



NEWSLETTER



100% 2026 JCE PASS RATE AS A TRADITION



15th August, 2026

By Samuel Mpando | Teacher

St. John Girls' Secondary School is delighted to celebrate yet another outstanding academic achievement following the release of the 2026 Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) examination results on 15th August 2026. The school is proud to announce that all 127 candidates passed the examinations, giving St. John Girls' Secondary School an impressive 100% pass rate.

The achievement is a source of immense pride for the entire St. John community and continues a strong

tradition of academic excellence that has become synonymous with the school. Once again, our girls have demonstrated that with commitment, discipline, determination and the right support, they can rise to every academic challenge placed before them.

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LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

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***"THE FUTURE
DEPENDS ON WHAT
YOU DO TODAY."***

— Mahatma Gandhi

DID YOU KNOW

A SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SHINES A LIGHT ON THE TALENTS, SUCCESSES AND STORIES THAT DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED.

100% 2026 JCE PASS RATE AS A TRADITION

STORY FROM FRONT PAGE



JCE CLASS OF 2026 STUDENT POSE FOR A GROUP PHOTO

The 2026 JCE results are much more than the statistics. Behind the 100% pass rate are countless hours of classroom learning, revision, consultations, assessments, examinations and personal sacrifice by our learners.

Our JCE Class of 2026 remained focused throughout their studies and embraced the challenges of secondary education with determination. Their achievement reflects their resilience, discipline and willingness to work hard towards their academic goals.

We therefore extend our heartfelt congratulations to every member of the JCE Class of 2026. Your success has brought great honour to yourselves, your families and the entire St. John Girls’ Secondary School community.

“THERE ARE NO SECRETS TO SUCCESS. IT IS THE RESULT OF PREPARATION, HARD WORK, LEARNING FROM FAILURE, LOYALTY, AND PERSISTENCE.”

— Colin Powell

While the achievement belongs to our girls, a success of this magnitude is never achieved by learners alone. It is the result of a strong partnership between learners, teachers, management, parents and guardians, all working towards one common goal: providing quality and holistic education for girls.

We sincerely appreciate our teachers for their unwavering commitment to the academic development of our learners. Their dedication extends beyond classroom teaching, involving lesson preparation, marking, individual learner support, academic guidance and continuous encouragement. The 100% JCE pass rate is a testament to the professionalism, dedication and hard work of our teaching staff.

We also express our sincere gratitude to the school management for providing leadership, vision and continued support towards academic excellence. Creating an environment in which girls can learn, grow and achieve

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ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

REV. FR. JOSEPH KIMU - DIRECTOR

Dear teachers, students, and cherished readers,

With a heart overflowing with joy and thanksgiving, I warmly welcome you to the month of August 2026 edition of St. John Girls' Secondary School Newsletter. As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." These words perfectly capture the spirit of this edition, as we celebrate God's faithfulness in guiding our school community to remarkable achievements.

It is with immense pride and joy that I congratulate our Form Two students on achieving a magnificent 100% pass rate in the Junior Certificate of Education examinations! This extraordinary result is nothing short of a miracle and a testament to God's grace working through the dedication and hard work of our students. A 100% pass rate is not a small achievement — it is a resounding declaration that St. John Girls' Secondary School is committed to academic excellence of the highest order. To every student who sat for these examinations, you have made your school, your parents, and your God proud. Wear this achievement with humility and let it fuel your determination to reach even greater heights in the years ahead.

This outstanding result would not have been possible without the exceptional contribution of our dedicated teachers and support staff. Your tireless commitment to preparing these students, your patience in explaining difficult concepts, your encouragement during moments of doubt, and your unwavering belief in our students' potential have borne beautiful fruit. I extend my deepest gratitude to each one of you. To our parents and guardians, your prayers, sacrifices, encouragement, and steadfast support of your daughters throughout their academic journey have been absolutely fundamental to this success. This victory belongs to all of us — teachers, support staff, parents, and students together. To God be all the glory!

As we celebrate the JCE results, our eyes now turn with great anticipation toward our MSCE results. Our Form Four students worked diligently and with great determination throughout the year, and we are looking forward with faith and confidence to beautiful and outstanding MSCE results. We continue to hold these students in our prayers, trusting that their hard work will be richly rewarded. Whatever the results may bring, we are proud of every student who gave their best and represented St. John's with dignity and integrity. Should any Form Four student decide to repeat at our school to reduce her MSCE grades, please let us know. During the four years you have been with us we have known you very well and we would not deny you a chance to come back to your second home to repeat.

On an equally exciting note, I extend warm congratulations to the over 400 students who have been selected to begin Form One at St. John Girls' Secondary School in September 2026. This is a



wonderful milestone in your educational journey, and we are delighted to welcome you into our school family. Additionally, we warmly welcome the 40 students who successfully passed our Form Three entrance examinations — a historic first for our institution. You have demonstrated the academic ability and determination that St. John's stands for, and we look forward to nurturing your potential. From our past experience, only about half of selected students ultimately report to school due to various financial reasons. However, we earnestly pray that this year will be different—that all selected students will come and take full advantage of our beautiful facilities, dedicated staff, and enriching environment. To parents and guardians of selected students, please make every effort to bring your daughters to school on the opening day. Do not let this golden opportunity pass.

We are also delighted to welcome our new staff members who will be joining the St. John's family in this new academic year. You bring with you fresh perspectives, new experiences, and wonderful skills that will enrich our school community immeasurably. We embrace you wholeheartedly and look forward to the unique gifts and experiences you will contribute to our mission of integral education for girls. May you find in St. John's a community of warmth, collaboration, faith, and excellence that inspires you to give your very best.

As we prepare to begin the new academic year 2026/2027 on 14th September, we do so with great excitement, renewed purpose, and unwavering faith in God's continued blessing upon our institution. We pray that this new academic year begins at a very high note — with enthusiasm from students, dedication from staff, full enrollment, and the visible hand of God guiding every aspect of our school's life. Let us approach this new chapter with boldness, faith, and a collective commitment to making 2026/2027 the most successful and transformative year in the history of St. John Girls' Secondary School.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless each member of our school community abundantly. May He grant wisdom to our educators, excellence to our students, strength to our new staff members, and continued favor in all our endeavors. May St. John Girls' Secondary School continue to shine as a beacon of quality education, Christian values, and integral formation for girls in Malawi and beyond.

With gratitude and blessings,

The Director
St. John Girls' Secondary School.
ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE

100% 2026 JCE PASS RATE AS A TRADITION

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requires purposeful leadership and investment in education. The continued achievements of St. John Girls’ Secondary School demonstrate the value of this commitment.

To our parents and guardians, we say thank you for trusting St. John Girls’ Secondary School with the education and future of your daughters. Your encouragement, support and partnership with the school play an important role in the success of our learners. We celebrate this achievement with you because you are an essential part of the St. John family.

The 2026 JCE results add another chapter to the growing story of academic success at St. John Girls’ Secondary School. However, while we celebrate this achievement, we also recognise that academic excellence is not simply about examination results.

At St. John Girls’ Secondary School, our mission is to provide Integral Education for Girls—an education that develops the whole person. We strive to nurture girls academically, socially, morally and spiritually, equipping

equipping them with the knowledge, values, confidence and character they need to become responsible and capable women who will positively influence their families, communities and the nation.

Our JCE success therefore encourages us to continue working even harder. It reminds us that when learners are supported by committed teachers, responsible parents and visionary management, great things are possible.

To the JCE Class of 2026, this moment belongs to you. Your hard work has paid off. Your determination has produced results. Your success has made your teachers, parents, guardians and the entire St. John community proud.

As you move forward to the next stage of your education, carry with you the discipline, confidence and determination that brought you this far. Let this achievement be a reminder that excellence is possible when you believe in yourselves, work hard and remain committed to your goals.



JCE CLASS OF 2026
SOME OF THE MOMENTS CAPTURED

ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION

DIRECTOR WELCOMES NEW STAFF AND REAFFIRMS ST. JOHN'S COMMITMENT TO INTEGRAL EDUCATION



28TH AUGUST, 2026

By Moses Mwamadi | Secretary

INTRODUCTION

As St. John Integral Education Centre continues to grow, the institution is welcoming new members of staff while strengthening its commitment to the formation and wellbeing of every student. On 28 August, 2026, the Director, Fr. Dr. Joseph Kimu, held a meeting with members of the management team from 17:00 to 18:00 hours. The meeting provided an opportunity to welcome newly appointed members of staff, share experiences and reflect on the responsibilities that come with serving the growing St. John community.

The meeting was attended by the Director, Moses Mwamadi, Secretary; Agness Odala, Bursar; Memory Moffat, Boarding Mistress; Mirriam Ada, Matron; Brino Chapalapata, newly elected Deputy Headteacher of the Secondary School; Theresa Mtentha, newly recruited Secondary School Matron; and Charity Mkandawire, newly recruited Acting Secretary. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Madam Mirriam Ada.

