

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 13th June, 2021
1400 GMT, Aggrey Chapel





INTRODUCTION

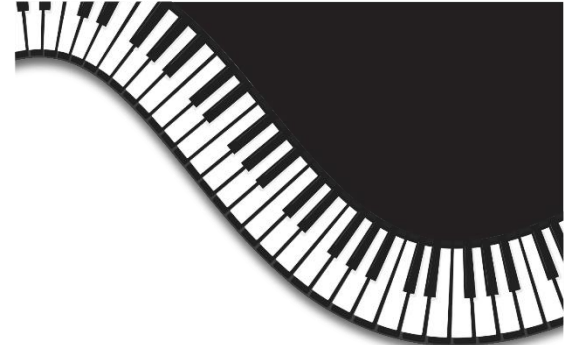
- 2020 was intended to be a year of great achievements and high expectations – one which had a lovely ring to it for almost everything.
- Then the whole world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and everything turned upside down.
- It was no longer business as usual. The lockdown brought about another set of challenges, but Akoras rose to the occasion and creativity became the order of the day. We discovered new ways of surviving the new normal.
- Some worked but a few others failed.



CONTINUES...

- In 2020, we held the Annual General Meeting, OAA Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Departed Akoras, as well as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, virtually.
- Allow me to take this opportunity to commend Akoras and the staff of the Secretariat for remaining focused during these trying times. I thank God that we were able to weather the storm and today we are in a much better place with vaccines.
- Physical meetings were generally replaced with virtual meetings by the Executive Committee and Akoras were encouraged to participate. I was impressed with the number of activities that popped up online. This new order guaranteed the safety of all who adhered to the COVID-19 safety protocols.





OAA ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- It has been over a year since the introduction of the new OAA website, but registration has been disappointingly low.
- To date, only 645 Akoras have registered on the Website whereas there are thousands of Akoras out there. More activities have been introduced online and I am appealing to all Akoras to endeavour to register on the Website and every other OAA social media platform
- Kindly subscribe to *AkoraTube* on YouTube; *OAA Secretariat* on Facebook and *oldachimotans* on Twitter in order to keep abreast with all news and events concerning the OAA and Akoras.





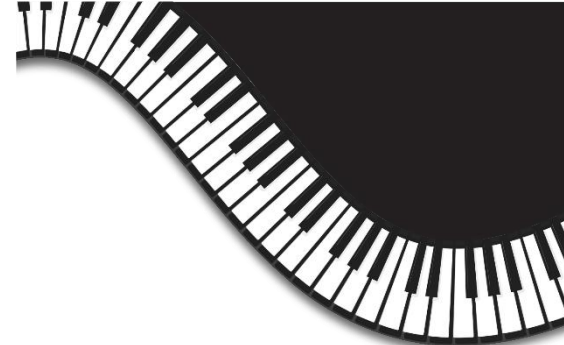
AKORAS DATABASE

- There is currently a committee collating the contact details of all known Akoras unto an *MS Access* database.
- The entire database will be used exclusively by the Secretariat, and we can assure you that only selected non-sensitive information will be made public.
- Akoras will have the option of stating what information they want made public; we therefore entreat you to participate to make this assignment successful.
- More details will be rolled out as and when required.
- The OAA will safeguard the privacy of Akoras and will not give contact details to third parties.



ACHIMOTA SCHOOL AND THE RASTAFARIAN SAGA

- Achimota School got in the news earlier in the year for all the wrong reasons, trying to enforce its rules against a backdrop of protests.
- The subsequent court case was lost by the School Board. The OAA pledged its support to the School Board in the matter.
- The School Board has appealed the judgement and the OAA continues to support the School Board.



