ability to execute

Never think something is impossible because no one has everdone it.

# 4. Believe in the power of faith and positivity

No matter what your inclination may be, there's usually a lot of momentum you can gain from trusting that there are superior beings that will support your effort if you push them to a particular direction.

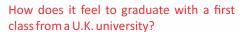
#### 5. Have a mission

Don't live your life casually. Live it deliberately. You may not have figured it out but know that you are out to do something. Pursue it as such.

### Achievement

# Alumna graduates with first class law degree from **Birmingham**

imiloluwa 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.



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

#### 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 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, 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.

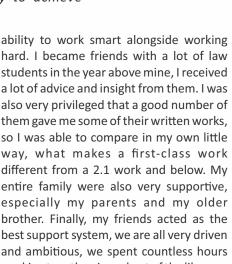


Similoluwa Oladimeji

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 firstly 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, everevolving 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 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.

I was the brand ambassador of Hogan Lovells law firm at the University of Birmingham during my second year.

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 the both the Chinese and Korean Society. 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 preteen 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.

### g back, I

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.









## 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 Subcommittee 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



# **Emmanuel: First Class Engineering Student**

mmanuel Pius-Ogiji (Class of 2012) just 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 and was very much surreal that 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 had yielded a favourable of a new CA session or just before exams. 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 as in Year 7, my dorm tutor, Mr Desalu had us submit targets at the start

#### 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 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

### **Achievement**

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.

## 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 which 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 opportuned 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. That type of satisfaction like engineers at Samsung, 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 hopefully 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.



# **British Council Honours Alumna**

alima Salaudeen 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 was recognised 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 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 comprise the support system to which 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 heartwarming 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 journeythrough life.



# **HEALTHY HABITS FOR LIVING WELL**

In this article, Dr Adeyemi examines healthy lifestlye for proper well being.

ealthy habits formed now will prolong lives to achieve their goals and enjoy successes in great health. Here are some ways you can be deliberate in living well to achieve your life goals.

#### 1. Choose healthier drinks

For many now, grabbing a soft drink at least once daily has become a habit. This results in undesirable health effects like excess weight gain, poor dental health and even addiction as some of these drinks contain caffeine. Make healthier choices like avoiding carbonated drinks and energy drinks that include large amounts of caffeine and opting for drinks like 100 percent fruit juices, low-fat milk, which provide vitamins A & B, calcium, magnesium and protein that are essential for good growth. Another option is to make healthy smoothies. Water is also a better alternative to sugar-laden soft drinks.

#### 2. Choose healthier portions

Maintain a healthy weight. Emphasis should not be on how robust and chubby one is, but on what weight is healthy and acceptable for the age (in children) and for the height (in adults). Opt for fresh rather than processed foods as often as you can and take healthy snacks. Eat healthy portions and increase fruits and vegetable intake.

#### 3. Healthy recreational options

Reduce indoor/TV/computer game time and encourage outdoor play/activities. Watching more than an hour or two of TV every day reduces the time available for other recreational activities and impairs physical and mental development. Physical exercise is of great benefit in

promoting cardiac, respiratory and muscular fitness. It also promotes good mental health. However, not everyone loves sports. Keep trying different activities until you find the one you love or can do. Physical activity includes play, games, sports, transportation, chores, recreation, physical education, or planned exercise, in the context of family, school, and community activities.



#### 4. Read every day

Developing strong reading skills now is an essential component of success in school and at work. Readers are said to be leaders and it is true as reading makes you more knowledgeable, opens up worlds of adventures, and builds your self-esteem.

# 5. Spend time with friends and the people you love

Maintaining good relationships is a vital part of good mental health. Interacting with friends and others build up social skills such as communication, cooperation and problem-solving. You also help your friends by providing a support system they can rely on.

#### 6. Contribute to society

Every person can make a difference to the society if they have the will to do so. You need not donate millions of naira to feed the hungry or do some heroic act in order to make a difference. Little acts of kindness, small changes in lifestyles and being a responsible part of the society will do the trick. I borrow a leaf from Olashore International School students who have imbibed this virtue and display it in their numerous selfless leadership projects - plant a tree, start a garden, volunteer at the community health centre, do something beneficial for the local children, manage waste properly, give to the needy....contribute to society!

