



KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 · 2025 · VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

Celebrating Growth, Leadership, Service & the Grade 12 Class of 2025

Resilience. Leadership. Service.

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A close-of-year celebration of the Kucetekela Foundation Class of 2025 — featuring graduation stories, student leadership, alumni pathways, career growth, and a look ahead with gratitude.

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Message from KF Staff

A Season of Growth, Resilience & Gratitude

Masuku Mukena, General Manager · Edna Phiri, Program Manager

Term 3 of 2025 was a season of reflection, achievement, and gratitude for Kucetekela Foundation. Across this issue, our students and alumni share stories of resilience, leadership, service, academic effort, internship exposure, mentorship, and preparation for the future. As KF staff, we are proud to witness the growth of each student — not only in academic performance, but also in character, responsibility, confidence, and service to others.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our students, alumni, parents and guardians, school partners, mentors, donors, and friends of Kucetekela Foundation. Your support continues to shape lives and open doors for young people with promise, determination, and hope.

Masuku Mukena

General Manager

Kucetekela Foundation

Edna Phiri

Program Manager

Kucetekela Foundation

GRADE 12 GRADUATE FEATURE

Class of 2025

A Graduation to Remember

By Gladys Mwangala · Grade 12 · Class of 2025

My graduation on 21st November 2025 marked the completion of an important chapter in my academic life. This moment represented more than the end of school — it symbolised resilience, growth, and the fulfilment of years of hard work. I was honoured to deliver a speech as the best graduating student.

The Journey

Grade 12 was not without its challenges. There were days when I felt like giving up, and changing schools affected my academic performance. But I refused to settle for average. Through sleepless nights, disciplined study, and unwavering determination, I learned to stay focused on my goals.

Keys to Success

Maintaining a study schedule, setting clear goals, staying organised, and asking for help when needed were the habits that carried me through. These strategies, combined with the support of Kucetekela Foundation, made the difference.

Recognition & Inspiration

Being recognised as the best graduating student was emotional and humbling. It was a reminder that hard work truly pays off and that dedication opens doors. This recognition has inspired me to aim even higher in my future academic and career pursuits.

To younger students, my message is simple: **believe in yourself, stay disciplined, and never give up on your dreams.** Your education is one of the most powerful tools you will ever have.





CLASS OF 2025

Grade 12 Graduate Spotlights

Class of 2025

Celebrating resilience, leadership, service, and the promise of the next chapter.

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GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT — CLASS OF 2025

Character · Faith · Legacy

Paul: Anchored, Disciplined, Unshakeable

By Jackson Banda · Grade 11

Faith has a way of revealing itself in the smallest, most consistent choices. Long before Paul graduated in 2025, it was clear that his life was anchored in something deeper than achievement alone. Sharing the same scholarship with him allowed me to witness how conviction, when lived out daily, can quietly shape an entire community.

Character & Faith

Paul Phiri was academically capable, but what truly distinguished him was the intentional way he lived and interacted with others. He carried himself with humility and purpose — his faith visible not through loud declarations, but through consistency in speech, action, and discipline.

A Lasting Legacy

Paul believed growth should be holistic. He challenged those around him to improve both in the classroom and on the sports field, actively resisting procrastination and reminding others that excellence demands effort, structure, and commitment.

His legacy lives on in the standards he set, the responsibility he modelled, and the faith he lived out.



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT — CLASS OF 2025

Excellence · Leadership · Service

Gladys & Isaac: Excellence in Leadership

Tributes by Catherine Mumbi · Grade 11 and Nelly Makondo · Grade 11

Gladys Namangolwa Mwangala

Grade 12 Graduate · Class of 2025

Gladys served as Sports Prefect at Chalo Trust School and as Culture & Diversity Prefect at Pestalozzi — promoting unity and respect across different backgrounds. She consistently ranked among the top students and earned the Highest Achiever Award in Grade 12. Her quiet confidence, leadership, and acting talent inspired everyone around her.

— Catherine Mumbi, Grade 12

"Their legacy is not only in what they achieved — it is in how they inspired everyone around them."

Isaac Webby Mulenga

Grade 12 Graduate · Class of 2025

Isaac made school life more vibrant wherever he went. A passionate public speaker, master of ceremonies, poet, and stage performer — he was also a committed student who encouraged others to work harder and build meaningful CVs. On weekends, he volunteered selflessly in social work, giving his time to help others.

— Nelly Makondo, Grade 12





Student Wellness Leadership

Thawanda Neba: Mind Matters — Promoting Mental Health Awareness

By Thawanda Neba · Grade 11 · Health & Wellness Prefect

Mental health is often discussed quietly, yet it profoundly affects how we learn, relate to others, and see ourselves. As Health and Wellness Prefect at Pestalozzi Academy, I had the opportunity to lead a student-driven initiative that brought this important conversation into the open.

