**The Regent Secondary School, Abuja, Nigeria**



**Additional Information for Applicants for September 2016**

**The Regent Secondary School: History and Recent Development**

There are two Regent Schools in Abuja: The Regent Primary School and The Regent Secondary School. A third school, Abuja Preparatory School, is also a member of The Regent Family of School. The background information below is more specific to The Regent Secondary School.

The Regent School was founded in 2000 in order to provide a British-style education of high quality to Nigerian children and to the children of expatriates living and working in the growing city of Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. The Regent Secondary School has evolved into a friendly, thriving Day and Boarding School offering a broad and balanced education to approximately 340 students. It is a co-educational school for students for students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 (Years 7-11)

The school is very popular in Abuja and has an excellent reputation locality, more widely across Nigeria and internationally. About Eighty per cent of our students are Nigerian, with the remainder coming from the expatriate business and diplomatic communities. In all, some 25 nationalities are represented in our student body. The school is at near-capacity, with four three classes in each Year group, and there are normally waiting lists. Entry is selective, and admission is through international standard Entrance Examinations.

The Regent Secondary School evolved from the Regent Primary School and was established on a new, purpose-built campus in September 2009 where it has experienced steady growth ever since. Widely acclaimed for its excellent academic and sporting facilities, it is situated in the popular Mabushi residential district of Abuja. Included in the purpose-built campus are some thirty-five air-conditioned classrooms, three state-of-the art equipped ICT suites and a large well-stocked library/ instructional materials centre . There are five Science laboratories, Two spacious Art Rooms, three Music Rooms, two French Room, three Music Rooms, Games Room, Cookery Room, Dance Room, Drama Room and an Auditorium with a capacity of five hundred.

Sporting facilities include an international-size football pitch, tennis, basketball and badminton pitches. The school is extremely with all classrooms being equipped with computers and LCD projectors and smart boards. Overall, the school is extremely well-resourced, and most materials are flown in from UK suppliers. Budgets for the further development of educational resourcing are very generous and, with a number of other budget areas, are under the direct control of the Head of School.

The Regent Secondary School curriculum is truly international and delivers a British-style education based upon the English National Curriculum, incorporating elements applicable to our Nigerian setting. Using a slightly adapted version of the National Curriculum in Years 7 and 8, the CIE Checkpoint examinations are administered in Year 9, with the CIE IGCSE curriculum in Years 10 and 11.

The School is a member of the Council of International Schools (CIS) and we are actively pursuing full accreditation with COBIS via a BSO inspection. It is also subject to inspection by the Nigerian authorities, whose past inspection reports are very favourable. Examination results are excellent year on year, and the vast majority of our students win placements at prestigious UK schools of their choice as well as in the USA, Canada and others in Nigeria.

The Regent Secondary School, being a Day and Boarding School, has four modern, comfortable student hostels which can accommodate about 160 boarding students. There is a comprehensive Boarding Program, and all House Parents and Assistant House Parents are well-trained, and are also teachers at the school.

At the Regent Secondary School, we aim to inspire our students:

* To discover and realize their full academic, sporting, artistic and personal potential
* To aim for and to reach, on their leaving, places in higher education or employment which will stretch and fulfil them to the utmost.
* To become well-rounded young men and women who enjoy life and who contribute to the lives of others.
* To become leaders, learning how to think for themselves, cooperate, communicate, problem solve and to make decisions in a thoughtful and wise manner.
* To reflect and act on the spiritual and moral dimensions of life in making a contribution to the wider community
* To respect others, to be open-minded, tolerant, principled and honest.

**Organisation of The Regent Secondary School**

The Secondary School is divided into five Departments: English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science and Visual and Performing Arts, with each having a Head of Department responsible for the curriculum and day-to-day running of respective departments. There is an active Performance Management System, in which Heads of Department have responsibility, and teacher performance is continuous and measured on an annual basis.

The Senior Academic Leadership Team (SMT) consists of the Principal and three Vice-Principals, one for each of the Academic Program, Boarding, and Pastoral Care. This team supports and strengthens the academic and administrative staff which include: Administrative Heads of Departments, Bursar, Administrative Manager, Registrar, ICT, Reception, Librarian, Nursing Team of 4, and a Security Team of 11 persons. The grounds and premises are carefully cared for by a strong team of some twenty gardeners and cleaners, and there is 24-hour security inside and outside the premises.

The School is proprietorial and fee-paying. Its owners, who are Nigerian, are very supportive of all its activities. Day-to-day running of all aspects of the school, development of educational policy, management of staff and pupil welfare etc. are all fully delegated to the Head.

The normal range of classroom lessons is taught by experienced, qualified teachers, each of whom is also responsible for coordinating two after-school, co-curricular activities. A programme of educational visits/ trips, and lectures enhances the curriculum. The School has two thirty-seat buses.

Each December, all children in the school present End of Year performances for parents, and all students are involved through their respective houses. There is also a major annual production of very high standard. Dance, Drama and Choir blend African and international elements and students participate with great enthusiasm and considerable ability. All productions play to a full house. The School participates in various local events, including an International Schools’ Football League, Swim Meets and various academic competitions in English, Mathematics and Science with notable success. .

The Regent Secondary School day starts with a Briefing at 7:50 AM, and classes run until 4:00 PM Monday to Thursday. On Friday, classes end at 1:00 PM. A full range of After-School activities and Booster Classes occur from 4:10 PM to 5:00 PM daily, and often Booster Classes and Activities like the Duke of Edinburgh Award are held on weekends.

