

HISTORY OF DAWAKIN TOFA SCIENCE COLLEGE KANO STATE



LOCATION

Dawakin Tofa Science College is one of the prominent, Science Secondary Schools in Kano State, Nigeria. The school is located at Dawakin Tofa Local Government 12.11896⁰ N 8.339736⁰ E, about 32 km from Kano metropolis.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KANO

The establishment of science secondary schools in Kano state was born out of the conspicuous need of science and technical manpower in the 1970s. After the creation of Kano State in 1968, the state was faced with lack of indigenous manpower in science and technology to meet up with its anticipated expanded social development. To overcome this challenges, the need to establish Kano State own special science secondary schools was suggested, with the sole aim of training science students and producing professionals in science and technology on a long term basis to compliment the efforts of meeting up with the manpower challenges of the state. This suggestion was proposed by an eighteen member Manpower Development Committee headed by Dr Ibrahim Ayagi in 1975. Subsequently, in April 1977, the Military Governor of Kano State Colonel Sani Bello approved and announced the establishment of science secondary schools in Kano State.

DAWAKIN TOFA SCIENCE COLLEGE

Dawakin Tofa Science College was initially a conventional Secondary School as provided by the 5-3-3-4 system of education in Nigeria originally established in 1972. The secondary school was later converted to a Science Secondary School in 1977, and the first set of students resumed in September 1977. Dawakin Tofa Science College started with 120 best students drawn from across all Junior Secondary Schools in Kano State. From 1977 to 1980, the admission was through entrance aptitude test set-up by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) to provide a thorough process that lead to the selection of the very best. Thereafter, Kano State Science Secondary School Management Board (KSSSSMB) was established and saddled with the responsibility of conducting aptitude test and selecting best among students.

The following subjects were approved for teaching in Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary school by KSSSSMB under the administration of Alhaji Ado Gwaram (1977 to 1978) [**Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Geography, Hausa, Islamic studies, and Technical Drawing or Agricultural Sciences**]. The board also approved the construction of two laboratories each for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and additional one each for Technical Drawing, Agricultural Sciences and Geography.

In the year 1998, the name of the school was adjusted from Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary School to its current name of Dawakin Tofa Science College.

PRINCIPALS AND THEIR TENURE

The first principal of Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary School was Alhaji Dauda Suleiman (September to December, 1977) while the current principal is Malam Shehu Umar, a veteran in teaching Chemistry, Former Head of Chemistry department, a house master and head of many school committees including JETS and the disciplinary committee.

Due to inadequacy in the number of indigenous science teachers in Kano State then, the KSSSSMB considered engaging expatriates from the United States to head the newly established science schools. Three of them were principals at Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary School. Table 1, Shows the list of principals from September 1977 to September 2015. (38 years from inception).

LIST OF PRINCIPALS OF DAWAKIN TOFA SCIENCE COLLEGE FROM 1977 TO 2015

S/N	NAME OF PRINCIPAL	FROM	TO
1	DAUDA SULAIMAN	SEPT. 1977	DEC.1977
2	Mr. W S WHIFFING	DEC. 1977	APRIL 1978
3	ABUBAKAR MAS'UD	APRIL 1978	NOV.1978
4	MIKE DAUSE	NOV. 1978	AUG. 1979
5	J. M MACROFF	SEPT.1979	OCT.1979
6	TAJIDDEEN GAMBO	OCT. 1979	FEB 1980
7	MUHD NABATE	FEB. 1980	SEPT. 1980
8	HARUNA UNGOGGO	SEPT. 1980	AUG. 1984
9	KABIRU S. HANGA	SEPT. 1984	JULY. 1988
10	MUHD MAIMALA	JULY. 1988	JAN. 1990
11	USMAN GEZAWA	JAN. 1990	SEPT. 1990
12	MANSUR SAAD	SEPT. 1990	JUNE. 1993
13	AMINU MUHD KABARA	JUNE. 1993	SEPT. 1999
14	TALHAT UMAR	SEPT. 1999	APRIL. 2005
15	ABDULLLAHI DANGYATUMA	APRIL. 2005	JAN. 2010
16	ALI USMAN	JAN. 2010	OCT. 2010
17	MUSA I MUSA	OCT. 2010	SEPT. 2011
18	SHEHU UMAR	SEPT. 2011	TO DATE*

*To date as at September, 2015

TEACHERS

Initially, most of the teachers were expatriates mostly from United States, United Kingdom, Ghana, and India. Some of the expatriates were posted to the school under the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), the VSO was a program meant to help developing countries in providing adequate training for science oriented students. Other teachers were from British Council free teaching program posted to teach Mathematics and English. Later, indigenous teachers from Kano state and other parts of the country with first degree in sciences and skills in teaching methodology were recruited to gradually replace most of the expatriates.

