

Student Profile

Name: **Iwell Banda**

Gender: Male
Date of birth: 31st December 1991
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Agnes Njobvu
Profession: Maid
Father: Iwell Banda
Profession: Gardener

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill School**

2011 Grade Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

Iwell's father was born in the village in Katete and never attended school. He married in the village and had one child (Iwell's older brother) before moving to Lusaka to look for employment. He was able to find employment as a private gardener in Lusaka, which earns him money to support and feed his family. The same family that employs Iwell's father also employs his mother. She works as the family's maid. They live in small quarters in the backyard of their employer's property. Iwell grew up there and attended Chibelo Basic School which is not far from the property.

Neither Iwell's mother nor father attended school and are both illiterate. They do not understand English but still passionately express their support and pride about Iwell's success in school. Iwell has 2 sisters and 5 brothers. The oldest child, one of Iwell's brothers, has returned to Katete where he is a farmer. One of Iwell's older sisters is married and living with her husband. Another one of Iwell's older brothers works as a gardener in Lusaka, and the other is attending the University of Zambia. His other sister is a hairdresser and helps to support the family. Three of the children, including Iwell, are still attending school.

Iwell remarked that much has changed because of his sponsorship by Kucetekela Foundation. Removing the burden of his education, they have been able to send their other son to university.

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Iwell's Educational Background:

Primary - Chibelo Basic School

Iwell started school in 2002 at Chibelo Basic Primary School and earned outstanding grades since the very beginning. He was a particularly high-achieving boy and earned the top academic position in his class every year since Grade 1.

At Ibex Hill School

Grade 8

Iwell has been a high-achieving student and outstanding citizen at Ibex Hill Secondary School since starting in January 2007. By the end of the year, Iwell shined and earned the top academic position in Grade 8. At the end of the school year, he earned the Most Outstanding Student award.

Grade 9

In Grade 9, he continued to blossom and held the top academic position. His teachers were impressed by Iwell's determination and focus. Iwell was particularly focused on earning high marks on the national examination, administered at the end of Grade 9. His preparations were rigorous, including extra lessons during the school holidays. He did achieve the highest marks at his Ibex Hill School in the Grade 9 National Exam, obtaining 510/600.

Grade 10

Despite struggling to focus on his schoolwork due to health problems related to his asthma, Iwell's academic record during his grade 10 year was outstanding—he attained 7 points in his third and final term, which means he received 85% or higher on 7 out of his 9 courses. It is considered outstanding if you receive 6 points and above.

Grade 11

Iwell has continued to excel during grade 11. He has remained in second position in his class across terms one, two, and three. He has grown into a confident and outspoken young man and has been a role model for his peers in KF and at Ibex Hill. He is very committed to his fellow students, and often gives them extra help when they are struggling. He was also selected as a Prefect for this year, and he has been comfortable in this role as a leader. Though his grades dropped slightly at the end of the year, Iwell vows to get back to the top during grade 12, the most important year of his academic career!

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Grade 12

Iwell wasted no time in getting his final academic year underway. Term 1 was a huge success for him; his 5 A's earned him 2nd position in his class. Through his commitment and dedication he earned yet another 5 A's in Term 2, putting him in 3rd position. Since then he has buried himself in his books in preparation for the National Exams in November. He recognizes the importance of doing exceptionally well if he wants to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor. His mentorship of the younger students has been an invaluable asset in creating a cohesive KF community at Ibx Hill, and his success seems to have inspired many others to work hard.

Iwell's Interests:

Iwell loves to play football (soccer), and excels in this sport at Ibx Hill. This year he was also elected team captain and sports prefect—a position that requires him to act as a leader during practices and making sure everyone is in attendance. He was able to participate in several sporting events this past year, including Interschools Athletics Day (Iwell set a new record for the under 19 800 meter race), Interhouse Athletics Day (Iwell finished 1st in the 800 meter race, 2nd in the 200 meter race, and 2nd in the high jump), a volleyball tournament near Central Province (the team made the quarter finals), and a soccer tournament at the Lusaka Olympic Stadium (Iwell scored 2 goals in a win against Cavendish University).

Iwell is also head of the scripture union, and an active member of the Debate Club. He also writes poetry. A highlight from the year came when Iwell was selected as a Golden Heart to attend the Global Issues Service Summit, an experience that Iwell described as informative and inspiring.

Career Interest and Work Experience:

Iwell aspires to be a surgeon because he is inspired and motivated by the important work that doctors do—saving lives. “It motivates me because I believe that God created us to serve.” Iwell did his work experience at the University Teaching Hospital in the pediatric wing, which, despite the hardships he experienced, only further confirmed that he wants to pursue his dream. Iwell also took part in a tuberculosis research project with Dennis (another KF student) and two students from the International School. The project required the students to research the disease and its impact on society, culminating in an article for the United Nations website.

Iwell's Role Model:

Iwell looks up to his mother as a role model. “She inspires me because she is very hard-working. Her parents died when she was in Grade two and that was the end of

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

her education, but she worked really hard and she not only provided for her house but also helps others too. She has a loving heart.”

What the teachers think of Iwell:

Iwell’s teachers say that he is a well-behaved pupil, who is intelligent and listens to advice. They think he can succeed and has the ability to succeed eventually at university, if given the opportunity.

Iwell’s thoughts:

“I have learnt how to be responsible and to work as team. KF has taught me how to love my friends. I feel that my fellow students have also become just like me. They will all do well and make it in life because I see them working hard.”