

# King's College Budo students win trophies at global maths stage

BY JANE NAFULA

**KAMPALA.** King's College, Budo (KCB) has made a remarkable debut at the 2025 International Young Mathematicians Convention (IYMC), returning with an impressive haul of medals, trophies, and global recognition.

The biennial competition, hosted by City Montessori School (CMS) in Lucknow, India, ran from November 3 to 6 and attracted hundreds of participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia, with the majority drawn from India.

Mr James Lubega, the head of the Mathematics Department at the school, told this publication on Monday that the school fielded 17 students, all of whom demonstrated exceptional skill across both individual and team contests.

In the individual category, Jensen Otile (Junior), Jayden Atamba (Junior), Cleophas Kizito (Junior) secured Silver medals.

Those who secured bronze include Joshua Kasiima (Senior), Sira Kasirye

Nsibirwa (Junior) and Skyler Namakula (Junior)

Competing under the national banner Team Nebula (Uganda), the students also earned several team accolades, including First Runner-Up – Mathmania (Team contest), Second Runner-Up – Mathmania (Team contest) — twice, Second Runner-Up – Crack the Code (Puzzle contest), and Second Runner-Up – Junior Category (Overall)

The delegation was accompanied by five mathematics teachers, including Ms Margaret Kabuye Nabunya, Mr James Lubega, Mr John Walusimbi, Ms Grace Muwanguzi Nakiranda, and team leader Assumpta Kasamba.

Beyond the mathematics arena, Team Nebula also emerged as champions of the intercultural performance competition, earning a trophy for Best Cultural Presentation after showcasing Uganda's vibrant heritage.

Mr Lubega said the school's participation aligns with its vision "to be a hub of globally enlightened men and women"



Students of Kings College Budo arrive at Entebbe airport after participating at the young mathematicians convention last week. PHOTO/COURTESY/ KCB

and noted that Budo has built a strong tradition of excellence in mathematics.

"The school has always competed in several mathematics competitions. This year, two students, Shahi-

dah Nyakamatura and Alvin Arinda, represented Uganda at the Pan African Mathematics Olympiad in Botswana. Nyakamatura also competed in the East African Mathematics Olympiad,

where she emerged second overall," he said.

He added that mathematics remains Budo's strongest subject.

"We hardly fall beyond the 12th position nationally, according to the statistics," he said.

However, he noted that mathematics performance at the national level remains low due to factors such as community attitudes and limited resources.

"The teacher-learner ratio is still too big for teachers to effectively demystify mathematics concepts," he said.

He encouraged schools to establish vibrant mathematics clubs to enhance peer learning and improve participation in national and international competitions. Mr Lubega also applauded the school head teacher, Canon John Fred Kazibwe, for enabling students to access global platforms that enrich both their academic experience and future university prospects.

Certificates from IYMC, he said, are expected to boost students' applications for further studies abroad.