



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF LAGOS

## Senior Spotlight

My name is, as by all my friends, Timothy Sebastian Alexander Gabriels. Daily I go by Tijmen though, which is what I see as my name. I am from a small yet fruitful country with lots of windmills and caramel waffles. If it hasn't hit you yet, this county is the Netherlands. I come out of a family of five. I have my parents, my two older brother, and my two older sister - in short - I'm the youngest of the nest. My youngest brother Maarten graduated from this school in May of 2013, when I was in 7th grade. That fact gives you a little insight based on how long I have been here. Well all in all I have been in Nigeria for 12 years. However, I first came to this school in 2nd grade but had left and joined the Netherlands School of Lagos (now NISL). I then came back to AISL back in 6th grade, the start of my middle school career. Since then I am happy and proud to say that it has been a wonderful and mind blowing journey of growth into my senior year.

I hope to attend college in either England or the Netherlands. Some of my top choices include Cardiff, Bristol, Amsterdam, and Eindhoven. I am interested in majoring in a Forensic Science degree which is the investigation of crime in the context of analyzing crime scenes and evidence found. This has been my life long passion and I hope I will be able to get a career in this field.

At AISL I am involved in quite a few activities. Firstly I am member of the Nation Honor Society for my second year, I currently also run the NHS Tutoring Program. Secondly I am member of the Citizens Of the World Society's (COWS) executive team acting as president, which I am very glad to do because it is a great club involved in many engaging and fruitful community events such as visiting the Kesham school. Thirdly I am involved in some after school clubs such as Eagle Press (newspaper club), Photography club, Stop-the-Bull Committee, and Volleyball. Volleyball is the main sport I play at the moment and this is my second year participating. Certain things I do see as accomplishments. Being member of the NJHS in middle school, I was determined to make it my goal and accomplish getting into the NHS. When I was accepted I felt extremely satisfied with my determination. Being accepted into the WAISAL team and traveling to Ghana to take the 3rd place with my teammates was an absolute accomplishment too and I wish I can help my team achieve 1st place this year. I have been on two Model United Nations trips participating in the MUN Conference in Saint-Petersburg, Russia and in Beijing, China.

My feelings about AISL span over a very wide range of positive thoughts. Over the past years AISL, and Lagos itself, has become my home. I am extremely happy and honored to be at this school because I believe AISL is an amazing school. Although we have a very small campus and there are issues (as with every school), there is no reason to complain. The community at AISL of students from all ages, teachers, and non-teaching staff is absolutely captivating. We are all one big family and I am glad to say that I have made some of my best long lasting friends here at this school, some of which I definitely even consider as family. The small campus really gets everyone to know each other and to accept each other to make us one big, united community full of diversity. I am glad I have been able to experience over a dozen different cultures



and get around with a lot of different experiences. Truly when I graduate this year it will be a very tough goodbye, it will be like moving houses away from your family, definitely heart breaking. On the other hand though, it will feel like an accomplishment and I will be very proud and happy of my journey through AISL and what I have become. When I think about AISL, the top three things that come to mind are

The captivating teaching staff here at AISL. It takes a lot of courage to go over seas and come to Lagos to be teaching in such a small school and the teachers here at AISL put in more than a 100% effort for there students - even coming in on Sundays to do extra work with their students. The wide diversified community build out of over 50 different cultures and over a dozen different backgrounds. The unity that comes in all of us and how we have grown together as a third-world-family.

The multiple opportunities that such a small but fruitful school is able to provide. As small as this school is and tucked in behind a couple of large flat buildings, it provides so many opportunities for all of us and we have had some great accomplishments over recent years. I can only see the school grow in the future and would be proud to say that I have attended it.

I hope my senior year will be one ride of excitement full of adventure while fully completing the IB Diploma Program.