

ACHIMOTA SCHOOL
PRESENTATION ON ACHIMOTA
SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE
FOR THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Achimota School was established in 1927. This report I am giving covers the last five years.

The report covers the following areas:

1. Staff Strength- Teacher quality and motivation
2. School Population/Admissions/ Student Admissions
3. Academic Work- School's performance- problems and solutions
4. Curriculum and Schedule – Is it appropriate, how is it appropriate, how is it implemented
- 4b. Extra Curricula activities- do these activities occupy the students, positively and negatively, talent building
5. Infrastructure – State of the water situation, Electricity, Are the Labs properly equipped, Music School, Art School, Home Economics Block, Girls and Boys Gym,
6. Sports
7. School Activities
8. Support from stakeholders and challenges
9. Land issues- Golf Course, Security, Eco park, Police Station, Hospital, Post Office
10. Conclusion

1.1. STAFF STRENGTH:

The School has a teaching staff strength of one hundred and twenty six teachers (125). The minimum qualification for every teacher in the school is a first degree from a university. Some of the teachers hold masters degrees in various fields of study. The School has no hand in selecting staff. Vacancies are declared by the School administration and then the Ghana Education Service (the Metro Office) posts staff to the School.

A good number of the current teaching staff are accommodated by the school in the various bungalows on the eastern and western compounds. In the coming years it is anticipated that all members of staff would be accommodated on the school compound as more bungalows are made available to the School by the University of Ghana.

One of the staff housing flats on the compound is being used by the Ghana Education Service. A number of teachers therefore commute to School daily.

There are one hundred and twenty five (125) government employed non-teaching staff. Also the PTA has employed forty five additional security personnel (since the government has given the School only six, one of which will be retiring in May, 2016 and is therefore going on leave prior to retirement), four cooks and four stewards. The P.T.A. has also employed a driver, eight (8) labourers, a Laboratory Technician and a Psychologist. Quite a number of the non-teaching staff are accommodated at the Anunmle village.

The School is still in dire need of grounds men, drivers, cooks, security personnel and stewards in the dining hall since some staff have retired and others have gone on retirement. The school is unable to recruit new staff because there is an embargo on recruitment by the government.

ACHIMOTA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHING STAFF

<u>S/N</u>	<u>Personnel Type</u>	<u>Total Number of Teaching Staff</u>
1.	Administration	4
2.	English (Lang. & Lit.)	15
3.	Mathematics (Core & Elective)	19
4.	Physics & Int. Sc.	10
5.	Chemistry & Int. Sc	11
6.	Biology & Int. Sc	9
7.	Agric Science & Int. Sc	7
8.	Economics	4
9.	Georgraphy	4
10.	History	2
11.	Government	3
12.	French	5
13.	Social Studies	11
14.	Music	1
15.	Physical Education	3
16.	Visual Arts	5
17.	Home Economics	3
18.	C.R.S	3
19.	I.C.T	6

2.0 SCHOOL POPULATION:

Currently the student population of the school stands at two thousand, seven hundred and ninety one (2,791). Out of this number, one thousand four hundred and thirty five (1,435) are girls and one thousand three hundred and fifty six (1,356) are boys. Two thousand two hundred and ninety six (2,296) students are in the boarding house and four hundred ninety five (495) are day students.

The mode of admission for all students into the school is through the government's computerized selection system for all government schools in Ghana. Hence the school administration virtually has no hand in determining the quality of students admitted every year. Once the system places the students in Achimota School, they have to be admitted into the School. Thus the quality of student intake has not been as it used to be in the past. This has had a serious effect on the final results of the school every year. A good number of the students sent to the school, in reality, would not have qualified to come to Achimota if the school administration was involved in the admission process. For now the government's policy on admission holds sway.

<u>S/N</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF STUDENTS ADMITTED</u>
1.	2011	722
2.	2012	853
3.	2013	895
4.	2014	986
5.	2015	997

3.0. ACADEMIC WORK

Achimota School continues to offer subjects in five course areas namely: Agricultural Science, General Science, General Arts, Home Economics and Visual Arts. The students continue to excel in these study areas. Various academic enhancement programmes are in place to continually improve upon the performance of the students. The ‘ATICO’ programme is still in place.

There is a Detention programme for students who did not perform well in the previous term. Such students are taught on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Students identified are taught by the teachers in their weak subjects areas. No student is charged anything extra for this. The School gives students the “word for the day” to enhance vocabulary building. The “mathematical problem for the day” and for the weekend are given to enhance their knowledge in mathematics.

