

Education opened the door, wisdom will walk you through it

Work hard, believe in yourself, resist peer pressure, learn every day, seek help when needed, and let your future be shaped by you.



Sylvia Mwesigye
Another
Perspective

Congratulations on being here. This is a big achievement.

But I need you to understand something. More than half of the children who started primary school with you did not make it here. They dropped out along the way due to money problems or other challenges. But you are still standing.

You are also among only 60 percent of people in this country who can read and write. Think about that. Four out of every 10 people you meet on the street cannot read what is written on a sign or a book. But you can.

Education is your right. But when so many others are denied that right, your education becomes a privilege. And when much is given to you, much is expected from you.

What you did before does not matter anymore. I know you think it does. Maybe you did well and feel proud. Maybe you just passed and feel lucky. Either way, what is done is done. No one will ask about your PLE scores next year. What we will ask about is your Senior Four results in 2029.

That is how the world works. You have to keep learning. Keep growing. Keep changing. If you stay still, the world will move past you and forget you were ever there.

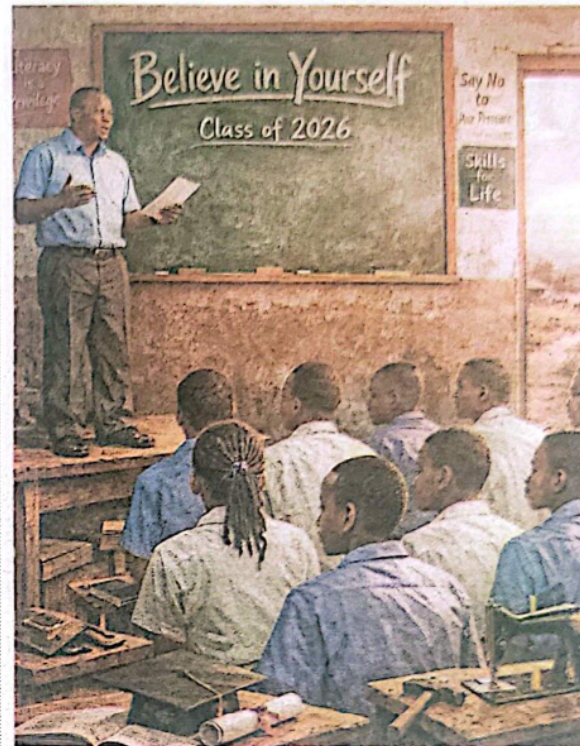
So, wake up every day and try your best. That is all anyone can ask. I know this time in your life is hard.

Your body is changing. Your feelings are all over the place. One minute you are happy, the next minute you are angry, and you do not even know why. This is normal. It happens to everyone.

But here is the thing. Having a bad attitude, being rebellious, acting as if you do not care, none of that helps. It only makes things worse.

The adults in your life; your parents, your guardians, your teachers, we understand what you are going through. We were teenagers once too. We remember. So when we try to help you, meet us halfway.

When someone tries to push you forward, do not lean on them like dead weight. Push back, but



push in the right direction. Do your part.

You will learn practical skills, not just theory. Some of you are very good at academics. You get high marks and feel smart. Do not look down on the practical lessons. Learning to fix things, to make things, to do things with your hands, is valuable too. If you have both book knowledge and practical skills, you become like a person with two swords. You can fight through life as a warrior, not

as a victim.

Watch out for peer pressure. Your friends will try to pull you into things. Some of those things will look fun. Some will look like the only way to belong. But peer pressure can steal your future. It can take your dreams and hand you failure instead. Learn to think before you act. When someone tells you to do something, stop and ask yourself; does this help me or hurt me? Does this take me closer to my goals or fur-

ther away?

Learn to wait for good things. This is hard. Everyone wants things now, right away. But the people who learn to wait, who can say no today so they can say yes tomorrow, win in life.

Be consistent. Show up every day and do the work. It is not exciting. No one writes songs about the person who just keeps showing up. But that person succeeds.

Ask for help when you need it. Do not suffer alone. Do not sit in class pretending you understand when you do not. Find someone; a teacher, a parent, a friend, and tell them. Let them help you.

Before you make big decisions, check your facts. Ask questions. Think carefully. Do not just jump because everyone else is jumping.

And above all, remember you matter. Not because of your grades. Not because of what you can do for others. You matter because you are here. Because there has never been anyone exactly like you in the whole history of the world, and there never will be again.

Believe in yourself. Not in an arrogant way. Believe in yourself quietly, like you believe the sun will rise tomorrow. When people doubt you, hold on to that belief. When you doubt yourself, reach for it like a rope in dark water. Do not let anyone tell you that you are not enough. That is a lie. You have always been enough.

Now go. Your classroom is waiting. Your teachers are waiting. Your future is waiting. The year 2029 will be here before you know it. Make sure you are ready.