

# 2019

## 2019 PYP COMPLETE REPORT



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At the start of 2019 we shared a document outlining the direction we intend to take towards achieving our goals for 2019 and beyond. We had a clear mission which still is to enhance the potential of young people. PYP has since 2014 been making intentional and strategic strides to provide quality 360 education by offering opportunities for young people to Explore, Discover, Imagine and Create. Our dream is to see young people, who having passed through the PYP experience, emerge better and well equipped with what they need to become nation builders in future. See below a summary of the activities we carried out for PYP 2019, progress made and pointers for improvement.

## TUTORIAL PROGRAM

PYP 2019 Project began with the Registration/Orientation of new students with their parents and/or guardians to kick off the first phase of the project which is the tutorial program. On the 23rd of March, 2019 at Salthill Schools, A1 close, 3rd Avenue, Festac Town, Lagos, Nigeria, a total of 121 students who met the requirement for registration - possession of a copy of Mastering Series Common Entrance Textbook and accompaniment of a guardian – were registered. An English reading test was conducted to identify students who are weak in reading and to make provisions for a special Hello English classes where they would be taught basic phonetics, pronunciation, writing and reading English words. The following day, a math test was conducted as well to identify students who experienced challenges in mathematics. Students weak in Maths and English were invited for the Hello Class, which will be discussed further below. Based on the result of the English test, students were placed into the following segmentation:

- 1.) G1 G2: For students with very poor reading skills, these students were automatically drafted into the English Hello Classes for group tutoring. There was a total of 45 students in this category.
- 2.) G3: Students having grade three reading level had their own class due to their large class size of 45.
- 3.) G4, G5, G6\*: A small percentage (26%) of the total number of students for each of reading levels, a total of 31 students were grouped together with reading ability from grade 4 and above.

\*The division into three classes also took into consideration the resources available

The following are the different facilitators, their classes and subject taught:

Table 1: List of Teachers, Their Class Group and Subjects

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Ugochi Akoh/James Olawale	G1G2	Math
Benita Bulley/Blessing Okafor	G1G2	English
Zainab Bilesanmi/Blessing Ekong	G3	English
Isioma Ekpu	G3	Math
Chidinma Uzochukwu/Ewa Kolawole	G4G5G6	English
James Olawale	G4G5G6	Math

The Tutorials held every Saturday, from 10am to 2pm, for 17 weeks from 30th March, 2019 to 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 . There was a delay in the commencement date for this year due to the occurrence of the National and State Elections. Tutorial classes always began at 10am with a revision of previous class work and correction of previous assignment before going into the work for that day. The teachers reviewed different topics with their classes according to the common entrance curriculum using the textbooks Mastering Series and Brighter Grammar 1 & 2 as guides. Students in G1-G2 were taught the basics of reading using a specially prepared syllabus. Class work was given and thereafter take-home assignments. At the end of each tutorial session, all teachers met to discuss their experience, deliberated on challenges and shared suggestions, ideas and possible solutions.

The tutorial program was divided into two sessions. The first session was for 12 weeks after which, the class size was reduced, students with poor attendance records were culled. 89 students were qualified for the next session which commenced on 8 June, 2019 for a period of 6 weeks. During this time, the smaller class size apart from G3 allowed for better student to teacher relationship and learning.

Table 2: Class Groups and Attendance for the two sessions of the Tutorials

Class	Session 1 Class Size (%)	Attendance Average	Session 2 Class size (%)	Attendance Average
G1/G2	45 (37%)	5.9	22 (25%)	3.9
G3	45 (37%)	9.3	41 (46%)	3.9
G4/G5/G6	31 (26%)	7.7	26 (29%)	4

### ***Points of Improvement for PYP Tutorials***

The following are the different ways we need to improve for a better learning experience for our students in the next year:

