

**PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF OFFA GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (OGSOSA) HELD ON  
SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT SOFOLUWE HALL.**

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I wish to welcome you most heartily back to your Alma Mater on the occasion of the annual conference which is as usual another reunion of several generation of old students. I am particularly pleased and full of joy to address you on this occasion of our alumni reunion. Allow me to tender my gratitude to each and everyone of you for finding time and making a lot of sacrifice to be here today. I do hope that the experience of the day will worth the sacrifice you have made. Several years ago, this association was a tiny and struggling one, typical of any upcoming association. Today, our old students and scholars cover the globe in their search for knowledge, fame and wealth and their contributions make a difference everywhere. Offa Grammar School unlike others is a living institution whose prayers were answered by God as several generation of students have passed through her and who were inspired some of whom have contributed and paid back in full measure towards the development of the school. Your contribution to the school is sine qua non to the growth and development as well as the goodwill we presently enjoy.

Distinguished Alumni, permit me to remind this great audience that the history of the development of this school cannot be complete without mentioning the laudable contributions of the old students. As principal of this noble and great school, I have enjoyed tremendous support and goodwill from members of this body and I will be eternally grateful for this, long time after I have ended my tenure.

### **SITUATION REPORT.**

The school opened for the second term of this academic session on January 3<sup>rd</sup> this year and quite unlike last year when things appeared not taking shape due to strike action embarked upon by Junior School Teachers, this year looks promising. There are 37 arms of classrooms made up of 19 in the senior school and 18 in the junior school. The senior school is populated with 1332 comprising of 652 boys and 680 girls while the junior school has a population of 1260 of which 604 and 656 are boys and girls respectively. The boarders are 40 in number consisting of 21 girls and 19 boys. The hitherto weak staff strength of 37 and 42 teachers from the senior and junior school respectively has been strengthened by the new addition courtesy of the N-power graduate recruitment scheme of the Federal Government of Nigeria which saw graduate and non graduate teachers alike posted to the school this January. This has boosted our staff strength to a reasonable level. We now have the following number of complementary teachers.

OGSOSA	4
PTA (from SS)	4
PTA (from JS)	3
NYSC (SS)	13
N-POWER	24 (13 posted to JSS and 11 engaged in SS.)

PTA (Security Guard)4

With this number, I can just say that we are quantitatively adequate but not qualitatively sufficient as we still do not have sufficient teachers in the core subjects most particularly in English Language and C.R.K. The school does not have adequate security guards to secure the school from danger. I use this avenue to acknowledge the effort of some well-placed eminent old students from Ilorin flank who tried their best albeit unsuccessfully to influence the posting of teachers to the school. The disciplinary tone in the school is quite re-assuring as students are rarely given breathing space to misbehave, although cases of indiscipline are reported and recorded.

The school encouraged active participation of her students in extra-curricular activities. The Press Club, the Interact Club, the Health Club, the Cultural Troupe, the Road Safety Club are some of the functional clubs in the school.

The intervention of Prof. M.O. Oyawoye in encouraging Sports through the Offa Community School Sports Foundation that is being solely funded by him for the past three years has not only assisted in resuscitating schools sports and promoting healthy competition and interaction among schools in Offa Local Government, it has succeeded in discovering talents from Offa Grammar School that have been sponsored to State competitions.

Our achievement in co-curricular activities has been incredible. We are the best in Kwara state in Essay writing and science-biases Quiz competition as we won cash prizes to the tune of N85, 000 in November last year. We came first in another essay writing competition as one of our student **AJALA SAMUEL** emerged as Kwara best and went on to represent the state in the ANCOPSS organized Mandatory and Continuing Professional Training (MCPT) programme for North Central Zone of Nigeria in Abuja last year November. We emerged first in the privately organized spelling bee competition late last year. The Kite Club organized quiz competition that took place in November last year was also won by the school. We are currently the Kwara State champions in the male and female category of the volley ball competition organized by DKITS foundation in November last year as we carted home the two trophies. We emerged as first runner up in the state Milo basket ball competition that took place in Ilorin in January last year. We defeated Adesoye College in the Adesoye College organized Super League Football Competition last year and came home with the trophy. Early last year, we competed with top schools in Adesoye College PTA organized inter school science debate and Quiz and came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up respectively. We defeated Ansarul-Islam Secondary School Offa by four goals to nothing in the final of the Offa Community School Sports Foundation that took place at Olofa Stadium in December last year with medals for all the boys and a giant trophy as well as cash prizes. Our junior boys came second and got the medals as well as cash prizes too. We take sport seriously as it has become a regular routine to organize inter house athletics competition and the school and students are the better for it. The school Inter-house Athletics Sports Competition is billed to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> February this year while the cross country race will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

