



IUO/VC/GEN/11

21st May 2020

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GOODWILL MESSAGE TO IUO PARENTS/GUARDIANS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has now become a slogan that the reality of Covid-19 is not in doubt. What once sounded like distant drums, beginning with the situation in Wuhan, in faraway China with so many casualties running into several thousands have since resonated in our backyards with so much fury and ferocity. 27th February 2020 when the Nigerian Covid-19 index case, an Italian visitor to the country, tested positive for the virus marked the beginning of the Nigerian episode.

With the transition to the community-based transmission stage of the virus, the danger posed to large groups of students living together in hostels or other enclosed spaces became glaring. Herding together of students in a University campus, far away from their parents/guardians was not only a present danger but a disaster waiting to happen. It is against this backdrop that the Management and Senate of Igbinedion University, Okada (IUO), as reinforced by the National Universities Commission (NUC) directive, closed down the University on 23rd March 2020 and asked all students to go home.

However, the closure of the University has not in any way resulted in cessation of the students' academic programme. Mindful of the University's primary obligation to the students - their academic studies - and recent advances in technology, Management in its wisdom on 16th April 2020 deployed an On-Line learning Management System (OLMS) that has provided continuation of students' academic programme. With the deployment of OLMS, students have been receiving lectures virtually and students' academic progress remains uninterrupted.

There is no doubt that the nation-wide lockdown has altered the age long traditional behavioural pattern of doing things in Nigeria. Yet Igbinedion University, Okada, has adapted rather dramatically through the adoption of modern technology.

Now back to Covid-19 pandemic! Your University, indeed our University, has been part of the battle against the rampaging pandemic. In continuation of its Community Service Programme (CSP), the University recently donated its mass-produced face masks & hand sanitizers to Okada community. The University is also intensifying a collaborative research to find a cure for the coronavirus.

My dear parents/guardians and students of IUO. I will continue to do that which will enhance the continuous wellbeing of your wards & our students. We encourage you to support our students by seeing that they concentrate on e-learning and their studies rather than on frivolities. My prayer is that you stay well and stay safe. We look forward to having you back on campus soon.

My best wishes always & God bless Igbinedion University.

Professor Lawrence Ikechukwu Ezemonye, Ph.D, FAS,

(Professor of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Forensics)

Vice-Chancellor

Visiting Professor, Lancaster University, UK