



The School  
of St Jude

OCTOBER 2024

# St Jude's News



Happy St Jude's Day: An iconic group of the 2024 St Jude's Day.



Our Australian fundraising partner is registered as The School of St Jude Ltd and is responsible for all funds raised in Australia.



Our American fundraising partner is registered as American Friends of The School of St Jude, Tanzania, Inc. and is responsible for all funds raised in the USA.



Celebrating St Jude's  
Biggest Graduation

Page 2



Leading the Way to a  
Healthier Community

Page 4



Did you know?

Page 6



Kiswahili Word of the Month

Page 7





# Celebrating St Jude's Biggest Graduation

235 students complete Ordinary Level secondary school education in the biggest and first of its kind farewell and awards ceremony at St Jude's.



**Class of 2024:** The 235 graduates pose for their graduation photo with Smith Campus' Head of School, Mr Tsinggay, at the school arena.

It's 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024, St Jude's Smith Campus. A sense of celebration fills the air, and despite the morning chill and cloudy weather the school is abuzz with excitement. In the school arena, students in their immaculate uniforms and blue and yellow graduate ribbons pose for photos with their families, teachers, and sponsors.

Today marks an important day for St Jude's as 235 Form 4 students, the school's largest class to date, graduate from their Ordinary Level studies.

Tanzania's education system has three key stages: seven years of primary school from Standard 1 to 7, then four years of secondary school from Forms 1 to 4 in Ordinary Level (O Level) studies, and finally, two years of Advanced Level (A Level) studies at Forms 5 and 6. Schools typically organise a graduation ceremony at the end of each stage, as do St Jude's.

"Attending a graduation ceremony at St Jude's is an experience like no other," says Mr Sangito, St Jude's Assistant Headmaster and a senior event organiser. "It's one of those events that brings together the entire St Jude's community of students, parents, staff, and supporters in celebration," he adds.

But while each graduation is significant and equally celebrated with enthusiasm by the St Jude's community, the Form 4 graduation feels particularly special. At this stage, graduates choose to continue with the final two years of A Levels and specialise in specific subjects or they pursue an accelerated path to a career by completing a diploma or certificate at college.







“Starting A Level feels like opening a new chapter in my academic journey,” says Lilian, St Jude’s Form 4 graduate and a host of *Inside St Jude’s* podcast. “I’ll be moving to a new campus with new teachers and new uniforms. Plus, I’ll be studying more science subjects which is more fitting for my career goals in computer science,” she adds.

Meanwhile, Fatuma, another St Jude’s graduate and Lilian’s co-host at *Inside St Jude’s* podcast, is going for a different route. She is one of the highly motivated graduates opting to apply to Beyond St Jude’s Alternative Pathways Program (APP). The APP was established in 2020 for students who decide to pursue a diploma or certificate in college, in lieu of the traditional St Jude’s A Level pathway.

“That’s why this graduation means so much,” reflects Fatuma. “It’s an opportunity to begin exploring my career path in a new setting,” she adds.

At St Jude’s, 96% of students who begin secondary school education complete Form 4. The school’s holistic approach to education ensures students excel beyond academics by developing useful extracurricular skills in sport, art, IT, and public speaking.

As a result, they graduate with practical skills they can apply immediately to positively impact their communities.

“One of our fellow students represented the country at the 2023 Commonwealth of Nations games while a team from St Jude’s emerged the first runner-up at the Tanzania National Debate Championship (TNDC) and East African Schools Debate Championship (EASDC),” said Rahel a Form 4 graduate in the Farewell speech during the ceremony.

In the coming weeks, the graduates will sit for their Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE), a national exam organised by the National Examination Council of Tanzania. In Tanzania, only those who pass the CSEE qualify to proceed to A Levels. Passing these exams also improves college enrolment prospects for students pursuing a diploma course.

Whichever path they choose, a St Jude’s scholarship is available to support successful graduates in their next academic step.