1. Attendance: One of the pointers for improvement, we identified in previous years was increasing the attendance rate of students. To achieve better results in 2019, we invited the parents and guardians for an orientation on the registration day for the first time. We also ensure to limit the number of students to 121 (although 120 was the planned limit) filtering out students who did not adhere to the instructions of the invitation letter. In order to maintain a consistent attendance record, we decided to filter out students who had poor attendance rates in the first session. Looking at Table 2, attendance record was very good for the class groups except for G1G2 which had a 49% of attendance rate in the first session (5.9 out of 12 weeks). This means that while our ideas for improvement worked, we still need to come up with a better strategy to improve the attendance for G1G2 class whom we believe needs more attention. A possible way out is to have further split the class into two groups as 1 teacher to 45 students' ratio didn't seem to work out well for such a sensitive class. In the second session attendance was above 50% and this is due to the no tolerance rule for late coming.
2. Sufficiency of Teachers: Due to the large class size, having one teacher to manage the large number of students for a tutorial session could be difficult. And while our teachers do try their best, there is a need for more teachers for increased efficiency in the classes.
3. Consistency of Teachers: As PYP is purely volunteer based in regards to teacher recruitment, over the years maintaining consistency of teachers has always proved difficult. While this year was better than the previous due to the structure put in place and follow up/reminders carried out, there is still need for further improvement in maintaining consistency. This year, we experienced great results in consistency as each class had a substitute teacher. Therefore, going forward we want to improve on providing substitute teachers for each class for worse case scenarios, providing reinforcements for consistency and maintain a strict accountability policy.
4. Early attendance: The venue manager complained that our students always arrived too early on most days. Sometimes students arrived two hours before the lesson time,

this meant that, parents assumed their children were spending more hours at PYP, and also there was little supervision of students during this time as they wandered and played on the streets pending when the school opened which may not be safe. To curtail this habit for the next year, we would need to mention this at the orientation for the parents and guardians and also have a PYP team member arrive early enough to supervise these students.

## HELLO CLASSES

The Hello Class was designed as a supplementary class for PYP students weak in Maths and English Language. It was introduced for the first time this year as a way to provide these students with a focused group tutorial to help bring them up to speed within six months. For this first trial, we offered 42 students free Hello Class lessons from March to August 2019. It held every Sunday throughout the Tutorial period from 2pm to 4pm for 14 weeks. We introduced an internship program for senior high school students to become HelloGuides, serving as tutors to the Hello Class students. There was a total of 8 interns and 2 PYP volunteer teachers responsible for the 42 hello class students. Students and HelloGuides were grouped into average teams of 5:1. HelloGuides benefited from the internship experience by receiving monthly stipends and free participation in our Design Thinking Summer Program. The students in the Hello Class were also the students in the G1G2 tutorial classes and in the same way, at Hello Classes, they had a poor attendance with 40% attendance rate. Some of the reasons for this poor attendance had to do with the social demography of the students who were in the G1G2. Some of these students usually engaged in trading or domestic work and as a result couldn't attend the lessons. While for the few students who were consistent and we saw improvement. A lack of consistency affected the improvement of the majority of the Hello Class students as we could not measure their progress. We are currently working on a strategy for these group of students which would aid in the decision to have another Hello Class.

### ***Points of Improvement for Hello Class***

1. Consistency: As previously mentioned, the students that participated in the Hello Class were the G1/G2 students who had low attendance rate for the overall tutorial. Considering the importance of the Hello Class for these students, we have come up with a new strategy to improve consistency in the next year. We believe that a major reason for the lack of consistency was the little value placed on the program. As a result, we plan to require a commitment fee of about 3000 naira from parents/guardian for the 5 months training with the rest of the funding solicited from sponsors. We believe that this will help both parents and students place value on Hello Class.
2. Parents Involvement: There was little parental involvement in the Hello Class which may have contributed to the poor outcome. For the next one, we plan to have bimonthly parents/guardian meetings to discuss success factors for improving the learning of their children/wards.

