FEMALE SCHOOL HEADS SHARE TIPS

Internationally, March is known as the Women's Month, a period when nations celebrate the contribution of women to society. This week, *Mwalimu* speaks to the women at the helm of some of the girls' schools in Uganda and how they nurture tomorrow's women leaders, writes **JULIET LUKWAGO.**

Robinah Kizito, Gayaza High School
She is not only the headteacher of Gayaza High School, but also an alumni (1982-1985). She assumed office on October 10, 2019. She began her teaching career at Gayaza High School in 1992 as a teacher of English Language and Literature. In 2006, she was appointed acting deputy headteacher, a position she held, until 2014. Her leadership journey continued at Makerere College School, where she served as deputy headteacher. She later led Kitebi Secondary School as headteacher, until her appointment to head Gayaza High School in 2019. Kizito deeply values the Christian, moral, and academic foundation she received as a student at Gayaza and remains committed to passing on those values to current and future generations of students.



Agnes Nsubuga headteacher, St Joseph's Secondary School Naggalama
Agnes Nsubuga has been the headteacher of St Joseph's Secondary School Naggalama, since 2003 and has played a significant role in its steady growth and development. Through strong leadership, she has overseen many improvements in academic performance, infrastructure, discipline and overall student welfare.

She emphasises not only academic development, but also character and spiritual development.

She encourages sports, club activities to promote holistic development of the learners.

She collaborates with the school alumni on several projects.

She says applying a motherly approach to students has been helpful. She listens to their concerns, guides them personally and provides emotional support whenever need arises.



Akware Beatrice Lumonya, Tororo Girls School
She is not only the headteacher, but also an old girl of Tororo Girls School. Akware advocates for a holistic girls' empowerment and loves practical education, especially the competence-based curriculum.

"The students are enriched with not only classroom knowledge, but also hands-on skills, such as agriculture and entrepreneurship," she says. Under her leadership, the school has improved in sciences.

"We performed well in chemistry with over 100 As in the Uganda Certificate of Education exams," she says. While still a teacher at Namilyango College in 2014, *New Vision* ranked her the best teacher of English, according to the UCE results of that year.

She is passionate about co-curicullar activities.

"Our students participated in National and East Africa Ball Games in Volleyball 2025. Our basketball team came fourth and will represent Uganda in Serbia in June 2026."



Regina Laboke, Mount Olives College Kakiri in Wakiso district
Laboke says every student matters. So, she supports the learning of every child irrespective of abilities. She is passionate about imparting life skills in learners to enable them tackle 21st century challenges.

"I nurture reading skills through literature classes, I novels, magazines and newspapers and e-learning materials. "

Laboke, who started her teaching career in 1976, says providing a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment where everyone feels valued and respected is key in empowering children.

"We encourage the spiritual, cultural, social and emotional development of every individual."



Immaculate Lwanga Nassozi, Trinity College Nabbingo in Wakiso district
Nassozi says the well being of her students is the top priority.

"We have been able to remove asbestos from school structures, including the dining hall," she says. The geography teacher says dormitories are refurbished to suit the modern times.

"Cecilia House was rebuilt. Even the Senior One dormitory, which had been condemned was rebuilt. We are also building a 2,500 seater chapel to replace the current one that accommodates 400 students," she says.

Nassozi says the school used to suffer with inadequate water supply, but the challenge has since been solved.

"We have deep wells that have boosted the water supply and improved hygiene. The toilets are modern, catering for all people, including students with disabilities." She also emphasises co-curricula activities, such as music,drama, debating and sports.

Nassozi was born to the late Anthony Musule and Margaret Nampiima Musule in Kitovu Masaka. She started school at St Theresa Girls Primary School in Kitovu. She then joined Trinity College Nabbingo and later Makerere University. She taught at Mt. St. Mary's College Namagunga, Trinity College Nabbingo, St Peter's Nsambya as deputy headteacher for seven years.

She then moved to St Joseph's SS Kakindu for three years and later Nabbingo on June 22, 2022.



Sr Judith Kenkimba, St Maria Goretti Girls' Secondary School, Fort Portal
Sr Kenkimba has nurtured many young girls since 2022 when she joined the institution. She is passionate about bringing up a girl child who is morally, academically and spiritually upright. She encourages girls to discover and develop their talents. "I encourage girls to take part in football, netball, volleyball, cricket, basketball, plus the indoor games." Her goal is to produce empowered and holistic women for the world.



Margaret Akello, St Katherine Secondary School Lira
Akello says she focuses on learning, growth and excellence.

"Besides academics, we make sure that students learn vocational skills through agribusiness projects. We grow mushrooms, which we sell to schools and communities."

Akello says the idea is to equip students' skills in agribusiness while still young so that they able to start enterprises in case they do not find a job.

Clemensia Akuwa, St Kizito Senior Secondary School Katikamu
Akuwa says education is not just a profession; it is a calling to shape lives, nurture values and guide young people toward becoming responsible citizens.

Before taking up her current role, she was a deputy headteacher in charge of administration and welfare at Trinity College Nabbingo.

Beyond administration, she teaches entrepreneurship and goes beyond delivering subject content.

"I seek to inspire creativity, resilience and self-reliance among learners while nurturing moral responsibility and leadership."

She draws inspiration from the words of Scripture: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).

Monica Nakaziba Kaiira, Iganga Secondary School
Nakaziba heads one of the top girls schools in eastern Uganda. With 24 years in the teaching profession, 17 of them as a headteacher, Nakaziba says she has dedicated her life to transforming the lives of young girls through education. This is her fifth year at the helm of Iganga SS.

"We have strengthened inclusive education, ensuring that the visually impaired learners are fully supported and integrated into all school programmes. The school has embraced ICT in learning, installing smart TVs in classrooms to enhance digital literacy and research skills," she says.

Nakaziba says beyond academics, her team promotes holistic development.

"We have won several trophies in sports and debate. Through partnerships, farm projects have been established to equip students with agricultural and value chain skills. In 2024, the school hosted the largest farm camp in East Africa, bringing together 1,500 secondary school students from across the country.

"As a woman leader and mother, I am passionate about mentoring girls to believe in their abilities and rise beyond limitations."

Born in Bugweri district, Nakaziba went to Busembatya Primary School, Nkutu Memorial Secondary School, Iganga Secondary School and Makerere University for a bachelor of science in education. She holds a masters in education planning and management.

