



St Jude's News

NOVEMBER 2021



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Above Fun and Learning: Mr Alex, an ESL Teacher and St Jude's alum, teaches primary students how to use the ESL software.



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Breaking Ground in English

St Jude's has a brand new English as a Second Language [ESL] Program. *Continued on page 2*

Breaking Ground in English

St Jude's has a brand new English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.

It's no secret that English is a difficult language to learn. However, as the most widely spoken language in the world, it's incredibly useful to know.

In order to help St Jude's students become the best English speakers they can be, the school has introduced an ESL (English as a Second Language) Program, where students learn using state-of-the-art computer software, in addition to their regular English lessons.

Below left Developing Students' Skills: Mr Valence and Ms Mary, ESL Teachers, are excited about the new ESL Program.

Below right A New Way to Learn: ESL Teacher, Mr Valence, guides Shani through a challenging pronunciation exercise.

Since the school's establishment, English has been the language of instruction at St Jude's. Students read, write and speak English daily, and achieve outstanding exam results. So, what more can the ESL Program offer St Jude's students?

"There's no worry about whether our students can read or understand English," says Mr Valence, Head of ESL at St Jude's Secondary School. "Our ESL Program is aimed at improving their speaking skills. We have tailored it to focus on listening and speaking skills."



Above Challenging Himself to Learn More: Despite attending St Jude's since primary school, Shani is learning a lot in ESL classes.

Ms Mary, another ESL Teacher, elaborates, "Regular English classes are more focused on examinations and the mechanics of language, but ESL classes are more focused on conversational English, like, how students can interact with other people using the English language."

And how does the software help the students learn?

"The ESL software is self-guided. The students use the computers and move through the modules and lessons. It's interactive and the students can read, write, listen, speak and get instant feedback," explains Mr Valence.





Above The Faces of Concentration: Even St Jude's youngest students are working hard in their ESL classes.

In order to implement the program, St Jude's ESL staff have worked with the IT team to create four dedicated ESL Labs – two at St Jude's Secondary School, one at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School and one at St Jude's Primary School. Here, students from Standard 1 to Form 6 attend twice weekly lessons under the guidance of the school's five specialist ESL teachers. Students can also visit the labs during free periods and on Sundays.

One student who is already benefitting from the new ESL classes is Shani, in Form 1. Twice a week he visits one of the two dedicated ESL Labs at Smith Campus. Under the guidance of Mr Valence, he collects a headset, logs into his profile and begins learning.

"I started secondary school this year after attending primary school at St Jude's, so I have been speaking English for many years," says Shani. "I feel good about ESL because it is helping me improve my English speaking. I think it is very useful."

With strong English skills, when students like Shani graduate from St Jude's, they'll be better equipped for tertiary studies and eventually, employment.

The program is particularly useful for students who join St Jude's in Form 1 or Form 5. "ESL helps these students a lot because the medium of instruction for all their subjects is English. ESL helps them catch up quickly and learn new vocabulary to help them learn in all their other classes," says Ms Mary.

One way the software helps students improve their speaking is through voice recognition technology. When students speak into their headset microphone, the software rates their pronunciation. As students improve, they move to the next module where they learn more challenging skills.

"They really like that challenge. And they get competitive with each other too! They really enjoy it," smiles Mr Valence.

But ESL isn't just fun and games, it's already bringing tangible benefits to St Jude's students as they move through the modules and build their skills.

"I see that they want to try hard and break barriers. They want to be the best they can be in conversational English," says Ms Mary of her hardworking students.

"It's always great to see someone change over the course of time. When I receive students who can't pronounce words very well developing into competent students who are confident in the language, who can speak well and communicate freely and accurately... it brings me joy to see that change," says Mr Valence.

As a school, St Jude's aims to provide students with an international standard of education, which includes English as a key element, in order to help them break the poverty cycle. Now, with the advent of our ESL Program, students will receive a further opportunity to become world-class English speakers.

Help equip St Jude's students for the future with a donation to support high-speed internet and software fees for our new ESL Program.





Above The Day Begins: Philip and Bertha register a student at the Scholarship Application Day in Babati.

A Second Chance at Education

The search for St Jude's Form 1 students of 2022 begins.

In Tanzania, the advent of free primary school education means that an impressive 84% of children aged seven to thirteen are enrolled in school. However; only 30% of 14 to 17 year olds are enrolled in secondary school, largely due to financial pressures and a shortage of secondary schools.

These figures are the reason that The School of St Jude offers scholarships for students entering Form 1 (the first year of secondary school). Instead of finishing their education after just seven years, these bright, poor students receive a second chance at education; a St Jude's scholarship for O Level studies (the first four year of secondary).

On 21 November, St Jude's held our annual Form 1 Scholarship Application Day. More than 300 staff, Parent Representatives, Community Service Year (CSY) volunteers and helpful senior students were split across three locations; St Jude's Sisia Campus in Arusha and centres in Babati and Moshi.