At the beginning of 2014/2015 academic year another academic programme-A-Performers Class was introduced. This class is made up of students who have the potential to make ‘A’s in all their eight subjects at the final examination. School rankings in Ghana are currently based on the school’s performance at the final examination. Hence this programme has become necessary. They are given special lessons twice a week, Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

All Final year students are also given special lessons, two weeks before they write their final examinations. This is aimed at fine-tuning their preparation towards the examination and are taught by different teachers. Seasoned Examiners from outside the School are also invited to help students in specific subject areas.

Students write a standardize test every month in the course of the term. This programme aims at preparing the students to be conversant with the writing of examinations and also to keep them on their toes all the time. This programme has greatly helped students to keep to their books as expected of them. It is with much pleasure that I inform you that in spite of the poor quality of

students received, for the past seven years the School has been scoring 100% passes. I also wish to state that the quality of the passes is very good.

The school also continues to participate in the National Mathematics and Science Quiz, the Annual National Debate involving all schools in the country, the Forestry Quiz Competition and the American Embassy Essay Competition. In all these competitions the School won trophies.

It is heart-warming to know that a lot of students from Achimota School are studying in foreign universities all over the world. A very good number of them are in the United States and are enrolled in very good colleges. Their results were excellent and they are enjoying various scholarships. Examples include Akora Yaw Siabi who is at MIT on full scholarship, Akora Kojo Worai at Stanford, Akora Mario Engman is in Carnegie Mellon University, Akora Harriet Awelana Abajong is at Augustana College; she is studying pharmacy and would soon be on a doctorate program at a school in California on scholarship. Also we have Akora Andrew Opong Appiah of Calvin College who was recently elected to the Senate of the College. The list is unending.

There are quite a number of Achimotan students in the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Australia etc.

On the local scene Achimota School continues to send a high number of students to both public and private universities. Our students are admitted into course areas that are highly competitive and they are excelling in both the classroom work and co-curricular activities at the universities.

Teacher-improvement programmes are organized termly to sharpen the prowess of teachers and to keep them abreast with current trends in teaching and learning. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been helpful in sponsoring these programmes.

The counseling unit of the school has also been strengthened to give counseling on various issues affecting the welfare of both staff and students. The counseling office has been adequately equipped to carry out this task. The number of academic counselors has also been beefed up so that many students who need guidance with their academic work and career choices are guided accordingly.

WASSCE TREND ANALYSIS: 2012 - 2015

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
SUBJECT	<u>A1</u>				<u>B2</u>				<u>B3</u>				<u>C4</u>				<u>C5</u>				<u>C6</u>			
Social Stds	301	474	186	282	127	221	114	152	68	192	195	210	5	28	44	49	5	17	39	37	0	13	38	40
Eng. Lang	100	2	21	93	133	62	81	163	216	507	275	341	30	215	126	89	19	78	73	53	6	64	49	49
C. Maths	179	214	94	81	62	87	42	46	102	155	93	125	22	68	27	39	32	72	45	47	55	126	93	109
Int. Sci	254	375	95	151	96	168	65	75	93	204	151	177	23	59	55	80	15	42	52	61	15	44	83	109
Govt	67	98	30	28	21	65	53	28	14	59	56	64	5	14	19	22	33	4	18	17	2	12	31	43
Lit -Eng	26	41	12	8	21	29	17	9	30	71	57	45	1	26	15	17	0	27	20	20	2	34	29	54
French	38	80	35	38	32	69	25	39	57	68	46	80	12	17	12	14	4	4	12	7	4	7	18	5
Music	0	3	0	0	0	7	0	2	1	11	2	18	2	1	1	7	0	1	1	4	0	1	4	8
Econ	47	25	29	6	45	61	13	12	94	127	39	35	16	47	16	25	18	34	10	21	25	35	24	26
Geog.	136	161	73	157	12	43	23	21	10	21	43	33	0	5	9	2	1	1	6	8	0	2	9	5
E.Maths	174	162	54	63	25	64	19	29	32	68	50	51	6	38	22	38	5	35	19	28	4	48	31	51
History	18	0	0	2	13	5	1	7	8	18	13	30	1	24	7	13	0	13	10	28	0	12	33	48
CRS	4	27	8	13	10	16	8	23	19	15	32	44	4	0	12	10	2	0	10	9	3	3	29	14
Biology	24	49	63	70	78	88	45	63	59	101	80	93	6	22	17	10	5	27	12	14	1	12	5	13
Chem.	59	120	60	73	23	38	35	34	68	92	65	69	8	80	19	42	25	50	22	23	23	44	37	47
Physics	75	71	59	112	32	59	21	38	67	134	82	92	12	61	24	27	3	26	18	25	8	26	34	29
G. Agric	0	28	4	1	2	7	1	5	9	19	8	13	4	14	4	5	3	5	2	3	9	3	5	6
An. Husb.	1	7	0	0	7	14	1	0	15	17	11	13	3	12	4	5	4	6	4	6	3	7	5	7
F & N	23	3	3	5	16	19	7	14	0	2	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		2
MIL	29	21	0	6	7	17	0	0	1	19	4	15	0	16	2	2	0	1	5	5	0	2	13	8
C& T			0	0			2	2			9	5			1	2			0	1			0	1
GKA	12	6	3	3	18	11	8	2	17	34	18	23	0	12	7	11	2	7	6	2	1	8	2	2
Jew.	0	5	6	0	0	8	6	2	24	21	12	12	1	4	0	2	2	7	1	5	1	0	2	1
PM	11			16	3			10	2		10	5	0		0	0	0		7	1	0		1	0
Ceramics	3	9	2	5	5	7	3	1	8	13	4	4	1	5	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	4	5
Textiles	4			0	4			0	0			5	0			1	0			1	0			3
G D	1	7	3		1	15	2		7	21	6		4	8	5		3	1	4		3	1	3	

