

# TESO COLLEGE ALOET

## HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE TO THE UCE/UACE CANDIDATES 2026 “AS YOU CROSS THE BRIDGE, NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO HELPED YOU GROW”

### {A} Introduction

Congratulations on reaching this very important milestone after at least eleven/thirteen years of learning, growth, discipline and preparation for the UCE/UACE examinations. This is a significant stage in your academic journey and an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, values and determination you have acquired over the years.

The UCE/UACE examinations are not merely examinations; they are an important bridge to your next stage of life. The results you obtain will contribute significantly to shaping your future academic, professional and personal opportunities.

As you prepare to sit these examinations, I encourage you to remain focused, disciplined, confident and prayerful. Remember that behind your journey are parents, guardians, teachers and other well-wishers who have sacrificed and worked hard to support you. Always strive to make them proud.

The current economic situation is difficult and families are currently facing genuine economic hardships. Food and other essential commodities have become increasingly expensive. Many parents and guardians are struggling to meet several competing family responsibilities. The school is also facing serious financial pressure, particularly in providing adequate food and essential services to learners. Rising food prices and other operational costs make it increasingly difficult to sustain the school without timely contributions from parents. At this stage, candidates must demonstrate maturity, responsibility, discipline, and examination preparation.

Growing up does not mean you have outgrown those who helped you grow; and being a finalist at school does not make your teachers less important. The people who taught, corrected, encouraged and disciplined you are part of the reason you have come this far.

**The lesson:** *Never become too big to listen, too educated to learn, or too proud to honour those who helped you grow. Your height is a reason to bow your head in gratitude, not to lift your nose in pride.*

### {B} The Parable of the finalist and the forgotten teacher

There was once a young boy who studied at a famous school in Eastern Uganda. From Senior One, he was humble, respectful and obedient. He listened to his teachers, accepted correction and often said, “*I am who I am because others have helped me grow.*”

As he approached his UCE/uace examinations, however, he became increasingly confident in himself. He began to think that because he was now a finalist, he had become wiser than those who taught him. He stopped greeting his teachers, ignored their advice and treated their instructions as though they no longer mattered.

**The lesson:** *Never become too big to listen, too educated to learn, or too proud to honour those who helped you grow. Your height is a reason to bow your head in gratitude, not to lift your nose in pride.*

### **{C} The parable of the Father, the Son and the Boat**

A father and his son once lived near a wide river. The father wanted his son to cross the river and reach a better life on the other side. So, for many years, the father worked hard, sacrificed his earnings and taught his son how to build and use a boat.

The son listened, learned and crossed the river safely many times under his father's guidance. One day, when the son had become strong and confident, he said to his father: *“Father, I am now old enough. I know how to cross the river. I no longer need your advice.”*

The father smiled and replied: *“My son, I am happy that you have learned to sail. But never despise the person who taught you how to cross the river.”*

The son ignored him. On his next journey, he sailed confidently but encountered strong winds and rough waters. Remembering his father's lessons, he adjusted the sail, steadied the boat and eventually reached the other side safely. He returned home and said: *“Father, I now understand. Knowing how to sail does not make the person who taught me less important.”*

**The lesson:** *Your parents are like the father who built the boat, sacrificed for you and taught you how to navigate life's challenges. Your teachers are also among those who have taught you how to “sail.” As you approach your final examinations, do not mistake growing older or becoming a finalist for knowing everything. “The fact that you can now sail does not mean you should despise the person who taught you how to sail.”*

*Therefore, remain humble, listen to your teachers, honour your parents and remember those who invested in your journey. Your best effort today can open the door to a brighter tomorrow.*

May God bless your journey in Education and future career!!!

**Julius Opasso**  
**Headteacher**