

# Newsletter

## 'Legacy Project'- OAA 1976 50th Anniversary



*Achimotans*

## *"Honouring & Celebrating Our Teachers"*



### **Building on a Legacy**

**The OAA 1976 Year Group is delighted to announce the launch of the construction of a high-grade Teachers' Accommodation Building Complex.** The first phase build will be an 8-Unit Apartment Building, Gated Development, located on the Achimota Oval alongside other existing Teachers' Bungalows. This choice of Legacy Project follows in the tradition of Achimota School's Heritage of 'taking care of its own', in providing high quality Teachers' Homes, to ensure Teacher well-being thrives, allowing them to give of their best to students and the wider Achimota Community.

As direct beneficiaries of Teacher investments, we have chosen to focus on 'Honouring, Uplifting, Caring and Giving Back' at a critical time when student intake has quadrupled.

The combination of high student intake and limited Teacher residences have led to an emerging crisis, with over 200 teachers unable to be properly housed .

This '1st Newsletter - Launch Edition' invites interested stakeholders, to join us in what we are doing to help change the situation and make a lasting difference.

Read about the progress already being made with the 'Legacy Project'. *Come Join Us in delivering on this critical project.*

## Key Features this Edition

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### 'Ode To Teachers' & Welcome

In this 50th Anniversary Milestone of the 1976 OAA Year Group, '*Paying it Forward*' is our mantra, with a focus on 'Impacting Teachers Lives' for the better. This Launch Newsletter Edition shares our Vision, Mission and Stories of why this is important, and how we are working to '*Act the Talk, and Walk the Walk*' to make a lasting difference to Teacher's Lives.

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### 'Esther's Story

#### *A Teacher's, Family & Student's Story*

Esther's Father, Mr Alex Ofei-Aboagye over a 23 year distinguished tenure - 1964 to 1987, served as a senior member of Achimota's Staff, teaching and doubling as House Master of Lugard House. Esther's story, brings to life the integrated lives of Teachers', their Families and Students. It embodies the mutual benefits of community, this offered to all.

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### The Legacy Project

The OAA 1976 Legacy Building Project is a Teachers' Accommodation, 8-Unit Apartment Building for which we have commenced construction works on site. With Contract signed, the Contractor and Project Management team are fully mobilised. Read more about this exciting Legacy Project.

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### Quiz and Fund Raising

Join us and Partner with us to make a difference. We welcome your participation and investment - in your time, in kind and with financial support. Further details on becoming a Sponsor is provided in this section.

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### 'Priorities Delivered' & 'Schedule Ahead' 'Launch & Sod-Cutting'

The 'Priorities Delivered' and 'Schedule Ahead' will look to provide Progress Update Summaries, to augment 'Year Group Monthly Meetings Report-Backs', keeping everyone engaged and informed. A key event on the Schedule Ahead is 'The Legacy Project -Launch and Sod-Cutting', planned for May 2025.

## An 'Ode to Our Teachers'

Everybody has a favourite teacher who made an impact on them. Someone who inspired, cajoled, disciplined and helped shape who we are today. We want to acknowledge these **Mentors and Guides who transformed our lives.**

**'HONOURING & CELEBRATING'** - Means: We acknowledge the huge impact you had in shaping us in school, and in our futures, choices and successes as adults. Your instruction and mentorship has had a lasting impact.

**'IMPACT'** - Means amongst others that: You, our Teachers, provided us with a diversity of experiences: in and outside the classroom. In our academics, and in nurturing our cultural sensibilities as Ghanaians and as Global Citizens.

You encouraged us to expand our imaginations, to push beyond limits and 'think outside the box'.

