

TRIBUTE: ISAAC DE ALMEIDA (12 MARCH 2000 – 25 MAY 2018)

The following tribute was made by Mr. Polycarp Wekesa, Isaac's Head of Residence at the memorial service for Isaac in the Assembly Hall, Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA, on the 2nd of June 2018:

It is with deep personal sorrow that I have come to accept, with a heavy heart, the untimely death of Isaac de Almeida. Isaac arrived at Waterford last December to attend the UWC short course, *Together for Development*. Along with other non-English speaking IB1 students in the region, he then attended an IB1 pre-orientation programme.

During the time that we have come to know Isaac, the one thing that stood out about him was his smile and his quiet, calm, soft-spoken disposition; an almost aloof demeanour. Many of his peers have commented on his bright smile, his amazing voice, and his love for music. If you were here for the international evening, during the IB1 orientation week, you will have heard his wonderful rendition of an *Angolan* folk song.

He never spoke much during our residential meetings unless he was specifically required to comment on a subject. It is not unusual for some spirited discussions to break out about various matters we talk about in hostel. Through it all, Isaac would follow the discussions with a smile on his face, maintaining eye contact but never saying a word, never jumping in, never saying a word. He was however engaged with hostel meeting conversations in the common room.

His teachers' reports at the end of the term were complimentary of his effective work ethic and diligence. He will be remembered for his commitment to his work. He was an intelligent and motivated student.

During his time at Waterford, Isaac made good contributions to the community, particularly the Mpolonjeni National Care Point Community service. His community service supervisor commented that Isaac has made a positive start to this community service project and seemed to enjoy working with the preschool children each week. He was consistently well prepared for the teaching elements of the sessions. The children responded well to Isaac's calm demeanour and the care he had for them.

He took keen interest in the People Awareness Programme. He was committed to the school choir through regular attendance at practice sessions.

He was loved by his fellow students as evident from the tributes of students. He interacted well with his peers across divides – whether it was during the climbing of Sibebe rock, during lessons, community service, choir practice or during athletics.

All who knew him will miss this young man with a warm personality. Our sorrow is lessened only slightly with the comforting thought that we had the privilege to know him. His social, amiable nature will be truly missed. May the Lord God our Saviour rest his soul in eternal peace.