

Dear Supporter,

ONLINE PUB QUIZ

Our next Zoom Pub Quiz which was set for the end of September is now set for **8th October**. Please put this date in your diaries now.

There is no charge to take part but donations are most welcome. You can do this by clicking on the link below should you take part. If there are more teams than there are available slots we will put you on a reserve list and you will get priority on our next online quiz.

With next to no fundraising events scheduled because of Covid19 please support this fundraiser if you can.

For more details please visit our website or see our facebook page.

<http://www.operation-imprezza.org/events.html>

A CAR DESPERATELY NEEDED AT IMPREZZA

After many, many years of good service our school vehicle has finally given up on us and without a replacement soon leaves the school without a vehicle which is a necessity; certainly not a luxury. It is used daily to collect supplies, transport sick students to hospital and whilst the pandemic is about to take teachers to see students out in the community whilst numbers back at school have been restricted. Produce grown on the school site is also transported to market, medicines are fetched as well as many other important uses. If you or someone you know can help us with this please contact us urgently.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Officially nothing has changed and schools start back in January 2021.

However, there is a lot of talk, if the covid infection curve flattens, that the top year of primary and top year of secondary who would normally be doing their exams in October/November 2020 could come back into school in October. They would then take their exams in March/April 2021. Universities and Colleges will decide for themselves when to bring students back, or continue remote learning. The education department would like this to happen but the decision we understand will lie with the Minister of Health. The plans and proposals to get back to normal have implications for both schools and students up to January 2022.

At Imprezza things have significantly changed. Safeguarding issues of students, especially girls with many teenage pregnancies often as a result of being attacked, not having structure and not in school has led some rural communities taking local initiatives, liaising with the local chiefs and other schools. Imprezza is actively involved with this in our area.

How is it working at Imprezza?

All our students are back at Imprezza, however covid requirements and regulations mean that dormitories cannot be used at anything approaching normal licensed numbers. We are using other rooms to scatter people about in for sleeping purposes. This means we sleep half our students Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in school, they then move back to live in the community while the other half of our students sleep in school the other 4 nights. All the students come into school for lessons. This means we are seeing everyone every day. To keep the distancing in classrooms students are taught in shifts, one shift from

early morning until lunchtime, second shift comes in as first shift leaves for afternoon lessons. We are also teaching Saturday and Sunday to get a "full weeks teaching" into the week. We have to have 2 matrons on site all the time, one for lads, one for girls. Catherine is of course on site all the time. Our teachers are also working shifts, half do a full week, living in school and leave school and have a week off while the other team come in. During their week off they are expected to mark work and prepare for following weeks lessons. Catherine tells me that it is very 'full on' for the teachers while they are in school, hence the reason we have done it this way. Our teachers have been paid throughout and we are continuing to support guardians who are looking after our students with either food or payments for food. Having them back in school will ease our cost burden a bit but we need to have them all on site all the time to see a real difference.

Every classroom has a thermometer gun so no touching required. All students and staff are checked on a regular basis. In addition, a thermometer gun is kept in the security hut and all visitors are checked and if a temperature, cough, etc are present then entry is refused. Having the electricity at the flick of a switch has been game changing for everyone, especially now with students often working up to 10.pm. The other massive plus is our water borehole. No school will be allowed to reopen unless they have adequate clean water for washing and general hygiene. This is not a concern for us thank goodness. The classroom floors have been tiled during the school closure to meet new requirements of the school inspectors. The school was inspected and they are delighted with the work we have done.

Thank you to everyone for continuing your support for Imprezza which has allowed us to look after our students, visit them and give school work out while the school was closed. We know how lucky we are to have this ongoing support. Many schools have closed in Kenya as they have simply run out of money and teachers have lost their jobs. Thank you from Catherine, all the staff and students and the team here in UK.

NOW SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND UNEXPECTED

Following drought, heavy flooding and high winds the students and staff at Imprezza had to deal with hail stones! It reminded me the time a few years ago when three teachers came to the UK on an exchange visit. During a visit to Dartmoor they experienced hail stones for the first time and wondered what on earth was happening and they were already cold just from the normal weather conditions. In fact, they even declined to remove their coats when they returned to my home!





“My View/Impressions of Imprezza” By Bhumika Sinha, Head Girl at Torquay Girls Grammar School

My first encounter with Imprezza Academy was in year 7, when we were introduced to the tradition of participating in the annual Sponsored Walk. Having read about the walk in our Headteacher’s book about year 7, I was slightly nervous, as I had never walked such a long distance in one time but I simultaneously felt inspired to complete the walk, not just for my own achievement but to contribute to the incredible cause that was helping Imprezza Academy.