Prepare the next generation of Tanzania’s leaders and professionals by donating to St Jude’s. **Donate today.**



# Leading the Way to a Healthier Community

A full circle story of a St Jude's alum on a mission to revitalise the nutrition industry in Tanzania.

Like most students joining St Jude's for the first time, Irene didn't speak much English. So, her favourite place on campus was the playground. She quickly made new friends, discovered the sports she loved most.

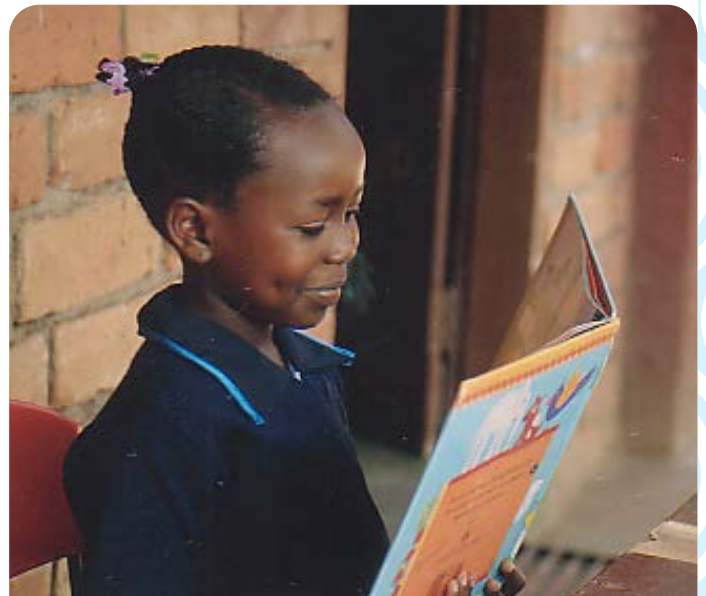
"I was eight years old when I joined St Jude's back in 2016 and the playground felt like a mini amusement park in comparison to my previous school," shares Irene. "So I tried every sport and game offered at St Jude's until I eventually settled on football and basketball," she adds proudly.

When Irene wasn't busy playing with her friends, she was in the library, scanning books with captivating pictures. She was particularly intrigued by images of the human body and animals, inspiring her lifelong interest in biology and her future career path.

"I would see pictures of children with malnutrition and they really made an impression on me," recalls Irene. "My dream was to find a solution to this problem so that people wouldn't have to suffer," she adds passionately.

Early on, Irene decided that she was going to pursue a career in medicine, so she focused on science subjects throughout her time at St Jude's. Her motivation inspired her to consistently overcome one challenge after another, from the language barrier to succeeding in a male-dominated academic path. All her hard work paid off and Irene excelled in her final examinations earning a spot in the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP), an optional program for secondary school graduates.

The BSJSP supports Form 6 graduates with higher education in universities and colleges across Tanzania and beyond. As part of the program, they spend a year doing community service, volunteering to teach at understaffed government schools or assisting at various



**A Bookworm:** Irene loved books from her early days at St Jude's.

placements throughout St Jude's. Irene chose to volunteer in the Marketing department, where she helped promote the school's mission to new supporters.

"The experience nurtured my spirit of giving back just as others had supported my education at St Jude's," says Irene. "I also gained some valuable digital and communication skills that have been very useful," she adds.

During her Community Service Year, Irene accepted a scholarship in Beirut to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics.

"I figured if I can help people make better dietary choices and adopt positive lifestyle changes then it could be the beginning of a healthier community," she says.

Today, Irene is a globally recognised Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and she's back in Tanzania to put her knowledge and skills to good work, helping people live healthier and better lives.





**In the Making:** Irene conducting an assessment of a new patient at the American University of Beirut Medical Center hospital during her internship year.

She works as a renal dietitian at one of the largest healthcare networks in East Africa, providing high-quality dialysis to patients.

“I basically help patients with end-stage renal disease on hemodialysis improve their quality of life by providing an individualised nutrition care plan,” explains Irene “This includes conducting consultations on what foods to eat to avoid the accumulation of uremic waste, increase protein intake to avoid malnutrition, aid the prevention of anemia,” she adds.