## **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

As it is customary of us every year since 2013 we have always been presenting the WAEC and NECO results analysis to the minutest details. We have over those years displayed our results and enrolment side by side for all to see. Our academic data are readily available for all relevant stakeholders to access. The source of data in respect of the school that was analysed and presented at the last Offa Descendants Union Education Summit was not only questionable, it lacked merit and capable of undermining the efforts of this administration. For the OGS result, the reverse of what was presented was the case as our students registered predominantly more candidates for WAEC and never switched over to NECO examinations as alleged and our students have been quite outstanding in their academic performance over the years. We have since written a rejoinder with valid and more reliable data pointing out the error to clear the air of controversy.

The 2016 WAEC and NECO results are summarized in the table below. These results like the previous ones are outstanding as seen in the two tables below.

TABLE A.

		WAEC 2016	NECO 2016
1.	No of candidates registered for the exam	310	201
2.	No of candidates with minimum of 5 credits including Eng. & Maths	286	199
3.	No of candidates with minimum of 5 credit with either Eng. & Maths	22	02
4.	No of candidates with minimum of 5 credits without Eng. & Maths	Nil	Nil
5.	No of candidates with 4 credits including Eng. & Maths	01	NIL
6.	No of candidates with 4 credits with either Eng. & Maths	01	Nil
7.	No of candidates without eng. & Maths.	Nil	Nil

TABLE B

S/N	SUBJECT	WAEC 2016					NECO 2016				
		NO. OF CANDIDATES	NO WITH CREDIT	NO WITH PASS	NO WITH FAIL	% PASS	NO OF CANDIDATES	NO WITH CREDIT	NO WITH PASS	NO WITH FAIL	% PASS
1	MATHEMATICS	310	309	1	NIL	100	201	201	-	NIL	100
2	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	310	288	22	NIL	100	201	199	1	NIL	100
3	ECONOMICS	285	265	20	NIL	100	191	189	2	NIL	100
4	GEOGRAPHY	142	142	-	NIL	100	110	110	-	NIL	100
5	PHYSICS	169	169	-	NIL	100	123	123	-	NIL	100
6	CHEMISTRY	169	168	1	NIL	100	123	123	-	NIL	100
7	BIOLOGY	254	254	-	NIL	100	172	172	-	NIL	100
8	CIVIC EDUCATION	310	156	151	3	99.0	201	197	4	NIL	100
9	ACCOUNTS	75	75	-	NIL	100	42	42	-	NIL	100
10	GOVERNMENT	138	138	-	NIL	100	78	77	1	NIL	100
11	COMMERCE	75	72	3	NIL	100	42	42	-	NIL	100
12	IRK	50	50	-	NIL	100	26	26	-	NIL	100
13	CRK	14	13	1	NIL	100	10	10	-	NIL	100
14	LIT IN ENG.	63	61	2	NIL	100	36	36	-	NIL	100
15	YORUBA LANG	61	14	44		95.1	35	35	-	NIL	100
16	FURTHER MATHS	21	21	-	NIL	100	12	11	1	NIL	100
17	FOODS AND NUTRITION	9	8	1	NIL	100	5	5	-	NIL	100
18	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	169	169	-	NIL	100	123	121	-	2	98.4
19	CATERING AND CRAFT	62	4	58	NIL	100	36	28	2*	1	83.3
20	MARKETING	75	75		NIL	100	42	41	1	NIL	100
21	HOME MANAGEMENT	7	5	2	NIL	100					
22	BOOK KEEPING	1	1		NIL	100					

Our results keep improving every year. This year result is quite impressive and an icing on the cake. The duo of **SALAUDEEN OLAYINKA HABEEB** and **KAYODE MAJEED OLAMILEKAN** made us proud as they clocked aggregate 8 and 12 respectively in the WAEC result while the former scored aggregate 12 and broke the NECO jinx since 2003 to qualify for listing in the school honours rolls. Our success story is tied to our promotion policy of only allowing the best students to be fielded for terminal exams while the less academically inclined students are made to repeat their classes. For instance, during the last academic session 85 students were made to repeat SS 2 while 106 repeated SS 1. Parents of repeating students have always believed in us by enforcing and accepting our decisions and such students and the school are the better for it.

It gladden our heart and we are proud to say that the school has escalated to greater horizon of success and today, it is seen as one of the notable institutions in the state. It has become synonymous with achieving academic and sporting excellence, a bench mark to measure excellence and also a centre which create responsible citizens and we are very grateful to our staff. It is because of their valuable guidance, encouragement and support that all these have been possible. From the humble beginning we made some years back and having crossed many measurable milestones today, this school still remained a dream destination and take off for many. I wish to begin celebrating our success by expressing my gratitude to the OGSOSA family whose vigour, wisdom and visionary zeal inspired all stakeholders to work with us with passion and strong commitment. We also remember with gratitude, the founding-fathers, every one of them, every parent, every teacher and every student who did his best to build the edifice of excellence.