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015		2012	2013	2014	2015		2012	2013	2014	2015		2012	2013	2014	2015
SUBJECT	<u>D7</u>					<u>E8</u>					<u>F9</u>					<u>TOT</u>	<u>TOT</u>	<u>TOT</u>	<u>TOT</u>
Social Stds	0	4	13	22		0	2	11	6		0	1	2	4		506	952	642	802
Eng. Lang	0	18	13	8		1	5	2	4		0	1	0	2		505	952	642	802
C. Maths	21	97	67	94		19	69	81	97		15	64	101	164		507	952	642	802
Int. Sci	5	36	68	83		0	23	45	46		2	1	28	20		503	952	642	802
Govt	0	2	14	20		2	8	6	30		0	1	8	22		144	263	217	274
Lit -Eng	0	15	13	31		0	10	12	18		0	5	1	18		80	258	177	220
French	1	3	3	4		0	1	3	1		0	0	4	1		148	249	158	189
Music	0	0	1	1		0	0	0	1		0	0	0	1		3	24	9	42
Econ	8	18	8	20		4	17	5	8		2	8	9	46		259	372	153	199
Geog.	0	0	3	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		159	233	166	226
E.Maths	2	39	40	39		1	26	40	49		0	20	65	101		249	500	341	449
History	0	3	14	17		0	8	25	16		0	5	29	20		40	88	132	181
CRS	1	2	11	10		0	0	5	6		0	1	6	4		43	64	121	133
Biology	0	3	0	6		0	5	0	1		0	0	0	1		173	307	222	271
Chem.	12	16	25	27		9	26	16	30		9	20	34	39		236	486	313	384
Physics	0	16	9	9		2	12	15	2		0	5	4	1		199	410	266	335
G. Agric	3	0	4	3		0	0	3	0		0	0	0	0		30	76	31	36
An. Husb.	0	8	5	4		1	5	1	1		0	0	0	0		34	76	31	36
F & N	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0		39	24	34	37
MIL	0	0	21	10		0	0	2	2		0	0	0	0		37	76	47	48
C& T			0	0				0	0				0	1		0	-	12	12
GKA	0	3	2	0		0	1	0	0		0	1	0	1		50	83	47	44
Jew.	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1		28	45	27	24
PM	0		1	0		0		0	0		0		0	1		16	-	22	33
Ceramics	0	0	2	1		0	0	1	0		0	1	0	0		19	38	20	20
Textiles	0			0		0			1		0			0		8			11
G D	3	0	1			0	0	0			0	1	0			22	54	25	0

4. 0. CURRICULUM SCHEDULE

Achimota believes in the total education of the individual therefore emphasis is laid on the three H's – The HEAD, The HAND and the HEART. Apart from the intellectual development of the child, emphasis is laid on practical skills as well as on character training.