I vividly recollect attending a Key Stage 3 (year 7- year 9)

assembly, where we had the chance to listen to Catherine, the

founder and director of Imprezza Academy. From the confidence with which she held herself and the incredibly moving situation that she illustrated, the whole hall was intrigued by her words. The fact that she had the courage and the faith to build a school from the foundations for the selfless aim of allowing children to attend a safe learning environment opened our eyes to the struggles that an enumerate amount of children have to face when accessing education. Hence, Catherine’s kind actions enabled us all to experience a sense of gratitude for the safe school environment that we were guaranteed.

It was also lovely to view a video clip from the students at Imprezza and witness how happy they were to be granted an opportunity to attend this fantastic school. Nevertheless, we inferred from the presentation that maintaining the school was not a simple task, as there were so many things to consider, including accommodating boarders in a safe and hygienic environment. Thus, taking inspiration from Catherine and Operation Imprezza’s humble and consistent determination, we worked to complete the Sponsored Walk and raise the sponsorship money each year from year 7 to 10. The Academy, the Charity and Catherine have worked so hard for their achievements, including accommodating as many students as they can and creating the great water borehole pump and it is incredible to witness how they have cared for and inspired so many students.

However, I gained a greater outlook on the logistics of the Sponsored Walk and the ethos of the Academy after becoming the Head Girl in 2019 and gaining the responsibility of closely cooperating with Catherine, Mr Cross and the Operation Imprezza team and this is an experience that I will always be grateful for. Never before had I considered that I would have the chance to lead the school, along with the fantastic Head Girl Team, in their honorable mission to aid their friend, Imprezza Academy. The first instance of interacting with the Academy was when Catherine visited the school to discuss the goals of the Academy with us and I felt extremely privileged to be able to speak with her. Myself, some members of the Head Girl Team and the KS3 and 4 leadership team were captivated by how Catherine had persevered through so many challenges to help the students yet always maintained her warm smile and positive attitude through focusing on their outstanding achievements and how they could tackle the challenges.

Furthermore, the meetings with Catherine and Mr Cross gave rise to three key goals that we were determined to help them reach. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 lockdown provided a difficult challenge for people across the globe and both TGGs and Imprezza Academy had to be partly closed. Despite the challenges faced by Imprezza Academy, including the fact that students may live far from the school, I found it remarkable how Imprezza overcame them with innovative solutions, such as teachers travelling to students and maintaining hygiene with a hand washing station operated by foot pedals! We all felt inspired to make the Sponsored Walk a success during the lockdown so with a lot of hard work, support from Imprezza and organization, we created a rainbow-themed remote walk, where we raised money for Imprezza and a few other elected causes. It was an absolutely

fulfilling and fun experience and we were so grateful to have the chance to help. In difficult times many important things come to light and one of those was how special our relationship with Imprezza Academy is and how inspiring Catherine, the Charity and the Academy are.

.....AND LASTLY BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY

I am sure we would like to wish Catherine a speedy recovery following a period of poor health. She visited the hospital earlier this week, had a check up and was sent home with lots of medication. Given the workload, worries and concerns she has to deal with on a daily basis it comes as no surprise that she puts these concerns above her own welfare. But we know how important it is to look after oneself! Get well soon Catherine, all our love.

THANK YOU!

If you would like to receive this newsletter as a printable PDF, please reply to this email. Alternatively, our email archive (including this edition) is available to download at <http://www.operation-imprezza.org/newsletter-archive.html>

Our Mission is to enable students, both boys and girls, who would not otherwise have any access to secondary education to succeed.

----- How You Can Help -----

Did you know you can help raise money for Imprezza when you shop online? Or when you want to get rid of your car? To read more about these easy ways to support Imprezza see below or please visit <http://www.operation-imprezza.org/donate.html> and scroll down to 'Other ways to donate'

Amazon Smile

GOOD NEWS AmazonSmile customers can now support Operation Imprezza in the Amazon shopping app on iPhones and Android phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process
If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app

- Online: We have several ways to donate online, including Virgin Giving (<https://virginmoneygiving.com>) and PayPal. Visit our website at www.operation-imprezza.org and click on the 'donate' button for more information.

- Cash Donation: Make a cash donation to one of the Trustees or Operation Imprezza collection boxes around South Devon. Please do not send any cash in the post. If you know an establishment that would be willing to have a collection box on display, please get in touch.

- Standing Order: To set up a standing order please contact info@operation-imprezza.org

- Cheque: Send a cheque payable to Operation Imprezza to 14 Elm Grove, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8SA

- Legacy: If you would like to leave a gift in your will, please visit our website and click on 'donate' to read more about your options, or get in touch via email or post.

We are also open to any fundraising idea or event, please visit our website at www.operation-imprezza.org and click on the 'donate' button for more information, or contact info@operation-imprezza.org.