

History of Ebenezer Senior High School

The 20th Century

1940-1973:

The evolution of Ebenezer Senior High School dates back to 1941 when the pioneers, Mr. Aryee, Mr. E.K.A. Otoo, Mr. Tey, Mr. Letsu, and Mr. Morrision started it as a private school, with primary, middle and secondary schools incorporated. **Mr. Robert Teiko Aryee** was the founder of the school. The school has been re-located a few times, from the Timber Market area, Ayalolo in Accra through Korle-Gonno and Mamprobi to the present location in Mpoase, near Dansoman.

The first school building was on Charles Lane Street, Ayalolo, in Accra. Mr. Aryee, Mr. Morrision and Mr. Martinson were the pioneer teachers. The pupils then could not afford the tuition fees, but ironically that empowered the school to persevere with their intention. Some considered this as a twist of fate for the young pupils in the sense that the name '**Ebenezer**' was conceived as a result of this early experience. **They have been brought that far through a toilsome experience.**

Another story behind the school name "Ebenezer" was that, Mr. Aryee's room was engulfed in flames and everything was burnt including his personal Holy Bible. However, the only page in the Bible that survived the inferno was the page with the prominent word "Ebenezer".

It was indeed a difficult experience because in the early days the education of the local community seemed to be going nowhere. Mr. Robert Teiko Aryee single-handedly however nudged it along. He rented a small room in the Timber Market area in Accra and started with four (4) students whom he educated to standard seven (7) level in 1941. In 1947, four (4) out of six (6) students wrote the Cambridge School Certificate Examination as private students.

The school relocated from the Timber Market area, in Ayalolo to Korle Gonno when the pupil numbers started increasing. Mr. E.K.A. Otoo and teacher Tey were the heads of the Primary department; Mr. Letsu became the head of the middle school (and eventually the secondary school sometime later), Mr. Aryee, the founder of the school and his nephew, Mr. E.K.A. Otoo, became the headmaster and assistant headmaster respectively of the now officially called Ebenezer Secondary School. At this stage the school moved to Mamprobi and established at the founder's private residence. This occurred on 29th September 1949 after the Empire Day. In 1951 the secondary school was well established and was in the position to enroll students to sit the Cambridge Examination.

In 1952, twelve (12) students wrote the Cambridge Examination for the first time as school candidates. The government took over the school in 1956 and appointed a Headmaster, Mr. C. E. A. Martinson, with Mr. E.K.A. Otoo as his assistant.

1974 to 1986:

Mr VB Freeman (1974-1986)

Mr V. B. Freeman took over from Mr. Martinson in 1974 as the new headmaster of the school. From 1976-1977, the school became co-educational under the directives of Mr. Fordjour, the commissioner for Education and Culture. Thirty (30) girls were admitted to Form one (1). In April 1984, Mr V. B. Freeman moved Forms one (1) to three (3) to the new and current school campus in Mpoase, Dansoman, in the Ablekuma West Municipality of Accra.

Mr. V.B. Freeman did change the academic landscape of the school significantly during his time as the headmaster of the school until his resignation in 1986 and re-appointment as the headmaster of Accra Academy in Kaneshie. He ensured the smooth re-location to the new site in **Mpoase, Dansoman**, before his resignation in 1986. The new campus infrastructure undoubtedly was far superior to the one left behind in Mamprobi. The hope was that the new campus location, structures and facilities will create an ambience for better learning and would propel the school to one of the very best in Accra if not Ghana. It had done to some extent, but the strides made fall far short of the high expectation. What was notable about Mr. V.B. leadership was the keen determination to hold an annual Speech and Prize Giving Day (Commemoration Day). Although this has not always been commemorated, there has always been an expectation from the teachers and students that this could be a good motivation for the student body and the staff to work hard.

1980-2000:

The school has enjoyed permanence in this new location and has flourished significantly over the years. There have been several school heads too. The academic achievements have been averaging on the whole with a few notable excellent exceptions. There have been transformations in the national educational curricula which eventually have also brought about lots of changes, including school name changes. Ebenezer Secondary is now called Ebenezer Senior High School

The 21st Century

2000-to date:

Since Mr. Freeman left the school, there have been 6 other school heads. The current head is Ms. Anastasia Konadu. Her predecessor, Mr. Richard Mensah, was the brain child behind the resurrection of a formal, robust and much focused Alumni.

Old Students Association (Alumni), Padua

Until 2016, the Association of Old Students had been imaginary and poorly structured. There were collections of old students who occasionally met up and also sometimes presented thank-you gifts to former heads for appreciation of their hard work and the impact their influence and the school had on their lives. The young students did not have the needed influence of the Alumni on their lives and therefore there was no commitment or allegiance to the school by the Alumni or those passing out. This was a major downside and adversely contributed to the average performance of the school.

The Awareness and the need to officially form a well-structured and organized Association of Old students was conceived by Mr. Richard Mensah, the headmaster of the school at the time. He encouraged the current President of the Old Student Association, Mr. Lloyd Evans (1974 Year Group) to consciously get in touch with as many year groups as possible, and keep a database of the year groups to as far back as 1970.

Various councils and committees have been formed since, including the Executive Council, with elected members, a Regenerative Team, an Implementation Team which oversees the maintenance and improvement of the infrastructure of the school and a team to oversee the academic performance of the students. It has become apparent over the years that although Ebenezer Senior High School serves a large expanse of communities in the southern part of Accra, unfortunately it is located in one of the most deprived areas in Accra. The school's performance however remains consistently average.

There are other functional committees and teams which oversee the organising of School and Alumni activities and getting information across to the various Year Groups.

Surprisingly the year groups appear very robust and there has been a steady and sustained effort to pool the diaspora and local Paduans together. There is also a conscious effort to transform the school academic performance to standards not very different from any of the top secondary schools in Ghana. This is a very feasible task as there are several prominent members in the Alumni who will very much love to preserve the pride of the Alma Mater.

Currently there are several programs devised to revamp the school. Some of these are impressive and include setting up groups which include members with good standing both locally and abroad to help raise substantial amount of money to revamp school. The executive arm of the Alumni incorporates the diasporans and this, going forward, will help bring all the old students together, bring respect to the Alma Mater, support the young students and teachers and effectively transform the school to an enviable status in the community of schools and in the country as a whole.

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