The Mind Matters Campaign

On World Mental Health Day, I led the "Mind Matters" campaign — a student-driven initiative aimed at raising awareness and reducing stigma around mental health. The campaign created a safe, supportive space for students to learn, ask questions, and share their experiences.

Impact & Engagement

While turnout was smaller than hoped, the quality of engagement was meaningful. Students were supported by the school's mental health advocate and expressed genuine appreciation for the open, non-judgmental environment the campaign created.

A Positive Shift

In the days that followed, we observed students applying what they had learned in their daily interactions — a positive shift in attitudes toward mental health within our school community.

"Small conversations began to replace silence — and that is where real change begins."



Student Leadership in Action

Francis Siboli: Developing Leadership Through Responsibility

By Francis Siboli · Grade 11

In Term 3 of 2025, I was selected to serve as Assistant Environmental Secretary of my school's Student Council — a leadership role that reflects both personal effort and a commitment to responsibility and discipline.

The Selection Process

The process was rigorous. Candidates submitted formal application letters, maintained a minimum academic average of 60% across all subjects, and campaigned school-wide to earn votes. Being elected was a meaningful milestone that affirmed my growth as a student leader.

What Leadership Taught Me

Serving on the Student Council reinforced my confidence, sense of responsibility, and accountability. The Council represents the student body and plays a vital role in maintaining an orderly, respectful school environment — a responsibility I take seriously.

"Being elected through this process affirmed the leadership qualities I continue to develop — confidence, responsibility, and accountability."

Denzel Chinda: From Bookworld to Ashoka University

By Denzel Chinda · KF Alumnus '23 · Ashoka University, India

On 2nd September 2025, I assumed the role of Finance & Accounting for the Ashoka University International Students Association (AUISA). The foundation for this role was laid through my internship at Bookworld Zambia — an opportunity made possible by Kucetekela Foundation.

Systems & Structure

Upon assuming office, my priority was to introduce structure and transparency. I implemented a digital bookkeeping system, standardised receipt verification, and introduced clear post-event financial reporting — strengthening trust and accountability across the team.

FoodFest 2025–26

Managing AUISA's largest annual event required disciplined oversight of procurement and income reconciliation. FoodFest 2025–26 resulted in a surplus of USD 2,222.99 — a clear demonstration of effective financial management and the leadership skills KF helped build.

As a Kucetekela Foundation alumnus, I carry forward the values of responsibility, integrity, and service. I am grateful for the trust KF placed in me and strive to reflect that trust in everything I do.

"The internship at Bookworld gave me the foundation. Ashoka University gave me the platform. KF gave me the belief."



Building Tomorrow: Oswald Mutale & Ivy Chimwemwe Kalifungwa



Oswald Mutale - KF Alumnus '21 · ICT Student, Information and Communications University, Zambia

As an undergraduate ICT student, Oswald is building his future through developing mobile apps, an automated irrigation system for Zambian farmers, and participation in a ZCA Network cybersecurity awareness workshop. He is preparing for an ICT internship to gain practical experience and foster essential workplace ethics — punctuality, accountability, and adaptability.

| “Professionalism is built through commitment, discipline, and practical engagement.”



Ivy Chimwemwe Kalifungwa - Grade 12 Graduate · Class of 2025

Ivy is balancing a Bookworld Zambia internship with active university applications — writing personal statements, gathering documents, and meeting deadlines. Her hands-on exposure has strengthened her communication skills, financial independence, and appreciation for the power of education. She is building a clear vision for her future.

| “Balancing internship and university applications has equipped me with practical skills, confidence, and purpose.”

Kucetekela Foundation · Term 3, 2025

Looking Ahead With Gratitude

Volume 19, Issue 3 · www.kucetekelafoundation.org

As we close this edition of the Kucetekela Foundation Newsletter, we do so with full hearts and deep gratitude. Term 3 of 2025 has been a season of remarkable growth — in classrooms, on sports fields, in communities, and in the hearts of every student and alumni who shared their story in these pages.

Our Graduates

To the Grade 12 Class of 2025 — your resilience, dedication, and willingness to serve others inspire us every day. You have completed this chapter with distinction. The next chapter awaits you.

Our Partners

To our school partners, parents, guardians, mentors, alumni, and donors — your continued support makes this work possible. Every contribution, large or small, changes a life.

Our Mission

Kucetekela Foundation remains committed to sponsoring and developing young people of promise from Zambia — equipping them with the education, skills, and values to lead and serve.

Resilience. Leadership. Service.

Support the next generation of Kucetekela Foundation students.

To support Kucetekela Foundation students, visit www.kucetekelafoundation.org and click "Donate to KF."

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