

The Scholar

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- STUDENTS**
Olaide Ajomagberin (2011)
Anthia Diaz (2011)
Niya Wright (2012)
Angelica Cortez (2013)
Bettina Arkhurst (2014)
Nneoma Obieshi (2014)

THE ROAD AHEAD

OLAIDE AJOMAGBERIN

Olaide is finishing up her four years at DHS with a twist – during the last four weeks of school, she’s taking on a Senior Internship at a Darien-based fashion company. She feels “interning will help me define what I want as my career, and it will be a great eye opening experience.”

Olaide came to DHS as a determined but quick-to-laugh freshman in 2007 from KIPP Academy in the Bronx. Now, four years later, as this newsletter goes to press, she’s awaiting news from her top college choices.

An avid reader, writer, and artist, Olaide has focused academically on the humanities and art.

As for the future, Olaide writes, “I hope to become a journalist with a high-end fashion magazine. I have been obsessed with fashion forever, and I want to continue my passion for writing as well... so why not mix the two up?”

Olaide emphasizes the true bond of sisterhood she has had with the girls in ABC House through the course of her four years in Darien. She will miss them, the resident directors, her host families and the friends she’s made at DHS. But, Olaide says, “this is not a goodbye for me, nor is it the end of my life in Darien... for in my heart I will always remain a part of ABC in Darien.”



Olaide

Anthia

ANTHIA DIAZ

Anthia came to ABC as a quiet but enthusiastic freshman in 2007 from KIPP STARR in Harlem, NY and graduates this June as a proud member of the class of 2011. Her time at DHS was marked by many accomplishments, including four years as a dedicated volunteer for Person-to-Person and, for the past academic year, an intern with E C Scott Group in Norwalk. Her hard work, both in and out of the classroom, has paid off: this fall, she was accepted to her first choice school—Wesleyan University.

Her academic passions are math, Spanish and psychology, although she has not yet determined a course of study. We suspect the opportunities presented at Wesleyan will guide her aspirations.

As for her four years in Darien, Anthia says the things she will remember most are the people she has met and the friends she has made. When asked what she will miss, she doesn’t hesitate: “Most of all I will miss the girls in the house. We have all grown as wonderful young women together... they have been sisters to me.”

We wish Anthia good speed as she embarks on her next adventure.



Niya, Nneoma and Olaide took to the stage, and Bettina to the stage crew in the Theater 308 production of Beauty and the Beast.

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!





DARIEN

A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1981.



Support ABC's raffle for a Dragon Red Vespa LX 50!

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Raffle tickets for sale all over town or at abcdarien.com. Drawing will be at the Post 53 Food Fair, Monday May 30 at 2 pm, Tilley Pond Park.

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GIRLS ON THE GO!

Getting ready in pink for the Depot Valentine's Day party followed by a sleepover at the Van Dijk's ▶



◀ Olaide and ABC Board Co-President Ron Hammer have an animated discussion at a recent Board Meeting.



Kelly Coveny, author, poet, singer and advertising executive was the keynote speaker of a 'Distinguished Dinner'. Kelly shared the stories of her many creative ventures, inspiring the young women to believe in themselves and pursue their goals.



Olaide took advantage of this winter's surplus of snow by strapping on cross-country skis with her host dad Pieter and sister Lonneke Eenkema van Dijk.

ABC IN DARIEN FACTS

MISSION: To provide scholarships to academically talented minority girls from underserved areas allowing them to realize their academic and social potential while living in Darien and attending DHS.

ENROLLMENT: Six girls currently from Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

HISTORY: Twenty-nine years in Darien; 37 girls have graduated from the program.

WHERE DO THEY GO? Graduates have entered colleges such as Columbia, Cornell, UVA and Syracuse.

STAFF: Two Resident Directors, Program Director and tutors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-three local residents.

HOST FAMILIES: Ten families host the girls two weekends each month.

RESIDENCE: 11 Brookside Road—provided by the First Congregational Church, maintained by ABC in Darien.

THE BUDGET: \$126,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses and supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820 or Donate Online at www.abcdarien.com

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