

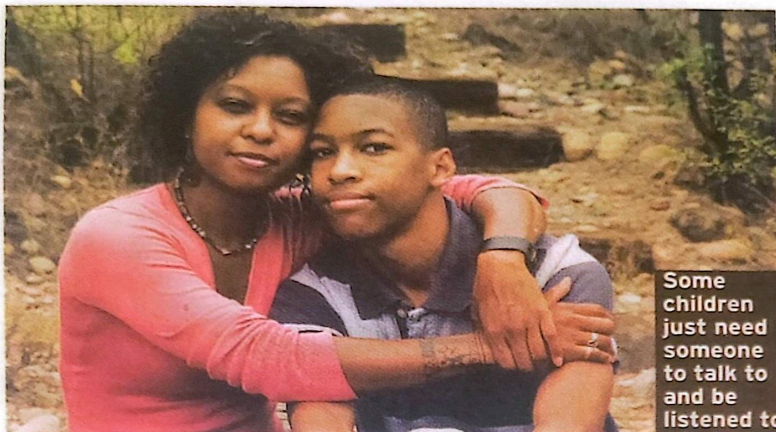
# Parents should give stubborn children a second chance

Last year, my friend, Arthur, 17, attempted to escape from school, but was arrested by the school guards. Quickly, he was asked to make a statement indicating clearly why he was escaping.

Arthur wrote that he intended to go and watch a game – that night, Chelsea Football Club and Manchester United English Premiership clubs were playing. After the game, he would linkp with his friend who lives in town for accompaniment to a night club for a dance. He was going to sneak back into school very early in the morning at around 5:00am.

Arthur was checked and he was found with numerous betting vouchers and a sachet of alcohol.

At this moment, fear gripped him and he burst into tears, pleading before the guards to forgive him. He



**Some children just need someone to talk to and be listened to**

pulled out some money to bribe them. But the guards paid less attention to his attempts and escorted him back to dorm to sleep.

This case was put before the school administration the following morning and the disciplinary committee sat to investigate it. Finally, it was resolved

that Arthur and two other boys implicated in the case be suspended indefinitely. It is a grave offence to escape, possess drugs or stake bets in school.

As a concerned friend who followed the case closely, I caught up privately with Arthur that holiday and he made certain confessions, which I would like people to take note of.

Arthur, in search for company at school, joined a wrong click of boys, formed a dance crew and the activities of the crew occupied more of his time than school and concentrating on books could allow them. They frequently dodged classes, engaged in all manners of indiscipline and their behaviour became everyone's concern. Resultantly, their academic performance took a nose dive.

But Arthur regrets. He says all this was due to influence of the peers.

Arthur and his friends squandered the pocket money in useless activities.

When he was suspended, ties with the former friends were closed. He joined another school in Lugazi, Buikwe district, reformed and started performing excellently in academics.

Imagine if Arthur's parents had abandoned him because of his indiscipline at school!

Sometimes, children misbehave at school. Their behaviour might be so annoying to parents. However, it is the duty of the parent to be understanding, build a good relationship, guide and counsel the child to reform. These children need just such close attention to become very good citizens in the society.

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