THE SMART STUDENT *by Tom Charles* **Issue #7-2022**

A Motivational Newsletter for High School Students

Who is Watching?

Countless times I've walked into Principals' offices and often times I'd see a large screen of CCTV footages in the office, being monitored by The Principal. So, yesterday (Tuesday, 27/09/2022) I was in Kapkolei Girls High School, Nandi County and just like hundreds of other institutions, the Principal's Office had a wide screen with CCTV coverage of the entire school. Literally.
During our conversation after the Motivational Talk session, we looked at what was going on in classes, what the students were doing or up to and how they were spending their free time, then I wondered; "Are these students aware that someone is watching them? And, if someone told them they were being monitored, would they act differently?

Brian K. Tarpei, a wonderful human being, a leader and someone I look up to as a mentor once told me; "cameras are always rolling." To mean, someone is watching. Maybe not literally via CCTV, but there's someone who is following your progress, that someday, someone will notice what you do. With this in mind, you have to be intentional of how you spend your time and how you do things. Imagine for a moment that your parents at home are watching how you behave in class; will they be proud? Imagine for a moment that everyone will know about what you are about to do, would you still do it? Imagine for a moment that your younger siblings are watching and will copy exactly how you behave in school or outside; what kind of a role model will you be? If they were watching, is there something you wouldn't want them seeing? If yes, don't do it.

Now, back to the office, we saw someone brushing shoes in class, another enjoyed feasting on bread that drew attention of a few more, a group of three were having a good story time in a class and there were others revising in the same class. There was so much diversity in how the students spent their free afternoon and the question for you is; "If you were in any of those classes and someone was watching, what would you want them to see you doing? What kind of student would you be if you knew someone was watching?"
I believe if you knew someone was watching, you'd be more focused, disciplined and serious, you'd spend your time wisely, you'd follow your timetable and study, you'd keep off some friends, you'd stop some behaviours or habits and you'd put your best foot forward. Remember how you pretend to be serious when a teacher is coming? Just don't pretend, let that be you and don't try to fool anyone. If your parents were watching, you wouldn't do drugs, you wouldn't disrespect your teachers, you wouldn't be in that relationship, you wouldn't copy assignments, you wouldn't even carry "*mwakenya*" to exam room, you wouldn't give in to peer pressure or that addiction.
The truth is, there might not be a CCTV coverage of you doing anything, your teachers and parents may not be watching, your friends will probably not know what you did; but someday, the chicken will come to roost, then the things you did privately will come to light and the unprotected sex you had over the holiday will turn into teenage pregnancy; the secret drug addiction will turn to mental and health problems; the *mwakenya* will turn into cancelled results; the wasted time, negative attitude, poor study habits will turn into terrible grades. Someday, with or without someone watching, your actions will bring forth results. When that happens, I hope you'll be proud.
Oh, and ***Someone*** is always watching; was watching you over holiday and will be watching over the whole term, so always be at your best.
Happy New Term

Cheers!!!

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