## 7. Keep improving the quality of your life

Quality of life, as defined here, is the sum total of your health, happiness, vitality, leisure, and income. Forming and adhering to good habits has been identified as a major route to improving the quality of your life. In the face of rising economic challenges the world over, increasing terrorism and social vices amongst others; there needs to be a ready plan to cope and stay positive in the face of challenges. Adhering to habits that increase your happiness, income and sense of fulfilment will no doubt improve the quality of life.

In the words of Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Now is the best time to start becoming the person we eventually want to be, not only 20 years from now but also for all eternity".

#### **Event**





























# **Beyond the Classroom Student Excursion to South Africa and U.K**

s part of the school's beyond the classroom experience, students visited South Africa and the U.K. The trips involved a range of outdoor activities including climbing, abseiling and canoeing, direct teaching alongside cultural activities such as museum visits, sightseeing and visits to local schools. In South Africa, places visited include Nelson Mandela's house, Hector Pieterson Park, Lion Park, Soccer City,

Table Mountain, and Signal Hill. While in the U.K., the students visited Edinburgh, Manchester and Liverpool and had a session with a member of the parliament.





















# AFRICA IS NOT A COUNTRY IV

he 4th edition of the 'Africa is Not a Country' event took place on the Water Meadow in May. Now in its fourth year, the annual event originally formed part of the school's accreditation for The International Schools Award by the British Council. It gives students the opportunity to showcase the culture of different countries in Africa proving that Africa is not a country but a continent.

This edition featured a callisthenics display by students from different year groups who came together to spell out 'Africa'. The presentations consisted of dance, chants, recitation of the national anthem and a short talk about the represented country.

In preparation for the event, every year group from Year 7-11 picks an African country from a ballot box at the end of the first term in the session. This gives enough time for preparation and research.



By Dabiri Ojuoluwa

lashore International School held its 20th Valedictory Service to celebrate the graduating class of 2018. This year's special guest of honour was Mr Bankole Alao, the pioneer deputy head boy. In his address, he implored the class of 2018 to go out into the world and become 21st century leaders.

Also speaking on the occasion, Principal and CEO, Mr D.K. Smith praised the graduating class for setting very high standards. He stated that in October/November, many of them sat the Cambridge IGCSE examinations and their results were the best in the history of the school with five students achieving A\*/A in five or more subjects. He commended the graduating set for also achieving exceptional results in the JAMB-UTME where five students scored higher than the previous highest mark in the school.

The highpoint of the day was the awards given to the best student in various subjects. Ginikachukwu Kalu topped the awards list claiming four prizes.

To round off the event, the outgoing head girl, Omobolaji Olalere delivered her valedictory speech which captivated everyone present. She was very pleased with how they had all grown into fine young men and women.

The celebration reached its climax with a luncheon for parents and graduating students.

# Pioneer Deputy Head Boy Returns for 20th Valedictory Service





























# **My Olashore Experience**

Dr Oladoyin Olaosebikan, an alumna, shares her OIS-NYSC Experience.

was featured in the June 2017 edition of the Alumni magazine and as I flipped through the pages of the finished copy, I stumbled on the vacancy page which stated that Olashore International School needed a Corper doctor. At the time, I was about to enrol for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and it struck me that it would be a great way to give back to a school that gave so much to me. I emailed the school to show my interest and they were elated to have me. I resumed as a medical officer at the Olashore school clinic in September 2017.

First term began in September and ended in December, the first month was slightly challenging as I had to adjust to a new system. Prior to this, I had worked in a teaching hospital for about a year and the cases I saw at the teaching hospital were very different from the ones I saw at the school clinic. With time, I was able to adjust and learn the illness students present to the clinic for medical attention and how to manage them. Another challenge I faced was learning the student's names and matching them with faces. That changed after a few months and I can confidently say now that I know most of the students by name. I also realised that some students simply need someone to talk to, listen and give them some attention. As time went on, I became a friend, mentor and confidant to them.