Students are admitted to one of the following programmes: General Arts, General Science, Agricultural Science, Vocational (Home Economics or Visual Arts). Each of these programmes is of three years duration and leads to the West African Examinations Council.

SUBJECTS OFFERED

The subjects offered fall into two categories – Core Subjects and Elective Subjects. The Core subjects are English, Mathematics, Integrated Science and Social Studies and these subjects are taken by every student regardless of the program option pursued. The Elective Subjects however depend on the programme being pursued. The following list show the Elective Subjects for the different programmes.

General Science

- Elective Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology (from Science 1 to 7)
- Elective Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geography (for Science 8)

Agricultural Science

- General Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Physics, Chemistry. (for Science 9)

General Arts

- Literature in English / French / Music / Government (for Arts 1)
- French, Geography, Economics, Elective Mathematics (for Arts 2, 3 and 4)
- Geography, French, Government, History (for Arts 5)
- Government / History Literature in English / C.R.S (for Arts 6, 7 and 8)
- Geography, Economics, Elective Mathematics, Government (for Arts 9 and 10)

Home Economics

- Management in Living, Food & Nutrition, Economics, Chemistry
- Management in Living, Clothing & Textiles, G. K. A., Textiles

Visual Arts

- General Knowledge in Art, Graphic Design, Textiles, Ceramics

5.0. INFRASTRUCTURE:

A. Old

The old buildings of the school constructed during the time of Guggisberg are in very good shape. They are regularly maintained and renovated through the internally generated funds (IGF) and the assistance of the government, various OAA year groups, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), companies and individuals. The buildings have now been painted black and white to reflect the colours of the school. The school currently has fifty eight (58) classrooms, fifteen (15) dormitory blocks and four (4) dining halls. The former western compound assembly hall has been converted into a dining hall due to the large student population. The school canteen at the east is also playing a dual role. Ten of the boarding houses are on the eastern compound and the rest on the western compound. Seven of the dormitories are for girls and eight cater for the boys.

B. Renovated:

- The School building formally used by the Animal Research institute was handed over to the school in 2013. This building was renovated by the Ministry of Education and converted into a boy's dormitory block in 2013 and named after the late Akora Prof. Alexander Adum Kwapong.

- The former Form 4 block now popularly referred to as the Language Centre has now been developed into an ultra modern technology based language and study center. The classrooms (five in number) have been equipped with overhead projectors and smart boards. There are audio-visual equipment for Oral lessons in French and English. All teachers have been trained in the usage of the smart boards. This project was implemented and sponsored by the PTA.

- The Music school was renovated and equipped with additional musical instruments by the 1962 year group and a parent – Amakye Dede. The school would, however need more musical instruments for the ever-increasing Music students. Akora Rev. Dr. Rosaline Joyce Aryee has adopted the School Brass Band and therefore purchased a full compliment of musical instruments for the band. These are used by the School Brass Band who play for the Cadets alongside the national army band during cadet parades and during the bonfire nites and other School programmes.

C. New

New dormitories

- Two new dormitories blocks are under construction; one behind McCarthy House, sponsored by the government (GETFUND) and the other behind Clark House sponsored by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA). Both are government sponsored projects. When these blocks are completed the total number of dormitories would be seventeen (17). A second oval is therefore being created as a result of these new developments.

New Classroom Blocks

- In 2011 the government completed and handed over an eighteen unit (18) classroom block to the school. This building is located north-west of McCarthy House and has greatly improved the classroom situation in the school.
- Another classroom block, a six-unit structure, was started by the government and completed by the PTA in 2014 and handed over to the school. This building is adjacent to the 18-unit block and directly behind McCarthy House.
- A new Home Economics block has been constructed and is partially in use since part of it is not functioning properly and has therefore not been handed over to the School. This facility is directly opposite Slessor house and adjacent to Kingsley house.

School Library

- There is also a yet-to-be-completed new library block situated behind Gyamfi house and directly opposite Livingstone house. The current school library does not befit the status of Achimota School and is also too small for the ever-increasing student population of two thousand seven hundred and ninety one (2,791) and teaching staff population of one hundred and twenty five (125).

New Kitchen

- During the 2015 Founders Day celebration the celebrating OAA1965 Year Group handed over to the school, a newly built ultra-modern and well equipped kitchen to the school as their gift. This impressive and imposing facility sits directly behind the eastern dining hall kitchen. Unfortunately the building has not been completed and is therefore not in use.