1. Welcoming New Members of the St. John Family

In welcoming the new members, the Director expressed confidence that their presence would bring new ideas, experience, energy and a renewed spirit of service to the institution. Madam Theresa Mtentha brings with her two years of experience as a Matron at St. Bakhita Girls Secondary School, while Madam Memory Moffat has six years of experience as a Matron at St. Monica Girls Secondary School. The Director also acknowledged the progress made by Madam Mirriam Adah, who continues to gain experience and has adapted well to her responsibilities. The Director encouraged the team to value these different experiences and learn from one another.

2. Working Together Rather Than Competing

One of the strongest messages from the Director was the importance of teamwork and unity. He reminded the

management team that the success of an institution cannot depend on individual efforts. Every member of staff has a role to play and those roles become more effective when people cooperate rather than compete.

The Director cautioned against seeking personal popularity among students or parents at the expense of institutional procedures and teamwork. He encouraged staff members to support one another and to remember that they are all working towards the same objective: the proper education, formation and wellbeing of the girls entrusted to St. John.

This message is particularly important in a growing institution. As responsibilities increase, unity, communication and mutual respect become essential to maintaining a strong school community.

3. The Meaning of Integral Education

The Director also reflected on the meaning of integral education, which lies at the heart of the institution's identity. At St. John, education is not understood simply as the achievement of good academic results. The school seeks to form young women in different dimensions of life.

This includes their:

- i) Academic development
- ii) Moral formation
- iii) Spiritual growth
- iv) Physical wellbeing
- v) Social development
- vi) Emotional wellbeing
- vii) Personal responsibility and character

The ultimate goal is to help students become responsible young women who can make sound decisions, respect others, live with discipline and contribute positively to society.

The Director therefore reminded staff that every interaction with a student can contribute to her formation. Teaching, discipline, boarding life, cleanliness, prayer, communication and relationships all form part of the educational experience.

4. Caring for Students Beyond the Classroom

The meeting also highlighted the important role played by the Matron and Boarding Mistress in the lives of students.

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LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

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ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION

DIRECTOR WELCOMES NEW STAFF AND REAFFIRMS ST. JOHN’S COMMITMENT TO INTEGRAL EDUCATION

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Because these members of staff spend considerable time with the girls, they often have an opportunity to understand aspects of student life that may not be immediately visible in the classroom.

The Director encouraged the Matron and Boarding Mistress to participate, where appropriate, in student assessments and evaluations. Their observations concerning students' behaviour, relationships, discipline, personal hygiene and general wellbeing can provide valuable information in understanding the whole person. This approach reflects the school's commitment to ensuring that students are not viewed merely through their academic performance, but as young people with individual needs, talents, challenges and aspirations.

5. Continuing Spiritual and Catechetical Formation

Spiritual formation remains an important part of the St. John experience. The Director encouraged the continuation of catechetical training and called upon members of the management team to remain open to one another and to work together for the spiritual and overall development of the students. Where students experience personal, emotional or other challenges, the Director emphasized the importance of appropriate attention, guidance and support. This reflects the school's broader commitment to caring for the whole person.

6. Supporting New Students

The Director also encouraged the management team to pay particular attention to students who are newly joining the institution, including the new Form Three students. Students arrive at a new school with different backgrounds, experiences and expectations. They therefore require proper guidance as they adjust to the culture, discipline and values of their new school.

The Director encouraged management to be observant and proactive, ensuring that students understand the expectations of St. John and receive the necessary support to become fully integrated into the school community. The message was clear: discipline and compassion must go hand in hand. The school must maintain high standards while giving students an opportunity to learn, change and grow.

7. A Culture of Cleanliness and Responsibility

The Director also gave guidance concerning the responsibilities of the Acting Secretary, Madam Charity Mkandawire. He encouraged her to use the opportunity to learn extensively about the institution, gain experience, work hard and remain committed to her responsibilities.

Particular attention was given to the cleanliness of the school environment and the welfare of the girls. The Acting General Secretary was encouraged to work closely with the Matrons and Boarding Mistress, visit the hostels, monitor cleanliness and encourage students to take responsibility for their environment.

The emphasis was not simply on having clean surroundings, but also on teaching students’ practical responsibility. Girls should learn how to care for their classrooms, hostels and personal environment and understand that cleanliness is part of responsible living.

The Director further encouraged the Acting Secretary to prepare and submit monthly reports, enabling management to follow developments, challenges and progress within the institution.

8. Strengthening Boarding Life

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss aspects of boarding life, including food arrangements, cleanliness and student wellbeing. Drawing from experiences at other institutions, the management discussed ways of strengthening boarding standards and ensuring that students have a healthy, orderly and well-managed environment.

The underlying principle was that boarding life should support the educational mission of the school. Students need proper nutrition, a clean environment, discipline and consistent guidance in order to thrive.

9. Improving Communication with Parents

The Director further emphasized the importance of having an organized system for communication between students and their parents. A coordinated approach to telephone communication can help ensure that parents receive clear and consistent information while also strengthening accountability among staff.

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ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION

DIRECTOR WELCOMES NEW STAFF AND REAFFIRMS ST. JOHN'S COMMITMENT TO INTEGRAL EDUCATION

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The purpose is not to prevent healthy communication between parents and their children, but to ensure that such communication takes place through a system that protects the interests of the students and the institution.

10. Preparing for the New Academic Year

As the institution prepares for the new academic year, attention was also given to school uniforms.

The Director indicated that uniforms will be distributed on 12 September 2026, in line with the school's arrangements and requirements.

The issue was presented as part of the wider preparation for the academic year, with the aim of ensuring that students begin their studies properly prepared and appropriately presented as members of the St. John community.

11. One School, One Family

Perhaps the most important message from the meeting was the Director's call for the management team to work as one family. St. John Integral Education Centre is a growing institution, and growth brings new opportunities as well as new responsibilities. No single person can successfully carry the entire responsibility of running the institution.

The Director therefore encouraged members of the management team to communicate openly, support one another, respect each other's responsibilities and remain committed to the common mission of the school. The welfare of the students, he emphasized, must remain at the center of every decision. Every member of staff is therefore encouraged to ask: *"Does what I am doing contribute positively to the academic, moral, spiritual, physical, social and emotional development of our girls?"*

12. A Shared Responsibility

The meeting served as more than a welcome to new members of staff. It was also a reminder of the responsibility entrusted to everyone working at St. John.

The new members were welcomed into a community that values service, discipline, learning, faith, teamwork and integral education. At the same time, existing members were reminded that the continued growth of the institution

institution requires cooperation and a willingness to learn from one another.

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Madam Charity Mkandawire. In his closing remarks, the Director thanked all members of the management team for their presence and encouraged them to approach their responsibilities with commitment, humility and a genuine spirit of service. He once again welcomed the new members and wished the entire team a blessed and peaceful evening.

Conclusion

The message from the Director can be summarized in three simple words: One Family. One Mission.

At St. John Integral Education Centre, the mission goes beyond preparing students for examinations. It is about preparing young women for life.

Through education, discipline, faith, responsibility, care and teamwork, the entire St. John community has a part to play in helping every girl discover her potential and become the best version of herself.

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH. THE BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN THE WORLD CANNOT BE SEEN OR EVEN TOUCHED, THEY MUST BE FELT WITH THE HEART. THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR LIVES, BUT WHO WE HAVE IN OUR LIVES, AND WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE TO OTHERS."

— Helen Keller

HOW TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT



August Edition

By Clement Chigalagala | Headteacher

Dear Students

Success in school is not a matter of luck. It is the result of good habits, discipline, determination, and a positive attitude. Every student has the potential to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. What matters most is the willingness to learn and the commitment to work hard.

A successful student begins by setting clear goals. Knowing what you want to achieve gives you direction and motivation. Whether your goal is to excel in examinations, develop your talents, or become a responsible citizen, let your goals guide your daily actions.

Regular attendance and punctuality are equally important. Every lesson provides an opportunity to learn something new. Missing classes or arriving late means missing valuable knowledge that may never be repeated. Make it a habit to be present, prepared, and ready to participate.

Success also requires consistent hard work. There is no substitute for studying regularly, completing assignments on time, and revising what has been taught in class. Avoid the temptation to postpone your work. Remember that small efforts made every day lead to great achievements over time.

Respect is another quality that distinguishes successful students. Respect your teachers, parents, fellow students, and school rules. A respectful attitude creates a positive learning environment where everyone can thrive. Good character is just as important as academic excellence.

Do not be afraid of challenges or failure. Every successful person has experienced setbacks. Instead of giving up, learn from your mistakes and use them as stepping stones to improvement. Persistence and resilience are qualities that will serve you well throughout your life.

Time management is another key to success. Balance your studies with rest, recreation, and extracurricular activities. Use your time wisely, avoid distractions, and prioritize

what is important. Every minute spent productively is an investment in your future.

Finally, remember that education is more than passing examinations. It is about developing knowledge, skills, values, and character that will enable you to make a positive contribution to your family, community, and nation. Strive to be a lifelong learner who is honest, responsible, compassionate, and eager to serve others.

At St. John Girls' Secondary School, we believe that every girl is capable of achieving excellence. We are committed to providing a nurturing environment where each student can grow academically, spiritually, socially, and morally. I encourage every student to embrace every learning opportunity, believe in her abilities, and remain focused on her dreams.

