KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

VOLUME 20 · ISSUE 1

TERM 1 · 2026

VOICES IN MOTION

Young leaders turning opportunity into confidence, service and purpose.



Alphert Bwalya
IB DIPLOMA 1



Memory Haboombe
IB DIPLOMA 1



Clariss Mwape
GRADE 12 · ECZ



Jackson Banda
GRADE 12 · ECZ



Catherine Mumbi
GRADE 12 · ECZ



Francis Siboli
GRADE 12 · ECZ



Nelly Makondo
GRADE 12 · ECZ



Thawanda Neba
GRADE 12 · ECZ

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Eight students. Nine journeys. One shared purpose.

This edition celebrates the experiences that shaped confidence, leadership, creativity, service and resilience during Term 1.

03 GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
Finding My Voice at the African Global Issues Summit

04 DIPLOMACY & LEADERSHIP
Finding My Voice Through Model United Nations

05 COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY
Finding My Voice on National Radio

06 TEAMWORK & RESILIENCE
Learning That Every Contribution Matters

07 STEM & INNOVATION
More Than an Exhibition: Learning to Lead Through STEM

08 CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY
Dancing Beyond the Stage

09 SPORT & CHARACTER
More Than a Bronze Medal

10 SERVICE & PERSPECTIVE
A Day That Changed My Perspective

10 ALUMNI JOURNEY
From Uncertainty to Opportunity

THE THREAD THAT CONNECTS THEM

Across classrooms, conference halls, laboratories, studios, sports fields and community spaces, these young people discovered that leadership is built through participation. Their reflections show what becomes possible when opportunity meets preparation—and when students are trusted to use their voices.

TERM 1 · 2026

Finding My Voice at the African Global Issues Summit

BY MEMORY HABOOMBE

IB DIPLOMA 1



> **“Meaningful change often begins with conversations like these.”**

One of the most memorable experiences of my first term was attending the African Global Issues Summit at the American International School of Lusaka. Students from different schools across Africa came together to discuss some of the world's biggest environmental and social challenges. It was the first time I had participated in a forum where young people from diverse backgrounds shared ideas, debated solutions, and challenged one another to think beyond the classroom.

Before attending the summit, I thought caring for the environment was mainly about keeping our surroundings clean. However, as I listened to different speakers and interacted with students from other schools, I realised that environmental responsibility goes much deeper. I learned that the way we care for the planet is closely connected to the way we care for ourselves, our communities, and one another. Healthy communities and a healthy environment go hand in hand.

Throughout the summit, I actively participated in discussions, listened to different perspectives, and reflected on how young people can become part of the solution to global challenges. Hearing students confidently share innovative ideas inspired me to recognise that every opinion has value and that meaningful change often begins with conversations like these.

The most memorable part of the summit was seeing students from different cultures and schools unite around a common purpose. Although we came from different backgrounds and experiences, we all shared a desire to create a better future. That experience showed me that collaboration is one of the most powerful tools for solving global problems.

The summit changed the way I think about leadership. I realised that leadership is not only about holding a position but also about speaking up, listening carefully, and being willing to learn from others. It gave me the confidence to express my own ideas and reminded me that my voice can contribute to meaningful change.

The lessons I learned at the summit influenced the way I approached other activities during the term. As a member of the Let's Talk Club, I joined fellow students in a community clean-up exercise in Kanyama, where we collected litter and encouraged residents to keep their surroundings clean. I also represented my school in the Under-19 Netball competitions, where teamwork, discipline, and perseverance helped us earn bronze medals. These experiences reinforced the importance of working together to achieve a common goal, whether on the sports field or in the community.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue participating in activities that allow me to serve others, learn from different people, and develop as a leader. I also look forward to improving my academic performance while taking part in more community service and extracurricular activities that make a positive impact.

I am sincerely grateful to Kucetekela Foundation and its donors for making opportunities like these possible. Your support has allowed me to grow not only academically but also as a confident, compassionate, and globally minded young person. Thank you for believing in my potential and for helping me discover that my voice, my actions, and my ideas can make a difference.

TERM 1 · 2026

Finding My Voice Through Model United Nations

BY THAWANDA NEBA

GRADE 12 · ECZ



> “Effective leadership begins with being well informed.”

When I look back on my first term, I see a season of growth, responsibility, and achievement. I was privileged to serve as the Events Coordinator for the Press and Media Club, where I helped organise school activities and learned how to work effectively with both students and teachers. I trained members of the Poetry Club, supported Student Council fundraising initiatives, travelled with the school football team as a student medic during the ISAZ tournament, and participated in a church fundraising campaign that raised K2,540 for an orphanage. Each experience taught me something valuable, but none challenged and shaped me as much as participating in the Model United Nations (MUN).