While the St Jude's team were in different locations, their tasks were identical; to interview and test prospective students to identify those who will benefit most from a St Jude's scholarship. In total, 1613 students were registered, which included 908 students in Arusha, 325 students in Babati and 380 students in Moshi.

At each location, the first order of the day was registering the crowds of students who had been queuing since before 6am. Liz, a team leader stationed in Moshi says, "When I saw them arrive I felt awesome, because I knew it was the start of a busy day in a good way."

The students were lined up according to their districts and then registered by a St Jude's staff member, who checked their documents and marked their name on a list. Next, students proceeded to examinations, where they were tested in key subjects.

"The most challenging part of the day was having to communicate with the other sites for the examination cut off scores," explains Sarah, who played a key role in organising the whole operation. To determine which students would progress to the next step in the scholarship application process, the three teams had to liaise after marking the exam papers.

Around 500 students passed the exams and are in the running for the next stage – Poverty Assessments. Following these assessments, 150 students will be offered scholarships for O Level secondary education at St Jude's. "The day was a wonderful display of how team work and team spirit get the job done," Sarah enthuses.

Below Bright and Early: Students enter the Babati centre just after 7am.



A year ago, Perpetua had just attended Scholarship Application Day in Babati. Today, she is a Form 1 student at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School.

"I thought I would not pass the exams," Perpetua shares. "There were many other people there and I was a bit nervous."

At only 14, Perpetua is already a trailblazer in her family of 16. Her father was only able to attend school until the end of primary, while her mother did not have the opportunity to attend school at all.

"I'd like to be a doctor, because in my village we lack professional doctors. If someone gets sick or injured they need to take the bus for one hour to reach a doctor," she explains.

But before university, Perpetua is adjusting to the regular challenges of secondary school. "My biggest challenge when I started was that I didn't know a lot of people, but now I have made a lot of friends. We like to tell stories and discuss our subjects," she smiles.

"Compared to my primary school there are many differences. In my primary school, there were 100 students in my class. There was no food at school, no boarding, no computer labs, no library or upstairs classrooms. And we had to share textbooks, up to five students to one book," Perpetua recalls.

Below left Exam Time: St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, oversees one of the examinations at the Moshi centre.



Below right Welcome to St Jude's: Sarah welcomes the prospective students following registration at St Jude's in Arusha.



Above left Perpetua's Journey Begins: Perpetua stands outside her family home just before being offered a St Jude's scholarship. It takes her around six hours by bus to reach St Jude's.



Above right A Future Doctor: Perpetua enjoys the opportunity to study in the specialist science labs under the supervision of Mr Elisante.

Now at St Jude's, Perpetua has discovered new ways of learning and is benefitting from St Jude's plentiful learning resources and facilities.

"I like the school environment and the way the teachers are teaching us. My favourite subjects are physics, chemistry and biology," she says.

One of the biggest changes for Perpetua this year was moving from her home in a village outside Babati into boarding at St Jude's with her fellow secondary students. Here, she has her own warm bed, reliable water for washing and drinking, nutritious meals and a stable environment for study and fun with her new friends.

Like Perpetua, 150 more students will soon receive a second chance at education in the form of a St Jude's Scholarship. Like Perpetua, they'll receive learning resources, safe boarding accommodation, meals, uniforms, tuition, extracurricular activities and transport, completely free of charge. For every one of these students, the journey towards a successful secondary education began on 21 November 2021; Scholarship Application Day.

Every student at St Jude's is the recipient of a scholarship. **Sponsor a scholarship** to provide a student with everything they need for a successful education.

Meet Ms Rachael

Get to know Rachael, who works tirelessly to ensure that St Jude's generous supporters are kept informed.

"When I first joined St Jude's I was given the role of photographer," Rachael recalls.

"Being a photographer was the best way to get to know the school," she explains... "I was part of every excursion, each event, and I was in the classrooms and in buses. I also organised schedules for other professional photographers who visited the school."

Rachael joined The School of St Jude in 2012. She gradually rose through the ranks to become the Donors and Sponsors Relations Manager, now leading a team of 21.

"As a Donor and Sponsor Relations Manager, my core responsibility is to ensure that we have quality communication with our donors and sponsors, thanking them for the donations and sponsorships, and updating them on the impact of their support," states Rachael.

Rachael leads three teams; the Sponsor Relations team which deals with sponsors of students' and graduates' academic scholarships; the Donor Relations team which deals with monthly donors and those who fundraise or spread the word about St Jude's; and the Supporter Relations team who deal with some of the school's most generous supporters.

Right Keeping an Open Line: Rachael is dedicated to maintaining effective communication with supporters.





Above left **Say Cheese!**: Rachael behind the camera back in 2012.



Above middle **Home Visit**: Rachael (middle) with her parents (first right and second left) during a visit to a student whose scholarship they sponsor.



Above right **Cultivating Conversation**: Rachael ensures that supporters are engaged, thanked, recognized, and invited to be a part of St Jude's mission.

"Working for an organisation that has a great mission and vision and seeing that we are making a difference motivates me to keep going and stay dedicated," Rachael says.