In 1999, Kano State Government terminated the appointments of all non-Kano indigene teachers from the services of science schools in the state. This left the school with only indigenous teachers up till date. Some prominent teachers from other part of the country included: Mr. E.O Ibe, Mr Kamaru O.O, Malam Dan Fulani, Malam M.T Ali, Malam Abdulrahman Lasisi and a lots of them. Among the teachers from British Council free teaching program were Mrs Ema, Mrs Helen and Mr Paul Martins.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED

Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary School started with 120 students in September, 1977 (1 teacher: 20 students ratio), and as at 2014/2015 academic year, the school has enrolled a total of 9,702 students.

PROMINENT STUDENTS OF DAWAKIN TOFA SCIENCE COLLEGE

The school has graduated many qualified and prominent medical and health practitioners, engineers, scientists, politicians and celebrities at both national and international level. Some prominent among them included:

- [Sarki Abba Abdulkadir](#) (1984) a Professor of Urology and Pathology at North-western University Feinberg School of Medicine, USA
- [Ahmed Awaisu](#) (1993) a Professor of pharmacy practice and clinical pharmacy at Qatar University.

- **Alhaji Abdullahi Tijjani** Gwarzo (1980) one time Deputy Governor, Kano State, Nigeria, from 2007 to 2011.
- [Ali Nuhu](#) (1991), a veteran kannywood and nollywood actor.

EXAMINATIONS AND SUCCESS RATE OF STUDENTS

Since 1980, the West African Examination Council (WAEC) has been setting-up the final examination for the students after completion of class 3 (SS 3). The title of the exam was later changed to West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in 1999. In April 1999, the Federal Government of Nigeria introduced another body of examination called National Examination Council (NECO), and the 2000 set were the first students that sat for the exam. From 2001 up to date, the students have the opportunity to sit for both WAEC and NECO.

The success rate was determined as students that passed WAEC exam with five credits and above. The success rate fluctuates in the span of 1980 to 1998, with the worst WAEC result recorded in 1993 (7.14%) and highest in 1988 (Table 2). In 1984, Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary School produced the most outstanding WAEC record when Sarki Abba scored the highest results in Nigeria. Similarly, the first highest success rate in Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE) was recorded in the year 2000, when over 75% of the students passed NECO exam with five credits and above. Naziru Hamisu now a paediatrician at Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria scored the highest result with distinctions in all the nine subjects. Also, in the year 2013 NECO result, another student from Dawaki Tofa Science College became overall best student in Kano State. Table 2 illustrates the year, number of students that sat for the exam and the success rate.

TABLE 2. SUCCESS RATE IN WAEC RESULT FROM 1980 TO 1998

Year	No. of students sat for the exam	No. of students passed with 5 credits and above	% of students passed with 5 credits & above
1980	85	12	14.11
1981	67	08	11.94
1982	157	27	17.19
1983	112	27	24.10
1984	169	32	18.93
1985	236	65	27.54
1986	228	80	35.08
1987	208	87	41.82
1988	170	93	54.70
1989	212	54	25.47
1990	185	52	28.10
1991	170	37	21.76
1992	206	60	29.12
1993	252	18	7.14
1994	220	22	10.00
1995	172	52	30.23
1996	147	19	24.48
1997	119	22	18.48
1998	104	19	18.26

HOSTELS

Initially, Dawakin Tofa Science College has six hostels; two hostels occupied a storey building Dunawa House/Tofa House, Galadima House/Madaki House and Makama House/Waziri House. Each story building was attached with a students' recreation centre where students play games at their leisure time. Later, with the increased number of students in the school, an additional three blocks were converted in to hostels and named Dawaki A, B and C. When Dunawa/Tofa block was undergoing renovation in the year 2000, a block near computer centre was converted into a make shift hostel called "Madagascar" to accommodate the students temporarily.

KITCHEN

All students converge at the kitchen for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Some of the meals that majority of the students will not forget included; gabza, gudun qurna, moi-moi, koko and teba. On Fridays, usually, dinner was normally served with meat (ani). Among the prominent staff in the kitchen were Malam Isyaku and uwar tuwo.

VILLAGES AROUND DAWAKIN TOFA SCIENCE COLLEGE

Dawakin Tofa Science Secondary School is surrounded by two villages; Katoge and Kashirmo villages. The two villages are not far from the school. The students and the community relate well with each other with immense benefits. The students normally buy things for their up keep such as waina, qosai, ground nuts, aya and so on while the villagers use the school as the source of having some income. Malam Jume mai Kanti, Isyaku mai gyada were among those popular with the students. Other memorable places neighbouring the school included; Dunawa bush and Shagari quarters

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REFERENCES:

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All members

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