Success is not achieved overnight. It is built one lesson, one decision, and one day at a time. Let us work together to make every day count.

"Aim high, work hard, remain disciplined, and never stop believing in yourself. Your future begins with the choices you make today."

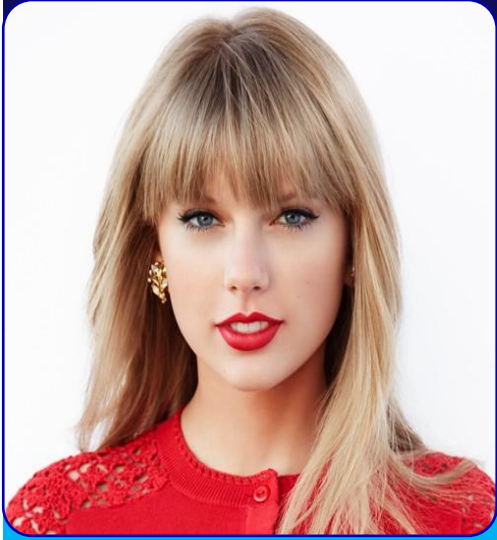


Headteacher
St. John Girls' Secondary School

“NEVER BELIEVE ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU THAT YOU DON’T
DESERVE WHAT YOU WANT”

— TAYLOR SWIFT

By Samuel Mpando| Teacher



Taylor Swift- Music icon

SYNOPSIS

Taylor Swift explores the importance of self-belief, confidence, ambition and personal worth, suggests that people should not allow others’ doubts or negative opinions to determine what they can achieve or whether they are worthy of their dreams. She encourages individuals to trust themselves, recognize their value and continue pursuing meaningful goals despite criticism, rejection or discouragement.

The powerful words of renowned musician Taylor Swift remind us of the importance of self-belief, confidence, ambition and personal worth. Her quote encourages us not to allow the doubts, criticism or negative opinions of others to determine what we believe we are capable of achieving.

Throughout life, we encounter people who may question our abilities, discourage our ambitions or convince us that our dreams are beyond our reach. While constructive advice and honest feedback can help us grow, we should be careful not to allow someone else’s lack of belief in us to become a limitation in our own lives.

Believing in yourself does not mean thinking that you are perfect or that success will come without effort. Rather, it means recognizing your potential, trusting your abilities and having the courage to keep moving forward even when the journey becomes difficult.

Self-belief can profoundly influence the way we respond to challenges and opportunities. When we trust ourselves, we become more willing to take on difficult tasks, learn from our mistakes and pursue goals that genuinely matter to us.

For students, this is particularly important. Academic life comes with examinations, assignments, difficult subjects, competition, disappointments and moments when success may seem uncertain. At such times, it is easy to compare ourselves with others or to believe negative comments about our abilities.

However, one poor examination result does not define a student's intelligence. One mistake does not define her character. A setback does not determine her future.

True confidence allows us to say, “I may not have succeeded yet, but I can learn, improve and try again.”

Self-belief therefore goes hand in hand with discipline, patience,

humility and a willingness to learn. It gives us the courage to accept constructive criticism while refusing to let discouragement destroy our confidence.

Taylor Swift was born on December 13, 1989, in West Reading, Pennsylvania, United States. From an early age, she developed a strong interest in music, songwriting and performing. She began writing songs as a child and developed a determination to pursue a career in country music.

As a teenager, Swift moved with her family to Tennessee, where she could pursue opportunities in Nashville, one of the major centres of country music. She performed at local events and venues while developing her songwriting and musical abilities. Her persistence eventually led to recording opportunities while she was still a teenager.

Swift rose to prominence with her self-titled debut album, Taylor Swift, released in 2006. Songs such as Tim McGraw introduced her as a promising young country artist. She subsequently achieved international success with albums including Fearless, Speak Now, Red, 1989, Reputation, Lover, Folklore and Evermore.

Over the course of her career, Swift expanded beyond country music into pop and other musical styles while maintaining songwriting as a central part of her artistic identity. Her ability to transform personal experiences, emotions and challenges into music that connects with millions of people has contributed significantly to her success.

Her journey has not always been easy. She has experienced public criticism, intense media attention, professional disputes and the pressures associated with global fame. Yet she has repeatedly reinvented her music and artistic identity, demonstrating a willingness to grow, take creative risks and move beyond other people's expectations.

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ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

“NEVER BELIEVE ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU THAT YOU DON’T DESERVE WHAT YOU WANT”

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— TAYLOR SWIFT



In many ways, her career reflects the message contained in the quote: your journey should not be determined solely by what others think you can or cannot become.

Taylor Swift’s words offer an important lesson to every young person: do not allow someone else’s doubts to become your own doubts.

There may be moments when someone tells you that a particular career is too difficult, that your academic goals are unrealistic, or that you are not good enough to achieve something you desire. Such comments can be painful, but they do not have to define your future.

Instead, let challenges motivate you to work harder. Let mistakes teach you. Let constructive criticism help you improve. And let your dreams remind you why you must continue.

At St. John Girls’ Secondary School, our learners are encouraged to develop not only academically but also personally and socially. Education is about discovering one’s abilities, developing confidence, building character and preparing for a meaningful future.

Every student has unique strengths and potential. The journey to realizing that potential may require patience, sacrifice, discipline and perseverance. What matters is having the courage

to continue.

The message behind Taylor Swift’s quote is not that we should ignore everyone around us or reject advice. Rather, it reminds us to develop enough confidence in ourselves to distinguish between constructive guidance and discouraging negativity.

We should listen, learn and improve, but we should also believe that our dreams are worth pursuing.

Success rarely happens overnight. It is built through small steps, consistent effort, resilience and the willingness to rise after failure. The person who believes in her potential is more likely to keep trying when others have already given up on her.

As students, therefore, never be afraid to dream. Never be ashamed of wanting to achieve something meaningful. Never allow temporary failure to convince you that you are incapable of succeeding.

Your circumstances may challenge you. Your results may disappoint you. Others may doubt you. But none of these things has the final authority to determine your potential.

Believe in your ability to learn. Believe in your capacity to improve. Believe that your efforts can make a difference.

Source—<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news>

ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME



By Mirriam Kausiwa
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

OUR FAMILY TREE

A TRUE LIFE STORY

When I was a little girl, I used to follow my mother everywhere. I loved being around her and felt safe whenever she was close to me. She was an important part of my everyday life and I could hardly imagine spending a day without seeing her. Whenever she went somewhere, I wanted to know where she was going and when she would return.



When I was only six years old, I woke up one morning and immediately wanted to know where my mother was. I looked for her everywhere. I went to her room, but she was not there. I became worried because I was used to finding her nearby whenever I woke up.

Suddenly, I heard a voice calling, "Miriam! Mimie!" Thinking it was my mother, I rushed outside. To my surprise, it was my big sister, Mwayi. She had prepared breakfast for me and my other sister, Chitsanzo. We ate together, and shortly afterwards, Mwayi hurried off to school. Everything seemed normal, but I was still wondering where my mother could be.

A few minutes later, my father came to take me to the bathroom. My sister Chitsanzo was waiting for me. We all attended Chisawani

Primary School. I loved it when my mother escorted me to school every day.

Her presence made me feel happy and secure, so I refused to go with Chitsanzo.



My father then said, "You can go, Tsanzo. I will take her to school by myself."

He went to bathe, but I continued looking for my mother. I could not understand why she was nowhere to be found. As I searched around, our neighbour called me and asked, "Where is your mother? Why are you calling for her? Has she come back from the hospital?"

I was surprised by the question. I did not understand exactly what she meant, but her words immediately made me afraid. The mention of the hospital made me think that something serious might have happened to my mother. I started crying as I hurried back to my father, hoping that he would explain everything to me.

"What is it, sweetheart?" he asked when he saw me.

"FAMILY IS NOT AN IMPORTANT THING. IT'S EVERYTHING."

— Michael J. Fox

I pointed towards my mother's picture. He seemed to understand that someone had told me something about my mother and that I was becoming increasingly worried.

He then said, "Leave your bag here. We will go together to where Mum is."

I believed him because I trusted my father. I thought that at last I would be taken to my mother and would understand what was happening.

However, when I opened my eyes later, I discovered that my bag was being brought to me by Mr. Takala. I realised that my father had tricked me. Instead of taking me to my mother, he had taken me close to the school.

I started crying again. My heart was filled with confusion, disappointment and fear. However, I quickly stopped when I noticed many Standard One pupils looking at me. I did not want them to think I was foolish or strange, so I wiped away

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OUR FAMILY TREE

A TRUE LIFE STORY

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my tears and entered my classroom.

During lessons, shortly after break time, I suddenly started vomiting. My teacher became concerned and called my father. Although it appeared that I was sick, what I was experiencing was largely caused by the worry and confusion that had been building inside me. At such a young age, I could not fully understand what was happening, but I knew that something was not right.



That night, my aunt came and took me to her house. I spent the night there, still thinking about my mother and wondering when I would see her again. The days seemed unusually long because I did not know when everything would return to normal.

