



The School
of St Jude

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St Jude's News



Coming in Hot: New Form 1 students sporting their new uniforms.



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New Year, Starting Secondary

The start of an exciting journey at St Jude's for 144 new students.



Coming in Hot: New Form 1 students sporting their new uniforms.

At the beginning of every year, St Jude's campuses are filled with fresh, new faces of students joining the school for the first time. This includes Standard 1 and 2 students in primary, who are at the start of their academic journey and Form 1 students joining St Jude's at the secondary school level. This is a proud moment for everyone at the school as it represents the culmination of an extensive scholarship application process.

There are three key stages of school in Tanzania; seven years of primary school from Standard 1 to 7, then four years of secondary school from Form 1 to 4 in Ordinary Level (O Level) studies, and finally the final two years of secondary school, Form 5 and 6 in Advanced Level (A Level) studies.

"My parents received a letter inviting me to apply for a scholarship at St Jude's," recalls Newton, one of the new Form 1 students at St Jude's Secondary School.

"I was one of five students from my school who received the invitation, so I was determined to give it my best shot," he adds.

Over the next few weeks, Newton and hundreds of other applicants underwent a series of examinations and poverty assessments. Eventually, 144 applicants were selected to join St Jude's.

"Our scholarship application process is very rigorous and competitive," says Ms Herieth, a St Jude's alum of 10 years currently working full-time as a teacher.

Speaking at the Inside St Jude's Podcast, Herieth explains, "Every year we send out invitation letters to thousands of high-performing students in government schools across three regions of northern Tanzania."

"We take great care to ensure that every applicant has a fair chance of getting a scholarship at St Jude's. So, it is a proud moment for everyone when the new students finally report to school," she adds.

St Jude's has a comprehensive orientation program to ensure a smooth transition for new students at the school. It involves a school tour, personalised English lessons, and a strong buddy system.



Making New Friends: New students socialising at St Jude's.

These 144 new students join our existing students coming up from the primary school.

“Every new student at school is paired with an older brother or sister to give them an inclusive experience of our community,” says Ms Agnesi, Form 1 Level Coordinator at St Jude's Secondary School.

“We also have homeroom teachers, boarding parents, and level coordinators to help them settle in and adapt in the best way possible,” she adds.

During the orientation period, new students would visit the school library, and computer labs, and try out different sports in the field. This is usually an eye-opening experience and a great way to develop new hobbies.

“I really love the art and computer rooms,” says Newton, who is quickly adapting to life at St Jude's. One of his best experiences is learning English with St Jude's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. He has also discovered his love for basketball and volleyball over in the sports fields.

“I have only ever played football,” says Newton. “But trying out different sports has made me realise that I'm also good at throwing the ball – not just kicking it,” he adds with a smile.

Newton is one of 235 students currently starting their secondary school education at St Jude's. This is in addition to 45 new students joining St Jude's in Standard 1 and 2 at primary school.



Finding New Hobbies: Newton learning English (Above) and enjoying a session in the art room (Below).

Your support enables St Jude's to provide scholarships to hundreds of qualified students each year.

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Q&A with Happyness

St Jude's primary student, Happyness, shares her highlights from the holiday and her plans for the year.



Walking Into 2024: Happyness shares her big plans for the year!

Happyness is a student at St Jude's Primary School. She joined the school in 2022 at seven years old and started Standard 4 this year. Happyness loves playing netball and volleyball. Her dream is to become a soldier and protect her country.

Happyness recently spent a month at home for the end-of-year school holidays. We caught up with her about her recent holiday and plans for the new year.

What was your favourite meal during the holiday?

Chips and chicken is my favourite food.



Did you make any New Year's resolutions or set goals for yourself?

Yes, I set a goal for myself to maintain my current academic performance for A grades in all my subjects. I believe that achieving this will help me improve and succeed in my studies.



What exciting moments did you enjoy during the holiday?

I had a great time watching movies and cartoons, and I played with my friends from the neighbourhood.



Is there anything you're looking forward to this school term?

I really enjoy studying, and this term, I want to put in hard work and do well in my exams.



What was your favourite activity or game during the break?

My favourite activity was playing hide and seek with my cousins. It was so much fun. I also helped with chores at home which made me feel responsible.



Did you travel or go on any interesting trips this holiday?

Yes, I had a wonderful time visiting my aunt in Karatu. It was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed spending time with my family there.



