

## **Mbogo High School Students Visit CHUSS for Career Guidance**

A group of 90 students from Mbogo High School visited the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) at Makerere University on August 7, 2024. The visit aimed to introduce the students to the academic programs offered by CHUSS and explore potential career paths within the humanities and social sciences.

The event, held in the Lower Lecture Theatre of the Arts Building, was attended by prominent figures from CHUSS, including Principal Associate Professor Hellen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Acting Deputy Principal Dr. Martin Baluku, deans, heads of departments, and various academic and administrative staff members.

### **Engaging Future Scholars**

Dr. Martin Baluku, Acting Deputy Principal of CHUSS, highlighted the importance of the visit, noting that it was initiated by the Head Teacher of Mbogo High School and warmly embraced by CHUSS leadership. "This visit provides a rare opportunity to interact with prospective students and help them appreciate the value of the humanities and social sciences, particularly in a context where STEM subjects are often prioritized," Dr. Baluku stated.

The lead teacher from Mbogo High School emphasized the urgency of the visit for the Form Six students who are on the cusp of making crucial academic decisions. "These students are ready to take their UACE exams and need to hear from you. They are near the moment of choosing what is right for them," the teacher explained.

### **A Path to Excellence**

Presiding over the meeting, CHUSS Principal Associate Professor Hellen Nambalirwa Nkabala described CHUSS as a hub of excellence, producing well-rounded graduates equipped for diverse professional roles. "The excellence you see in this country comes from here. We have our own Jimmy Spire, who leads in spaces of morality," she said, referencing the renowned CHUSS alumnus and human rights defender.

Professor Nkabala underscored that CHUSS graduates are not limited to specific sectors but can work in multisectoral organizations. "You are the ones who go to the UN, WHO, become teachers, politicians, and even head teachers in secondary schools," she added.

### **Building Critical Thinkers**

Representing the Dean School of Liberal and Performing Arts, the Head of the Department of Philosophy spoke passionately about the school's mission to nurture critical thinkers. "Here, we train you to think. You can be a literature student and translate a physics book. We train the actors, dramatists, and musicians. We also train in ethics and human rights to advocate for your rights and those of others," he explained.

Literary scholar Associate Professor Susan Kiguli emphasized the importance of the humanities and social sciences in developing both hard and soft skills. "For you to survive, you need these skills. We teach you how to analyze the world and discern what is needed. We articulate eloquently what needs to be heard," she said.

### **A Successful and Enriching Visit**

The visit concluded with expressions of gratitude from both CHUSS staff and the visiting students, marking the event as a successful and enriching experience for all involved.

Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo, Head of the Department of History, Archaeology, and Heritage Studies, commended the interaction on the CHUSS WhatsApp group, calling it an inspiring experience for the students. "Engaging with speakers at your academic level is incredibly inspiring for these young minds. You've helped demystify the university as an exclusive preserve of knowledge. This visit is deeply appreciated," she remarked.

Dr. Levis Mugumya also highlighted the significance of such engagements, suggesting that CHUSS organize annual tours for prospective students and their parents. "These visits could showcase the courses we offer and provide an opportunity for students to explore other facilities at the university. We should target those who are about to apply," he proposed.

**Mbogo High School** is an **O and A level girls' school** located along Ttula Road, **Kawempe division in Kampala**. The school was started in 1995 with a Muslim foundation. The school has, over the years expanded into one of the leading secondary schools in Uganda with students excelling in both Arts and Sciences.

**By Jane Anyango,**

**Communication Officer**