On the third day, something wonderful happened. I finally saw my mother coming. The moment I recognised her, I forgot about all the fear and confusion I had experienced. I ran towards her and hurried to hug her. I was so happy to see her again. Her presence brought me the comfort and reassurance I had been longing for.

“A MOTHER’S LOVE FOR HER CHILD IS LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD. IT KNOWS NO LAW, NO PITY. IT DARES ALL THINGS AND CRUSHES DOWN REMORSELESSLY ALL THAT STANDS IN ITS PATH.”

— Agatha Christie

As I grew older, I learned more about what had happened and about

the complicated history within our family. My grandfather, who was an author, had written down many of these events. His writing helped preserve important parts of our family story and allowed me to understand some of the things I could not understand as a young child.

I also learned that my grandfather had been prevented by my father from visiting us because he had once tried to stop my parents from getting married. This disagreement had created distance within the family. As a child, however, I knew nothing about these adult problems. I only knew that I loved my family and wanted to be close to the people who cared about me.

Although there had been disagreements and misunderstandings in the family, we eventually reconnected through family letters and the stories my mother shared with us. These stories helped me discover more about where I came from and the people who formed part of our family history.

Looking back, I realise that a family tree is not simply a collection of names connected by lines. It represents the people, experiences, struggles, relationships and dreams that connect generations. Some branches may grow close together, while others may become separated for a time. Yet, they still remain part of the same tree.

“WE ARE NOT MAKERS OF HISTORY. WE ARE MADE BY HISTORY.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

That experience remained deeply rooted in my heart. From that day onwards, I developed a strong desire to become a nurse. Perhaps it was because, as a young girl, I learned how frightening and confusing it can be when someone you love is not there. I wanted to grow into someone who could care for people, comfort them when they are afraid, and help them through difficult moments.

My childhood experience therefore became more than just a painful memory. It became part of the dream I carried into the future. It taught me the value of family, the importance of caring for others, and the power of hope even when we do not understand what is happening around us.

And so, on our family tree, I am the future nurse.



By Shakinnah Kasiyafumbi
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

DEATH TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING

Mwayi's painful words, "I'm sick of this life. It feels like I'm alone. Why does it have to go like this? No, this burden is too heavy for me. I can't manage. Please don't tell me that everything will be okay. How will it be okay? Answer me, please." A thirteen-year-old girl whose life had been changed forever by a terrible tragedy.

Mwayi was thirteen years old when she lost both of her parents in a tragic car accident. At the time, she was a Grade Eight student at All Stars Academy. She had been living a happy life with her parents, surrounded by love, care and the security that every child longs for.



However, after the death of her parents, her life became miserable. The people she had always regarded as her aunts and uncles suddenly disappeared when she needed them the most. The relatives she had believed would stand by her during difficult times were nowhere to be found.

For the first time, Mwayi began to understand the harsh realities of life. People she had trusted became virtual strangers, and the family she thought would protect her seemed to turn their backs on her when she was most vulnerable.

**"WHAT WE HAVE ONCE
ENJOYED AND DEEPLY LOVED
WE CAN NEVER LOSE, FOR ALL
THAT WE LOVE DEEPLY
BECOMES PART OF US."**

— Helen Keller

It was on 16 May 2010 when Mwayi and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mwama, set off for a vacation to Majete Game Reserve in

Chikwawa. They left at around eight o'clock in their family BMW. Mwayi was excited because it was going to be her first visit to Chikwawa.

The journey began happily. The family enjoyed the drive together, sharing funny stories, taking pictures and singing songs along the way. Mwayi was filled with excitement and happiness as she looked forward to the adventure that awaited them. At that moment, she had no idea that the journey would change her life forever.

They eventually reached Chapananga Township, just a kilometre from Majete Game Reserve. They were approaching a filling station and were about to turn into it when disaster struck.

A truck carrying fertilizer suddenly crashed into their car. The impact was devastating. The family BMW rolled over before crashing into a baobab tree on the other side of the road. Within seconds, the joyful journey had turned into a terrible tragedy.

The front windscreen shattered into pieces. Blood was everywhere, and the peaceful family outing became a desperate struggle for survival. An ambulance arrived at the scene and rushed the three occupants to Chikwawa Central Hospital.

Sadly, Mr. and Mrs. Mwama did not survive. They passed away because of severe blood loss. Mwayi, however, survived the accident, although she suffered an injury to her leg.

**"LIFE CAN CHANGE IN AN INSTANT,
AND WE ARE NEVER TRULY PRE-
PARED FOR THE MOMENTS THAT
CHANGE EVERYTHING."**

—Unknown

For Mwayi, surviving the accident came with an unbearable pain. She had lost the two people who meant everything to her. The mother and father who had loved, protected and cared for her were suddenly gone.

The funeral ceremony was held, and the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Mwama were laid to rest in their home village of Kaphatenga in Salima. Family members, friends and

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ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

DEATH TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING

STORY FROM PAGE 14



mourners gathered to say their final goodbyes.

But for Mwayi, the funeral was not the end of her suffering. It was only the beginning of another painful chapter in her life.

Shortly after the funeral, something happened that hurt her even more. Instead of supporting and caring for her, Mwayi's relatives took all the family wealth and left her with not even a single penny.

She could not understand why the people she had known and trusted could treat her that way. She had already lost her parents, and now she was losing the security and support she believed her extended family would provide.

With tears in her eyes and a heart filled with pain, she cried: "Why are you doing this to me? Aren't you the same people who loved me when my parents were alive? Mom, Dad, can't you just take me with you? This life is hard. I can't manage alone."

Mwayi was left facing a future she had never imagined. At only thirteen years old, she had lost not only her parents but also the sense of security and belonging that came with having a family.

Death had taken away the people she loved most, while the actions of those who remained made her feel even more alone.

Her story shows how quickly life can change and how important compassion and family support can be during times of grief. For Mwayi, the greatest tragedy was not simply losing her parents, it was discovering that some of the people she expected to stand beside her were the very people who abandoned her when she needed them most.

"SOMETIMES THE PEOPLE YOU WOULD TAKE A BULLET FOR END UP BEING THE ONES BEHIND THE TRIGGER."

— Unknown



ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

UNEXPECTED



By Promise Mdala
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

It all happened when she was just fifteen years old. Both of her parents died in a tragic car accident, leaving her with no one to depend on. She was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Banda. Her name was Priyanka, and she lived in Khola Village.

Before the tragedy, Priyanka had lived a simple but happy life with her parents. They provided her with love, care and hope for the future. She had dreams of continuing her education and building a successful life. However, everything changed when death suddenly took both of her parents away.



Now seventeen years old, Priyanka had been forced to drop out of school because she could no longer afford her education. She had to find a way to survive on her own. She started selling fruits at Sikha Market to earn money for her daily needs.

One day, while she was on her way to the market, her life took another unexpected turn. She was involved in an accident when a car hit her.

“WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF YOUR ROPE, TIE A KNOT AND HANG ON.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

She was seriously injured and was immediately taken to the hospital. Priyanka remained unconscious for three days. When she finally opened her eyes, she found herself lying in a hospital bed.

She looked around the room in confusion. Nothing seemed familiar. Her mind was completely blank, and she could not remember who she was, where she came from or how she had ended up in the hospital.

Beside her was a young man. “Where am I? What am I doing here?” she asked.

The young man did not respond immediately. Priyanka became even more confused.

When the doctor came with documents that needed to be signed, Priyanka heard the young man's name. His name was Zahel.

Zahel explained to the doctor that he would take responsibility for her care. He asked the doctor to continue taking care of Priyanka until she had fully recovered.

After she was discharged from the hospital, Zahel took her to his home. He carefully led her to a room where she could rest and recover. The following day, he bought clothes for her because she had nothing suitable to wear.

Days passed, and Zahel continued taking care of her. He treated her with patience and kindness, never making her feel like a burden.

Slowly, Priyanka's memory began to return. Little by little, she remembered her past and eventually told Zahel her life story. She explained how she had lost both of her parents, dropped out of school and started selling fruits at the market simply to survive.

Zahel felt sorry for her situation, but instead of merely feeling pity, he decided to help her rebuild her life.

“You are welcome to stay here until you become independent,” he told her.

For the first time in a long while, Priyanka felt that someone genuinely cared about her future.

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ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

UNEXPECTED

STORY FROM PAGE 16

Zahel treated her like family. He helped her return to school and worked hard to ensure that she had everything she needed for her education. Priyanka understood the opportunity she had been given and decided not to waste it.

She worked hard every day, remained focused on her studies and eventually passed her examinations with flying colours.

"NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED."

— Aesop

Her success brought great happiness to Zahel. But Priyanka's achievements did not end there. She was selected to study in Nigeria.



When Zahel heard the news, he was extremely happy for her. He knew that this was a life-changing opportunity, so he sacrificed everything he could to support her journey. His kindness had given Priyanka a second chance at life, and he was determined to see her succeed.

As time passed, Priyanka developed deep feelings for Zahel. Little by little, she fell in love with him, although she kept her feelings to herself. She was grateful for everything he had done for her and was unsure whether her feelings would ever be returned.

"THE BEST THING TO HOLD ONTO IN LIFE IS EACH OTHER."

