



# St Jude's News



**Spotlight on creativity:** Students unveil their artistic talents at St Jude's inaugural Art Exhibition and Gala.



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# Transforming lives through art

Inside St Jude's first Art Exhibition and Gala.



**Creativity unleashed:** Students brought their imaginations to life at the inaugural St Jude's Art Exhibition and Gala, showcasing their remarkable talent and passions.

The lights sparkled, the drinks flowed, and the air buzzed with creativity as St Jude's Sisia Campus came alive last month for its first-ever Art Exhibition and Gala, designed to spotlight budding artists and support the growth of the Student Art Program.

Themed Transforming Lives Through Art, the two-part event kicked off with a vibrant family fun day, featuring live painting, food vendors, face painting, sip and paint, and children's activities. As evening fell, the campus transformed into an elegant outdoor gala, welcoming guests in style to an unforgettable night of live entertainment, a gourmet three-course meal, and an auction of student artworks.

Jane, Experience and Community Programs Senior Manager at The School of St Jude, says the event offered a meaningful way for the local community to engage with the school's mission while showcasing the Student Art Program's role in fostering creativity, confidence, and self-expression.

"The Art Exhibition and Gala offered the local community the unique opportunity to interact directly with our students, learn about their artistic journeys, and see the impact of our Student Art Program firsthand," says Jane.



**Family fun day:** The day event featured live painting, food vendors, face painting, sip and paint, and children's activities.





**Painting the future:** Denis, a Form 4 graduate who exhibited a total of 24 pieces, three of which were sold during the event.

“For many students, this was their first time exhibiting and selling their work, so it was a huge milestone. Watching them talk about their pieces with guests was incredibly special. These interactions boosted their confidence and helped attendees to understand the stories behind the artworks, and connect on a deeper level.”

Among the young talent featured was Denis, a Form 4 graduate who exhibited a total of 24 pieces, three of which were sold during the event. He also assisted with the exhibition setup, learning how to hang pieces, position easels, and curate a professional display - an invaluable experience for an aspiring professional artist.

“I’ve been sketching since primary school. But when I started Form 1, that’s when St Jude’s launched the Student Art Program. That’s when I got to try acrylics and paint on canvas. It really changed everything for me,” shares Denis.

“I am happy that people appreciate my work. My dream is to have my own gallery and studio one day, so I also loved seeing the event come together from behind-the-scenes.”

Each student receives a 10% commission from their original artwork sale, with the remaining 90% reinvested back into the Student Art Program to provide quality materials, resources, and creative opportunities.

As for Denis, he used part of his earnings to purchase new art supplies, put some away in savings, and shared the remainder with his family.

“When I’m doing art, I feel like I’m in another universe. Being able to share my work with others and knowing they love it is a very good feeling. I hope to sell more pieces in the future,” he adds.

Thanks to the event’s success, Jane is confident it will open the door for many more art exhibitions in the future.

“Events like this play a big part in supporting and developing the skills of our student artists, while giving supporters the opportunity to have a little piece of St Jude’s in their own home,” says Jane.

“We’re excited to keep creating opportunities where our students can grow, express themselves, and shine, and with so much talent at St Jude’s, we’re just getting started.”



You too can support a budding artist.  
**Browse our collection of unique artworks** and bring a piece of St Jude’s into your home today!



# Q&A with alum and entrepreneur, David

## It was all smiles at Arusha Innovation Week!

A group of St Jude's students and alumni recently participated in Arusha Innovation Week, joining changemakers across the region to tackle real-world challenges with bold ideas.

Among them was David, an alum who won first place in the event's prestigious pitching competition for his award-winning innovation - organic fertilisers made from human hair - earning him a spot at the national finals in Dar es Salaam this month.



**Innovation in action:** Alum David took out first place in the pitching competition at Arusha Innovation Week, earning himself a spot at the national finals in Dar es Salaam.

### How did it feel to win first place in the pitching at Arusha Innovation Week?

Really great! I was very happy when they announced I had won. I love what I'm doing and I'm always thinking about ways I can share it with more people. There were 13 people in the pitching competition. We each did a two-minute pitch in front of the panel. I prepared a pitch deck the day before. The same event also happened in many regions across Tanzania, and all the regional winners will meet in Dar es Salaam for the final competition on 12 May.

