

CAMPERDOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Recipient of Florida Chapter's Scholarship
Damian Passley



I was born on the 30th September 1989 at Victoria Jubilee Hospital, the son of both Elizabeth and Everald Passley. I have faced many challenges growing up as a child; some people say they would not want to be in my shoes. I nearly lost my father to gunmen when he was at work.

As far as I can remember, as a toddler the conditions that I lived in were not fit for a child 2-3years old. The house that I was living in was a one room house with bad roofing; anytime it rained everything would get wet and to make it even worse I was diagnosed with asthma.

At age 4 I attended Miracle Valley Basic School where I was seen as the favourite of all teachers, especially Ms. Blake. I then moved on to Gaynstead Prep which is now called Gaynstead High. I spent one year there because at that time I was living with my aunt.

At Gaynstead Prep I was not a popular child, but I could say I participated. After leaving Gaynstead Prep I went to Mico Practicing Primary and Junior High School.

At Mico I was playful at all times, that is what my favourite teacher would say, but that did not stop me from working hard. Twice in a row for the years 2001 and 2002, I received the "Terrific Kid", award, which was hosted each year by the Kiwanis Club of Kingston. Finally I made it to Grade Six and the time for GSAT came near. I studied hard because everyone was counting on me to pass; my teacher, family and friends expected me to pass for "one of the name brand schools" but, maybe I was destined to attend Camperdown High School.

In my first year at Camperdown High my aunt died. That slowed me down a little but I quickly picked up speed, but maybe it was time for her to go home. At Camperdown I was just an ordinary student, until I reached the 11th grade, where I was appointed the position of Coach for the 9th grade Science Quiz Team to enter in a school science quiz competition held at Mico each year.

It was a month of intense training with some headaches, but it was worth it. One by one we knocked out teams from the competition and in the end two teams were left standing, Camperdown High and Titchfield High. Due to the level of studying my team had done, they were not nervous and in the end we kept our composure and won. We all got trophies and were overjoyed.

The season ended and it was time for me to prepare for the coming CSEC examinations. I sat my exams and when the results came out I had obtained six subjects, including Mathematics and English. I am now a student in Grade 13. This is where the hard work begun. I was appointed Prefect in Grade 12 but the job was hard. I have now completed CAPE I where I obtained four out of the five subjects. I am now to embark on the second stage.

In the future, through God's will, I would like to become a Medical Doctor. Why? After watching the news and hearing what has happened to persons, I want to help them; cure them of their biological pain and suffering and I want to be their friend as well as parent (treating them as my children).

Solum Optima Petenda Sunt - "Only The Best Is Good Enough"