TeensBuzz

Real talk. Planning how to conquer Term One. P.18

Vox pop. Students share what is needed to make the new curriculum more effective. P.20



Celebrating culture, heritage at Vienna College

The most anticipated highlight of the gala was the king and queen spectacle, where individual contestants were judged on entry style, entourage, confidence, eloquence creativity, and their oral brief on the culture they represented. P.19



BY ISAAC SSEJJOMBWE

Colour, rhythm and heritage came alive as Vienna College Namugongo hosted its Inter-House Cultural Gala under the theme *The Ecosystem Rhythms*, transforming the campus into a vibrant celebration of African identity, creativity and unity. From as early as 6am, students gathered for breakfast before setting up cooking venues, marking the beginning of a tightly scheduled day that blended competition with cultural appreciation. The dress code; cultural wear based on cultures affiliated to countries of choice set the tone for a spectacular display of tradition, colour and pride.

The morning's culinary contest saw houses prepare dishes inspired by their designated cultures, with participants required to give oral explanations at every stage of preparation while highlighting the cultural significance of their meals. Judges assessed taste, presentation, hygiene, creativity and authenticity. Lion House emerged victorious in the culinary category, impressing the judges with both flavour and cultural depth. Shortly after, the quiz competition tested students' knowledge across a wide range of categories including general knowledge, world geography, history, science, pop culture, food and drinks, sports, technology, among other categories. Here, Jaguar House outperformed its competitors in a tense intellectual showdown to claim the quiz title.

As the day progressed, attention shifted to fashion and performance. Following lunch and preparations, the Cultural Fashion Manifest turned the stage into a runway of heritage, where contestants were judged on style and order of entry, choice of music, confidence, authenticity, audience engagement and overall impression. Tiger House dazzled the crowd and judges alike to win the fashion category, showcasing a bold and captivating interpretation of their assigned culture. Each house had earlier been designated a cultural identity: Cheetah represented Hausa Fulani of Nigeria, Lion embodied Hema-Lendu of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Panther showcased Ashanti of Ghana, Leopard highlighted Amhara, Omoro and Tigrayan of Ethiopia, Jaguar celebrated Akana-Mande of Ivory Coast, and Tiger presented IsiZulu of South Africa. Through dress, music and performance, students vividly brought these traditions to life.

Cheetah House clinched the king title, while the queen's crown was won by Leopard House, adding to the competitive excitement of the day. Ultimately, when all points from the five categories culinary, quiz, fashion, king and queen — were tallied out of a possible 500, Leopard House emerged as the overall winner of the 2026 Inter-House Cultural Gala, with Lion House securing second position.

Beyond the trophies and titles, the event stood as a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also cultural awareness and confidence among its learners. The rhythms of diverse ecosystems were reflected in the harmony of traditions, intellect and creativity displayed throughout the day.

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