### What do you think is the key to delivering a successful pitch?

Make sure you connect with both the audience and the panel. You can do this by having a strong opening that makes your pitch stand out. I do this by starting with a question or coming up with an engaging opening line. This gets their attention immediately. I also talk about the most important thing first as time is limited. The rest of the information can always be put into the Q&A.





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**Cheering champions:** Students and alumni joined changemakers across the region to tackle real-world challenges with bold ideas at Arusha Innovation Week.

### What was the most exciting and memorable part of the competition experience?

So many things! I loved seeing everybody's different ideas. The audience was full of innovation experts, and I got to meet them all afterwards. I was also so happy to see people supporting young innovators. Young people need a platform to show their ideas.

### What are you most looking forward to about the next stage in Dar es Salaam?

There is going to be a big space to exhibit everyone's ideas, and we will get to meet lots of people from different organisations and institutions. It's also being held in the same place where, seven years ago, we competed in a national science competition after showcasing this very project at St Jude's Science Day. There, we came second among secondary schools from across Tanzania. So, it's going to be a very full-circle moment.

### We recently had St Jude's Science Day in April. What advice would you give to young aspiring innovators?

As a young mind, you have to think of future problems. Try to identify the problems that people might face in the future, not just the ones we see today. And keep going! You'll always be happy waking up to something you love doing.



From classroom to community impact, your generosity is helping shape the future leaders and innovations in Tanzania. **Donate today!**





# From curiosity to computer science

Joseph's journey from discovery to innovation through technology at St Jude's.



**Innovative solution:** Joseph developed a system that tracks and automates St Jude's parking fees.

When Joseph joined St Jude's in 2018 as a Form 1 student, he never predicted that a simple break-time conversation with friends would spark a passion that would shape his future.

"A group of students were talking about Java, a programming tool I'd never heard of. I'm the kind of person who looks things up if I don't understand them. So, I went to the library and started reading everything I could about computers," recalls Joseph, who graduated in the Class of 2024.

Before joining St Jude's, Joseph completed his primary education at a local government school in Arusha, where computers were something he'd only ever seen from afar.

"I had never even touched a computer before coming to St Jude's. I'd only seen them in movies and on screens, where they looked really cool. I just fell in love with them," he says.

Eager to learn more, Joseph began teaching himself the basics of programming, using every resource he could find in the school library.

"The books I was reading were all in English, and I was still learning the language at that time. But I just kept going. I really fell in love with it and continued to teach myself," he says.





**The start of it all:** It was within the gates of St Jude's that Joseph's passion for computer programming was sparked.

Fast forward to today, and Joseph's passion has come full circle. As part of his Community Service Year (CSY) - where Form 6 graduates have the opportunity to take part in a year of community service - he is volunteering in St Jude's Corporate Applications team, using his skills to tackle real-world challenges and help improve internal systems at the school.

One of his most impressive contributions has been the development of an automatic system that tracks and manages government parking fees; a crucial task for St Jude's, which operates a fleet of more than 30 buses and vehicles.

"When the school buses park outside the school, the government charges a parking fee. Previously, staff had to manually check each plate number online to calculate the monthly charges. This was a time-consuming job, especially with so many vehicles to manage," explains Joseph.

Thanks to his innovation, the system now automatically retrieves all St Jude's bus plate numbers from the government portal and generates a report - saving valuable time and reducing the risk of errors.

"We've been improving it based on feedback. I keep refining it with input from the team. I'm

now working on how to store the data for the records," adds Joseph.

With his CSY wrapping up in July, Joseph has his sights set on tertiary studies in computer science or financial technology, with plans to eventually merge the two fields.

"The CSY program has been amazing. I'm learning so much, and it's opened up a lot of opportunities," he says.

"Doing CSY at the place where my passion for computers began, and being able to give back using the skills I've developed from my time here, is very rewarding. I'm excited for what the future will bring."