During Term 1, I represented two different countries in separate online Model United Nations conferences—first Oman, then Finland. Preparing for each conference required extensive research into international affairs, global challenges, and the official positions of the countries I represented. I wrote position papers, studied current world issues, and prepared arguments that reflected my assigned country's perspective rather than my own. This was a completely different way of learning from what I experienced in the classroom, as it required me to think critically, analyse information, and communicate ideas with confidence.

The conferences themselves were both exciting and demanding. Delegates from different schools came together to debate global issues, negotiate solutions, and draft resolutions. Every discussion required careful listening, quick thinking, and respectful engagement with people who held different viewpoints. Rather than simply sharing opinions, I had to support every argument with evidence and logical reasoning.

The moment I remember most happened during one of the debates when another delegate challenged my country's position. I had not anticipated the question, and for a brief moment I felt nervous. However, I quickly organised my thoughts, relied on the research I had done, and presented a clear response defending my country's stance. That experience taught me the importance of staying calm under pressure and trusting the preparation I had put in beforehand.

Participating in Model United Nations transformed the way I see myself. It strengthened my confidence in public speaking, improved my research and analytical skills, and taught me how to communicate respectfully even when opinions differ. At the same time, it showed me that there is always room for improvement. I realised that stronger preparation and deeper research make arguments more persuasive, and that effective leadership begins with being well informed.

Beyond the skills I gained, MUN broadened my perspective on the world. Listening to delegates discuss international issues reminded me that many of today's challenges require cooperation, dialogue, and thoughtful leadership. It encouraged me to look beyond my immediate environment and think about how individuals can contribute to solving global problems.

The confidence I gained through Model United Nations has also influenced how I approach other responsibilities. Whether coordinating activities in the Press and Media Club, mentoring younger students in the Poetry Club, supporting school fundraising initiatives, or participating in community service through my church, I now feel better prepared to lead, communicate, and collaborate with others.

Looking ahead, this experience has inspired me to explore careers in law, diplomacy, international relations, or any field that requires critical thinking, leadership, and effective communication. More importantly, it has shown me that meaningful leadership is built on knowledge, preparation, and the willingness to listen to different perspectives.

I am deeply grateful to Kucetekela Foundation and its donors for investing in my education and personal development. Their support has opened doors to opportunities that continue to shape my character, strengthen my confidence, and prepare me to make a positive contribution both in my community and beyond.

TERM 1 · 2026

Finding My Voice on National Radio

BY JACKSON BANDA

GRADE 12 · ECZ



> **“I realised that I was capable of speaking before a much larger audience.”**

One of the most unforgettable experiences of my first term was representing my school on a live radio programme at ZAMCOM Radio. Being selected as one of the few students to participate was both an honour and a challenge. It was my first opportunity to speak to a national audience, and it became an experience that strengthened my confidence, broadened my perspective, and reminded me of the power of using my voice to educate others.

The programme focused on the role of the internet in the lives of young people. During the live talk show and podcast, I shared my thoughts on both the opportunities and challenges that technology presents. While many people see the internet only as a source of negative influences, I explained that, when used responsibly, it can become a powerful tool for learning, communication, and personal growth. I also had the opportunity to interview one of my fellow students about activities at Pestalozzi Education Centre, which allowed us to showcase some of the positive initiatives within our school community.

Knowing that the discussion was being broadcast live across Zambia was both exciting and nerve-racking. Every question required me to think carefully, communicate clearly, and express my ideas with confidence. By the end of the programme, I realised that I was capable of speaking before a much larger audience than I had ever imagined.

Beyond the discussion itself, I was fascinated by what happened behind the scenes. I learned about sound engineering, how broadcasting equipment operates, and the coordination required to produce a live radio programme. As someone who helps manage the school's sound system, this practical exposure deepened my interest in audio technology. The experience even led to an internship opportunity in sound engineering, opening my eyes to another field I may wish to explore in the future.

The ZAMCOM visit reflected many of the opportunities I embraced during the term. As the founder of the Business Club, I worked with fellow students to create a platform that encourages entrepreneurship and financial literacy among younger learners. As the JETS Club Events Coordinator, I helped organise our STEM Exhibition, ensuring the event ran successfully while showcasing students' creativity and innovation. I also had the privilege of captaining the school basketball team during a friendly match against the International School of Lusaka, where teamwork and determination led us to victory. Each of these experiences challenged me to grow as a leader, communicator, and problem solver.