ICT Laboratories

- Achimota School currently has four (4) ICT Laboratories. The computers in two of the laboratories were provided by various year groups in Ghana and Diaspora associations. The computers, projector, projector screen etc in one of the laboratories were provided by Cadbury UK and Cadbury Ghana. The fourth ICT laboratory computers, projector, screen and other software were provided by the PTA. There is also a wireless hotspot for internet connectivity but this is rather unreliable. The network keeps breaking off and makes work and studies using the internet very frustrating and almost impossible.

Music School

- The Music School has been renovated by the OAA 1962 Group. The group also equipped the school with some musical instruments and manuscripts for music lessons. Recently a quartet of jazz musicians from the United States was in the school to have a music workshop with the Music students. Members of the quartet were impressed with the level of accomplishment of the

Achimota students. Their presence has further whipped the interest of the Music students in the subject. The 1962 year group in collaboration with the Goethe Institute will be presenting a number of musical instruments to the School when school re-opens.

School Clinic

- One of the former staff bungalows adjacent to McCarthy House has now been converted into a school clinic mainly for the use of the student body. The staff at the clinic is made up of a medical doctor, a psychologist and some nurses. Few beds are at the clinic for students who may have to be detained temporarily. Such students, however, cannot spend the night at the clinic. They are transferred to the main hospital which is now a district hospital. In the near future the school would like to have a doctor and nurse in residence so that students who have to be detained overnight would have a medical staff attend to them.

The OAA 1980 Group donated some medical equipment for the use of the clinic. Akora Prof. Ernest Aryeetey of the 1973 year group and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana also donated some beds to the school clinic. In future the School Clinic would have to be expanded to accommodate more students.

Assembly Hall

- Currently a new assembly hall is under construction behind the Music school. This is a three-thousand seating capacity project and is a government sponsored project. This has become necessary because the current assembly hall is unable to cater for the large student population. The students, for instance have to run three shifts during entertainment, - morning, afternoon and evening shifts. This arrangement is not good and places a lot of stress on teachers who have to supervise the students during entertainment. It has also reduced the students' scope of socialization during such gatherings. On speech and prize giving days a greater number of the students have to sit outside the assembly hall under canopies and are at the mercy of the sun and the elements. Unfortunately the School has just received a letter that work on the assembly hall should be stopped since the project has not been approved by the R.C.C.

Aggrey Chapel

- What has been said of the assembly hall applies to the school chapel as well. Canopies have been raised around the Aggrey Chapel to accommodate the large number of students. Whenever it rains during church services and School gatherings, the situation is not good to behold. Service or assembly has to come to an abrupt end. Through the internally generated funds (IGF), the Board and the school are constructing a new three-thousand seating capacity chapel for the school. This new chapel is situated behind the Music school by the new assembly hall, close to the Anunmle village. The siting is strategic; so that encroachers on the school land are warded off. The school would need a lot of assistance to complete this huge project which is very essential for the daily life and work in Achimota School.



AMA Millennium Girls Dormitory



Construction of the New Chapel



Under Construction New Assembly Hall



New Kitchen Complex



GetFUND Sponsored New Girls' Dormitory





6-Unit Classroom Block

6.0. SPORTS

Achimota School continues to participate and excel in many sporting disciplines. The school participates in the annual zonal and super zonal athletic competitions organized in the Greater Accra Region. At the athletic meeting held in 2015, the School set a new record in the boys High Jump. Achimota School took the first and third positions in the boys' high jump and the second and third positions in the girls' high jump. Achimota boys also took the first position in discus and the second and third positions in javelin. During the 2014/2015 Greater Accra Zone three sports, the girls handball, basketball and table tennis teams took the first position. The girls were fifth (5th) in soccer.

The Achimota-King's/Queen's college games have been revived since 2008. The school participated in the Centenary games in Lagos in 2009. In 2014 the annual games were held in Achimota and we won in all the disciplines in the boys division except scrabble and chess. The girls also won in hockey and cricket.

In 2015 also Achimota travelled to Lagos on 17th May, 2015 to participate in the games and returned on 23rd May, 2015 with a contingent of one hundred and forty four (144) students and staff (chaperons).

