

A brief update from one of our students Joshua Wandera

Operation Imprezza

Self-sustaining, equal-access education in rural Western Kenya

Company No: 8090833

Registered Charity No: 01200449

I send my greetings to you as I would like to let you know how we have been progressing. The term started on 8th May and each student reported back to school in good health and spirit. Our learning resumed as normal with no problems.

In terms of learning, our teachers, led by Madam Rose, worked their hardest to ensure that we get the best out of the few resources we have. At the end I realised that the syllabus had been moving at a high speed and was well understood by every student.

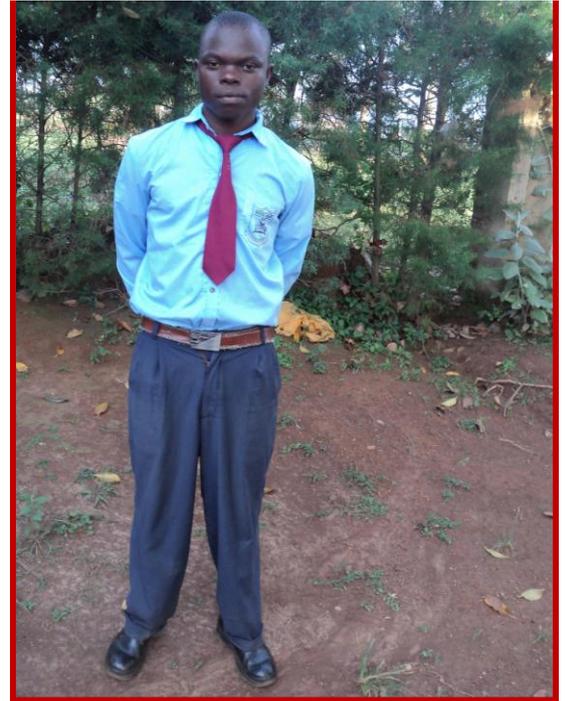
The teachers have also been offering extra tuition to ensure we understand to the fullest. They also offered the best moral teaching in terms of guidance and counselling which enabled the students to enjoy the environment without problems. At the end of each month we had SATs to test our understanding.

Imprezza UK have also been a great help as they have been ensuring the smooth running of the school. They have helped most of the students get basic necessities such as school shoes, uniform and also financing school programmes.

During the term there has been an improvement as the compound has been fenced together with the agricultural farm. In addition the water problem has been curbed as we have a water tank in the compound. We have also had some challenges to overcome, such as a science laboratory to carry out our practicals.

We also lacked enough revision books, although these are minor problems compared to the progress.

To help with these problems the school management tried its level best and brought some chemicals to carry out practicals in class, and made the most out of the revision books for maximum benefit.



Wandera Joshua

In conclusion the environment has been so fantastic that anyone would want to stay and learn. I would also like to express my gratitude for your great support for the continuity of our school.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Joshua Wandera

(Note that since this letter was written the labs have been completed)

Nelson Mandela

Some of you may have heard or met one of our ex-students, Nelson Mandela. Unfortunately Nelson has contracted cerebral malaria. He was admitted to the local hospital where he was sleeping on the floor, fortunately Catherine managed to find him a mattress. He was being nursed by our own students as the hospital was operating on 1 nurse to 50 patients.

Catherine managed to transfer him to a different hospital in Kisumu where he was able to receive proper treatment.

He was home, but was readmitted to hospital, where recovery is slow. We are waiting to see how he progresses.

Ethical Christmas Gifts

Looking for the perfect gift for someone who has everything?

Not sure how to fill up that stocking?

Why not try an ethical gift.....find out more details in the newsletter...

Operation Imprezza

Self-sustaining, equal-access education in rural
Western Kenya

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

Message from Chris Hulme (Chairman)

As this is the last newsletter of the year can I thank you all for your ongoing interest and support of Imprezza and may the Imprezza team wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It seems appropriate at this time to have a quick look back over 2012 and also into the future. None of what we are writing about would happen without generous people such as yourselves.

