

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 Secondary School**

2010 Grade Level: **Grade 11**



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. 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.

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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.

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. He noted on his application to KF that his favorite part of Chibelo School is how they teach.

At Chibelo, Iwell's favorite subjects were mathematics, social studies, and English.

Outside of class, Iwell was an active member of the HIV/AIDS resource center at Chibelo School, where he learned about HIV/AIDS as well as worked as a peer counselor and educator.

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.

In Grade 8, Iwell demonstrated his ability from Term 1 when he earned the 5th position in his grade. However, 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. His favorite subject in Grade 9 was Math. 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

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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. His best subjects were Biology and History where he finished number 1, and Math where he placed number 2. While he was proud of his grades he says he plans to focus even more in the coming year. “I am able to succeed if I focus on my work. I am a person who tries to get the best out of what is given.” His other goal next year was to help his friends academically who frequently come to him for extra help. Iwell's favourite courses include Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Math, English, and Commerce.

Iwell's Interests:

Extracurricular Interests

Iwell loves to play football (soccer), and excels in this sport at Ibex Hill. In grade 8 he played goalkeeper for the Ibex Hill team and was the first 8th grader in the school's history to earn a Varsity letter in football. In Grade 9, he continued to play goalkeeper, but occasionally played the forward position when needed. As a 10th grader, he has yet again changed position, playing at primarily central midfield. He has been consistently the top scorer on the team. 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 says he was elected to this position because he “cooperates well with others and as a result they listen to me.” Iwell also participates in cross-country, coming out first in the school in the 3 kilometer race by a full 500 meters.

In Grade 9, Iwell was elected by the other boys to serve as his dormitory captain.

In Grade 10, Iwell joined scripture union, an extracurricular activity that involves reading the gospel and learning the lessons of Christianity. Because of his leadership and public speaking abilities, Iwell was asked to head of the club, a position that requires him to preach during the meetings. “I enjoy this most because of the functions I perform, i.e. motivating my friends and giving them courage and strength. Most importantly, changing people's behavior from good to bad. Because of the sound mind that I express, people tend to come to me when they have problems or are depressed. After knowing that I have helped them to the fullest of their needs, I get encouraged to continue.”

He is also an active member of the Debate Club, which he joined to improve his confidence when speaking in public. Iwell has enjoyed his experience in the Debate Club and actively encourages other KF students to join him.

As sports prefect and the preacher in scripture union, it is clear that Iwell stands out among his classmates as a leader.

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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. He primarily worked with children suffering from malnutrition, learning about the different varieties of the deficiencies and the courses of treatment. He also helped the doctors with the intake and monitoring of new patients. While Iwell experienced first hand the hardship a doctor faces in Zambia with limited supplies and time. However, his experience only further confirmed that he wants to pursue his dream.

“My work experience was really motivating. I could take temperature reading of the children who had malnutrition. I learnt that life is not like any other thing because it can be lost at any moment. I feel that I have to continue becoming a doctor because it is because of having not enough doctors that most children lost their lives.”

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 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:

“Before I joined KF in 2006, I always dreamed of going to a private school. I was at a government school and I never used to participate in many activities, especially poetry. I never used to feel shy about who I was, although life was so difficult for me. I was playing with friends who were bad and used to take drugs, but I managed to control myself...”

A lot has changed in my family because of KF. At home now they even find enough money to buy food and they do not even have any problems when paying school fees for my brother which is a very important thing. When I am at home I

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do not even trouble them about buying me clothes, shoes and text books for studying because there is a great help that is making our family better and simple...

I have learnt how to be responsible and to work as team. KF has taught me how to love my friends. My favourite event was when the grade 9 went to Fountain of Hope. I was happy because I met kids who had little hope but were willing to fight hard until they make it in life. It has changed me in a way that I became a person full of big dreams and hopes and ideas that can make Zambia a better place to live in. 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.

Iwell's Poetry:

Life is a Flute

A flute is a very small thing. It can be tossed about from any angle. It gives melodies that bring joy to the heart. But the same flute gives melodies that bring sorrow and grief to the heart. Life is like a flute. It can lead you to the path where there is joy but brings you sorrow at the same time.

As Joyful as the Rising Sun

Whenever the sun is rising, everyone becomes heart just when they look at it. In the same way you bring joy to all that know you. You bring light to the lives that are full of darkness. You are as joyful as the rising sun.

The Unknown Known

Why, why, why? I ask myself. Why you, why were you not known to me? Where have you been hiding? I wish I had known you earlier before you were known to others. Now that I know you, you are already taken. You were unknown but now you have become known. You have bright joy which is hidden in sadness and sorrow. You are the unknown and the known.