**'SPURRING US ON'** - Means we Credit you with increasing our Ambition and life-long reaching out for Excellence.

**We Say 'Yedawase - Thank You!' We Remember and Are Grateful. We Seek to Pay it Forward and Pay Back, in supporting and caring for Teachers with 'Our Legacy Project, Appreciation Days', and so much more.**

*Honouring & Celebrating Our Teachers*

# Welcome

**On behalf of the OAA  
1976 Year Group,**

*I Welcome you to the First  
Edition of our Newsletter.*



The publication aims to keep you informed about achievements within the Year Group and, more importantly, upcoming events.

The Year Group chose the construction of a 2 Storey Apartment block for teachers as our Legacy Project to mark our 50th year milestone.

The contract for the Legacy Project was signed on 10 March 2025, at a cost of Ghs 5,429,641.88 and work commenced on 17 March 2025. The project is envisaged to be completed and handed over to the School Authorities by November 2026, at the latest.

You will find an exciting line-up of activities and events and I look forward to sharing these with you through our newsletter. I wish to thank all Akoras of the 1976 Year Group for their invaluable support as we journey on to deliver the Legacy Project.

Let us showcase to the public what can be achieved by reverence for and loyalty to our Alma Mater.

I hope you enjoy this first edition, and look forward to keeping you updated throughout the year.

**Mr Kwaku Dua Osei-Bonsu**  
*President*  
OAA 1976

# Esther's Story

## "A Teacher's, Family, and Student's Story "

by Esther Ofei-Aboagye (OAA 76)



Living in the Achimota Community left an indelible effect on me and provided intangible benefits, beyond just shelter. My father, Alex Ofei-Aboagye, was a member of staff from 1964 to 1987 and, over the period, our family lived in two types of colonial-era staff bungalows. First, the Ofei-Aboagye family occupied the Housemaster's "double-quarters" at Lugard House, where my father with his colleague Mr. Derek John Holt, as House Masters, were charged with ensuring the well-being of student boarders. Mr. Holt occupied the 'single quarters' accommodation, on the side of the House's dormitories.

By extension, we the Ofei-Aboagye children, were also subject to the Boarding House rules – including 'Rest hour, Prep-time and Lights-out', amongst others'. The discipline began there and prepared us well for our futures as boarders in other houses at Achimota School.

In 1974, our family moved to the more spacious Bungalow 17 on the Southern Oval where the homes, mainly for the Management and Senior Members of Staff, were located on larger tracts of land. The buildings were solid and had wooden floors and panelling that required regular polishing. There were novelties such as a pantry, large dining room separate from the living room, a summer shed, and an out-house known as a "boys-quarters" for domestic staff. The large mahogany tree in front of the house meant a lot of sweeping! Bungalow 17 adjoined the "mysterious" arboretum, where many plants, small animals, intriguing noises, shadows and adventures existed, fuelling our imaginations.

The quiet and orderly environment of Achimota made it a good place to bring up children. The community was complete with health, postal, security, maintenance and entertainment facilities. As a child, learning about facilities such as the cricket oval, the swimming pool and the school farm gave me the understanding that education went beyond books. We were also inspired by the opportunities to observe events like the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, Festivals of Nine Lessons and Carols, Singing Competitions, Founders' and Speech Days.

The School's proximity to University of Ghana, the Institute of Public Administration (later GIMPA) and Anunmle Village, where non-teaching/support staff lived, built a wide network of family relationships bound together by the ethos of Achimota. The Government's Omnibus Service Authority (OSA) even run a bus service (Bus 14) through the campus, past the hospital and the main dining hall into Anunmle till the late 60s. The bus-stop was across the street from Lugard House and we often took the bus to and from Accra.



Over the four decades after we left the Achimota Campus, countless children will have gained life-defining experiences and benefits such as the ones I had. This 1976 Legacy Project continues that important heritage of integrated communities impacting one another. The expansion of quality Teachers' Accommodation will also build on the great and long tradition of contributing to Teachers' and Families' well-being, influencing character-building of 'enrolled and unenrolled students on its campus', sustaining Achimota as the "Glory of the Coast" with wide-ranging and positive impacts on individuals, communities, the nation and the world at large.