Once again the boys won all their matches in hockey, table tennis, cricket, football and basketball and lost in chess and scrabble. It is worthy to note that chess, scrabble and monopoly are mind games that are played at the inter-schools level in Nigeria. It is also worthy to note that King's College has kept the national trophy for the past five years. The girls won their hockey and table tennis matches and lost the football, basketball, scrabble and chess matches.

Currently the School boasts of two cricket ovals. The new one was constructed by a member of the Ghana Cricket Association. The Achimota Golf Club has also constructed a Golf Academy where interested students and staff can go for golf lessons. Girls are now playing cricket. The OAA 1987 Group recently handed over to the school the newly renovated swimming pool. We hope that from

next term the students would start taking swimming lessons. The OAA 1991 Group is constructing two tennis courts close to the staff club house as their project to be handed over in 2016. When this project is completed the students and staff would have the opportunity to learn how to play lawn tennis.

7.0 SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Traditional school activities continue to be organized. Speech Day, Founders' Day, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, House Gardening Competition, Singing Competition, School Play and Big Inspections all feature prominently on the school's annual calendar. Various OAA groups continue to sponsor various programmes and school activities. The Achimota School Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols continues to attract large patronage from Akoras and the general public.

7.1 TALENT DEVELOPMENT

There are a number of clubs and societies in the School. Some of which are the Cadet, Choir, Science Club, Drama Club, Writers and Debaters Club, AFS, Wildlife Club etc.

Recently a student wrote a play which he directed and was watched by the entire student body during entertainment. He also wrote an addendum to Joe De-Graft's play, "Sons and Daughters". This was also acted to the delight of all. Members of the Drama Club are now very adept at stage craft, lighting systems etc. the activities of the choir and the cadets is open secret to all. All the clubs ensure that talents are developed.

8.0. DONATIONS

- A donation of a generator set to the Western compound by the USA Akora group AC 2010 has been of great benefit to the school, especially in the light of the recent power crisis which affected the whole nation. The Eastern compound is served by another generator set provided through the assistance of the PTA and the School.

- A parent recently donated a quantity of paints to the school that enabled the school to paint the Administration Block.

- Another parent also continuously fills most of the pot holes in the roads on the eastern and western compounds.
- The OAA 1969 Group provided streetlights for the school in 2009 as their 40th year of leaving Achimota School project. The PTA then augmented the number of street lights and is helping to maintain the street lights on both compounds of the school

8.1 FINANCES

In line with the government's policy on the Progressively Free Education the government has absorbed fifty two Ghana cedis (GH¢52.00) of the day students' fees. This caters for twelve items on the bill. The Day students are therefore paying twenty Ghana cedis (GH¢20.00) while the boarders pay a total of three hundred and ninety Ghana cedis (GH¢390.00) covering utilities, accommodation and food.

9.0. CHALLENGES

➤ Electrical Cables

Most of the electrical cables in the School are very old. The last time some of them were changed was in 1975. There is the need to re-wire all facilities in the School to prevent any form of unseen disaster.

➤ Water Problems

Water has not been flowing through the taps regularly. This has forced the school to sink a number of boreholes especially on the eastern compound to provide water for the students' houses and the classroom washrooms. Indeed each boarding house has a borehole. The two kitchens also have boreholes. Unfortunately the borehole on the eastern compound is not being maintained properly hence the School buys water every day at a cost. The school would need a water tanker to help alleviate this challenge.

➤ **School Lands**

About 172.68 acres of School lands situated near Anunmle all the way to the games field were taken over by the Nii Ako Nortei family of Osu. They presented a writ of possession from the court to the police when the School reported their presence to the police. The School is appealing to the public to stay away from Achimota School Lands. Facilities in the School are crying for expansion to accommodate generations yet unborn. We are appealing to the general public to think of Ghana first and leave the Achimota School lands alone for the benefit of all Ghanaians.

➤ **Encroachment**

The school is still grappling with the problem of encroachment. Private and corporate developers have taken huge portions of the School land for private residences and business concerns. Presently, there are so many ‘churches’ all around the School compound. Also a lot of squatters have occupied various portions of the School lands especially the areas near the games fields and the new Millennium Dormitory Block. Their presence is posing a great threat to staff and students. It has been alleged that the displaced residents of ‘Sodom and Gomorrah’ (Old Fadama) have relocated and are occupying some portions of the School lands near the games fields.

- It is also becoming very difficult for the school to police the school lands. Various groups and individuals continue to encroach on the school lands. Some of these encroachment cases are being tried at the law courts. The demise of the former school lawyer who represented the school in court pro bono has placed the school in a precarious position. The School has therefore had to seek the services of Bentsi Enchil, Letsa and Ankomah for legal assistance.