To round off the term, the teaching and non-teaching staff participated in some online courses conducted by the British Council. The courses included understanding child protection, lesson management, assessment of learning, etc, this exercise really broadened my knowledge and enabled me to remain at the other to making Olashore

have staff development programmes occasionally as well. This goes to show that Olashore is indeed passionate about giving her students the best allround education to make them global leaders in the 21st century.

Second term began in January. Apart from medicine, photography is one of my passions. When I discovered the photography club in school, I began to look for ways to inculcate my passion into the hearts of the students so I started teaching them on Wednesdays. Teaching them has been very rewarding as it has helped me figure out creative ways to pass on knowledge while solidifying the knowledge I already have and watching them soak it all in has made it worthwhile.

Another highlight of my stay at Olashore was the school trip to Calabar with the year 7 students. I went with them as a chaperone/doctor/photographer. Being around the students outside of the school environment without the pressure of their school work was a lovely experience. I had also never been to Calabar so I had a good time there. We learnt about their culture. traditions, visited several tourist centres and had a taste of their nice delicacies.

The job has come with its challenges, but each challenge was turned into a learning experience. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to come back to work in Olashore, to give back and to make an impact in the lives of the young students. I want to appreciate the administration and all the members of staff who have made my stay enjoyable and have all contributed in one way or

par with international standards. We International School the paragon of excellence that it is.

> If you have any questions/enquiries about my stay, feel free to contact me via email at doyin.olaosebikan@gmail.com

> Are you interested in carrying out your NYSC at Olashore International

School? Send an email to info@olashoreschool.com









# HAPPY BIRTHDAY Adedolapo Adeyemi Uzoamaka Asonye

Chidinma Agbara

Iyunola Ahmadu

Mayode Ajiboye

Teniola Akande

Ibrahim Akinola

Tracy Akinrodoye

Modurotitiolumide

Olaoluwa Alalade

Ikeoluwa Alawode

Chigeruoka Amadi

Jeremiah Akpotohwo

Oluwafunmilayo

Akinsanya

Akinsuyi

Motolani Akingbade

Olubunmi Akingbola

Temitayo Akingboye

Mayowa Ajao

#### July

Juliet Aboh Adefola Adebamowo Oluwademilade Adebayo Titilayo Adegboyega Adeniyi Adegbulugbe Adedamola Adeleye Oluwatoyin Adeoye Ifeoluwa Adesina Ayomide Afolabi Oluwatobi Agbaje Adeniyi Agbola Oluwanifemi Aina Ifedolapo Ajaja Adeniyi Ajenifuja Mayowa Ajibade Oluwaseyi Ajisola Malik Akande Oluwarotimi Akande Moteniola Akingbade Ope Akinseloyin Gideon Akintunde Oluwaseun Alabi Idris Alimi-Omidiora Ndidi Amadi Awele Anumenechi Babatunde Araoye Oluwamuyiwa Arowolo Abosede Arowolo Oluwatosin Ashiru Kehinde Atofarati, Taiwo Atofarati, Olalekan Atoyebi Okpokanivwigho Avbovbo Olamide Awokunle Bolanle Awosemusi David Ayeni Oyinkansola Bakare Olatubosun Bakare Jonathan Byron Otitodilichukwu Chidi-Ogbaji Folaseye Coker Brian David-West Charles Ekpo-Umo Nnia Emeka-Aneke Ikenna Ene Folakemi Falana Abayomi Faleye Afolasade Farotimi Joanna Green Tolulope Griffin Omobolaji Ige Olumide Ilori Ginikachukwu Kalu Onyemaruchechi Kalu Elizabeth Kasali Oladipupo Kazeem Mohammed Kilanko Ayodeji Komolafe Abimbola Komolafe Moruf Lawal Kosisochukwu Mogekwu Ekenedilichukwu Ndubisi