Your support enables students like Happyness develop their dreams and passions. Happyness' scholarship is still unsponsored. **Sponsor Today.**



Kiswahili Word of The Month

Expand your Kiswahili vocabulary with our word of the month.

Kimbweta

[Kim-bweh-tah] Noun. Singular

Kimbweta refers to the wooden or concrete slabs found outside college and university campuses that students may use for personal studies, group discussions, or just catching up socially. You can see many examples of the Kimbweta across St Jude's three campuses; where our students, staff and visitors sit, interact and refresh.

History

The name "Kimbweta" has a fascinating origin dating back to the mid-1990s at Tanzania's prestigious University of Dar es Salaam. At that time, the university faced a recurring issue of thieves targeting outdoor studying furniture for students. Seeking a permanent solution, Prof Kimbwete, a dedicated lecturer, proposed replacing the vulnerable outdoor furniture with sturdy concrete slabs.

The initiative was highly successful, and these new concrete slabs quickly gained popularity, becoming widely known as "Kimbwete" (singular) or "Vimbwete" (plural) after Prof Kimbwete. Over time, the name evolved to the singular form "Kimbweta" and has been widely adopted in universities and educational institutions across the country.

How to use the word...

- » Let's meet at the Kimbweta after school.
- » I like doing my personal studies at the Kimbweta during school breaks.
- » Kimbweta is my favourite place to be after class hours!

You can use your new Kiswahili vocabulary by visiting Tanzania and St Jude's. **We love visitors! Come Visit Us.**



Our Year in Numbers

It was a busy 2023! Take a look at our key stats for last year...

Alumni

Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) is bigger and better than ever! With growing placements in our Community Service Year (CSY) Program and increasing opportunities for international scholarships, 2023 was a huge success for the BSJ team and scholars.

19

St Jude's graduates awarded international scholarships in 2023



360

BSJ scholars pursuing higher education at colleges and universities across Tanzania and Africa

134

Active CSY Volunteers at placements within government schools and at St Jude's

Infrastructure and Development

And didn't stop there! We also did a lot of work on campus to ensure the best facilities for our students including...

1

Brand new biology laboratory at our St Jude's Girls' Secondary School

31

Classrooms undergoing renovations

1

New Visitor bus joins our fleet

Scholarship Application Process and welcoming new students

We are excited to welcome new students to St Jude's in 2024 following an extensive scholarship application process.

5,037

Letters hand-delivered to government schools in December 2023

2,638

Attended Scholarship Application Day



539

Homes visited for poverty assessments

144

Students enrolled in Form 1 in 2024



Your support enables St Jude's to extend its impact far beyond the school walls. **Donate Today.**

Keeping Up the St Jude's Spirit

In 2023, funds raised from the alumni reunion was used to purchase new football kits for the school.

St Jude's is proud to have a network of incredible alumni who remain strongly connected to the school. They regularly give their time as volunteers within the school community, as well as support the opportunity of other students through financial giving.

In addition to supporting St Jude's, our alumni also look out for one another. They support each other's businesses, share opportunities, organise reunions, and assist one another in times of need. These are some of the highlights over the past year.



Giving Back: A memorable jersey bearing names of alumni who fundraised to purchase new football kits.

Building Team Spirit and Unity

With football being a favourite sport at St Jude's and Tanzania, our alumni took the opportunity to surprise the school's football team. They fundraised AU\$395 during last year's Alumni Reunion to purchase much-needed new football kits for St Jude's students.

Now our students sport a sharp and coordinated look as they represent St Jude's in competitions across Arusha and Tanzania. This act just shows the alumni's commitment to enriching the school community.

Wherever they may be, our alumni maintain strong connections with the school and each other.

Paving the Way for Others: ...



St Jude's achieved outstanding Form 6 results in 2023. Because of these amazing results, two of St Jude's top-performing students were selected to join a prestigious program that connects top-performing students in Tanzania with universities around the world.

In Tanzania, the final two years of secondary school are called Advanced Level (A Level); Form 5 and 6. At the end of their A Level education, students sit for a nationwide assessment and those that pass continue with higher education in universities and colleges.

Alex, a graduate of St Jude's inaugural class of 2015 and a recipient of the program himself, played a pivotal role in helping the two St Jude's graduates, Godfrey and Amina, secure these highly coveted spots. To support them on this new adventure, the St Jude's Alumni banded together to financially support their transport and accommodation costs as they moved to Dar es Salaam to prepare for the program.

Thanks to your support, our students graduate and join an impactful network of alumni that continues to give back to the school. **Sponsor Today.**