

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Gaella Mwadi Kabeya**

Gender: Female
Date of birth: 10th February 1994
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Francine Kabeya
Profession: Housewife
Father: Constatino Kabeya
Profession: Carpenter

Primary School: Northmead Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill Secondary School**

2011 Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

The Kabeya Family fled to Zambia from the nation currently known as the Democratic Republic of Congo on the 16th of January 1997, following the violent overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko, the Congolese President. Tribal fighting and ethnic cleansing had erupted in the areas around Lubumbashi, where the Kabeyas lived, forcing them to flee across the Zambian border. Upon arrival in Zambia, the family had a difficult time establishing themselves but did manage to set up a business selling handicrafts and woodworking. Gaella's parents have struggled with many social and economic issues surrounding their work and life in Zambia as refugees, which led to the closing of their first business. These struggles and challenges continue today and greatly limit the amount the family can use for education.

The Kabeyas have five children, the oldest being 19 and the youngest six years old. Life in Zambia as a refugee is not easy, but they hope to provide their children with opportunities to succeed. They attend church every Sunday, and both Constatino and Francine hold responsible positions in the local church organization. Unfortunately, as a refugee, it is difficult for them to get jobs (even though they both have university degrees). The family is being sustained by the mother's business, in which she sells simple hardware materials, and Mr. Kabeya's small carpentry business. Despite their difficulties, Gaella continues to be a spark in the family. She is a very positive influence on her siblings, and it seems as if all the children are on their way to finishing school and attaining high grades in the process.

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Gaella's Educational background:

Primary – Northmead Basic School

Gaella started school at age five and was a high-achieving student from the beginning. She improved her class standing each year, and in grades 5, 6, and 7, Gaella was the top student in her class.

At Leopards Hill School:

Grade 8

In Grade 8, Gaella started well but finished the year with a flourish.

Grade 8 Achievements:

- 3rd academic position in grade 8
- Awards for excellence in Mathematics, English, History, French, Information Technology, and Environmental Science.

Grade 9

In Grade 9, Gaella continued to improve and demonstrate her great potential.

Grade 9 Achievements:

- Top academic position in Grade 9
- 1st position in Geography, Office Practice, Information Technology, French and Civics
- Earned a partial scholarship for two years at Leopard's Hill for her outstanding results on the national exam (best at Leopards Hill)
- 2nd position in Science and Religious Education

Grade 10

In Grade 10 Gaella continued to stand out as an outstanding student and leader.

Achievements in Grade 10:

- Ms. Leopards Hill 2009
- Best overall student in grade 10
- 1st position in History, Religious Studies, French, Information Technology, Biology, and Environmental Science
- 2nd position in English, Physics, and Chemistry

Grade 11

Gaella has continued to excel in grade 11. She is a powerful, outspoken student who motivates her friends and classmates to work hard. She has been jostling for the top

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spot in her class throughout the year. At the end of term three, she finished in first position, earning 4 As and 2 A+s! At the awards ceremony, Gaella received prizes for best student in physics, biology, and ICT. She was also recently chosen as an entertainment prefect at LHS, an enormous honor at the school. Gaella is looking forward to a strong grade 12 and is working hard with her fellow students to prepare for the very important IGCSE exams at the end of next year.

Grade 12

Gaella has already made Grade 12 a very successful year. In Term 1, with 3 A+'s and 4 A's, she took 2nd position in her class. She continued applying herself with determination and reclaimed 1st position in her class in Term 2. She has shown once again her commitment to her education and everyone has high hopes for her results on the National Exam at the end of Term 3. She also continues to be a leader outside of the classroom; her mentorship of the younger KF students especially has instilled in them good work ethics and a positive and caring attitude toward one another.

Gaella's Interests:

Gaella is an active participant and leader outside of the classroom. She is a member of many different student clubs, including – JETS Club (advanced science club), the board games club, an acapella singing group, and the school entertainment organising club. Gaella is also involved with many different drama presentations at Leopards Hill School and writes for her school newspaper. More recently, she has founded the debate club and is trying to encourage her classmates to join as well. She also maintains her interest and participation in sports, playing basketball, in which she is the vice captain, soccer, and track. Recently she was awarded second place in the girls discus competition.

Last year, Gaella enjoyed participating in the Global Service Summit and Model United Nations programs. Another highlight from the term came during August at the Teen Vision Trust Leadership Conference. Gaella volunteered to give the closing thank you on behalf of all the students, and she gave an articulate and motivational speech in front of hundreds of people!

In another display of her characteristic confidence, she has decided this year to pursue her interest in singing. Prior this year she had believed she “was not good enough,” but has recently decided to “let the world hear [her] talent.”

Community Service

During the holiday, Gaella is leading a group of KF students in founding a teaching and tutoring project at a community school in Garden Compound. She is confident that the project will be successful.

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Career Interest and Work Experience:

Gaella acted as an assistant at the law offices of Musa Dudhia and Company for her work experience, a law firm that specializes in corporate and divorce law. As an assistant, she helped with filing, organizing documents, proofreading, and accompanying lawyers to filings and withdrawals. Gaella's work experience made her realize that while the work of a lawyer is intellectually rigorous, her own skill set is better suited for medicine. "I am good at the sciences and every time there is an accident or emergency, I am the one to help and give first aid and am quick under pressure."

Gaella's Role Model:

Gaella looks up to her mom above anyone else for her strength and determination. "When my father was in prison, she never complained and always made sure there was food on the table—we never went hungry. She used to work as a vendor, with my little sister who was just a baby strapped to her back the whole time. She never let us as kids see she was scared but took care of us through it all."

What her teachers think of her:

Gaella's teachers think she is an extremely intelligent child and regard her as the pupil who is most likely to succeed in the whole class. They say she is destined to go to university and is the kind of student who would win a scholarship to pursue further studies. The teachers note her outstanding leadership.

Gaella's thoughts:

"I have learnt to give a helping hand and maximize every moment given. Always have a glimpse of hope ahead of me. Simplicity as a person and as a personality. KF has brought out the inside and hidden being in me. It has helped me be myself and work towards a better life for everyone. KF has helped shape and define my future. If altering destiny is a possibility then I believe it has just filled my destiny with positive endings. It has filled the present me with gladsome tidings of great joy.