Queen Nwokonneya

Arinze Nzegwu

Uyiosa Obaseki

Andrew Obiora

Kikachukwu Ofulue Toritse Ogbemi-Daibo Oluwatitomi Ogedengbe Darasimi Ogunnaike Morolake Ogunsanwo Oyindamola Ogunsua Modupe Ojelabi Nnamdi Okafor Olubukola Oke Olayemi Okeniyi Olamipo Oladunjoye Ayokunle Olaleye Oyindamola Ola-Oyewole Yetunde Olatunbosun Oyindamola Olatunji Adedamola Olobayo Odunayo Olowookere Olubukola Olowoyo Olubunmi Olowoyo Azeez Oloyede Lola Oluwa Oreoluwa Omang Oluwaseun Omobomi Oluwatobi Omoleye Folashade Omoniyi Enaefe Oniovosa Adekemi Opadere Orighomisan Oritse Oluwasoore Orunesajo Chukwunonso Osadebe Melody Osawaye Omotola Oyesile Olaoluwa Peters Eniola Sowande Jonathan Spiff Erasmus Spiff Kehinde Umar Taive Umar Jerhemba Wada Eyituoyo Wooda

#### August

Oluwafikayo Adebayo Theophilus Ade-Ojo Adebola Aderogba Ayodele Adeyemi Adedamola Adeyemo Toluwalope Adubi Paul Agbaje Ofufeke Ahmadu Grace Ajayi Demilade Ajayi Olufemi Aiibade Moiisola Akande Fikayo Akinluyi Amirah Akinola Muhammad Alako Chinonso Alawode Olamide Aribisala Omowumi Arokodare Veronica Awokunle Charles Awosemusi Fehintola Ayeni Tarlumun Ayu Ngohire Azoom Obiamaka Azubike Oluwanimofiyinfun Bakare

Loretta Balla Morenikeji Bandele Muhammad Bello Chinecherem Chidi-Ogbaji Oluwadamitan Dabiri Sharon Dimeji-Jojolola Aniebietabasi Ekong Esther Fabiyi Richard Faderin Abosede Fadugba Patrick Fagbola Ayorogbayimika Fayose Omolara Griffin Toyosi James Aanuoluwapo Jolaoso Adanma Kayode Iyiola Komolafe Tolani Lawal Adiba Maduegbuna Uwhetu Michael Rachel Mowo Abdulrahman Odunola Rodihat Oduwoye Ogheneruona Oghuvwu Olanrewaju Ogidan Mosinmiloluwa Ogunniran Ikechukwu Ohanwe Zainab Ojulari Tamarapreye Okara Olufunke Oke Akinola Okunrinboye Oluwatoyin Oladehinde-Salam Ninuola Oladunjoye Ayodeji Olagoke Oyedele Olagunju Ayomide Olaleye Babatunde Olasupo Saheedat Olatinwo Victor Olawale Oluwatobi Olowoporoku Oluyomi Olubajo Tanitoluwa Oludipe Oluwole Omoloja Toluwanimi Omotayo Opeoluwa Onipe Kaosisochukwu Onochie Oluwafemi Osikoya Tolulope Ososipe Damilola Shinkaiye Oribim Soso-Braide Tinuke Thomas Ometere Topah Harmony Wopara

#### September

Saratu Yakubu

Fauziyah Abdulazeez Olusegun Abidoye Toriade Adedeii Bankole Adeluola Oluwademilade Ademuson Oluwafunmilayo Adene Adetunji Adenipekun Adedamola Adeniran

Nasir Amao Oluwapelumi Amoo Okwunna Anyaoku Ibukunoluwa Araoye Anozie Arinze Tomisin Aroge Olaoluwa Asonibare Samson Ataiyero Modokpe Atsenuwa Akpomevigho Avbovbo Vivian Awokunle Babatunde Awosika Taiwo Ayangbile Olasubomi Āyeni Oluwatimilehin Babatunde Oluwatomifarati Bakare Oladimeji Daramola Avotomiwa Dare Mminika Effiong Ikechukwu Enenmoh Ehizokhale Esekhile Chinazo Eze Dennis Fadipe Olajumoke Fagbola Afolarin Farotimi Damilola Feyide Milverton Frimenjibo Uchenna Ibe Olabode Ige Nneka Igwe Olufemi Ilori Abiola Ilori Omobolaji Ilori Ekoche Ivoko Chigozie Izuogu Susannah Jaja-Agbasonu Omoyele James David Joel Atinuke Koleoluwa Rilwan Lawal Oluwafeyisayo Mabayoje Ugochukwu Mbakwe Blessed Mike-Etareh Amani Momoh Olamide Obembe Feyisayo Oduwole Aishat Oduwoye Debo Oginni Geoffrey Ohen