Irene is also pioneering a telenutrition service that helps users optimise their dietary intake according to their goals. The digital platform offers practical, budget-friendly advice and personalised counselling, along with food preparation, portion control, and mindful eating resources, making nutrition knowledge accessible to a broad audience.

“I may not solve world hunger or malnutrition today,” says Irene. “But I am proud that I am helping people adopt healthier lifestyles. And that’s a step in the right direction,” she adds passionately.

Irene looks back at her experiences and opportunities at St Jude’s as a crucial part of her inspiration for what she does today. And she is not alone. Irene is part of a growing number of alumni currently using their skills and knowledge to impart the communities positively and lift them out of poverty.



By sponsoring a scholarship for a St Jude’s student or scholar, you are inspiring Tanzania’s next generation of transformational leaders.

**Sponsor today.**





# Did you know?

A long-standing tradition at St Jude's you may not know about.



Happy St Jude's Day: An iconic group of the 2024 St Jude's Day.

Once a year, the entire St Jude's community of 1,800 students and more than 300 staff gathers on one campus to celebrate St Jude's Day. It is one of the biggest and most anticipated events on the school calendar.

There is a lot to explore about St Jude's Day, so here is a quick look at how we celebrate.

## What is St Jude's Day?

St Jude's Day is a special day to honour Saint Jude, the patron saint of desperate and lost causes for whom the school is named.

## How do we celebrate it?

Over the years, it has been a tradition to celebrate this day as a community. St Jude's campuses alternate hosting the celebrations; this year was the Sisia Campus' turn.

Join our community in honouring St Jude by caring for others and instilling hope.  
**Spread the word.**

## What happens on St Jude's Day?

The day's first activity is taking the annual (whole) school photo. A huge logistical effort, everybody assembles on one of the sports fields to pose for a photo, the students lining up from youngest to oldest. A Thanksgiving mass follows, where students and staff present gifts that will later be distributed to the less fortunate in our local community. Afterward, the school enjoys a community lunch, followed by entertainment and special recognition for staff through the St Jude's Spirit program.

## When is the next St Jude's Day?



St Jude's Day is observed annually on 28th October. Next year, St Jude's Day will fall on a Tuesday and be hosted by the Smith Campus.

It's a perfect day to visit the school and experience the spirit of St Jude firsthand from our community.



# Kiswahili Word of the Month

Expand your Kiswahili vocabulary while learning the history and culture of St Jude's and Tanzania.



**Proud Artists:** Some budding artists at St Jude's with their finished artworks after an art session.

## Sanaa

[Sah – Naah] Noun

### Definition

In its simplest form, “sanaa” is a Kiswahili word which means “art” in English. Broadly, the term includes visual and performing arts such as painting, sculpture, music, dance, and other forms of skilled or creative work.

### History

The word sanaa is of Arabic origin, which means “art” or “craftsmanship”. Its history goes back to the interaction between Arab and East African traders between the 7th and 12th century. Over the years, the Kiswahili version of the word has evolved to include other forms of creative expression.

### Sanaa at St Jude's

Sanaa is an important part of St Jude's holistic approach to education. The school encourages creative expression among the students and provides them the time, space, and materials to hone their artistic skills.

### Student Art Program

In 2022, St Jude's launched the Student Art Program, a special initiative that celebrates and promotes the creative expression of students through art, and painting in particular. The program was further expanded to include an onsite gallery at Sisia Campus and an online gallery on the school's website.

The art gallery features stunning artworks, 100% created by students, that embrace the culture and diversity of Tanzania. It's a perfect spot for visitors and supporters to experience sanaa at St Jude's, and support our budding artists.

Student artists receive a 10% commission fee of the price when their artwork is sold at the gallery. The rest of the money is used to support the Student Art Program with materials, workshops, mentorship, and scholarships for budding artists.

You can get a piece of art from St Jude's by visiting our online gallery.  
**Order today.**