Inspired by Joseph's journey? You can empower more students like him. **Sponsor a student's scholarship** and make a lasting impact.



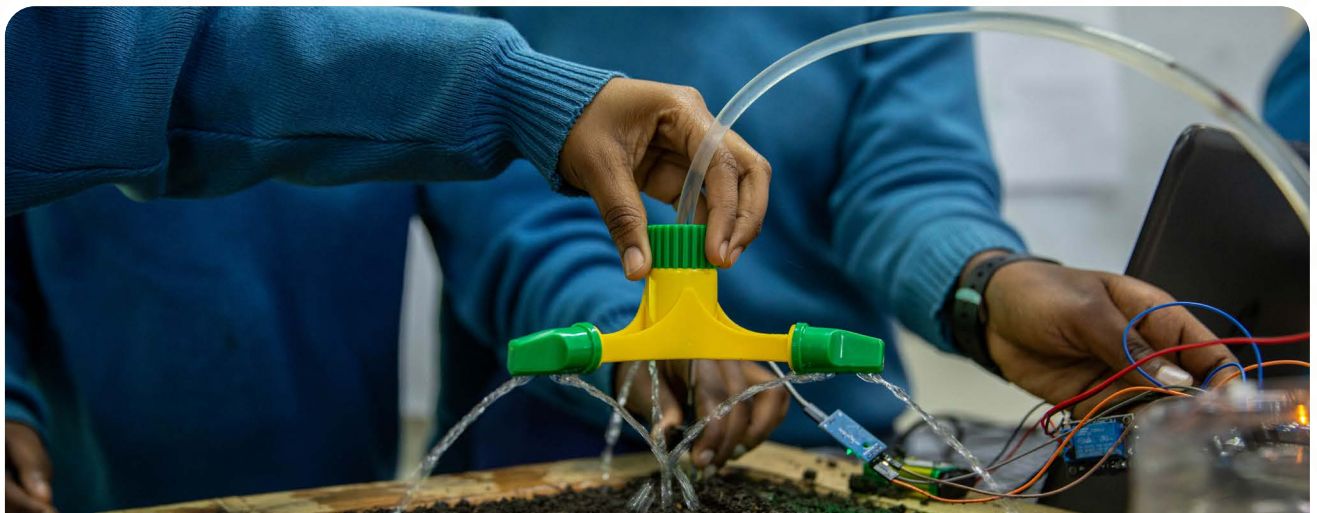
# Behind the scenes of our Annual Science Day!

## Inside the Annual Science Day at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School

It's no secret that the Annual Science Day has become a launchpad for the next generation of innovators, and this year's event was no exception! Now in its 15th year, the day brought together students to present both individual and group projects that not only highlighted their expertise in science, ICT, and maths, but also provided creative solutions to some of today's most pressing global challenges.

With nearly half the student body participating, many focused on pioneering renewable energy solutions like solar power and biogas, pushing us closer to a sustainable future.

Take a closer look at the remarkable projects from this year's Science Day and see how these young innovators are shaping the world of tomorrow.



**Sustainable solutions:** Students showcasing the inner workings of their smart irrigation system, designed to automatically detect soil dryness and trigger irrigation when needed.



**Creative impact:** Students worked diligently to tackle real-world problems, with this team creating an innovative solution that recycles plastic waste into durable bricks, helping to address environmental waste and turning it into a practical, everyday resource.





**Reimagining materials:** Creativity comes in many forms, as demonstrated by these artists who crafted this stunning piece entirely from recycled plastic bottle caps, highlighting the endless possibilities of reusing materials in art.



**Bright minds, bold ideas:** With so many incredible innovations and bright ideas on display, our judges had a tough time narrowing down the finalists. Every project brought something unique, creative, and impactful to the table!



**Smart solutions:** This invention features an automatic flush system with sensor detection, designed to enhance hygiene and prevent waterborne diseases through touchless operation.



**Winners are grinners:** Taking top prize for their AI automated home system, a forward-thinking project that impressed judges with its innovative use of smart technology.

Your support is helping to educate the future innovators. [Help us spread the word](#) by forwarding this newsletter to a friend!