



St Jude's News



Meet the Team: St Jude's bus fleet and drivers in a group photo.



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The Start of a New Chapter at St Jude's

Jordan's inspiring story of hard work, determination, and success in the quest for education.



St Jude's, at Last: Jordan spends his first weeks at St Jude's exploring the school's resources.

For four straight years, Jordan followed a tight schedule. He started his day at 4am, dedicating the next hour and a half to personal studies. By 6:20am, Jordan was ready to begin the 40-minute walk to school. He would return home around 6:30pm, spending an additional hour and a half after school in group discussions and revisions.

"The public school I attended didn't have enough boarding facilities for all students," says Jordan. "Nevertheless, I had to do everything I could to pass my national examinations."

In Tanzania, there are two key stages to secondary schooling. The first four years of secondary school are called Ordinary Level (O Level) studies, from Form 1 to Form 4, and the final two years of secondary school are called Advanced Level (A Level),

Forms 5 and 6. Students must sit for a series of standardised examinations organised by the government at the end of each stage. Only those that pass may continue onto the next level.

Jordan had to ace his Form 4 national examination to stand a chance of continuing with A Level studies. In 2023, close to 600,000 candidates sat for the exam. With only close to 1000 A Level schools in the country, a student has to do exceedingly well in the exams to earn a spot in any of these schools.

"Two of my older siblings never made it to A Level," says Jordan. "I have two younger siblings and my mother back at home. They were all rooting for me because I would be the first one in the family to do so," he adds passionately.

As Jordan approached his national examinations, his mother paid additional accommodation fees so that he could move into a boarding facility close to school. The support from his family and Jordan's hard work eventually paid off. He passed his national examinations with flying colours and was one of the top-performing students at his school!

"It was like a celebration when the results came out," says Jordan excitedly. "Everyone was so proud of me and it makes all the effort worth it."

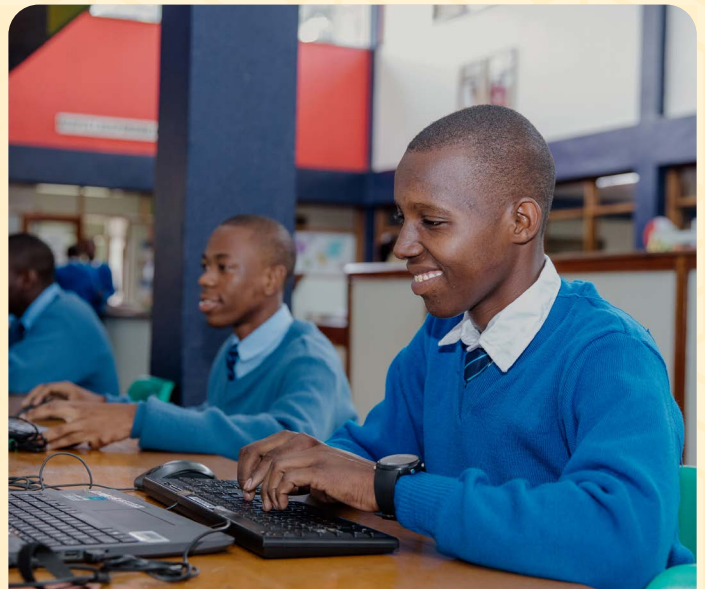


A Passionate Learner: St Jude's environment complements Jordan's drive for academic excellence.

Despite the impressive results, Jordan's path to A Level wasn't guaranteed. The shortage of secondary schools in Tanzania means that not every qualified graduate makes it to the next stage. The only way to get into a public secondary school is through an allocation by the government, which happens several months after the results are announced.

"Missing out on a government school would surely mean the end of the journey for me," says Jordan. "The only other option would be to join a private school, which we couldn't afford. I had done my part, now I had to wait and hope for the best," he adds.

Luckily for Jordan, he didn't need to wait long. His impressive academic results earned him an invitation to apply for an academic scholarship at St Jude's. Jordan jumped at the opportunity.



Newfound Interest: Jordan exploring his love for computers at St Jude's.

He aced the academic tests and passed the rigorous poverty assessment checks to secure a spot at St Jude's. His strong academic prowess, underprivileged background, and strong character made him an ideal candidate for the scholarship.

"I have only been at St Jude's a few weeks, but it's already made a lasting impression on me," says Jordan. "I'm now exploring my curiosity with computers and trying out different activities within the school," says Jordan, who hadn't used a computer before St Jude's.

Jordan is pursuing physics, chemistry, and mathematics in his A Level studies and hopes to become an engineer someday. St Jude's holistic approach to education turns motivated students like Jordan into well-rounded individuals. Provided with a high-quality learning environment, strong academic program, and robust co- and extracurricular activities, students graduate from St Jude's better equipped to lift their families and communities out of poverty. With his hard work and determination, it's thrilling to imagine how much he'll accomplish in his next two years at St Jude's.

Help the next generation of Tanzanian leaders and professionals overcome challenges and thrive through education. **Sponsor Today.**



From a Student to a Thriving Businessman

St Jude's alum, Livingstone, reflects on his entrepreneurial journey.



Creating Solutions: Livingstone posing with some of his products at his former university's Business StartUp Centre.

A St Jude's alum from three years ago, Livingstone has only recently graduated from university but is already managing a thriving business he co-founded as a student. His story is one of determination, confidence, and daring – a true personification of St Jude's motto: Challenge yourself.