Omolola Oke Chukwudalu Okoye Temitope Okubanjo Chinonso Okwuonu Catherine Ola Olamide Oladoyin Olabode Olanipekun Petra Olaye Fidel Olaye Olubunmi Olowoporoku Oyinkansola Oluwaji Karima Omidiran Ihinosen Omonzane Oluwaseun Oni Temilade Orekoya Uyiosa Oriaki Andrew Osakwe Olatunde Oshunlaja Olabiyi Oshunlaja Akintola Oso Oludolapo Ososanya Oluwadurotimi Osunsanya Adebayo Osuntogun Henry Owolabi Ridwan Raji Wandoo Saa-Aondo Ekua Sagoe Sinmiloluwa Salami Tolulope Sivebukola Oredola Smith Bankole Sodipo Oluwakanyinsola Solarin Juliana Sydenham Manasseh Tomori Afoke Towuru Chinonyerem Uzoho Abdulwahab Yakubu Oluwamuyiwa Yusuf

#### October

Afsat Abdulrazaq AbdulAzizAbdurrahman Yewande Aboderin Ifeoluwa Abolade Boluwatife Abudu Chisombili Adabanya Damilola Adaju, Adebisi Adediji Adebola Adejuyigbe Oluseyi Adekanye Gbolahan Adelabu Folakumin Ademuson Shakirat Aderogba David Adeyemi Adetomike Adeyemi Moyosore Adeyoye Ibukun-Oluwa Agbaie Oluwaseyitan Agbaje Emmanuel Aina Oluwasetemi Ajayi Wuraola Ajeigbe Adeoye Akano Adetokunbo Akerele Olufemi Akinrele Agbeja Alayande Erinola Araove Adeolu Aromolaran

Olajide Ayeni Olumide Bamgbose Busola Bayo-Öjo Belema Boyle Nnaemeka Chukwuma Olumuyiwa Dixion Ellen Édet Otegane Egigba Ugonwanyi Evulukwu Jennifer Eyinagho Sofiri Ezekiel-Hart Folarinde Falana Oluwalonigba Fayose Chiemela İkechi Oluwatosin Ishola Olapeju Kazeem Olamiposi Ladipo Adeyemi Ladoja Chuka Obi Martins Odiaka Oladehinde Odunmbaku Abimbola Odunmbaku Oluwafunmilayo Odusanya Babatunde Ogidan Ayoade Ogundeji Adedamola Ogunniyi Ayokunle Ogunye Yusuf Ojulari Rafiat Ojulari Saidat Ojulari Damilare Ojurongbe Abdul-Ganiyu Okanlawon Abiola Oke Umar Okunade Oluseyi Okunola Oluwadara Olaniyan Abass Olaoye Opeyemi Olatubora Oluwaseun Olatunji Fortune Olley Grace Olunlade Motolani Olusola Babatunji Omolamiwa Oluwabusola Onipede Ifeyinwa Onyiuke Adebola Opadere Morolake Orekoya Victor Orisalade Oluwafisayo Orunesajo Yetunde Osedahunsi Yimika Osunsanya Samuel Oyediran Marian Sobavo EnioluwafeTope-Babalola Uyioenwongo Udoh Chukwuebuka Umegakwe Nengi Young-Allaputa



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# SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming school events

Nov.

Speech & Prize Giving Day

Dec. **16** 

Friends of Olashore Gala Night (Port Harcourt) For details, additional events and latest information, visit www.olashoreschool.com or send an email to info@olashoreschool.com

Feb.

Founder's Day

June **8** 

Valedictory Service