LANDS AND SECRETARIAT BUILDING

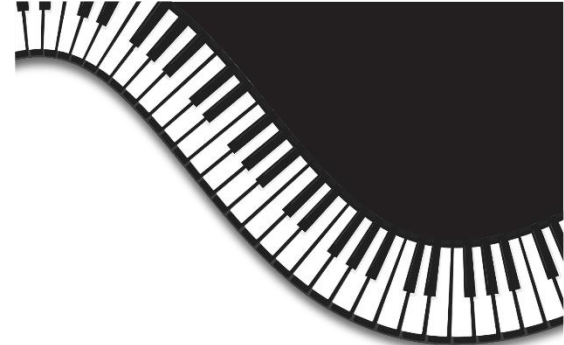
- In fighting to protect the school's lands one consideration has been to have them managed professionally through a Trust which will manage all revenue generated from them.
- The process of preparing a Trust Deed and setting up the Trust has been quite problematic and has led to a stalemate that we need to resolve.
- The OAA has over the years concentrated its efforts on activities for the School, leaving its own Secretariat in dire need of a facelift or upgrade in the short term. We have also discussed moving to a purpose-built office complex in the long term.
- The use of the Staff Club House has not been frictionless over the years, and the available space has decreased significantly, making it inadequate for the Secretariat's operations.



TRUST FUND

- The OAA 2020 accounts and those of the Achimota School Endowment Trust Fund have been prepared and audited and will be presented in the course of the Meeting.
- Plans are underway to increase the capital base of the Trust Fund. Even though the Campaign is yet to be launched, some pledges have been made and more is expected.

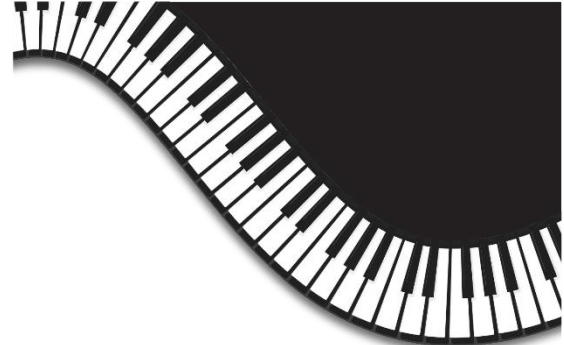




PREPARING FOR A NEW ACHIMOTA

- OAA would like to see an Achimota School that is well resourced and able to provide students with high quality education appropriate for the times.
- The products of Achimota School must be globally competitive, as used to be the case, and is much less so the case today.
- Changing the situation calls for significantly expanded resources, which can only happen with changes in government policy and improvements in governance.

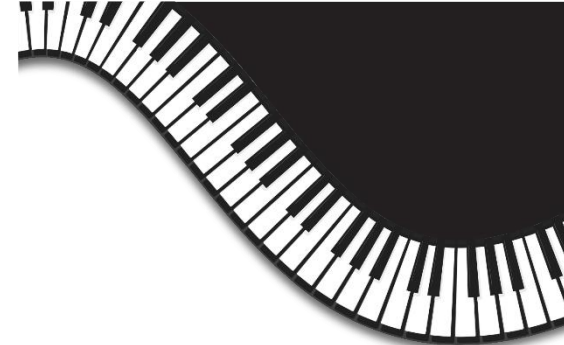




Preparing for a new Achimota

- The proposal is to develop a strategic plan and initiate a number of policies that will significantly improve the quality of Achimota School education before the School turns 100 in a few years.
 - These include enhancing governance at the School with a fairly independent Board and Management, that is fully in charge of the School's assets and liabilities.
 - This is to be proposed formally to the Government of Ghana soon.
 - Along this path, the OAA would like a well, and professionally-managed ASETF with a total investment base of \$10 million by the time we celebrate our 100th anniversary.
- Also, as part of the Centenary celebration, the OAA would like to present a gift of an ultra-modern Auditorium with a seating capacity of 250 to the School.
 - Our intention is to get the Trust Fund to subsequently take responsibility for capital developments at the School and be responsible for supporting the maintenance of such facilities. This will include the new Science Block.





Preparing for a new Achimota

- For the \$1 million immediate campaign, we propose to erect a short wall near the Administration Block to engrave the names of all who contribute \$1000 and above for posterity.
- All other contributions will certainly be accepted, and there will be other forms of acknowledgment and recognition for them. Indeed, there will be enough space on the wall for all major donors as we push towards the auditorium and \$10 million for 2027.
- So far 8 people have pledged a \$1000 each.



CLOSING REMARKS

- The main objective here is to ensure these ideas are implemented by growing the fund to allow our school to attain greater heights.
- Let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and get the show on the road. The Trust Fund has come a long way and needs a little more push to achieve its goals. Let us all take the initiative to make a donation and remember no amount is too small.
- We Akoras are proud of our alma mater and we will not hesitate to support it in any way we can, especially when external forces are striving to do otherwise.



THANK YOU