Livingstone's love for entrepreneurship goes back to his student days at St Jude's. While in secondary school, he teamed up with a friend to start a poultry business, marking the start of an exciting entrepreneurial journey. Over the years, Livingstone explored several ventures in various industries, such as food and agriculture.

"I am grateful that I was able to start my entrepreneurship journey from a young age," says Livingstone. "This provided me with many opportunities to learn from my mistakes, build my confidence, and explore my interests," reflects Livingstone.

St Jude's holistic approach to education provided Livingstone with an ideal space to cultivate his skills.

The extracurricular activities at the school, including the Entrepreneurship Club and the promotion of student-led initiatives, create a fertile ground for students like Livingstone to develop and pursue their business ideas.

"At St Jude's, they teach us to use our talents and skills to create solutions to existing problems within our communities," explains Livingstone. "As an aspiring entrepreneur, this opens up opportunities to develop businesses out of the solutions," he adds excitedly.

A good application of this mindset came during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. As with most cities, residents of Arusha limited their movements, inspiring Livingstone's next business idea.

"I launched a food delivery business that became very successful," says Livingstone. "At its peak, I was selling up to 50 plates a day of makande (a traditional Tanzanian meal of beans and maize)," he adds proudly.



Ready on the Go: Students enjoying a cup of porridge as they go about their business became a common sight at Livingstone's university.

After completing his secondary school education, Livingstone joined the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP), which supports graduates with tertiary education. While at university, Livingstone launched his most successful business yet.

"I noticed that students at the university wanted to eat healthily, but they didn't have much choice because they were busy," reflects Livingstone. "So, my business partner and I came up with a brilliant idea of delivering healthy, nutritious porridge in takeaway cups around campus," he adds.

Livingstone put all his marketing and management skills behind this idea. He spent weeks researching and developing a signature formula for his product, followed by special branding and free offers to first customers. Within only 13 weeks, the business grew tenfold, enabling Livingstone to expand its operations and employ others to assist with production and supply chain.

"It became so popular that even my lecturers were calling in to place their orders," says Livingstone with a smile. "More and more people were replacing their morning breakfast with a handy cup of porridge," he adds proudly.

The business opened up more opportunities for Livingstone and his business partner. The pair were provided an office at the university's Business StartUp Centre, a special incubation program for promising entrepreneurs and start-ups on campus.

As the business grew, so did his reputation, and soon enough, Livingstone began receiving invitations to workshops, seminars, and spaces for emerging entrepreneurs within and outside the campus.

"I had to figure out how to balance my time as a student and an entrepreneur wisely," says Livingstone. "This experience hasn't just been about building a successful business but my character as well."

Livingstone recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Insurance and Risk Management. He plans to continue growing his business and has expanded his products to include porridge flour, soya milk, and tomato paste. His strong business acumen, determination, and strong foundation at St Jude's will surely make him a successful entrepreneur.



Support our graduates and alumni in giving back to the community as entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders. **Sponsor Today.**



Q&A with Vivian

Find out how Vivian from St Jude's Secondary School spent her recent holiday

Vivian is a student at St Jude's Secondary School and the current Vice Chairperson of the Student Government. She enjoys playing netball, decorating, practicing poetry, and reading inspirational books in the school library. Recently, Vivian spent a month at home for the end-of-term school holidays. We caught up with her about her recent holiday and plans for the new year.

In Tanzania, the final two years of secondary school are known as Advanced Level (A Level); Forms 5 and 6. The A Level school year is divided into two parts: the first term runs from July to December and the second terms runs from January to June. Students enjoy a month-long break at the end of each term, in June and December.



How was your holiday?

My holiday was great! I spent time with my parents at home, travelled to visit my grandmother, and attended different workshops and seminars. Time well spent!

What was your favourite holiday activity?

I really enjoyed attending the workshops and seminars. I was a speaker at a youth conference on entrepreneurship and self-awareness. It was a pleasure sharing my knowledge and insights with fellow youth. Another highlight was visiting an orphanage and supporting the children with various items.

Did you learn anything while at home?

I learned some graphics design stuff from a professional. It's a skill that I intend to develop going forward.

What are you most excited about this term?

This is my first term as a Form 6 student (Form 6 is the final year of secondary school in Tanzania). This means we are the oldest students on campus!

What are your big plans for this term?

It's my final year in school, so I want to finish strong and get good grades. I also want to continue building on my leadership and engagement skills and work on becoming a positive influence on my fellow youth.

A Leader's Smile: Vivian is a leading figure in various youth-led projects within her community.



Your support enables students like Vivian to develop leadership and problem-solving skills to impact their community. **Sponsor Today.**

The Numbers Behind the Fleet



Highlighting the scale of St Jude's bus fleet



Meet the Team: St Jude's bus fleet and drivers in a group photo.

At the break of dawn, the silence is broken by the roar of St Jude's buses as they emerge from the school gates. An hour later, they return full of students and staff, all eager to start the day. With their characteristic yellow colour, distinctive animal logo on the side, and the school name, St Jude's bus fleet has become an iconic sight throughout the streets of Arusha, Tanzania. Today, let's take a closer look at the key numbers associated with St Jude's school buses.

25



the size of St Jude's bus fleet

8,500



average distance [in kilometres] covered per week by St Jude's bus fleet, providing transportation for students and staff to and from school, on excursions, and conducting poverty assessments.

1,500



average litres of fuel used by our bus fleet every week

700



students and staff take the bus to and from school everyday.

17



routes covered by our buses as part of their daily commute

19



full-time drivers employed

Your support provides safe and reliable transportation, fostering access to education for all students.

Donate Today.