# The Legacy Project

## Investing in Teachers' Accommodation and Lives

### The Challenge

The goal is to make a contribution towards remedying the housing deficit challenge Achimota School faces in providing affordable, accessible and good quality accommodation for all its teachers.

There are 217 teachers without accommodation on the Achimota Campus, and most face real challenges in finding suitable residence, near the school, on a limited teacher's salary. Many teachers cannot afford accommodation outside campus. The school has struggled to find funding to solve this growing problem with its attendant adverse impact on staff and the quality of educational life.

In keeping with our long-held ethos of 'Honouring and Celebrating our Teachers', The OAA 1976 Year Group decided to seek a solution and to do something to plug this gap. The Year Group has embarked on a project which will leverage the availability of vacant land on campus to construct a new build of Teachers' Accommodation. This opportunity emerged from the diligent search and discussions with the school authorities which identified a burnt-out structure, previously a teacher's house, on land that is a great fit for the project's purpose.



Burnt Out Structure: Behind Clark House

## Transforming Teachers' Accommodation - from burnt out to a 'Rising Phoenix'

The site is situated off the Achimota School Oval, a short distance from the academic facilities, while being sufficiently distant from students' dormitories to give teachers privacy.

Its proximity on campus and design will enhance quality interaction between students and teachers, especially during preparations for examinations and extra-curricular activities, much needed for nurturing well rounded and productive citizens, Achimota's trademark.

**The site** has been master-planned by the Project's Architects, members of the 1976 Year Group, for **building in two Phases of two apartment blocks**. Each two-level apartment block will comprise of 8-Unit Apartments. All apartments will be clustered around an internal courtyard. A Staff Common room will be located between the two blocks, strengthening the community and encouraging interaction.

Upon entry to the Apartment Complex, there is a hierarchy of spaces, starting with a car parking area and a beautiful Courtyard with an Atrium; these spaces bring an eco-consciousness into the building, creating communal spaces for children and families and enhancing their well-being.



*Vision of Master Planned Phase 1 & Phase 2 – 8-Unit Apartments in a*

## Making an Impact

**OAA 1976 Year Group will launch and construct Phase 1 – a Block of 8 Units**, leading the way for another year group to take up the build in Phase 2 of the second Block of 8 Units. A total of sixteen units will be built across the whole site.

The 'Legacy Project' building will have a significant impact; it will be a permanent visible contribution, demonstrating that our Teachers are a priority and held in high esteem. Beyond that to demonstrate this in practical ways to enhance Teacher Welfare and Well-Being.



*The Atrium: An internal Atrium and Courtyard*



## Ready To GO - The Signing of the Contract:

On the morning of Monday 10th March 2025, The 1976 Year Group President, Mr. Kwaku Osei Bonsu, and Legacy Project Manager, Mr. Reginald Longdon along with other 1976 representatives, met with the Headmaster, Mr. Ebenezer Graham Acquah, the Bursar, Teacher Representatives and Managing Director, Ziggurat Investments Ltd, in the Headmaster's Office to sign the Contract.

