

Student Profile

Name: **Mercy Chisala**

Gender: Female
Date of birth: 24th October 1991
Place of birth: Mansa, Zambia

Guardian: Mary Mwewa
Relationship: Aunt
Profession: Telephone Operator at
Ministry of Education

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill
Secondary School**

2011 Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

Mercy was born in Mansa, in Luapula Province, the northern-most province of Zambia. She moved to Lusaka early in her childhood with her parents and four siblings. Mercy's parents passed away soon after coming to Lusaka. She is therefore an orphan but fortunately she has found a home. Mercy and her four siblings live with their aunt, Mary Mwewa. Sadly, Ms. Mwewa is blind and struggles to provide for Mercy and her siblings. She works for the Ministry of Education as a telephone operator. She gets to work with the assistance of friends and neighbors, who help her get to the bus stop. Unfortunately, some days there is no one to assist Ms. Mwewa and she stays home from work. Ms. Mwewa would like to have more work, and has looked, but struggled to find any organization that will employ a blind person. Luckily, Mercy being sponsored by KF has allowed Mary to focus on the education of the other children in the household who she is supporting.

Mercy's Educational Background:

Primary – Chibelo Basic School

Mercy attended Chibelo Basic School in Lusaka and earned the 3rd academic position in her Grade 7 class.

At Leopards Hill Secondary School

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Grade 8

In her first year at Leopards Hill Mercy made a noticeable impression by the way she behaved. This led her to win an award for the best behaved student in her class. Undoubtedly, this behavior has contributed to her academic improvement and progression. She also received a certificate for best student in German.

Grade 9

In grade 9, Mercy demonstrated even further improvements compared to Grade 8. Her performance brought her higher in class positions although she felt she will continue to do even better.

Grade 10

At first, Mercy struggled with the transition from junior to senior level. However, with hard work and perseverance she improved in all her classes—jumping from number ten in her class to number four. She also took an Advanced Mathematics course as an elective, which explored advanced topics including statistics.

Grade 11

Mercy is adjusting well to senior secondary school and has grown into a confident, mature, and outspoken young woman. She continues to make her family and KF proud, improving significantly in geography, history, and biology. She has moved from 9th position to 6th position over the course of term two, and finished term three with 3 As. Her teachers describe her as a “determined learner” and a “pleasant pupil in school.” She was also recently selected as a dorm prefect at LHS and will be monitoring dorm cleanups and behavior throughout grade 12. Mercy is expecting to continue her academic progress next year, and she is studying hard for the IGCSE she must take in November.

Grade 12

Recognizing the competition in her class, Mercy resolved to work extra hard in her final year at Leopards Hill. In Term 1 she had difficulty in the Sciences, English and Additional Mathematics, and this brought her down to 7th position in her class. She did receive good marks in Geography and Math. In Term 2 she struggled again with the Sciences and English, but was still able to improve to 6th position in her class. Overall, she is happy with her performance in Religious Studies and Geography and is proud of her improvement in Additional Mathematics. She must now commit herself fully to preparation for the National Exams in Term 3.

Mercy's Interests:

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At Leopards Hill, Mercy takes part in soccer as defender, competes in cross-country running, javelin and discus, and plays netball. She recently took first place in the school-wide three-legged race, an accomplishment she is very proud of.

She also has joined the JETS club as an extracurricular activity, which primarily focused on science and mathematics. She is a member of the Scripture Union, the traditional dance club, and First Aiders, a group that trains members on appropriate first aid practice.

Community Service

Mercy regularly visits and helps out at Mother Theresa, a local orphanage. She works with children from ages of 2 to 6 years old. She is also hoping to begin a new service project focused on education and health with Iwell and Mude, two KF students who live nearby.

Career Interests and Work Experience:

Mercy is an ambitious young lady, deciding between the career paths of electrical engineer, accountant, or doctor. Her interest in electrical engineering comes from her natural ability with technology and wiring. Mercy's attraction to accountancy sprouts from her facility with numbers, and finally, her interest in medicine comes from her enjoyment of attending to others and helping those in need.

For her work experience, Mercy worked at King Pharmaceuticals Limited in the accounting division. She helped with filings, typing invoices, recording sales, and writing receipts for people. She also worked with excel, a process she found challenging but rewarding. In the course of her experience, Mercy improved her computer and communication skills.

Mercy's Role Model:

Mercy's role models are her mentor, Dr. Mugala-Matale, and Ben Carson, a famous African-American pediatric surgeon. "I admire my mentor who is a medical doctor because I like the way she handles her work and the simple life she lives. Secondly, I admire Ben Carson who is also a doctor but was a surgeon. I admire him because where he came from and he made it in life and was very courageous."

What the teachers think of Mercy:

Mercy's teachers describe her as a quiet, confident young woman who has shown tremendous growth throughout her years at Leopards Hill School.

Mercy's Thoughts:

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“KF has changed me in such a way that I have become more sensitive and caring to whatsoever I do. I enjoy this school very much. This school offers a very good education and allows us the opportunity to participate in sports and to keep physically fit. I also have a good number of friends because the people here are friendly including the teachers. I am really thankful for the opportunity to be at this school. I will do my very best to achieve my potential.”