— Audrey Hepburn

Priyanka travelled to Nigeria, where she studied law for four years. She remained focused on her education and worked hard to achieve her dream. Eventually, she graduated and became a successful lawyer.

After completing her studies, Priyanka returned to Malawi. When she arrived at the airport, she was surprised and delighted to see Zahel waiting for her. After everything they had been through, seeing him again filled her heart with happiness.

That evening, Zahel took out a ring and proposed to her. For a moment, Priyanka could not believe what was happening. The young man who had once found her injured and confused had become the person who had changed the direction of her entire life.

She finally realised that the feelings she had kept hidden in her heart were shared by Zahel.

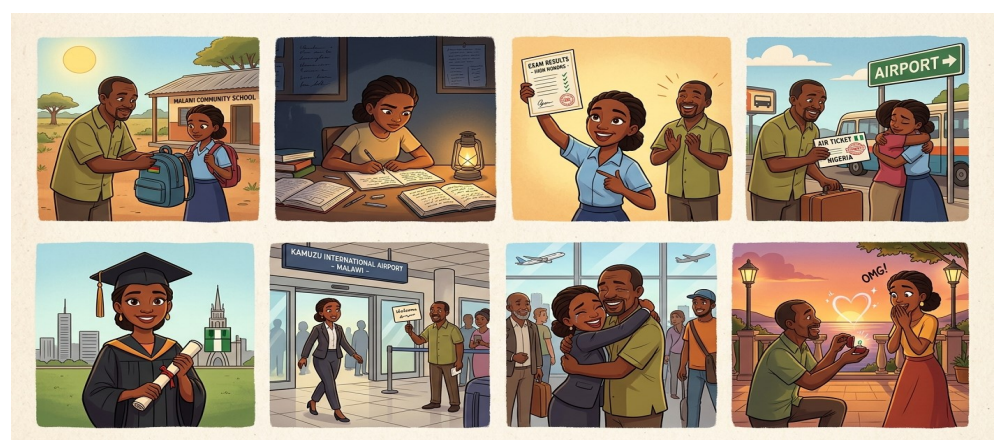
With joy in her heart, Priyanka accepted his proposal.

The two eventually had their wedding and began a new chapter of their lives together. Priyanka, who had once lost her parents, dropped out of school and struggled to survive, had finally found love, success and a new sense of belonging.

Her journey had been full of painful and unexpected events, but those same unexpected moments eventually

led her to a future she could never have imagined.

Sometimes, life takes us through difficult roads before leading us to places we never expected to reach. For Priyanka, what began with loss and tragedy eventually became a story of hope, kindness, perseverance and unexpected love.



And that is why her story is called "Unexpected."

ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME



By Xaviera Mtawanga
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

BATTLE JUNKIE

Maki was only ten years old when she lost both of her parents during the devastating war between the Kamado Clan and the Uzumaki Clan. Her parents were among the greatest warriors of the Uzumaki Clan, respected and feared for their extraordinary fighting abilities.

The war had turned the land of Kigjo into a battlefield, with warriors from both clans fighting fiercely for victory. For Maki, however, the war became a deeply personal tragedy.

She witnessed the death of her mother, Sakura, when Okaron, the ruthless head of the Kamado Clan, struck her down right before Maki's eyes. The sight left the young girl terrified and heartbroken.

Before she could run towards her mother, her father's best friend, Black Jack, grabbed her and pulled her away from the battlefield.

"Come with me, Maki! You cannot stay here!" he shouted as he tried to protect her from the chaos surrounding them.

The war eventually ended with victory for the Uzumaki Clan. However, the victory came at a terrible cost. Maki's father fought bravely until the very end. Moments after slicing off Okaron's head, he succumbed to his injuries and died.

Standing amid the destruction left by the battle, Maki made a powerful vow. She swore that she would become the greatest soldier in the entire land of Kigjo. She would master the inner power her parents had passed on to her and, one day, use it to destroy the remaining members of the Kamado Clan.

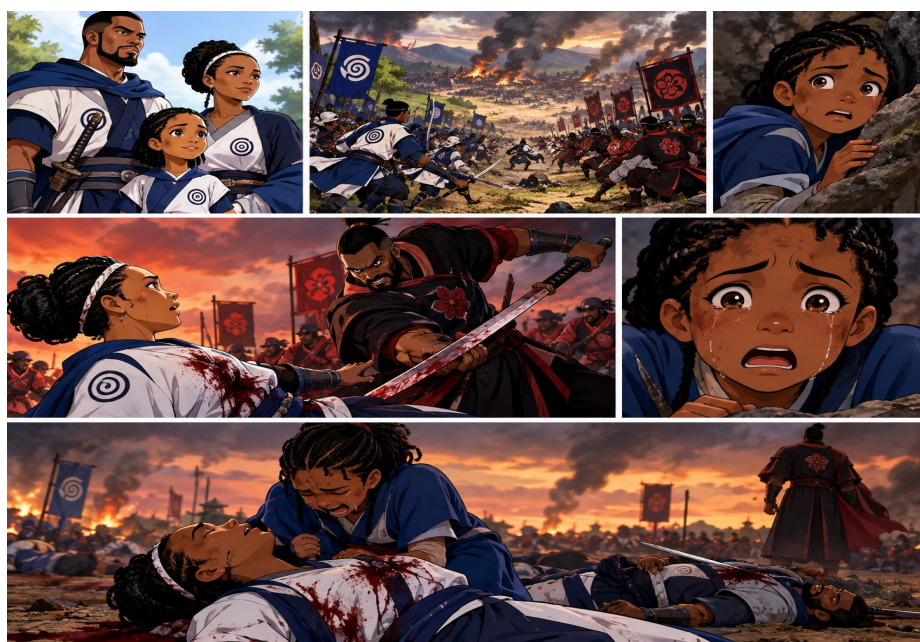
Black Jack became her guardian and trainer. For the next eight years, he trained Maki relentlessly. He taught her how to fight, defend herself, use weapons and master the techniques of both ninjas and soldiers.

By the time Maki turned eighteen, she had become an exceptionally skilled warrior. Her strength, speed and determination had made her one of the most promising fighters in Kigjo.

Although she had originally wanted to use her abilities for revenge, Maki gradually learned to use her strength for the greater good. She protected innocent people and fought against those who threatened peace.

However, her greatest test was yet to come. One fateful day, Maki came across a group of delinquents who were stealing fuel from the Kigjo State House. She immediately confronted them, determined to stop the theft.

Without hesitation, she attacked. The fight was intense. Maki managed to defeat several members of the group, but their leader was different from the others. He possessed extraordinary abilities that appeared to be of S-rank.



**"OUT OF SUFFERING HAVE
EMERGED THE STRONGEST SOULS;
THE MOST MASSIVE CHARACTERS
ARE SEARED WITH SCARS."**

— Kahlil Gibran

Maki had lost both of her parents in a single war. That moment changed her forever.

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ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

BATTLE JUNKIE

STORY FROM PAGE 18

Maki fought with everything she had, but the mysterious leader proved too powerful. She was eventually overpowered and found herself in serious danger.

Fortunately, Black Jack arrived just in time. He joined the battle and helped Maki fight the powerful leader. Faced with Black Jack’s strength and experience, the group decided to retreat. They escaped before the two warriors could capture them.

“IT IS NOT THE STRENGTH OF THE BODY THAT COUNTS, BUT THE STRENGTH OF THE SPIRIT.”
— J.R.R. Tolkien

Although Maki had survived, the battle had taken a heavy toll on her. She lost much of her strength and was left physically and emotionally exhausted.

Black Jack became deeply worried. He remembered the promise he had made to Maki’s father many years earlier, a promise to protect Maki with his own life.

He looked at her and urged her to abandon her dream of becoming the greatest soldier in Kigjo.

“You have already lost your parents,” he told her. “I don’t want to lose you too. Please, Maki. Leave this life behind and live a normal life.”

Black Jack did not want to watch another person he loved die because of war and revenge. But Maki refused to give up.

Her dream had become a part of who she was. She believed that giving up would mean betraying the memory of her parents.

That night, while Black Jack was asleep, Maki quietly slipped away. She fled into the woods, determined to continue her journey alone.

Deep in the forest, something unexpected happened. Maki encountered the very leader of the delinquent group she had fought earlier.

But this time, he did not appear dangerous. He seemed calm and almost harmless.

He introduced himself as Chimwemwe. As they spent more time together, Maki discovered another side of him. Despite their violent first encounter, Chimwemwe was not always the ruthless fighter she had imagined him to be.

The two began to grow closer, and eventually, Maki and Chimwemwe embarked on a love venture that neither of them had expected.

For a while, Maki began to forget the hatred and revenge that had dominated her life for so many years.

But fate had other plans. One fateful day, Maki and Chimwemwe encountered Black Jack.

Black Jack could hardly believe his eyes when he saw Chimwemwe standing beside Maki. His expression immediately changed, and he prepared to attack.

Before he could reach them, Chimwemwe pushed Maki aside and confronted Black Jack.

“LOVE IS NOT LOVE WHICH ALTERS WHEN IT ALTERATION FINDS.”
— William Shakespear



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LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

BATTLE JUNKIE



STORY FROM PAGE 19

The two warriors engaged in a fierce battle. Their movements were fast and powerful, and the forest echoed with the sounds of their attacks.