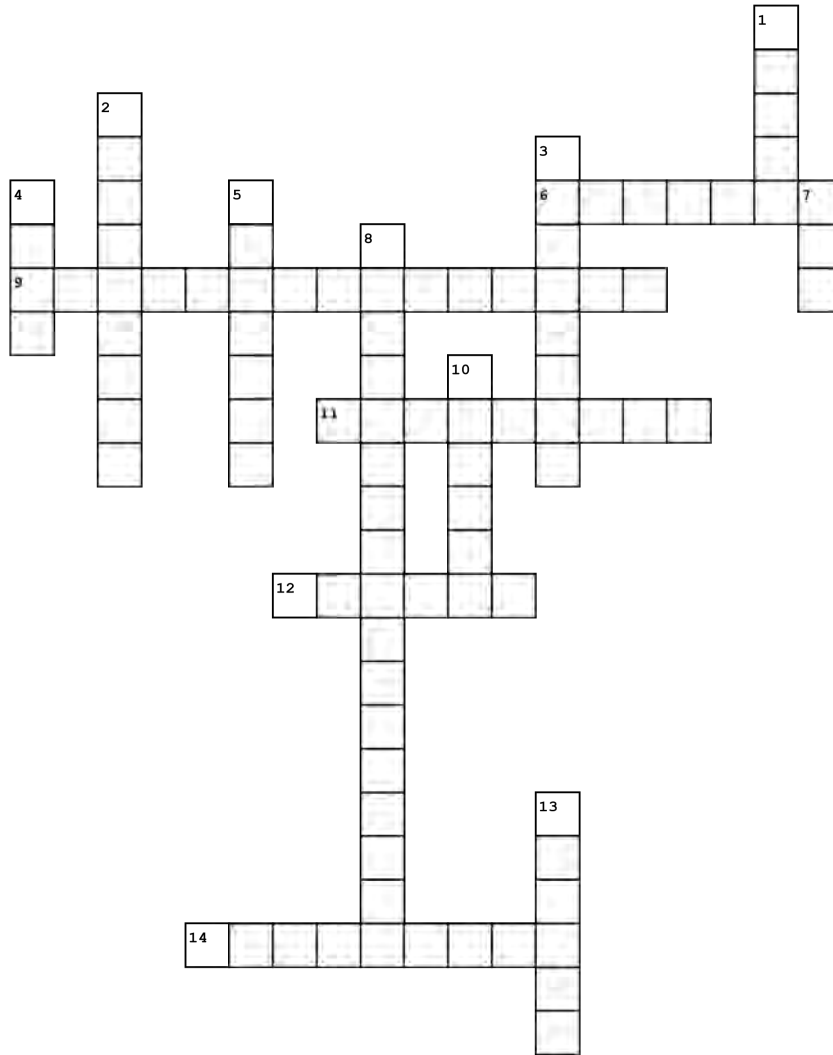
Exactly one week later, on 17/03/25, WE ARE GOOD TO GO. Work has begun with site clearing.



Post build, the plan is to replant each tree that was cleared. Demolished material will also be recycled for the new build



# Achimota School Crossword



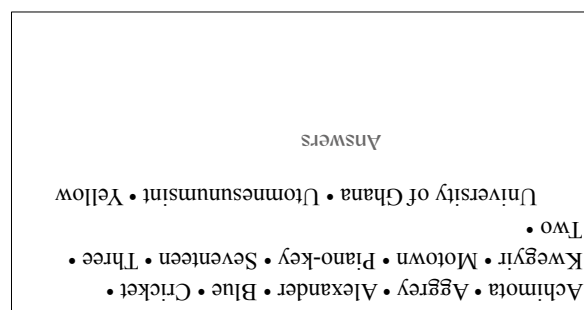
## Across

- 6. A game played with a bat and leather ball at Achimota
- 9. The Latin motto of the school
- 11. The number of student dormitories
- 12. Achimota schools nickname.
- 14. What is the first name of first Headmaster of Achimota

## Down

- 1. Number of founders of Achimota school
- 2. A hyphenated word to describe the school crest
- 3. The first co-educational secondary school in Ghana
- 4. What colour represents Clark house
- 5. Dr Aggrey's Ghanaian middle name.
- 7. How many compounds does Achimota have
- 8. Which University has its roots in Achimota
- 10. The colour representing Livingston House
- 13. The boys house closest to the Administration Block in Achimota

## Word Bank



# Fund Raising

This 'Teachers' Accommodation - Legacy Project' presents an opportunity to partner with Achimota School and the education-loving community in Ghana to meet a critical need for the school and to 'Honour and Celebrate' the profound impact of teachers on our society.

## Target Funding Anticipated

We aim to **raise funds to cover the estimated cost of \$350,000.00**. This cost includes the building, complete with a reasonable level of fixtures and fittings, as well as completion of all the external areas, including car park, children's play area and soft-landing.