3. Motivation of Hello Guides: A challenge we had was in intrinsic motivation of the Hello Guides to help the students get better. We believe, the stipend was a major source of motivation for the Hello Guides and as a result there was no real commitment to student's improvement on their part. Looking at ways for the Hello Guides to be more devoted, our strategy is to initially have the selected PYP interns for this role on probation and trained for two weeks provided with a structured curriculum. Then there will also be a monthly review based on their attendance and their students' improvement.
4. Funding: The overhead monthly cost of the Hello Class per student was estimated at 2000 Naira (\$6) monthly and based on the amount that was raised (161,666 naira) we had to work below the budget. The plan for the following year is to work with a leaner budget therefore limiting the number of students committed to the program through the commitment fee of their parents, reducing the stipend of the Hello Guides, providing more non-monetary incentives, and work smart in the fund-raising process by seeking partnerships with organizations, etc.

On a whole the Pilot test of the Hello Class was not as successful as we had planned but with the knowledge we have gained from this first time experience, we believe we will achieve our objectives in the next year.

## CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The Powerful Young Project (PYP) Children's Day event held on the 1st of June, 2019 at Christian Council School, W Close, 5th Avenue, Festac Town, Lagos, Nigeria. This event was in collaboration with Angel's Arm, a charity organization focused on bringing social relief to the underprivileged in Nigeria.

The event had over 150 students in attendance, PYP volunteers and some parents / guardians who accompanied their child / ward to the event. It was tagged: Let's Have Fun Giving Back, a theme chosen in order to inculcate in the children a sense of social responsibility. At this event, the children engaged in fun and informative games and activities centred around environmental sustainability. Experts from Greenhill Recycling gave a workshop on the importance of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. The children picked waste materials around the venue which they later grouped into paper, metal and plastic teams under the supervision of the PYP teachers and Green Hill Recycling team. Thanks to the generosity of our many sponsors who donated N1000 per child, every child enjoyed snacks, drinks, popcorn, biscuits, a celebration cake and some gift packs. For a detailed report of the children's day event with pictures, see the link [here](#)

## SUMMER PROGRAM

The second phase of PYP's educational year began on the 9th of August with a summer school program for a select number of PYP students and a design thinking course for alumni

and interns. It ran for four weeks with classes on Fridays; 10am - 2pm and Saturdays; 12am - 4pm of each week, concluding on Sunday, the 1st of September, with the end of the summer school graduation ceremony.

The Summer School Program consisted of 27 current PYP students aged 9 -14 years who successfully completed the PYP Tutorial program that ran from February to July. Students were taught fourteen practical life skills ranging from confidence and self-identity, etiquette and grooming up to creative arts and crafts.

Our first design thinking program was coordinated for PYP interns and alumni in partnership with DezynPlace. It held every Saturday from 12am - 4pm. Students were taught about innovation, problem solving and creative thinking. The students formed teams and brainstormed on various ideas which were further developed into prototypes for presentations based on the theme: *Making School Bearable*. Novarick Inc a major sponsor of the Summer Program presented an award of N100,000 worth of books for both the winners of the Design thinking presentations and the Discover Nigeria Summer school presentation. Further details of the summer program can be found in this link [here](#)

### ***Points of Improvement for the Summer Program***

1. Less time for Design Thinking Course: Feedback from students and design thinking facilitators informed us that 4 Saturdays were too much for the classes. We concluded that a short time should be allotted for the course preferably 4 days straight.
2. Open Design Thinking Course to private school students for a fee: Reiterating how we are being intentional about students and parents placing value on programs run by PYP, we intend to offer design thinking to private school students in addition to our alumni for an affordable fee.
3. Reach out to more sponsors for Summer Program and Design Thinking Class

## **SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

At present we have three students under the PYP Scholarship Program. Two of the scholarship students are presently in SS2 and one in JSS2. We have come up with strategies for the next year to make the scholarship program more fruitful for our students. We now have an academic coordinator whose role is to work with these students to ensure their progress and academic success, and execute programs such as career decision internships where students during their summer holiday would shadow a professional in the career path they have chosen. There is also a plan for working with the students to prepare weekly study plans that would be reviewed by the academic coordinator. Our goal is to ensure our PYP scholars become the best version of themselves and are equipped with all they need to achieve their goals - an example to many and a model of our 360Education Scheme.