Just as Chimwemwe was about to deliver a final strike, Maki stepped between them.

"Stop!" she demanded. "Why are you fighting each other?" Black Jack looked at her with a mixture of anger and sorrow.

"He is Okaron's son," he revealed. "The son of the man who killed your parents." Maki froze.

"HATRED DOES NOT CEASE BY HATRED, BUT ONLY BY LOVE; THIS IS THE ETERNAL RULE."
— The Buddha

She turned towards Chimwemwe, unable to believe what she had just heard.

The person she had fallen in love with was the son of the very man she had sworn to destroy.

For a moment, silence filled the forest.

Then Chimwemwe simply smiled. He looked directly at Maki and said, "And it's my life's mission to destroy you too." Maki stood speechless.

The girl who had spent eight years preparing for revenge had finally encountered her greatest enemy and, unexpectedly, she had fallen in love with him.

"THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS NOT HATE, IT'S INDIFFERENCE."
— Elie Wiesel

The battle she had always dreamed of fighting was no longer simply a battle between two clans.

It had become a battle between love and revenge, destiny and choice, hatred and forgiveness.

DEAR DIARY



By Jennifer Nkhoma
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

Dear Diary, I have had several experiences during my time at this school, some good, some bad, some funny and some that I would rather forget. Looking back now, I realise that every experience, whether pleasant or difficult, has taught me something important. During my years here, I have learnt different behaviours, both good and bad. I have made several mistakes, broken so many rules and received my fair share of punishments, but somehow, I survived it all and made it to this final class of Form Four.

When I first came to St. John Girls' Secondary School, I did not know that my journey would be filled with so many memories. There were days when I was happy and excited, and there were also days when I felt tired, frustrated or simply wanted to go home. However, as the years passed, this



school slowly became a place where I grew, learned and discovered more about myself.

During my stay here, I repeated Form Three. Therefore, instead of spending four years in secondary school, I ended up spending five years here. At first, repeating a class was not easy for me. I sometimes felt disappointed with myself, but with time I learnt to accept the situation and use it as another opportunity to improve.

"FAILURE IS SIMPLY THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN AGAIN, THIS TIME MORE INTELLIGENTLY."

— Henry Ford

I am very glad that I was learning at such an amazing school, even though I spent a considerable amount of my

time working punishments. Sometimes I wondered how I managed to find myself in trouble so often! Nevertheless, those punishments also taught me lessons about discipline, responsibility and following rules. Looking back now, I can even laugh about some of those experiences.

And here I am, a former student of St. John Girls' Secondary School. It feels strange to say that because for so long, I have simply been one of the students walking around this campus, attending classes, studying, laughing with friends and occasionally getting into trouble. But now, that chapter of my life has come to an end.

I have been praying for this day for a long time, a day when I would finally be able to say that I am moving out of secondary school life. I will no longer wake up every morning knowing that I have classes to attend, assignments to complete, examinations to prepare for and, of course, punishments to work on.

Although I am happy to leave secondary school, I know that I will miss many things. School life was not always easy, but it gave me memories that I will carry with me wherever I go.

I have now written my MSCE examinations, and my biggest wish is to do well. I know that the results will determine an important part of my future, so I continue to pray and hope for the best. I pray that God will be with me in all my days, guide my decisions and help me succeed in whatever path I choose.

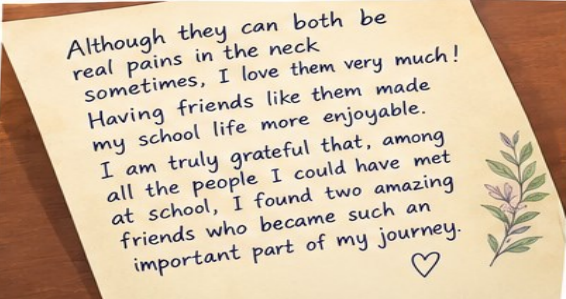
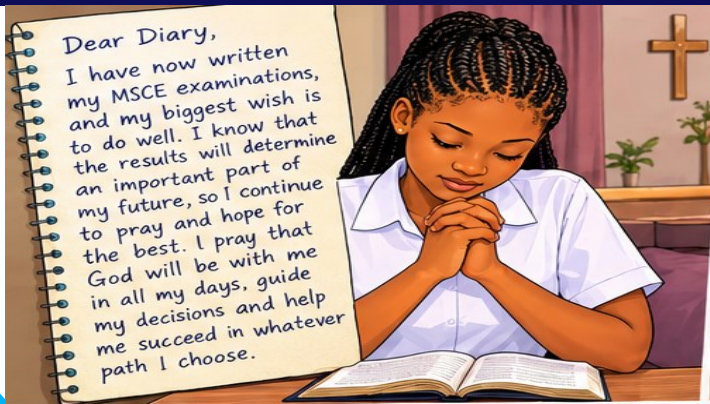
Dear Diary, although I am moving out of this campus, there are two people I know I will miss terribly, Shireen and Esnart. They are my two close friends who were always there for me whenever I needed them. We shared laughter, conversations, secrets, problems and many unforgettable moments.

Although they can both be real pains in the neck sometimes, I love them very much! Having friends like them made my school life more enjoyable. I am truly grateful that, among all the people I could have met at school, I found two amazing friends who became such an

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DEAR DIARY



STORY FROM PAGE 21

important part of my journey.

I know that things will change now. We may not see each other every day, sit together in class or spend our free time talking and laughing as we used to. However, I hope our friendship will remain strong even though we are leaving school and beginning different chapters of our lives.

Time ticked, days passed, and suddenly the moment I had been waiting for arrived. I can now proudly call myself a former student of St. John Girls' Secondary School.

"DON'T CRY BECAUSE IT'S OVER, SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED."

— Dr. Seuss

I am very happy that I had the opportunity to learn at such a school. St. John did not only teach me academic subjects; it also taught me lessons about life. It taught me about discipline, responsibility, friendship, perseverance and the importance of respecting time.

This school taught me how to be punctual, even though I was late most of the time! I may not have become the perfect example of punctuality, but I can honestly say that I improved. Perhaps one day, when I look back at my

school years, I will remember those late mornings and smile.

As I close this chapter of my life, I leave with memories of the good times, the difficult times, the friendships, the lessons, the laughter and even the punishments. They have all become part of my story.

Goodbye, St. John Girls' Secondary School. Goodbye to my classroom, my friends and the life I have known for the past five years.

I may be leaving the campus, but I will never leave behind the memories that were made here.

Dear Diary, this is not goodbye to my memories, it is goodbye to one chapter and hello to the next.

"AND SO THE ADVENTURE BEGINS. THE MEMORIES WE HAVE MADE WILL STAY WITH US, THE LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED WILL GUIDE US, AND THE FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE FORMED WILL ALWAYS REMIND US OF WHERE WE CAME FROM. THOUGH ONE CHAPTER HAS ENDED, THE PAGES AHEAD ARE STILL WAITING TO BE WRITTEN."



THANK YOU PARENTS

By Modester Thom
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

Not related in any way
But prepared a place
For me to stay

Not through my mother
Nor through my father
But rather you brought me in
From a nasty road
To a habitat so clean

My parents couldn't manage
To provide all these to me
I don't know which love portion
Made you care for me

Even the people try to go to
Witch doctors
To break your love for me
But fail and be ashamed

I don't know what to say
Or what to do
Failing exams is the one way
I make you a sad woman
But you still show love on me

But I promise
I will work hard
Both for me
And for you

Even with the increase
Of life standards
You aren't stopping
To care for others

Here I stand with shoulders high
And lay a monologue of appreciation
For taking care of me
And for others you help

And let blessings flow
From different angles
Of this nation on you



DEATH

By Atwamwike Mwakighonja
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

One day I will die.
My beloved ones will cry
Wishing it were a mere dream
To bring me back they will try

But they will surely fail
For I can't live forever on earth
Across the rivers and oceans I have sailed
My life on earth will be over

Death will be the end of my race.
My whole life will account to God.
Before God I will stand face to face.
My sins and mistakes I will count

Those left behind will take it hard
But only death takes me to God
My upper father,
Adonai Jesus.



TOMORROW

By Karen Chiwaula
Form 1 Student

Tomorrow brings a brand new light,
A chance to make our future bright.
Though today may bring some sorrow,
We keep our hope for tomorrow.

Dream today and work with care,
For better days are waiting there.
Step by step we will find our way,
Tomorrow starts with what we do today.

When challenges come we will not fear,
We will hold our dreams and keep them near.
With faith and courage we will carry on,
Until the darkness fades with dawn.



LET THEM TALK

By Thandiwe Gonawe
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

If they keep talking
Your failures always stalking
Don't stop! Just keep on walking

There's something they admire
To bring you down is all they desire
Wishing to extinguish your fire

These are people behind your trailing
They are happy to see you failing
In sea of trouble happy to see you sailing

If they spread your weakness behind the back
You have something precious they lack
Your good profile they are anxious to paint black

True friends don't take your problems to others
To spread rumours no true friend bothers
True friends grow into caring sisters and brothers



WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

By Tadala Bello
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

What did I do wrong?
Life was easy when we were together,
We laughed and managed everyday.
But death managed to separate us.

