

SCHOOLS GUIDE

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An analysis of the past 10 years shows that most top O'level schools are normally the best performers at A'level as well

What are the decade's best O'level schools?

By Conan Businge

Following the release of Primary Seven results, it must be one of the trickiest moments for parents to determine the best choice of a school for their child.

To simplify this for you, we have an analysis that ranks schools on the basis of their academic performance in the last 10 years.

Mt St Mary's Namugunga, Namugongo SS, St Mary's Kitende and St Mary's College Kisubi are the country's best performing O'level schools going by the percentage of students who have been passing in Division One over the years.

The other schools, in the same order of the best schools are, St Henry's College Kitovu, Namityango High School, Gayaza High School, Ntare School, King's College Budo, St Joseph's Girls Nsambya, Seeta High (Mukono) and the Academy of St Lawrence-Budo.

These schools have also had the highest number of students admitted to university. There is a correlation between O'level and A'level performance.

The analysis captures the average percentage score of each school's performance in Division One in the last 10 years. However, schools with the lowest score were omitted from the list.

This analysis is vital for any parent when making a choice of schools basing on the academic performance.

However, a parent also has to pay attention to the other factors such as tuition fees, religious foundation of the school, level of discipline, management and proximity, among others, when choosing a school.

The analysis shows that a good number of single sex schools, especially those for boys, are dominating the top performing schools in the country. The reason there are more boys' schools than those of girls is due to the fact that most of the traditional missionary

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schools were for boys. The missionaries paid little or no attention to establishing schools for girls at the time.

Note is also taken that a good number of the best performing schools at O'level in the last 10 years are also from the central and western parts of the country. This is partly linked to the allocation of resources and good teachers. It should also be noted that the missionaries constructed most of their schools in the central and western parts of the country.

The same best schools at O'level are also known for being the best at A'level, a pattern which parents need to take note of.

The other fundamental difference is that some schools are great at teaching sciences and others are known for being the best in arts. This requires a parent to do a critical analysis when making a choice for A'level.



Students of St. Mary's College Kisubi doing practicals in a laboratory. Most of the best schools are in the central and western parts of the country