

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Japhet Phiri**

Gender: Male
Date of birth: 24th May 1992
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Deceased
Profession: House wife
Father: Aliyele Phiri
Profession: Local businessman

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill
Secondary School**

2011 Grade Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

Japhet's father moved from Chadiza in Eastern Province to Lusaka in 1980 in search of a better life. He had no skills and looked for a job as a house servant. He was hired as a servant and worked mostly in the Rhodes Park area of Lusaka. In 1981, Japhet's parents married. Japhet's mother passed away several years ago, but Mr. Phiri remarried.

Japhet has six siblings. The first born is a girl who is now 25 years old and is married to a brick layer. The second born is a boy and stopped school at grade 9. Mr. Phiri ran a small, but successful, grocery shop in the Kalikiliki compound of Lusaka. However, the shop has since closed down, and Mr. Phiri is doing side jobs to get by. The family is struggling to get by, although Japhet has been a source of pride for all of them since he was selected by KF.

Japhet's Educational Background:

Primary - Chibelo School

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Japhet started school at Chibelo in Grade 1 and had a very successful career there until grade 7.

At Leopards Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

Japhet adapted very well to the new learning environment at Leopards Hill Secondary School, and applied great effort to achieve good results. At the end of the year he won an award in Geography and Religious Education. He also received an award for the student 'Eager to Acquire Knowledge'. He managed to stay at the top of his class throughout the year, always being among the top three students.

Grade 9

Grade nine had its challenges for Japhet as the work became more difficult. However, he did not neglect his studies and continued to aim high. He studied hard for the grade 9 national exams and passed with good results.

Grade 10

Japhet continued to be challenged and motivated by the added responsibility of grade 10. He excelled in Biology and Chemistry, receiving top marks. He also stood out in Information Technology, receiving the second place award at the annual awards giving ceremony.

Grade 11

Japhet has continued to do well in the classroom and on the field. While his grades have remained pretty consistent across term one and two, he has performed exceptionally well in Math and Chemistry, earning a 94 and 90 % respectively. During term three, he was proud to earn 1 A and 2 A+s! He has become an outspoken leader among his peers, and is hoping to continue progressing next year as he studies for the IGCSE exams in November.

Grade 12

Japhet started the year strong, finishing Term 1 fourth in his class with one A+, one A and two B's. In Term 2 he redoubled his academic efforts, and it really showed when he jumped up to 2nd position in his class. He is very proud of his improvement and plans to carry that momentum into the National Exams at the end of Term 3. He is clearly very committed to doing well, sacrificing one of his greatest loves, playing football, in order to study more during Term 3.

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Japhet's Interests:

Japhet has participated in, javelin, discus, and cross country. He recently came out first in the relay race at Sports Day. He also plays football both in and out of school. He was proud of the role he played in a huge 4-0 winning effort against Lusaka East as a defender. When he was elected sports prefect, Japhet took charge on his school team—he lead practices when the coach was not present, set up drills and games and motivated his classmates to participate. He has attempted to get the school to spread its football program to other schools, and is also attempting to raise money to build a new gym at the school. At last year's award ceremony, Japhet received an award for best in ball sports.

Japhet is also part of the JETS club—a math and science club—which he describes as very competitive.

Community Service

Japhet, along with two of the other Kucetekela students, Jeffrey and Abram, started a project to teach children in their community who cannot afford to go to school — providing lessons in math, reading and writing. They organized a small classroom in their homes and made use of any reading material they could come by. This, however, is just the beginning of Japhet's ambitions. He hopes in the future to build schools in rural areas that do not have access to education. "I want to make people realize how important education is so that they believe the proverb 'education is the key to success.'"

Japhet's Role Model:

Japhet looks up to Lapken Banda, a former grade twelve teacher at Leopards Hill Secondary School. "He used to inspire me with the way he was able to address the crowd of people and the way he used to speak to the people and even academically he used to be very good. I admired him very much." Japhet hopes to someday have the same presence, being able to inspire a crowd with his words and act as a role model to others.

Career Interest and Work Experience

Japhet's dream is to become a doctor, specifically a surgeon, or an engineer. He favors these career paths because he understands the sciences. For work experience, Japhet was placed at the motor-vehicle company Scannia to further explore his interest in engineering. Japhet assisted in servicing vehicles, including engine and tyre repair. "In my work experience," he said, "I learnt that you need to have interest, love what you are doing and never try to give up when. I would like this job to be my career."

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What Others Think of Japhet:

Teachers say that he is a good boy who is intelligent. Japhet understands concepts quickly and is very obedient.

Japhets Thoughts:

“I have learnt as a KF member how to be a very hard working person in academics, sports and even in everything I do. Concerning education I have learnt how to cooperate and how to socialise with other members of KF and also other people. I have also learnt how to appreciate every single thing I receive as help and also to try and help other people.”