



**The School
of St Jude**

Fighting poverty
through education

Facing a Crisis

On March 16, the Tanzanian government closed all schools in response to the first COVID-19 case in the country.

See how St Jude's continues to adapt and respond to the pandemic, ensuring the continued education of our students, while supporting the health and wellbeing of the St Jude's community.





Our COVID-19 response



Like the rest of the world, we have adapted to the COVID-19 crisis. With your help, the St Jude's community worked together with strength and solidarity to deliver our core purpose – education!

Our supporters

- Continued to sponsor students' academic scholarships
- Donated to the COVID-19 Family Care Packages
- Supported our 'Because of you!' Annual Appeal
- Wrote letters of encouragement and support to students

Our Community Relations team with the help of St Jude's staff

- Organised and distributed two rounds of COVID-19 Welfare Packs to particularly struggling families of students
- Organised and distributed 2,000 COVID-19 Family Care Packages to students, interns and their families
- Organised and distributed 500 food parcels for community members from one of Arusha's poorest areas

Academic staff

- Prepared four rounds of study packs for all students, containing worksheets, lesson notes and mock exams
- Tracked students' progress at home by marking the returned and completed study packs
- Produced bleach and liquid soap using St Jude's science labs and innovative lab technicians

Non-academic staff

- Ensured the school was clean and well-maintained, ready for the students to return

Parent Representatives

- Distributed and collected study packs for all students
- Provided guidance and assistance to student families, teaching them about safety measures and informing them of updates from the school

Drivers

- Delivered all COVID-19 Family Care packages and study packs to students and their families
- Ensured social distance on buses for staff who continued to work

Students

- Continued studying from home and diligently returned homework to be marked by teachers
- Wrote letters to their sponsors
- Became role models for their community by practicing COVID-19 safety measures and teaching others in their community to do the same

Local community

- Over 30 Alumni donated over AU\$700 and contributed to the costs of the community food parcels, while over 50 Community Service Year interns helped to pack them
- Local suppliers moved quickly to provide goods for the packages and donated a few extra supplies free of charge



COVID-19 Family Care Packages

There is nothing more heart-warming than seeing the entire St Jude's community working together to help our students and their families.

On Thursday 30 and Friday 1 May, business and academic staff came together to create the biggest production line in St Jude's history, preparing over 2,000 packages for our students and Community Service Year interns. This initiative ensured our students, interns and their families were supported during this very difficult time.

The packs were distributed all across Northern Tanzania, reaching some students who live up to six hours away.

The care package included basic hygiene products such as bleach, hand sanitiser and soap, as well as staple food items like rice, maize flour and beans.

It was so beautiful to see all staff, including teachers, drivers, business staff and parent representatives, come together to deliver these packs to our students and their families.

An especially big thank you to all our supporters who contributed towards this initiative. Without them, it wouldn't have been possible.

"It was great to see the St Jude's family of supporters, staff and community work as a big team, across continents and through a global pandemic, to support our mission and vision. Together we will make it through!"

— Gemma Sisia, Founder





Challenges at home

Nothing highlights the challenges our students face when studying at home, then COVID-19. Despite these challenges 90% of our students returned their homework for marking during the school shut down!

Through it all, St Jude's students proved they were resilient, taking responsibility for their education and showing respect for their teachers' efforts to continue their education remotely.

Unlike schools trying to deal with the virus worldwide - online learning is not an option at St Jude's. Our students come from poor backgrounds with little access to electricity and digital devices, let alone access to the internet at home.



How COVID-19 affected our students - learning from school vs learning from home

	At school	At home
Meals	Provided with four hot, nutritious meals a day.	With a limited income, some families struggle to provide two meals a day.
Electricity	Always available, with generators and solar power to support the school when there are community outages.	Not always available in family homes, most families depend on 'kibatari' (kerosene lamps) or solar-powered lamps.
Study support	Boarding parents, teachers and peers are readily available for study support.	Some parents have little to no education, making it difficult for students to ask for assistance with their schoolwork.
Working and assisting with chores	In boarding and at school students are expected to keep their study and living areas clean and to do their laundry at assigned times, so as not to affect their homework and study hours.	At home, students are expected to help with chores, look after younger siblings as well as assist their parents at work or doing farming activities to help financially support the family.



Studying at home

To ensure our students' academic progress didn't suffer with the school lockdown, our teachers were very busy preparing study packs for all our primary and secondary school students.

Our teachers dedicated their time and skills in designing worksheets, photocopying thousands of practice exams, and stocking envelopes with learning resources for each subject. The packs were accompanied with exercise books so students could submit their answers for marking.





Returning to school

Following the advice from WHO and the government, the school has taken measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the staff who worked throughout the school shutdown. As far as practicable, these measures continue to be followed now that the students have returned to school.

Social distancing

All staff are always expected to maintain a 1.5 metre distance from each other. This would be practiced in all settings including office seat allocations, meetings and meal breaks.

Considering the number of staff reporting for work, several computer labs were re-purposed as business offices during the shutdown, and teams had assigned work from home days to reinforce social distancing.

With the students back at school, some business office staff continue to work from home at least two days per week.



Hygiene

All staff have been provided with hand sanitiser for their desks and hand washing stations have been set up throughout all campuses, allowing for convenient hand hygiene practice.

In the COVID-19 care packs, all students and their families were provided with bleach, soap and hand sanitiser.

To decrease the chances of cross contamination with the re-opening of the school, all staff and students must wear masks while on campus and on the buses. Exceptions being for students under eight years old, and those with pre-existing medical conditions, such as asthma.