There are three terms per year, broadly organised according to the traditional UK pattern. Teachers are expected to be present in school for one full week before the beginning of the September Term 1, and for a day before the start of each of the other two terms, as well as on the day after the end of each term. During these times an intensive programme of Professional Development is delivered with a focus on the continuous improvement of teaching and learning.

Education is greatly valued and respected in Nigeria. Our students are willing learners and their parents are generally very supportive. Behaviour or discipline challenges are rare, and there is a Student Code of Conduct which is followed to the letter..

**The Posts and the People**

The School is always especially interested in prospective, experienced teachers who can bring additional skills, specialities, innovative ideas and enthusiasm to our School. We operate in a safe and secure environment with great support from the Board of Directors and parents.

As previously stated, we are actively pursuing full membership of COBIS and AISA by preparing the school for a BSO Inspection. To this extent, we invited, in March 2015, a practising ISI inspector to spend three days with us and conduct a mini-ISI inspection. His report concluded that the overall level of our teaching and learning is “Good” and much “Excellent”. We were pleased with this outcome and are already working on moving from Good to Excellent.

We are keen to attract people who can contribute sensitively to the needs of our School at the current time and who can feed positively into the further development of local staff skills and to school development overall. As such, it is likely that the people appointed will have experience of teaching in the UK but also have taught overseas. Experience of the UK independent sector, or of other fee-paying establishments, would be an added advantage.

Our overriding focus, however, is for teachers who are willing and flexible, completely committed to teaching Secondary Students as well as professionally and personally ready to respond to the challenge of an exciting and rewarding opportunity abroad. The ability to adapt quickly and easily to a new culture is essential, as is the capacity to make the most of what there is, socially and culturally. Easy-going, open-minded people who seek a genuinely enriching personal and professional experience will gain greatly from this opportunity.

**The Place:**

Abuja is a pleasant place to live. As the capital city, and in clear contrast to the former capital, Lagos, Abuja is clean and well-organised. It is the seat of government and home to many foreign Embassies and High Commissions. Traffic flows fairly freely along wide, tree-lined roads, and the presence of a high-level political and diplomatic community, as well as the large number of important international conferences held at the nearby international hotels ensures that Abuja is presented and preserved as a flagship city for Nigeria. Abuja is the fastest-growing capital city in the world.

There is a good selection of good restaurants, and excellent sports and leisure facilities at the nearby Hilton, Sheraton or the Blu Cabana Club. A number of gyms and spas are also opening. Tenpin bowling is a recent addition to the city’s amenities, as are a couple of small “theme parks”.

The expatriate community is sizeable and a range of social and cultural activities is available, all of which are well-advertised. The School enjoys excellent links with the nearby British High Commission.

There is a large local market where everything from food to cloth and music systems can be bought at affordable prices - especially with some bargaining! Alternatively, there are several well-stocked - though more expensive - supermarkets located near the school.

Nigerians are friendly, and willing to share their culture and experience if interest is shown. Local travel outside Abuja is possible, though at times it can be a little difficult. For the more adventurous, Nigeria is a fascinating country to explore.

There is a daily direct flight by British Airways between London Heathrow and Abuja; the flight time is six hours. KLM and Lufthansa also fly to Abuja from their European hub. Arik (Nigerian airline) has recently also begun a service from Abuja to Heathrow. In addition to these, Emirates, Ethiopian, Kenya Airways, Egypt Air and South African Airways have started flying to their destinations from Abuja. Within Nigeria, there are regular flights from Abuja to Lagos and other cities.

The cost of living is similar to the UK. Some things are a lot cheaper (petrol is one example) and others - usually imported foods - can be more expensive. If you choose to shop at the markets, it is possible to live more cheaply. British Airways gives you a 46kg luggage allowance in Economy Class, so it is possible to bring a few little favourites from home!

The climate is very agreeable. There is no winter, the year being divided into two clear seasons - the dry season, from November to April, and the rainy season, from May to October. Although temperatures are routinely in the low thirties, it’s a reasonably dry heat and humidity is not usually too much of a problem.

**Summary:**

For the right person, this is an excellent opportunity to do something a little different and to experience life in a fascinating part of the world. A high degree of self-reliance will be important, as will the capacity to enjoy Nigeria for what it is.

It is vital that prospective applicants understand that Nigeria has its own customs and culture, ways and rhythms, challenges and, occasionally, frustrations. It is not like England America or Canada and to be successful , one has to recognise that and work with it: that is part of the challenge and the opportunity.

Candidates in whom we are especially interested will be invited to participate in a telephone discussion, likely using Skype. This will not be a formal interview as such, but rather an opportunity for each side to ask questions and to establish that a face – to- face meeting would be mutually advantageous. A preliminary telephone interview does not necessarily imply that you will be invited to a meeting. Formal interviews will take place as soon as can be arranged.

Details of the salary and other benefits will be discussed at interview or, if appropriate, at the telephone interview stage, but not beforehand. Contracts usually run for either two or three years in the first instance, renewable by mutual agreement. A pleasant, air-conditioned, fully-furnished two-bedroomed apartment will be provided and tuition fees for children of staff are generously discounted. An annual return economy class air ticket is provided for the person appointed and his/her spouse/partner. Local medical care is also provided.

I hope the above information is useful ad helpful. Thank you for your interest in our school to date.

Yours sincerely

Dr. G. A. Hickman

Head of School