



## 2020 VISION OF EXCELLENCE.... RAISING OUR GAME

September 15, 2019

### Principal's Log

Dear College Family,

We have completed two weeks of school and have had several challenges of staffing and timetabling as we settle down. We should solve these issues over next two weeks.

There are about **thirty four (34) weeks** left to May 2020 and the beginning of CXC EXAMINATIONS.

#### ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & RIGOUR

Our *Collegemen* are more serious about their school work and we have seen **noticeable improvement** in our internal and external examination results. Our CSEC results have improved significantly with over 90% passes in 16 of our 23 subjects. English Language at 98% and Math at 92%. Of the 32 boys in 3<sup>rd</sup> form who sat Human & Social Bio, 25 received grade ones. We are not there yet but headed in the right direction.

This has raised the demand for limited 6<sup>th</sup> form spaces as more students qualify with improved performances. Also, a number of Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students were not promoted to Upper 6<sup>th</sup> as standards were raised.

We are a "WORK IN PROGRESS" with great expectations of our gentlemen. **Please insist on your sons/wards consistently doing the 3Rs daily.**

- **REVIEW**- going back through all the work done on the same day. Consolidating notes, checking Khan Academy, Google, Notesmaster and other support sites. Insist that they answer questions and write out the answers.
- **REPETITION** – practicing many examples. Do many problems/questions until they master the concept. Write out the answers.
- **READ AHEAD**- preparing for the classes to come by reading through course outlines and then the specific topics to be covered.

This routine will help to improve the academic discipline of your son/ward and his overall performance.

**Encourage and assist them in organizing their time, managing sleep, managing the phone, managing games and staying away from distractions.**

#### BEHAVIOUR

Please impress on your son/ward the importance of focus and behavior in class. Being attentive is the first step in learning. *Collegemen* must speak to teachers, staff and all adults with respect.

Good behaviour is required and expected. We will not tolerate poor or ungentlemanly conduct. We are **deliberately and conspicuously blue** in our uniform and so we must always demonstrate a high standard of discipline, on or off campus. This is extremely important on the streets and on the public transport.

Parents/guardians if you are aware that your son/ward has a history or an issue of misbehavior, please come in and see our Vice-principals, Dean of Student Affairs and/or Guidance Counsellors.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

School begins at 7:30 a.m. and we record, monitor and take action against boys who are consistently late. Consistent lateness will affect their ability to perform at school. Classes end at 2:45pm. Registration takes place from 2:45pm to **2:55pm** then school ends and the exit gate is opened.

Parents are asked not to block the driveway at any time. We are designing strategies to ease the traffic congestion at the end of school which will include the use of our parking lot entering on Ravinia and exiting on Hope Boulevard.

A number of WhatsApp groups have been established for ease of communication. The teacher in the group or the parent rep, if there is no teacher, is to ensure that the rules are clear and adhered to.

#### POLICIES

Grade 10 students wishing to do Math and/or English in CSEC must be recommended by their teachers. If approved, they will be placed in special groups that will enable them to do the required SBAs.

**Policy on Zeroes: Students have a responsibility to record, do and hand in their homework on time.** If homework is late, the student is allowed three (3) days to hand in the work. A penalty of not less than 10% of the total mark is applied. Illness or other valid excuses will be assessed by the teacher. If a student/parent is dissatisfied with a teacher's ruling, the matter can be escalated to the HoD, DOS, V/P then me.

**Students must attend all assessments** unless they have been granted an exemption or have valid excuses.

#### CXC EXAMS

We remind parents/guardians and *Collegemen* sitting CXC to use the tools available on the CXC website, including syllabuses, examiners' reports, specimen papers and past papers. These are extremely important. The website also informs of webinars which are extremely helpful especially in light of changes in syllabuses and the introduction of new SBAs. CXC Notesmaster is also an excellent tool for students and teachers.

Please closely monitor your son/ward's IAs/SBAs. Scrutinize his submissions, if you are able to, and insist on him showing you where he has reached and get feedback on his progress. If you are unsure, email asking for details and check RENWEB for his grades.

**All SBAs are due on December 30, 2019. All IAs are due on January 31, 2020**

#### SAFETY AND SECURITY

**WE DO NOT TOLERATE WEAPONS, KNIVES, SCISSORS or ANY OTHER CUTTING TOOL on our campus. We will expel/separate all boys found with any of these on the compound.** We conduct random searches of bags, possessions and vehicles driven by students. **Students are responsible for all items found in their clothes, bags, vehicles and lockers. No excuses!! Zero tolerance.**

We are asking parents/guardians not to be on the blocks after 7:45 a.m. we have had unacceptable incidents involving parents and wish to manage any security risk which can result from unrestricted access.

We ask our *Collegemen* to be careful on the roads as we commute. We have had incidents on Hope Road and at the Bus Park in Half Way Tree. We encourage parents/guardians who drive, to offer lifts to *Collegemen* on the roads to and from school.

#### SPORTS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We ask parents/guardians to encourage their sons/wards to participate in clubs, societies and physical activities after school. This is especially important at the first to third forms.

We have begun the football season with determination. Please support the teams. We are also preparing for competition in all other sports. Again, please support our teams.

#### APOLOGY TO STUDENTS, STAFF & PARENTS

We apologize to all stakeholders for our poor communication about the price increases at the canteen. Mother's wrote on August 19 indicating increases for this new term and we should have met with them, clarified the various increases before they implemented them and then communicated with stakeholders by the start of the school term. Unfortunately, we only met with them last week.

We accepted the reasons given for the increases including the new mandatory costs for packaging and other industry increases over the last two years. They have not increased prices since 2017. The PTA has proposed adjustments to size of lunches and this is being considered.

We have asked that in the future, we are given two months' notice before any proposed increase and that no prices should be increased during the school year.

#### SADNESS AT THE LOSS OF OUR BROTHERS

We are grieving at the death of 5<sup>th</sup> form *Collegeman* Eja Riley. He passed on Thursday September 12 from what seems like a stroke. He was a tower of determination and strength as a physically challenged young man, blue blooded to the core and an inspiration to us all. We express deep condolences to his mom and dad as well as his Jamaica College family. We will miss him and will learn from the lessons of his life. We also lost JC Old Boys, Huntley Watson, Kevin Weir, Ivan Coore and Nigel Logan over the last 2 months. May their souls rest in peace. *Fervet Opus in Campis.*