Looking back, the ZAMCOM Radio experience taught me that confidence is built by stepping outside your comfort zone. I learned that my voice has value and that sharing knowledge responsibly can positively influence others. It also reinforced the importance of using technology wisely and encouraged me to continue developing my communication and leadership skills.

As I look to the future, I hope to participate in even more opportunities to educate, inspire, and make a meaningful contribution to my community. Whether through leadership, technology, business, or public speaking, I want to continue growing into someone who creates a positive impact wherever I am.

To Kucetekela Foundation donors, thank you for investing in my education and believing in my potential. Your support has given me opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom, helping me discover new talents, develop confidence, and prepare for a future where I hope to use my skills to serve others. Every opportunity you make possible is shaping me into a more capable and responsible young leader

TERM 1 · 2026

Learning That Every Contribution Matters

BY FRANCIS SIBOLI

GRADE 12 · ECZ



> **“Even small contributions become meaningful when everyone works together.”**

Term 1 was filled with both challenges and opportunities, but the experience that stood out most for me was our Student Council Valentine's Day Fundraiser. At first, it seemed like a simple fundraising activity, but by the end of the day, I had learned valuable lessons about teamwork, responsibility, and the importance of working towards a common goal.

The fundraiser took place at Pestalozzi Education Centre in February. Every member of the Student Council was given a specific responsibility to ensure the event was successful. Before the sales began, I helped set up our stand, arranging the items we would be selling and preparing the area to welcome customers. Once everything was ready, I joined other members of the sales team, serving customers and encouraging students to support the fundraiser.

Throughout the day, we worked together to keep the stand organised, attend to customers, and make sure everyone had a positive experience. Although each of us had different responsibilities, we depended on one another to achieve our shared objective. It reminded me that even small contributions become meaningful when everyone works together.

The most memorable moment came after we had sold all our stock. We gathered as a team, calculated the money we had raised, and realised we had successfully met our fundraising target. The excitement and sense of accomplishment we shared made all the preparation and hard work worthwhile. Knowing that our efforts would help support future Student Council projects gave me a great sense of pride.

This experience taught me that success is rarely achieved alone. It requires commitment, cooperation, and the willingness to do your part, no matter how small the task may seem. I also discovered that I enjoy working towards goals that benefit others, and that I am willing to work hard when I believe in what I am doing.

Another memorable experience during the term was representing my school in a friendly basketball match against the International School of Lusaka. Although I was recovering from a leg injury and could not play the entire game, I refused to let the setback keep me from supporting my team. Whether I was on the court or cheering from the sidelines, I learned that resilience is about continuing to contribute even when circumstances are not ideal. While we did not win the match, the experience strengthened my determination and reminded me never to let obstacles prevent me from pursuing what I am passionate about.

Looking ahead to Term 2, I hope to continue growing both academically and personally while taking advantage of new opportunities to serve my school community. I know there will be more challenges, but I also know that every challenge is an opportunity to learn and improve.

To Kucetekela Foundation donors, thank you for believing in students like me. Your support is giving me opportunities to grow not only in the classroom but also through experiences that teach leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and responsibility. I am committed to making the most of every opportunity and continuing to work hard towards my dreams.

TERM 1 · 2026

More Than an Exhibition: Learning to Lead Through STEM

BY NELLY MAKONDO

GRADE 12 · ECZ



> **“Sometimes leadership means working quietly behind the scenes so others can succeed.”**

For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by science and the way innovation can improve people's lives. My dream is to become a biomedical engineer and one day design technologies that make healthcare more accessible and effective. During Term 1, one experience brought me a step closer to that dream—the school's STEM Exhibition.

As an executive member of the JETS Club, I was not simply attending the exhibition; I was one of the students responsible for making it happen. Long before visitors arrived, my fellow executive members and I worked together to prepare the venue. We arranged tables and chairs, organised exhibition spaces, and ensured everything was ready for participants and guests.

On the day of the exhibition, I served as an usher, welcoming visitors, directing them to different displays, and helping the programme run smoothly. Although my role was behind the scenes, I quickly realised how important every responsibility was. A successful event depends not only on the projects being showcased but also on the teamwork and organisation that allow everything to run efficiently.

As I walked around the exhibition, I was inspired by the creativity and innovation displayed by students. The event reminded me that STEM is much more than subjects we study in class—it is about solving real-world problems, asking questions, and finding practical solutions that improve people's lives. Seeing different ideas presented with confidence strengthened my own passion for biomedical engineering and reminded me why I am working so hard towards that goal.

The most memorable moment came when the exhibition was finally underway and everything we had prepared came together successfully. Watching visitors move smoothly between displays and seeing exhibitors proudly explain their projects gave me a sense of accomplishment. It was rewarding to know that my contribution, although not always visible, had helped create an environment where others could shine.

