

## AHKOM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

### BACKGROUND

The 2024/2025 academic year for Ahkom secondary, primary and nursery schools follow, in the main, the same trajectory as that of the 2023/2024 academic year. The only difference, though yet limited, occurred within the Tec Voc sector.

#### *The positives*

There is a flourishing enrolment of about 800 pupils – nursery and primary (420), junior secondary (200), senior secondary SS2 and SS3 (150). Junior secondary JS3 have just received exam results and the numbers entering senior secondary SS1 will be known soon – between 100 and 150.

a) Examination results for the 2024/2025 national and sub-regional examinations were very good:

- NPSE - 100% pass rate
- BECE - 100% pass rate
- WASSCE - 97% pass rate

b) Additional to the recent revival in the fortunes of the Technical Vocational catering department where training is ongoing in Baking, Catering and Décor; the vocational sector is also under serious consideration for delivery of training programmes by the following:

i. Ministry of Education, Non-formal training sector:

*To implement CREPE programme (Complementary Rapid Education for Primary Schools) for an initial 120 beneficiaries this 2025/26 academic year.*

ii. Network Movement for Justice & Development (NMJD): Ahkom tec voc is *one of the shortlisted training centres for implementation of various skills training for a specified number of youth 2026*

iii. Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO):

*Ahkom tec voc is being seriously considered by FAO to undertake the training of 500 youth in Kono in entrepreneurship. If successful, to act as permanent focal training organisation for future FAO funded entrepreneurship training in Kono district.*

*We'd appreciate your prayers to ensure the above opportunities are realised.*

- c) On the agricultural front, we planted a small quantity of a new type of potato on our experimental plot at the front of the tec voc at the main school campus in Kania. When pounded, the flour from this potato can be combined with wheat flour to make bread. It can also be baked alone. We hope to collect a substantial amount of potato vines to broadcast on a larger scale firstly at our Boroma site near Koidu; and on a far larger scale in subsequent years at the Senehun site in Lei chiefdom. There is apparently high demand for this product, which commands a high price, from bakers.

At Senehun this year we planted 2,500 cocoa suckers. It is our hope most will survive. The cashew is faring well as are the plantain suckers. There are casualties but this was expected. We'll carry out replacement during the next rainy season.

*The negatives*

- a) We are yet to hear from the ministry of education regarding our request to revert back to private school status.
- b) The bulk of our teachers remain off the government payroll.
- c) Subsidies, meant to replace payment of salaries/school maintenance etc previously provided by the now banned school fees, are still awaited for both second and third terms of the 2023/24 academic year in the case of the primary school. The already limited subsidies for junior and senior secondary schools received were subjected to further cuts, in cases up to 50%, in subsidy. As a result, we remain seriously constrained in payment of teacher stipends, carrying out much needed school maintenance and procurement of education material.

## IN CONCLUSION

At Ahkom, we have never lost sight of the humanitarian drive which formed an integral part of our vision. The desire to help the poor and vulnerable remains implacably in our hearts. We thank one of our donors for accepting to help fund Rebecca's education. And for providing funds for three metal doors and three windows for 3 of the new classrooms, progress on which has stalled for the last two years as our economic situation worsened. We pray other donors will step forward to provide financial assistance for other students that are in critical need. Or donate some funds to assist in finishing the plastering and painting of these classrooms, or to buy doors and windows for the remaining 3 classroom. Then the classrooms will be secure against theft and can be supplied with posters for the walls and teaching aids, all of which will provide a better teaching environment for the secondary school pupils.

At this juncture, we again wish to thank all those who, over the years, have stuck by us through thick and thin. Through your contributions, you continue to help keep our educational program afloat. Wish you all well and God bless.

DAVID SANDI, DIRECTOR, AHKOM





Graduation day for the catering class



Tec Voc agricultural experimental garden at the school campus