### ***Points of Improvement for the Scholarship Program***

1. Improving Supervision: Up until now, we have given only a little supervision to the scholarship students and only reviewed their progress at the end of each school term. We have noticed that while our students have been improving, there are opportunities they missed (especially those in SS2) because we as a PYP team had not paid attention to their growth beyond academic success during their school term. This is why we have introduced an academic coordinator who would work together with the students and the PYP team to identify opportunities for academic growth and skill improvement.
2. Number of Students: We would like to increase the number of students under our scholarship program. While we reach out for funds from various sponsors, our plan is to have students in training enjoying the same benefits of supervision of the scholarship students, preparing them in character and cognitive ability through mentorship, vocational scholarship or book scholarships before a tuition scholarship opportunity arrives.

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIP**

The year 2019 saw PYP benefiting from various partnerships and sponsorships. We had Angel's Arm partner with us for the Children's day program together with about 70 individuals who sponsored a gift pack for a PYP kid on that day. Green Hill Recycling also partnered with us to teach the students about environmental sustainability during the Children's Day celebration. For the Hello Class, 10 sponsors enabled us to cater for the materials needed and payment for the interns. For the summer, Mr. Adeoluwa Akomolafe generously sponsored the operations of the Summer and Design Thinking Programs. We also had Beloxi sponsorship where they provided biscuits for our students for break time. <sup>TM</sup> Bookstores gave a monetary prize for an essay competition and Novarick Inc provided Book prizes for winners of the Discover Nigeria Project and the Design thinking Presentations. We received 13 used laptops from the Swiss Institute of Technology, ETH Zurich which will provide firsthand access of computers to our PYP kids.

We also had various individuals support the summer program with gift items such as water bottles for all students. We sincerely appreciate all our sponsors and partners and also individuals that have given more than money, supporting in time, energy and prayers. Without our partners and sponsors, we would not have achieved as much as we did this year and we are beyond grateful.

### ***Points of improvement***

We are working to formalize our sponsorship scheme to make the process of partnering with us for impact to be more mutually beneficial and impactful.

## CONCLUSION

The year 2019 saw a lot of improvement in the way PYP is structured, we increased our staff and number of volunteers. We introduced new programs to help meet our objectives and we tested new strategies for a better outcome. We also increased in our family as more people through volunteering, or sponsoring joined PYP to make an impact in the lives of kids in Festac Town. Although there are many pointers for improvement, we believe we saw growth in PYP and for us, that is a huge success. The PYP calendar for 2020 has already been prepared. In addition to all the activities we did this year, we will be launching our Book Drive Project. The Book Drive Project involves collaborating with the public to give books to public school students in Festac Town during their Open Day. We would also introduce new scholarship and mentorship schemes. We also plan to launch The Students in Training and Apprenticeship program. The former would involve extending the 360Ed model to a pool of students not in the scholarship scheme, whom we can add immediately, already well-prepared once funding is available. The Apprenticeship program would involve our students in training and Scholarship students shadowing professionals based on their career choice. Further details of our outlook for PYP 2020 will be described in the yearly letter from the Founder.

The aim of PYP at the end of 2019 still remains enhancing the potential of young people, who would make waves of change in the world and this is reflected in all activities. We are excited for the coming year and hope as you read the report you are happy at the progress we have made together and also excited for the impact we would make together in 2020.

Thank you for your constant support and motivation. We believe that the success and progress PYP has made so far could only have been achieved with your assistance and we look forward to bringing more impactful ideas to life working hand-in-hand with you.

To keep in the know of our programs and activities, follow us on:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/powerfullyyoungproject](http://www.facebook.com/powerfullyyoungproject)

Instagram: @ pyp\_kids

Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw1hG\\_78PgvSwseFXLK3TyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw1hG_78PgvSwseFXLK3TyQ)

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