This experience taught me valuable lessons about leadership. I learned that leaders are not always the people standing in front of the audience. Sometimes leadership means arriving early, taking responsibility, paying attention to small details, and working quietly behind the scenes so that everyone else can succeed. It also showed me the importance of cooperation, because no single person could have organised the exhibition alone.

Beyond the STEM Exhibition, I continued looking for ways to contribute to my school community. I helped organise fundraising activities for the Student Council, volunteered during community service by assisting house mothers in preparing meals, competed in athletics and netball, and even used my braiding skills to earn money for school necessities such as pens and pencils. These experiences have taught me to be resourceful, proactive, and willing to serve wherever I am needed.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue participating in STEM activities that challenge me to think creatively and strengthen my problem-solving skills. Every opportunity reminds me that my dream of becoming a biomedical engineer is achievable through hard work, curiosity, and perseverance.

To the Kucetekela Foundation donors, thank you for believing in students like me. Your support is opening doors that allow me to explore my passions, develop my leadership skills, and prepare for a future where I hope to use science and innovation to improve lives. Every opportunity you provide brings me one step closer to making that dream a reality.

TERM 1 · 2026

Dancing Beyond the Stage

BY CLARISS MWAPE

GRADE 12 · ECZ



> “Every dream begins with one small step.”

When I arrived at school, I never imagined that one simple idea would become one of the most meaningful parts of my Term 1 experience. I have always loved dancing, and instead of keeping that passion to myself, I decided to share it with others.

Together with a friend, I started a dance club for Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. Our goal was not only to teach dance moves but also to create a space where learners could have fun, build confidence, stay active, and encourage one another. We wanted everyone to feel welcome, regardless of their experience.

As we practised together, I realised that dance was doing much more than preparing us for performances. It brought people together, created friendships, and gave younger students the confidence to express themselves. We also helped the learners prepare for the school's Talent Show and Annual Cultural Festival, and seeing their excitement grow with every rehearsal made all the hard work worthwhile.

The highlight of the term came when our group won the Talent Show. Watching the students celebrate their achievement with smiles, cheers, and so much pride was an unforgettable moment. What touched me even more was when some of them later surprised me with small gifts to thank me for believing in them and supporting them throughout the journey. It reminded me that leadership is not just about guiding others but also about making them feel valued and capable.

Starting the dance club also taught me a great deal about myself. I discovered that I am not afraid to take initiative and try something new. Despite my academic responsibilities, I successfully balanced my studies with leading the club, and my academic performance continued to improve. This experience showed me that with good time management and determination, I can pursue my passions without compromising my education.

Looking ahead, I dream of opening my own dance school—one that is filled with energy, creativity, and positivity, where young people can develop their talents in an encouraging environment. This experience has strengthened my belief that every dream begins with one small step, and for me, that first step was starting a dance club.

As I prepare for Term 2, I am excited about new opportunities, especially the CAS Camp, where I hope to build more friendships, learn from others, and continue growing as both a student and a leader. I am deeply grateful to Kucetekela Foundation donors for believing in students like me. Their support has given me opportunities to discover my potential, pursue my passions, and work towards changing the narrative for my future.

TERM 1 · 2026

More Than a Bronze Medal

BY ALPHERT BWALYA

IB DIPLOMA 1



> **“Success is also the effort, commitment and growth that happen along the way.”**

When I reflect on my first term, one experience stands above the rest—the ISAZ Football Competition. Although my term was filled with exciting opportunities, including leading a successful STEM project in the JETS Exhibition and serving as the Research Manager for the Business Club, nothing tested my resilience and determination quite like representing Pestalozzi Education Centre on the football field.

Preparing for the tournament required months of dedication. From January until the competition in March, I trained after school every Tuesday through Saturday. Balancing football, academics, and other responsibilities was not easy. At the same time, my team was preparing a project for the JETS Exhibition, where we researched how Zambia could make better use of its natural resources, such as copper and zinc. As captain of the Under-16 school football team, I also had leadership responsibilities that demanded my time and commitment. There were moments when I wondered whether I could manage everything, but I learned that success depends on discipline, planning, and perseverance.

When the ISAZ tournament finally arrived at Baobab College, I was determined to give my very best. Throughout the competition, I played every minute of every match, making key interceptions, creating opportunities for my teammates, and encouraging those whose confidence had begun to fade. Football taught me that leadership is not only about personal performance but also about lifting others when they need encouragement.