➤ **Murder cases**

On 1st September, 2015 a dead body was found around the games field area, near the Cricket oval. The police were called and upon investigations they confirmed that it was a murder case. The incident is a real threat to members of the School

community. Also on 11th October, 2015, the headless body of a baby was found on the compound; again and the police were called to pick the body. Indeed, between 1st September and 11th October, there have been four reported murder cases on the School Compound. This is rather frightening and worrisome. Even before these murders, the chief driver of the School was stabbed to death; a worker who went to defend him was also stabbed and is now suffering from severe health challenges. On two different occasions, a teacher and a non-teaching staff's defendant were nearly killed due to severe machete wounds inflicted on them by some “prayer camp people”.

➤ **Theft cases**

There have been a number of theft cases on the School compound. A classic example is the vandalization of the 1965 year group ultra modern kitchen. All the louvre blades on the side of the building towards Annumle have been stolen; a number of electrical and plumbing fittings were removed. The thieves also tried to remove the refrigeration system installed. We believe that with the growth of the city of Accra, it has become imperative to wall Achimota School to save life and property. As recently as 25th February, 2016, a resident in the forest smashed the windscreens of a number of cars of some staff living along the oval street. We have appealed to the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service, Parents, Old Students and all stakeholders to rise up to the occasion and wall Achimota School. Achimota is a national asset and a world historical heritage monument; hence the lands need to be protected. Posterity will judge our generation adversely if we refuse to harness what was handed over to us during our tenure as custodians of national assets.

- Ground staff who collect waste from the various dormitories and the dining hall have another challenge. The truck they use for their work is not hydraulic. They have to load the waste physically and empty it in the same manner into the modern incinerator constructed by the 1960 year group as their anniversary project in 2009. This is a serious energy-sapping task with its attendant health hazard. The school would be grateful if she would receive a gift of a modern waste disposal truck.

- Some of the school's buses are also grounded and this affects the busing of students during out-of-school programmes. The School needs buses.
- The age-old sewage problem is being worked on. The Accra Metropolitan Assembly's Accra Sewage Improvement Project (ASIP) team is handling the sewerage problem. It is expected that when this project is completed a solution would have been found to this problem. Currently, ASIP is doing a test run of the project.

➤ **Interference from Various Stakeholders**

The School prides herself in upholding discipline. Unfortunately, the School administration is always inundated with requests for reversal of laid down sanctions. This when done sends negative signals to students whose parents do not know anybody. We believe in the Achimota tradition and we would want to maintain our slogan of "That they all may be one", irrespective of whether the student has an Akora parent or a high profile parent or is a farmer's ward.

Again a number of stakeholders present the School with so many programmes and activities that disturb the School curriculum. We are appealing to all stake holders especially Akoras to desist from these practices.

➤ **Perceptions and Realities**

For some time now there has been the perception that Achimota School is not performing well academically. Various "academic league tables" have been put out there over the years purportedly coming from the Ghana Education Service or the West African Examination Council. Both bodies have on more than once come out to question the source of the league tables. Unfortunately, Akoras have always danced to this tune brought out by the league tables. It would interest stakeholders to know that Achimota School had seventeen (17) 8'A's, seventeen (17) 7'A's and twenty four (24) 6'A's in the 2015 West Africa

Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations. Schools that had less than ten (10) 8'A's were among the first ten schools in the supposed league table.

There have been various academic competitions that the School has won, some of which were reported in the dailies. Unfortunately, Akoras did not see these. For the past five or six years, Achimota School has been in the first six in the National Science and Mathematics Quiz, unfortunately the stakeholders have been silent on this. Even when the boys won all their sporting disciplines against King's College, we were accused of not winning the mind games. These statements are rather unfortunate considering the efforts members of staff put into developing the students.

10.0. CONCLUSION

The school administration would continue to work hard to improve the lot of Achimota School. This it would do in collaboration with all stake holders of the school and well-wishers.

We are indeed grateful to the Board of Governors of the School for their advisory role and supervision. We also appreciate the work of our teaching and non-teaching staff. We thank the PTA, Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service, Akoras and the Accra Metropolitan Assembly for the constant support they give to the School.

I wish God's blessings on all your endeavors. Long live Achimota School; long live Ghana.

THE END