St Jude's offers academic scholarships to students who come from a considerably poor backgrounds yet demonstrate academic promise and a great attitude towards studies. The school receives help from supporters through sponsorships of students and graduates, donations that help cover costs in areas where they are most needed, fundraising or through sharing the St Jude's story with others.

"My parents have supported two students academically since their primary school years," states Rachael.

"I have watched these two students go through all of their primary school while I'm working at St Jude's and they are now in Form 2 which is O Level," she adds.

As the end of the school year approaches, it is tradition for students to send letters, postcards and Christmas greetings to sponsors and donors. However, for the past two years, these physical letters have not been posted due to travel restrictions.

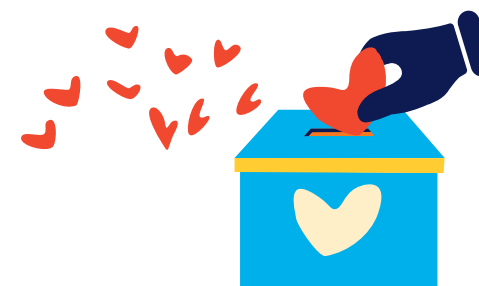
"I plan to go to Australia for a couple of weeks to see my family and I will be taking back more than 2,000 letters from our students to send to sponsors and donors in Australia via Australian post," Rachael says.

"Thank you to all our supporters in Australia, America and everywhere else in the world who helped the school and remained loyal and supportive during the past two challenging years."

"I would like to wish all of our sponsors and donors a merry Christmas and a happy new year," she adds.

St Jude's rely entirely on the generosity of supporters from around the world to make the school's mission of providing free, quality education for 1,800 bright, poor students a reality.

Sponsor or Donate today and help light the way to a brighter future for St Jude's students and their families.





Above Graduation Day!: Standard 7 students celebrate their first academic milestone as they prepare to begin a new chapter in their education journey.

Ready for Secondary!

88 Standard 7 students complete primary education and are eager to embrace the next stage of their academic journey.



Taking their seats, proud parents gather during the Standard 7 Graduation ceremony to watch their children receive their primary school leaving certificates. This is a special day for the students as it signifies the end of their primary education.

Primary education in Tanzania is the first seven years of school. Students begin in Standard 1 and graduate in Standard 7 before moving on to the secondary level of education.

Alice, Hans, and Julieth are among the students graduating from Standard 7. They received their academic scholarships in 2015 following a thorough and fair scholarship application process.

Every year, The School of St Jude offers academic scholarships to bright, poor students with the vision of fighting poverty through education.

“It’s been a good seven years. I am excited to be graduating today. I can’t wait to start my secondary education,” says thrilled Alice.

“My hope for the future is to become an optician,” she adds.

Sharing the same sentiments is Hans who hopes to be a pilot in future. “I would like to focus on science subjects in my secondary education. I would like to be a pilot. My dream is to one day to fly far and beyond, reaching countries such as India and Australia.”



Above **Ready for the Next Stage:** (L-R) Alice, Hans and Julieth smiling on graduation day.



Middle **Head Teacher's Speech:** Mr Silomba speaking at the graduation ceremony for Standard 7 students.

Below **The sky is the limit:** Julieth (L) enjoying an excursion organised by the school as part of its extracurricular activities.



Pleased with the Standard 7 results is Mr Silomba, the primary Head Teacher, "I'm happy with this year's results. We've made it to the top 10 position in both the district and regionally," explains Mr Silomba.

From more than 10,000 schools in the country, Standard 7 results have placed St Jude's in the top 0.6% of Tanzania.

"88 primary students sat for the National Examination this year, 47 girls and 41 boys and they all passed with flying colours," adds Mr Silomba.

Dedicated to educating the future leaders of Tanzania, Mr Silomba strives to see the best in each student. "Teaching is an honourable profession. It is a fulfilling career. As you see the students you taught when they were young, grow up to become young leaders in their communities and have completely transformed their lives. Knowing that you played a role in it is a rewarding feeling."

Having worked at St Jude's since 2013, Mr Silomba has seen five Standard 7 groups graduate.

"At St Jude's, we are committed to providing world-class teaching. Our current focus is on a holistic education approach. Music, sports, and art are now integral parts of the curriculum."

"I believe that nurturing children's talents and developing their real-world skills and self-confidence will help us produce future leaders of this country", says Mr Silomba.

St Jude's encourages students to become well-rounded individuals. The school allows the students to volunteer for a variety of activities every year after they complete their primary education.

One of the volunteers was Julieth, "I volunteered at the primary kitchen. My duties included cleaning and serving food."

"It was a good experience. I learned how to manage and utilise my time well, a skill that will help in the future as I get ready to start Form 1," she adds.

Over the past two years, approximately 300,000 Tanzanian children have been unable to start secondary education due to a lack of space. Thanks to your support, Alice, Hans, and Julieth are now able to move on to secondary education with a hope for future success.

You can **sponsor** the scholarship of students like Alice, Hans, and Julieth today to help them fulfil their academic potential.





The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



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with your family and friends.



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