The most unforgettable moment came when we secured our place in the semi-finals after defeating a very strong team. The excitement we felt as a team was incredible. Although we did not progress to the final and ultimately finished with bronze medals, our achievement was historic—it marked the first time Pestalozzi Education Centre had won a medal in the ISAZ football competition. Standing together as teammates to receive our medals remains one of the proudest moments of my school journey.

This experience transformed the way I think about success. I realised that success is not measured only by finishing first but also by the effort, commitment, and growth that happen along the way. I learned the importance of remaining calm under pressure, communicating respectfully even when mistakes are made, and trusting both my preparation and my teammates. These lessons have shaped me not only as an athlete but also as a student and a leader.

The determination I developed on the football field carried over into other areas of my life. My team and I once again earned first place at the school's JETS STEM Exhibition, and we are now preparing to represent our school at the inter-school STEM competition. In the Business Club, I embraced my role as Research Manager, analysing challenges, proposing solutions, and contributing ideas that strengthened the club. These experiences helped me discover an interest in business management and entrepreneurship while reinforcing the value of curiosity, initiative, and teamwork.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue improving both academically and personally. My goal is to raise my grades while continuing to participate in activities that challenge me to grow. I have learned that with faith in God, consistent effort, and the support of those around me, obstacles can become opportunities for growth.

To Kucetekela Foundation donors, thank you for believing in my potential and investing in my future. Your support provides far more than school supplies, transport, and learning materials—it gives me opportunities to discover my strengths, develop my talents, and pursue my dreams with confidence. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and remain committed to making the most of every opportunity you have made possible.



SERVICE & PERSPECTIVE

A Day That Changed My Perspective

BY CATHERINE MUMBI · GRADE 12 · ECZ

> **“True leadership begins with humility and a willingness to help.”**

Sometimes, giving your time, showing patience, and treating someone with dignity can have a lasting impact.

My visit to the Zulu Foundation community center helped me discover something about myself. I realised that I enjoy serving others and that I am patient, compassionate, and dependable, even when the work is physically demanding or repetitive. It strengthened my belief that true leadership begins with humility and a willingness to help those around us.

Looking ahead, this experience has inspired me to continue volunteering and seeking opportunities to make a positive difference in my community. It has also encouraged me to consider future careers that focus on improving people's lives, whether through healthcare, social work, or community development. Whatever path I choose, I hope to carry forward the values of compassion, service, and respect that this experience taught me.

I am grateful to Kucetekela Foundation and its donors for making opportunities like this possible. Their support is not only helping me succeed academically but is also shaping me into a more compassionate, responsible, and community-minded individual. I believe the lessons I learned at the Zulu Foundation will stay with me for the rest of my life.



ALUMNI JOURNEY

From Uncertainty to Opportunity

BY GLADYS MWANGALA · KF ALUMNA

> **“What once seemed impossible slowly became achievable.”**

Looking back at my journey so far, I realize that where I am today is a result of hard work, resilience, and the support of people and organizations that believed in me. One organization that has played a major role in shaping my educational journey is Kucetekela Foundation (KF).

Growing up, pursuing higher education often felt uncertain because of my financial background. During high school, there were moments when I questioned whether I would ever make it to university. Although I had dreams and ambitions, financial challenges made those dreams seem far away. However, through the support of KF, what once seemed impossible slowly became achievable.

Kucetekela Foundation sponsored my high school education and provided more than just financial support. Whenever school became challenging, they ensured that I had the necessary study materials and resources to succeed. Their support allowed me to focus on learning and performing well academically rather than worrying about what I lacked.

Beyond academics, KF encouraged me to participate in activities outside the classroom. Through community service, clubs, and other extracurricular activities, I developed important skills such as leadership, teamwork, and confidence. At the time, these opportunities felt like simple activities, but today I realize how much they contributed to my growth and prepared me for future opportunities.

My hard work, academic performance, and involvement in different activities, together with the preparation and support I received through the Kucetekela Foundation Gap Year Programme, led me to secure a Mastercard Foundation Scholarship. A few months ago, in May, I began an exciting new chapter at the African Leadership University (ALU), where I am pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in International Business and Trade. Every day on campus reminds me of how far I have come and the journey that brought me here.

I remain deeply grateful to Kucetekela Foundation for investing in my education and believing in my potential. Their support changed the direction of my life and gave me opportunities I never imagined possible. As I continue my journey, I hope to use these opportunities to create impact and inspire others who may also be facing challenges to keep believing in their dreams.

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Every student story in this issue reflects the power of educational opportunity, mentorship and community. Your support helps KF students learn, lead and thrive.

DONATE TO KF →

Click the button above, or visit:

kucetekelafoundation.org/donate

THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN THEIR POTENTIAL.

Kucetekela Foundation | Developing leaders and building hope in Zambia