What did I do wrong?
We shared, we loved each other like lovebirds,
Our love was a brand new day for us.
But happily you left me,
With many questions left unanswered.

What did I do wrong?
Everything we had together is now gone forever,
You have left deep wounds in my heart,
And tears flowing like a flooding river down my cheeks.
What did I do wrong?



MY LIFE

By Beatrice Kaponda
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

My life was just fine with you
I was always happy when I saw you
My heart was just like — aaaah!
I really have someone who loves me

You were my shoulder to cry on
You were my helper when troubles came around
me
But your absence is ruining my life

My life was really good with you
Whenever I talk about you
Telling my friends I have a lovely mom
Telling them whatever you do to me
But now, I have no story to tell
As you have made my life miserable

My life now is a mess
You just moved without goodbye
I left you okay but when I was coming
My heart was broken into pieces
Seeing your coffin lying there comfortably
With no one to ask, my cheeks were filled with
tears.
That's when I knew that now my life is a mess.

**"UNABLE ARE THE
LOVED TO DIE. FOR
LOVE IS
IMMORTALITY."
— Emily Dickinson**



NATURAL DISASTER

By Solozia Edward
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

Natural disaster
We are afraid of you
Many people die
Many livestock die
Because of you
You are a killer
Natural disaster

Natural disaster
You come without warning
Carry the soil away
Living the land bare
Like the mouth of inclined plane
Natural disaster

Natural disaster
You are like a thief
You damage the plant field
And result into poor
Natural disaster

Natural disaster
Many people are scared of you
You just come
Without any communication
Natural disaster

**// IT IS NOT THE
STRONGEST OF THE
SPECIES THAT SURVIVES,
NOR THE MOST
INTELLIGENT, BUT THE
ONE MOST RESPONSIVE
TO CHANGE //**
— Charles Darwin



THANK YOU PARENTS

By Janet Billy
MSCE Class of 2026 Student

Thank you mother
For raising me
For bringing me up
With the great morals and values
For teaching me the way of life
For assisting me in any other way

Although I am sometimes rude
You don't give up
You are always good
Once again mother, thank you.

Thank you father
For assisting mother in raising me up
For providing to me all basic necessities
And changing me from dust to gold
You polish my life
And make it new from old

I shine brighter than the morning star
And I thank you
For making me who I am

Thank you my parents
Without you what can I do
Without you where will I stay
I think of this everyday
And I pray to God for your life and mine too

Because we never know
It might be me or you

My daily monologue to God
Shall never stop
It may cause inconveniences
Which I don't hope

You have made me speechless
Because of your kindness
But all I can say is
Thank you parents



DAPHNE NKHONO

Future Humanities Teacher

My name is **Daphne Nkhono**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls’ Secondary School.

I have always been passionate about education, history and understanding the world around us. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Education in History and Geography** at **Domasi College of Education**. I am committed to gaining the knowledge and teaching skills needed to help learners understand their history, appreciate their environment and develop a broader understanding of society.

With dedication, hard work, and God’s guidance, I hope to inspire young people through education and contribute to the development of Malawi.



HANNA MSEFULA

Future English Teacher

My name is **Hanna Msefula**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls’ Secondary School.

I have always been passionate about language, communication and education. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Education in English, Linguistics and African Languages** at **Nalikule College of Education**. I am committed to developing the knowledge and teaching skills needed to help learners communicate effectively, appreciate the richness of language and become confident users of English and African languages.

With dedication, hard work, and God’s guidance, I hope to inspire young people through language and education and contribute to improving the quality of education in Malawi.

“THE ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IS BASED ON MAKING IT FIT IN SO THAT YOU DON’T REALLY EVEN NOTICE IT.”

—Bill Gates



WANANGWA NKOSI

Future Development Communication Specialist

My name is **Wanangwa Nkosi**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls’ Secondary School.

I have always been interested in communication and its role in bringing about positive change in society. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Arts in Development Communication** at the **Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS)**. I am committed to gaining the knowledge and communication skills needed to effectively share information, engage communities and contribute to social and economic development.

With dedication, hard work, and God’s guidance, I hope to use communication to inspire positive change and contribute to the development of Malawi.



WONDERFUL MBETA

Future Educational Technology Specialist

My name is **Wonderful Mbeta**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls’ Secondary School.

I have always been passionate about education, technology and business, and the opportunities they create for young people. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Science in Education in Computer and Business Studies** at the **Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS)**. I am committed to gaining the knowledge and teaching skills needed to help learners develop digital, business and problem solving abilities.

With dedication, hard work, and God’s guidance, I hope to inspire young people and contribute to the advancement of education, technology and business in Malawi.



SHAKIRA AMEEN ALI

Future Water Resources Engineer

My name is **Shakira Ameen Ali**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls' Secondary School.

I have always been interested in science, engineering and the importance of water to communities and the environment. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Science in Water Resource Engineering and Management** at **Mzuzu University**. I am committed to gaining the technical knowledge and skills needed to understand, manage and protect water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

With dedication, hard work, and God's guidance, I hope to contribute to sustainable water resource management and the development of Malawi.



TWESA VICTORIA HAU

Future Sports Manager

My name is **Twesa Victoria Hau**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls' Secondary School.

I have always been passionate about sports and the positive role they play in promoting discipline, teamwork, talent and healthy communities. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management** at **Mzuzu University**. I am committed to gaining the knowledge and management skills needed to support the development of sports and create opportunities for young people to discover and develop their talents.

With dedication, hard work, and God's guidance, I hope to contribute to the growth of sports and inspire young people to pursue their talents and dreams.

"THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE A GOOD LOSER IS TO LOSE." —Ernie Banks



NEEMA MHONE

Future Humanities Teacher

My name is **Neema Mhone**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls' Secondary School.

I have always been interested in the study of people, society, culture and the ideas that shape our world. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Arts in Humanities** at **University of Malawi**. I am committed to gaining knowledge and developing critical thinking, communication and analytical skills that can help me better understand society and contribute positively to it.

With dedication, hard work, and God's guidance, I hope to use my education to inspire others and contribute meaningfully to the development of my community and Malawi.



ROSHAN MOKOWA

Future English Teacher

My name is **Roshan Mokowa**, and I am a former student of St. John Girls' Secondary School.

I have always been passionate about language, communication and the ways in which language connects people and communities. This interest inspired me to pursue a **Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Language Studies** at **University of Malawi**. I am committed to gaining a deeper understanding of language and developing the skills needed to contribute to effective communication, education and the preservation of languages.

With dedication, hard work, and God's guidance, I hope to inspire others through the power of language and contribute to the advancement of education and communication in Malawi.



WHEN COURAGE FACES THE CHALLENGE

LESSONS FROM DAVID AND GOLIATH FOR EVERY ST. JOHN GIRL

By Samuel Mpando | Teacher

There are moments in life when we stand before challenges that seem much bigger than ourselves. They may appear too difficult, too frightening or even impossible to overcome. At such moments, it is easy to become discouraged, doubt ourselves or simply give up.

The story of David and Goliath, found in *1 Samuel 17*, reminds us that the size of a challenge does not necessarily determine the outcome.

Goliath was a giant among warriors. He was strong, experienced and heavily armed. His presence alone was enough to frighten the Israelite army. For many, confronting him seemed like an impossible task.

Then came David. David was young and had no experience as a soldier. He did not have Goliath's armour, weapons or physical strength. Yet when everyone else saw an unbeatable giant, David saw a challenge that could be faced.

He stepped forward with faith in God, confidence in the abilities he had developed as a shepherd, and the courage to act. With a sling and a stone, David confronted Goliath and brought him down.

David's victory teaches us an important truth: *"The challenge may be great, but courage, faith, preparation and determination can give us the strength to face it"*.

For every girl at St. John Girls' Secondary School, David's encounter with Goliath carries lessons that extend far beyond the battlefield.

1. DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE SIZE OF THE CHALLENGE

Goliath looked enormous. His strength, armour and reputation made him appear unbeatable.

Yet David refused to allow Goliath's appearance to determine what was possible.

In our own lives, challenges can sometimes appear just as intimidating.

A difficult subject may seem impossible to understand. An examination may create fear. A

disappointing result may make us question our abilities. A personal difficulty may seem too big to overcome.

But we should never allow the size of a challenge to make us surrender before we have even tried. A challenge is something to be faced, not something that should automatically defeat us.

The St. John girl should learn to look at difficulties with courage and ask, *"What can I do to overcome this?"* rather than immediately saying, *"I cannot do this."*

2. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE

David knew that he was different from Goliath. He knew he was younger and less experienced as a warrior.

But David also knew what he could do. He trusted the abilities he had developed while tending his father's sheep. He did not pretend to be someone else. He used what he had.

This is an important lesson for every learner. You do not have to be the best in everything to have the potential to succeed.

You may struggle with Mathematics but excel in English. You may find Science difficult but have exceptional leadership, creativity, sporting or technological abilities.