## **CHALLENGES AND NEEDS.**

Despite our achievements and the various assistance and intervention efforts of our stakeholders, a lot of challenges and plethora of quite shapeless problems are being faced by the school some of which include the followings;-

- The school cannot be classified as a fenced school as the fence has collapsed at several points thereby making it vulnerable to unwanted visitors including public goats and sheep's that foul the classrooms and other structures in the school premises. Lately, the school fence is gradually being rehabilitated at critical area from the school fund. It is hoped that before the session ends, a large area of the weak point will have been repaired.
- There are problems of bad road network, erosion and flooding occasioned by lack of drainages in the school compound. The flooding/erosion during the rains has adversely affected the landscape including the school main gate, football pitch as well as the road leading to Sofoluwe Hall. There is therefore the need to construct roads and corresponding drainages on major roads in the school to reduce/eliminate the threat of erosion and flooding constantly ravaging the school during the raining seasons.
- The male hostel requires fencing it round to secure the boarders from unwanted visitors and to control and restrict the movement of the students while the female hostel is archaic and has defied all manners of repairs. It requires complete re-roofing, repainting and re-fixing to bring out the beauty in the structure.
- The old school bus that is grounded within the school premises for several years can be resuscitated to be used for excursion and commercial intra town shuttle to and from school at reduced fare to cushion the cost of transport of the students.
- The thick vegetation and trees stretching from the back of the dining hall towards the Shofoluwe hall and around the girl's hostel are unwanted. They all require bulldozing to have a clear view of the school premises from all angles and prevent miscreants from committing evil acts. Perhaps, these places can be bulldozed, fenced and put into agricultural use especially in crop and fish farming. This will popularize Agriculture among the students. There is equally the need to revive the school orchard and the school poultry. These require heavy funding and financial backing.
- The shops attached to the outside of the school wall are ramshackled and more of eyesore. If the setbacks, are handed to developers, it will bring out the best and attract premium rents from tenants.
- The problem of lack of standard incinerators to burn off the filth that are daily being generated from school activities.
- Finally the school library is archaic, small and lacking in modern facilities. It needs to be rehabilitated, enlarged and modernized to accommodate more students and encourage good reading habits among them.

## **APPRECIATING OUR CURRENT BENEFACTORS**

The progress of any institution depends on good facilities, supportive administrative staff, a large pool of resources, responsive students and cooperative parents. We are indeed very lucky to have all these elements. Our students have incredible potential to galvanise themselves to graduate with great thinking capacity. All these are made possible because we have good surrogate parents who are always there for us. Honourable President Sir, at this juncture, permit me to single out and express our heartfelt appreciation to the following sets and individual most of whom are of OGSOSA extraction for identifying with the school and their Alma Mater during the past one year.

The school has been blessed with different sets all of whom have imbibed the culture of giving back to their Alma Mater from their achievement.

The annual award of the 1965/69 set endowed in honour of some of their members and principals keep expanding in scope every year as more awards are packaged to academically gifted students and performing staff members during our school graduation ceremonies. I must say that this award has greatly motivated the staff in general and the students in particular as they

outpace one another in attempts to clinch the successive awards and the extraordinary results attained in our exams are a product of the dynamics of these awards.

The 2000 set for the third time running had intervened this time by presenting a cash gift of N10, 000 to three final year students in the Senior School and two in the Junior School to cushion the cost of registration for WAEC and BECE examinations respectively.

The 1991/96 set endowed an annual cash prize of N20, 000 in honour of a former Principal –Alhaji Arowosaiye to be given to the best student in each of the Sciences, Arts and Commercial class. The class set went further to present books worth several thousands of Naira to the school in a reunion ceremony that took place last December.

I am happy to inform you that the OGSOSA –UK branch has lived up to their bidding with the installation of Solar power light to some parts of the school chiefly the Principals Office, the Computer room, the CAFÉ, the Library,- the Oyeleke Hall as well as the security room at the main gate. I used this medium to salute not only the courage and resilience of Engineer Paul Adubi to have the solar light become functional after much trouble, but his philanthropic gesture of cash gift to encourage our sporting exploit. The cancer awareness lecture delivered to our students by Dr. Oduwaiye also from UK was educative and appreciated by the school.

The class of 1995 set redeemed their pledge and comprehensively renovated the school main entrance and building, the frontal wall including fabrication and re-fixing of a new steel gate making the school wear a new look.

