



www.operation-imprezza.org  
Newsletter 66  
February 2021

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our February Newsletter which again we hope you find informative.

### **Life at school**

As we all know these are certainly very strange times, in some ways nothing much happens and yet for some covid is life changing, whether from the loss of a loved one or having to cope with long term effects some people suffer from.

For our students, like so many students all over the world it has been a year of turmoil, school suspensions, then back, all too briefly . For our exam students comes the worry of what happens with the exams, has there been enough tuition, will they even take place? If not, what might that mean?

Kenya has in fact taken the decision that the exams postponed in November last year will now go ahead in March 2021. Whilst we have had no problems at Imprezza with our students working really hard to catch up and revise, nationally there have been demonstrations, by students. Some schools have even been set on fire in protest at the

lack of time to prepare for exams. With confirmation the exams will go ahead Catherine has travelled to Nairobi to collect materials such as chemicals required for the science exams. Whilst there she will also purchase food supplies and sanitation requirements as they are so much cheaper there.

The lack of our own vehicle\* ( our school car has now completely packed up!!) is highlighted during these times as Catherine either has to hire a car or use a taxi as chemicals cannot be transported on public transport.

**\*IF ANYONE CAN HELP WITH THIS PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH.**

We still have 37 students sleeping in the community due to lack of sleeping space due to social distancing rules within our dormitories. This will be resolved once the the 2 classrooms are completed. Work has been very slow due to covid restrictions. All the materials are on on site but now the permissions to restart have been granted and certificates issued hopefully the work will be completed soon and those students can rejoin everyone at the school.

### **MOVING TOWARDS SELF SUSTAINABILITY**

For a while now we have been in discussion with Catherine about developing income generating activities to help the school progress towards its goal of self-sustaining. It has been agreed to focus on IT, Agriculture and Dressmaking/Textiles. We are now in receipt of initial costings but because



our fundraising has been severely curtailed much of this will have to be put on hold or introduced very gradually.

### CORPORATE FUNDING/APPLICATIONS TO GRANT MAKING BODIES

We are exploring partnerships to see if we can explore corporate funding and this is a time consuming task trawling through potential grant making bodies but like everyone else we get turned down more times than we are successful. Not because we are not a worthy charity, far from it, but there is currently a massive need within the charity sector and funds are limited. There seems to be a huge draw on covid related and other UK based activities rather than those serving the international sector.

If you or if you know of anyone who can help please get in touch. As we start to increase our fundraising activities through the year please support where and when you can. See what is coming up below.

### PEN FRIENDS

A former Head Girl at Torquay Girls Grammar School and now one of our trustees is in talks with the current Deputy Head Girl and Catherine about the possibility of establishing pen pals with students between TGGS and Imprezza Academy. More on this when we know.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. Our **second YouTube video talk** is scheduled for **Tues 9<sup>th</sup> March** starting at 7.30 p.m. Join us if you can and find out more about the things we do. Look out for more information on how to join this soon.
2. Our next **online quiz** dates are **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** (around St Patrick's Day) followed by another on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** (close to St George's Day). Our last quiz earlier this month raised over £400 which provided us with some much needed revenue.
3. We will be holding an **Arts & Crafts online auction** via Facebook - This will launch on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March** and conclude on the **11<sup>th</sup> March** when final bids will need to be in. Up to then all items for auction will be displayed on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OperationImprezza> with details of each item including a starting bid. Please take a look and if anything catches your eye please bid for it. Other details about payment and collection of items will be circulated later. Amongst some of the items we have 3 artists who have produced originals just for us.
4. We are currently investigating an online Murder Mystery. More later.
5. Lastly we are in discussions with different people about a **virtual Super Marathon** - Torquay to Busia in Western Kenya (around 6,297 miles) Any number of people, of all ages can be involved by walking, running, rowing, cycling, hopping, crawling, etc, etc, whatever distance they feel they could cover until we add up everyone's contribution to reach the target. Naturally everyone taking part would obtain sponsors. If we raised just £1 per mile imagine the amount we could raise for Imprezza. We would be able to kick start all three of the self funding schemes mentioned above.

Any and all support is greatly appreciated, particularly in these hard times.

THANK YOU!

Operation Imprezza is a UK charity which supports Imprezza Academy, a secondary school in Western Region, Kenya that provides education for children in poverty.

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