Do not allow comparison with others to destroy your confidence. Believe in your ability to learn, improve and grow.

Self-belief does not mean believing that you have no weaknesses. It means understanding that your weaknesses can be improved and that your present ability does not have to be your final ability.

STORY CONTINUED TO PAGE 29

ST. JOHN INTEGRAL EDUCATION CENTRE
LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

WHEN COURAGE FACES THE CHALLENGE

LESSONS FROM DAVID AND GOLIATH FOR EVERY ST. JOHN GIRL

STORY FROM PAGE 28

3. PREPARATION MATTERS

David's courage did not suddenly appear when he faced Goliath.

His previous experiences had prepared him. As a shepherd, David had protected his father's sheep from danger and had developed confidence in using his sling. The skills he had practiced in ordinary circumstances became valuable when an extraordinary challenge appeared.

This is an important lesson for students. Success is prepared for long before the moment of success arrives. Every lesson you attend, every book you read, every exercise you complete, every question you ask and every hour you spend revising is part of your preparation.

Do not wait for examinations before you begin preparing. When the examination "Goliath" eventually stands before you, your preparation will determine how confidently you face it.

4. COURAGE MEANS FACING THE CHALLENGE

Courage does not mean that you never experience fear. David's courage was demonstrated by his willingness to move towards the challenge when others were afraid.

Every St. John girl will encounter moments when she feels uncertain or afraid.
You may fear failure.
You may fear making mistakes.
You may fear disappointing others.
You may even fear that your dreams are too ambitious.

But courage means refusing to allow fear to make every decision for you.
If a subject is difficult, seek help.
If you fail, learn from the failure.
If you make a mistake, correct it.
If you have a dream, begin working towards it.

Do not run away from every challenge simply because it is difficult. Face it, learn from it and grow through it.

5. FAITH GIVES US STRENGTH

David's confidence was not based solely on his own abilities. His faith in God gave him the strength to face

what appeared impossible.

For students at St. John Girls' Secondary School, this reminds us that education is not only about developing the mind. It is also about developing character, values and faith.

There will be moments when preparation alone cannot remove uncertainty. In those moments, faith can provide strength and hope.

However, faith does not mean sitting back and doing nothing. David had faith, but he also acted.

In the same way, we must combine faith with effort, prayer with preparation and hope with determination.

6. YOUR WEAKNESSES DO NOT DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY

David did not look like the person most people would have chosen to defeat Goliath.

He was young. He was a shepherd. He was not dressed like a warrior. Yet his circumstances did not determine his destiny.

This is an important message for every girl who sometimes feels inadequate.
Perhaps you are struggling academically.
Perhaps you have failed before.
Perhaps you lack confidence.
Perhaps someone has told you that you cannot succeed.

Do not allow those things to become permanent definitions of who you are. Where you are today is not necessarily where you will be tomorrow.

With discipline, support, practice, education and determination, you can continue to grow.

Your weakness can become an area of improvement.
Your failure can become a lesson.
Your struggle can become part of your story of success.

7. GREAT VICTORIES CAN COME FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS

David did not begin with a mighty army or sophisticated weapons.

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WHEN COURAGE FACES THE CHALLENGE

LESSONS FROM DAVID AND GOLIATH FOR EVERY ST. JOHN GIRL

STORY FROM PAGE 29

He began with what he had: a sling, a stone, courage and faith.

This reminds us never to underestimate small beginnings.
A few hours of study each week can eventually transform your academic performance.
One book can inspire a new way of thinking.
One good habit can change your daily life.
One decision to stop giving up can change the direction of your journey.

Success does not always arrive through one dramatic event. Often, it is built through small, consistent efforts repeated over time.

Never despise the small steps you are taking today. They may be preparing you for the victory of tomorrow.

WHAT IS YOUR CHALLENGE?

Goliath was David's challenge. But every person has challenges of their own.

For one St. John girl, the challenge may be an examination.
For another, it may be a difficult subject.
For someone else, it may be fear, self-doubt, failure, discouragement or difficult circumstances. The challenge may be different, but the lesson remains the same: *"Do not allow the challenge to convince you that you are incapable of overcoming it".*

Instead, ask yourself: *Have I prepared? Do I believe I can improve? Am I willing to face the challenge? Am I trusting God? Am I willing to learn from my weaknesses? What small step can I take today?*

These questions can help transform the way we respond to difficulties.

THE ST. JOHN GIRL WHO FACES CHALLENGES

The St. John Girls' Secondary School motto *"Integral Education for Girls"* reminds us that education is about developing the whole person.

We want our girls to grow academically, morally, socially and spiritually. We want them to become young women

who can enter the world with confidence, discipline, responsibility and purpose.

The world will not always be easy.
There will be challenges.
There will be setbacks.
There will be moments when the obstacle before you looks like a giant.

But remember David. He did not win because Goliath was small. He won because he refused to allow Goliath's size to determine his courage.

So, when you encounter your own *"Goliath"*, remember the seven lessons:
Do not be intimidated by the size of the challenge.
Believe in yourself and what you can achieve.
Prepare yourself.
Face challenges with courage.
Let faith give you strength.
Do not allow your weaknesses to determine your destiny.
And remember that *great victories can begin with small steps.*

WHEN COURAGE FACES THE

CHALLENGE, THE IMPOSSIBLE

CAN BECOME POSSIBLE.

To every St. John girl: *do not be afraid of the giants you will encounter on your journey. Prepare yourself, believe, have faith, take courage and face your challenges.*

Your challenge may be big. But never forget the strength you carry within you.

"IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF THE

DOG IN THE FIGHT, BUT THE

SIZE OF THE FIGHT IN THE

DOG."

— Mark Twain

MR. CLEMENT CHIGALAGALA - HEADTEACHER



Dear Esteemed Readers, Parents and Guardians, Staff and Students,

It is with immense gratitude and a deep sense of joy that I welcome you to the August edition of our school newsletter. As we reflect on the month that has been, we are reminded of the many blessings, milestones, and opportunities that continue to shape the St. John Girls' Secondary School family.

First and foremost, we give thanks to Almighty God for His enduring mercies, unfailing love, and abundant blessings upon our school. Through every achievement, challenge and transition, His grace has remained sufficient for us. We therefore begin this message with hearts full of thanksgiving, acknowledging that every milestone we celebrate is made possible by His guidance and protection.

To all our newly selected Form 1 and Form 3 students, I extend my warmest congratulations on your successful selection. You distinguished yourselves among many candidates who participated in our three entrance examinations and we are delighted to welcome you into the St. John Girls' Secondary School family.

Your selection marks the beginning of an important and exciting chapter in your educational journey. We look forward to welcoming you to our school for the one-week orientation programme from 7th to 11th September 2026. The orientation will provide you with an opportunity to familiarize yourselves with our school environment, expectations, traditions, values and the standards of excellence that we uphold.

As you begin this journey, remember that St. John is more than a place of academic learning. It is a community where we seek to develop young women of character, discipline, confidence, integrity, leadership and purpose. I encourage each of you to embrace every opportunity, challenge yourself to grow, and always strive to become the best version of yourself.

To all our parents and guardians, we sincerely thank you for choosing St. John Girls' Secondary School. We deeply appreciate the confidence and trust you have placed in us to be part of your daughters' educational and personal development.

We recognize that educating a child is a shared responsibility and we look forward to building a strong partnership with you. Together, we can create an environment in which every learner feels supported, valued, challenged and inspired to achieve her full potential. We hope this will be an exciting and rewarding journey together as we nurture your wards into responsible, confident, disciplined and productive citizens who will make meaningful contributions to their families, communities, and nation.

To all our students who sat for the 2026 Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) examinations, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. We are exceptionally proud of you for maintaining our 100 percent pass rate and for passing with flying colors.

This achievement is a significant milestone for you and for the entire St. John Girls' Secondary School community. We celebrate not only the results, but also the determination, perseverance, discipline and hard work that made this success possible. We also acknowledge the invaluable support of our teachers, parents, guardians and everyone who contributed to your preparation and success.

As you progress and transition into the next chapter of your academic journey, I encourage you to carry with you clear academic goals, discipline, resilience and integrity. Your JCE results are an important achievement, but they are only one step towards the greater dreams and aspirations that lie ahead. Continue to work hard, remain focused and never lose sight of the person you aspire to become.

To all our prospective continuing students, I hope you are making good and meaningful use of your holiday. While this period provides an opportunity to rest and spend quality time with family and loved ones, it is equally important to prepare yourselves for the academic year ahead.

To our staff, continue to inspire and nurture the young women entrusted to our care. Together, we have the privilege and responsibility of shaping not only successful students, but responsible citizens and future leaders who will positively transform their communities and the world around them.

May the Almighty God continue to guide our decisions, strengthen our resolve, protect our school community, and bless the work of our hands. May He continue to grant our students wisdom and understanding, our staff strength and dedication, and our parents and guardians grace and provision as we journey together.

Headteacher
St. John Girls' Secondary School



JCE CLASS OF 2026 STUDENTS POSE FOR A GROUP PHOTO AT THE ADMINISTRATION BLOCK

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ST. JOHN GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL LEARNING AREA