The 1977 set will be celebrating their reunion to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> year graduation anniversary sometimes in June this year and intend to mark it with undertaking a yet to be disclosed project in the school. I use this time and place to appreciate Lawyer Lateef Fagbemi (SAN) a member of this set for his unwavering commitment in the award of scholarship for the second year running for Miss Adeniji Bibiana's law programme at the University of Ilorin.

The subterranean activities of the following sets viz 1975, 1984, 1986, 1987 and 1988 are being noted and in a matter of time will manifest into a worthwhile project in the school. While I urge these sets to translate their dream into reality, we appeal to other sets to awaken their benevolent spirit and be part of the success story.

The National body of OGSOSA deserved to be thanked not only for their continuous role in improving the staffing situation in the school but for encouraging the different sets and branches to undertake project in the school. In addition, they have for the second term running motivated subject teachers with cash award based on their performance in the school 2016 WAEC result. As OGSOSA members you represent much of all that is good and great about the school. We have the Abuja branch of OGSOSA under the leadership of Alhaji Wasiu Alayande to be thanked for their regular donations of prizes during some of the schools most important ceremonies as well as the home branch led by Alhaji Jimoh Salako for their watchful attitude and advice which have always kept us on our toes.

It is worthy to mention some friendly individuals and organizations that have contributed towards the development of the school. The Kite club has contributed immensely to the educational development of public secondary schools in Offa through their annual Quiz and debate that have seen OGS domineering in the awards of prizes over the year. The Zenith club regularly gives scholarship to our students. The Archer Club is not left out with their consistent awards of scholarship to indigent but brilliant students in schools in Offa in general and OGS in particular. The grandiloquent and imposing auditorium project being undertaken by the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) is about to be completed and handed over to the School. This was made possible through the influence of Chief R.T Lawal a prominent member of Offa Club 80. Our gratitude is equally extended to the ODU North America (ODUNA) branch for their scholarship award to one student each in SS 1, 2 and 3 of all ODU schools every year. This year's package of fifty thousand naira for any of their scholars that got university admission from any ODU schools was clinched by **SALAUDEEN HABEEB OLALEKAN** of Offa Grammar School who is already studying Medicine at the University of Ilorin.

There is no disputing the fact that Offa Grammar School is well loved by so many people across and beyond Nigeria, some of whom have contributed to make the school greater. Time

and place will not allow me to mention these individuals but be rest assured that History will use its pen to write words by your name that your descendants will never be tired of reading.

On behalf of the entire staff and students of this great school, I wish to restate our profound gratitude to all individuals and groups that have made us what we are. You have by your various forms of assistance in moral, physical and financial enabled us to give the best we can in terms of sound education to our students.

Our usual thanks is extended to the Olofa of Offa for his spiritual support, the Offa Descendants' Union (ODU) home branch and the National body, the various Government agencies the Ministry of Education and the Teaching Service Commission, the Quality Assurance Bureau, the State Universal Basic Education Board, the National Youth Service Corps, the Nigerian Police Force, the Civil Defence Corps, the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Medical director and staff of Offa Specialist Hospital, the local vigilantes and other security outfits as well as concern parents for their contribution to the survival of the school. It is very necessary to acknowledge once again the extra ordinary performance of my staff both Teaching and Non Teaching that has seen us perform creditably well in all aspects of school life. I am very proud of them all.

Permit me to use this occasion to single out the role of our living legend Professor M.O. Oyawoye for his untiring effort in identifying with the school every time. This time he intend to give the school sport field a comprehensive face lift as the team of expert he sent to the school did the spade work of assessing the field some month ago hoping to begin the comprehensive rehabilitation work on it by April this year. We hope and pray that the dream of this living legend to intervene in his old school will be translated to reality in his life time.

## **CONCLUSION**

As I come to a close and in concluding this speech, I want to restate my gratitude for the opportunity given to me to serve as the Principal of this school and the warmest cooperation I have got from you as an important stakeholder in the school.

It is indeed count down as I will be retiring from service in about a year's time when I would have attained the mandatory age of 60 years. It is indeed great to have served the school in this capacity. Here, I wish you successful deliberations, journey mercies back to your different destinations.

**LONG LIVE OFFA GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**LONG LIVE OGSOSA**  
**LONG LIVE OFFA COMMUNITY**  
**LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REBULIC OF NIGERIA**  
**OFFA GRAMMAR SCHOOL SHALL NEVER PERISH (AMEN)**

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**IBIYEYE BOLA WAHAB**  
*PRINCIPAL (SSS)*

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**BADMUS REMILEKUN OSENI**  
*PRINCIPAL (JSS)*