

EDUCATION,  
LEADERSHIP,  
GOVERNANCE &  
EXCELLENCE

*St. Catherine's Anglican Girls Grammar  
School Owo*

## The Birth of St. Catherine's Girls Anglican Girls grammar School Owo

In the early days of secondary education in Owo division of Nigeria, the education of young girls was not considered important in comparison to male education.

The first male school established in Owo in 1946 was Imade College an all male secondary school which enabled young boys the opportunity to gain admission into higher institutions whilst neglecting that of females.

This meant that many young girls were denied the chance to obtain the West African School Certificate after secondary which would allow them admission into higher education.

*However, ten years later, on 7th March 1956, the hope of giving secondary education to girls was fulfilled with the emergence of St Catherine's Anglican girls Grammar School Owo.*

*This was established by the church missionary society (CMS) through Owo District Church Council chairman, Rev J.B Olayemi and through the instrumentality of the late Pa Michael Adekunle Ajasin; the then Principal of Imade College Owo who felt that in future the Imade boys would need wives who should be of equal status with them.*



**St. Catherine's was a place where parents wanted their children to attend**

The School was one of the first 100 schools created in Nigeria and was known throughout Nigeria for academic excellence and sporting activities like Lawn Tennis, Net ball, Volley ball, Hockey etc. Many of her students formed State and National teams in various sports.

“ After the government took over from the Anglican Mission that established it, the school began to degenerate. Classrooms and buildings dilapidated. It was a cause for serious concern for old students.



**A clarion call was made for all old students to rise up and help in rebuilding the school.** After the intervention of old students the library was then renovated and equipped with books and computers.



## And since then a lot has been achieved.

- “ The renovation of buildings
- “ Science laboratory
- “ Well equipped library
- “ New and improved uniforms
- “ Student performance also increased



*And most recently on Nigerian Independence day the girls of St. Catherine's came 1st in the annual match past competition*







*More pictures of the improvements of the school*



## Challenges that still need solving

Herds of cattle are continuously found within the school perimeters



**Also Farmers encroaching within the school perimeters**

Boys playing football inside the school compound at a girls only school



**This is due to the lack of fencing around the perimeters of the school that urgently need solving!**

## *Remembering Joan Steward (1937-2011)*



*Together we can make St. Catherine's girls Grammar  
School Owo Great Again!*

*By Dolapo Osibodu*