Adjusting the calendar

When schools were mandated to reopen on Monday 29 June, the academic team had to adapt the school calendar to ensure that our students achieve their important academic milestones this year.

New academic calendar and term dates

To the right is a summary of the important dates in the new school calendar for 2020. Term dates have been adjusted to fit the two missed months of learning into the rest of the year. Effectively, the students and their teachers will not have school holidays for the rest of the year. They will all be working hard until mid-December to catch up.

Many of our students consider themselves fortunate to be able to return to school. In some countries within East Africa, schools remain closed and are unlikely to reopen until January 2021.

Awards days and graduations – COVID-19 sensitive

On 27 June, we celebrated an amazing milestone for our Form 6 graduating class with a special Farewell Lunch and wished them well before they sat for their national examinations.

To ensure the safety of the Form 6 students during this event, only the students, their Form 6 teachers and the school's leaders were invited; masks were worn, and social distancing was practiced.

At this time, to ensure the safety of our students and staff, Standard 7 Graduation and the Form 4 Awards Days are also planned to be a smaller ceremony followed by a farewell lunch for students and staff. Closer to the events, the leadership team will decide whether the school will extend invitations to families, visitors and supporters.

All sponsors who support the scholarships of students in these important milestone years will receive photos of the event, to commemorate this special achievement.

School Event	COVID-19 adaptations to school calendar
Form 6 National Examinations	Finished mid-July
Form 6 Graduation	Farewell Lunch held on June 27
A Level term 2 ends	Form 6: July 16 Form 5: July 24
A Level term 1 starts	Form 5*: July 20 Form 6: July 27
Term 1 ends	Primary and secondary: August 28
Term 2 starts	Primary and secondary: August 31
Term 1 reports released	September
Standard 7 National Examinations	October 8 – October 9
Form 4 Awards Days	Farewell Lunch Girls': October 10 Boys': October 31
Form 2 National Assessment	November 9 – November 17
Standard 4 National Examinations	November 25 – November 26
Form 4 National Examinations	November 23 – December 8
Standard 7 Graduation	Farewell Lunch: November 19
Term 2 ends Mid-term Examinations	Primary and secondary (all O and A Level): December 18

*Students that completed O Levels in 2019, return to school on this day for their A Levels.





From our students

Our students returned to school thankful for all the care and support they received during their time at home. A few students shared their gratitude with us and let us know what they did to keep safe during this crisis.

What measures did you take to keep you safe at home?

We have made our bucket fixed with a tap on it and we use our Auntie's machine to sew face masks for each member of the family and our neighbours.

-Razia, Form 4

I have learned to create a wireless charger and theft alarm. I am also working on making a smart bucket that will sense human hands and allow water to flow without touching.

-Boniphace, Form 4



What was your favourite thing in the COVID-19 Family Care Packages?

I liked everything in the COVID-19 package because everything was so important to me and my family at that time.

-Neem, Form 1

In the care package I mostly liked the food and sanitiser that kept my hands more clean and safer.

-Christerbell, Form 1

I liked the sanitiser that helped me in keeping my hands free from all types of germs and viruses include the corona virus.

-Maryana, Form 1

In the care package I liked the study materials because it helped me to study when I was at home and also the soap for washing my hands in order to avoid this dangerous disease.

-Rahabu, Form 1

In the package we were provided with sanitiser and bleach that helped me a lot during home cleanliness and it help in fighting against the pandemic.

-Angela, Form 1





From our staff

Our staff were also grateful recipients of the COVID-19 Family Care Packages. They wanted to share their gratitude with our international supporters – you!

This email is to give a special thanks to you for the home pack gift we received. My husband and the kids were very happy, they give special thanks to you and to the supporters around the world for the gift of food and detergents. We had very delicious food yesterday evening (rice and beans from St Jude's supporters). We also use the soap to wash our clothes and to make our environment clean. Thank you very much and God bless you.



– Anande, Purchasing Department

I am so grateful to be part of St Jude's and I feel very appreciated and loved. I just want to thank you for the home pack I got yesterday, my family and I are very appreciative for the gift you gave us! We heard other organisations employees might have lost their jobs, but at St Jude's we did not. I have no words to explain how you have touched my life!



– Baraka, Secondary School Teacher

I am humbled to express my sincere appreciation to the school management for the gift given to my family and me. This has shown great humanity and kindness of our management team to care for its staff members despite the current situation that faces the whole world. I do understand that very few companies can do such a thing, especially during challenging times like this. May God bless you, abundantly.



– John, Academic Deputy Headmaster

We are greatly delighted by our hard work, which has been the leading light to countless successful plans for our school. We offer a vote of thanks to management for the COVID-19 packs to our families. Keeping a company alive is a great task. We owe our success to your stable leadership. Thank you very much.



– Wilricky, Academic Deputy Headmaster

On behalf of my family, I'm humbled and grateful for the gift (pack) you gave us it's really a big help. You show us love and care in this difficult time. Just wanted you to know that I really appreciate it. God bless you!



– Happiness, Community Relations Team

Thank you for the sanitiser and soap the school gave me yesterday. My children were very happy and full of hope that they will be protected from the COVID-19. Thank you.



– Humprey, Academic Deputy Headmaster



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Together, we can accomplish anything!

Your continued support during this difficult time allows us to ensure the health and safety of the entire St Jude's community, as well as keep our students learning.

We are lucky to have sponsors like you, who constantly assure us of your solidarity and continue to overwhelm us with your generosity throughout this pandemic.



www.schoolofstjude.org