**BECOME  
A SPONSOR**

## A Call to Partner with Us

The Achimota community is encouraging you all to join us in contributing to this project, in cash, or in kind, or in time. A special call goes out to the following groups; no donation is too small or too large:

- ◆ All Achimota alumni (Akoras) wherever you may be
- ◆ Parents of current Achimotans
- ◆ Parents of past Achimotans
- ◆ Philanthropists and business leaders
- ◆ International organisations focused on education in Ghana
- ◆ Corporations with CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Programs in Ghana
- ◆ Embassies and High Commissions of Countries with strong ties to Achimota and Ghana
- ◆ Religious Organizations promoting religious education.

Anyone interested and invested in continuing quality education and teaching.

## In Summary

There is a severe deficit in Teachers' accommodation which affects Teachers' quality of life and morale. Meeting the well-being of teachers is integral to improving student results.

**We ask you to pitch in and contribute to making this important, prestigious and high quality Teacher Accommodation project a reality.** Please consider becoming a Sponsor partner on this project. Our Fund Raising Team will work with you to receive your contribution or to offer you our Sponsor Pack. "Let's Honour and Celebrate our Teachers."

## Bank Details

- 1). OAA 1976 Year Group - **Zenith Bank**, Labone Branch, Cedi Account - **0006011224008**
- 2). OAA 1976 Year Group - **Zenith Bank**, Labone Branch, **USD Account - 0006041209049**
- 3) **Momo Account (Cedis) - 055 641 3178** in name of OAA 1976 Year Group.

# Priorities Delivered & Schedule Ahead

## Launch & Sod-Cutting

17 May 2025

On behalf of the OAA 1976 Year Group, we invite you to join us for the 'Launch and Sod-Cutting Event.'



Key Legacy Programme Activities have been scheduled throughout the year. 'Update Summaries' are provided in the quarterly Newsletter. Fuller updates are provided in monthly year group meetings.

### 'Priorities Delivered

*Dec. 2024 to April 2025*

- ✓ **Fund Raising Phase 1-** 'OAA 1976 Member Sponsors' Outreach - Significant Sponsorship obtained
- ✓ **Construction Contract Signed**
- ✓ **'Old Burnt-Out' building demolished and Site Construction has commenced**
- ✓ **50th Anniversary Branding** - Logo, Letterhead and Color Palette completed
- ✓ **'Sponsor Pack Brochure' and Letters** designed for Fund Raising drive
- ✓ **Fund Raising -Phase 2 'External Outreach Underway'**
- ✓ **Newsletter Edition 1** - completed and distributed
- ✓ **Merchandising** - Tee Shirts and Caps designed and produced

### 'Schedule Ahead'

*May to September 2025*

- \* **17 May 2025 - 'Launch & Sod-Cutting '**
- \* **'Health Walk'** - this Quarter, date to be confirmed
- \* **Fund Raising -Phase 2 'External Outreach** - Stepped Up Drive
- \* **'Yearbook -1976 & 1986'** - Design, Layout and Content Development underway
- \* **'Founders Day' Planning commenced**
- \* **Docu-Series content development underway**
- \* **Social Media Activity Underway**
- \* **Newsletter - Edition 2**
- \* **Merchandising** - 'New Branded Products ' & Instagram Digital Shop in production-  
\*\*\***WATCH THIS SPACE**



Mr R. Yirenkyi - Addo  
Chemistry Teacher - *Retired*



Mrs Emma Quarcoo  
Mathematics Teacher - *Retired*

## MEET THE TEAM

### Newsletter - Editorial Team

- \* Dr Kwasi Kwarko - Writer
- \* Esther Ofei-Aboagye - Writer
- \* Susan Amponsah- Writer
- \* Kwaku Ampomah - Writer
- \* Margaret Sowah - Writer & Editing
- \* Barbara B-Agyeman- - Writer & Design

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