2012 has been another successful year for the school. It has now closed for their summer holiday, (I am writing this looking at the frost on the grass, they are in 30 degrees C +) and reopens in January. The 3 secondary school years have all performed well and our first step into primary education on our own site has gone well but been extremely challenging at times.

We have to start with a nursery class, and like all of our other students they get a free meal at lunchtime. The class is for about 40 pupils. Word got around the neighbourhood that there was a free meal for nursery age children and at times our 40 pupils grew to 156! People were just dropping the children off near the school and going away. We might think that just dropping off young children not appropriate when looked at through UK eyes, but if your family have not eaten for two days (a common occurrence in the area we are located) and your child had the chance of a nutritious meal what would you do? It is under control again thanks to the hard work of the staff.

Looking to 2013 in January we reopen with a 4 form secondary school, that is the first time since we were in Nairobi that we have been able to offer the full secondary curriculum, we are really delighted. Our Form 4, which is equivalent to year 13 in England, will have 35 students taking their national exams in October. Our primary section will grow by a year, so as well so nursery, there will be class 1.

The school is now growing some of its own food, the first steps towards the aim of being self sufficient and later in 2013 this will become a more professional operation as the adult education scheme based on conservation agriculture gets under way. This comes with its own funding so is not a drain on Imprezza resources. They will use some of our land and in return the school

will have the produce grown. We will teach the theory using Imprezza teachers and the adult education team, headed by a Kenyan graduate in agriculture who will also teach our students the practical side of agriculture. Agriculture is a compulsory subject in Kenya so this is a "win-win" situation. We are also involved with Eden Project's *Gardens for Life* scheme which complements all of the above, but more on the Eden project involvement hopefully during 2013.

Imprezza school, together with two other schools in the area are taking part in the Connecting Classrooms scheme (which was mentioned in our previous newsletter) The Devon schools are Stokeinteignhead Primary, Manor Primary in Ivybridge and Torquay Girls' Grammar School. The Kenyan team will be over in February and the Devon team visit Kenya in May. The projects they are looking to carry out over a period of time are really exciting and will benefit not only the schools and pupils of both Devon and Kenya but the communities in Western province of Kenya.

We will be featuring an article from the team in a 2013 newsletter. In addition two teams from Torquay Girls' Grammar School are visiting Imprezza during summer 2013. Their trip will be organised by World Challenge, and there will also be a trip organised by South Dartmoor College, who will be visiting Kenya in October 2013. I am also due to visit in June 2013, along with a Nurse and a Dentist from UK. All of the visitors going out at their own expense as do the Trustees.

Like all charities we are facing a huge challenge to maintain our current level of funding, let alone being able to increase it so as to be able to have the flexibility to help with emergencies. Our building programme progresses well, they are currently building a dormitory and a second one planned for which we already have a donation. We will be also applying for a grant to build another classroom block later in the year. In addition we have recently had confirmed a grant from Switzerland which starts in 2014 and runs for 4 years. This is to build a permanent kitchen, ideally equipped with cookers run on biogas and a dining/assembly hall. It is the day to day running costs that we are struggling with. This is not an appeal for everyone to dig deeper, we know everyone is finding it tough and we are grateful for your support, but do you know an individual or business that might be interested in either supporting Imprezza long term or making a one off donation? Do you know anyone who could do a fund raising event? It is amazing what people have been sponsored for to raise funds. Perhaps if you don't fancy sky diving you might want to run a coffee morning or do something no one else has ever thought of. We will be launching a legacy leaflet in the first part of 2013 and we are currently re-vamping both our leaflet and website to help us in this funding drive.

With our warmest wishes to you all, from home and Kenya.

Chris Hulme

Chairman

Check out the website for news and fundraising events

www.operation-imprezza.org

Ethical Christmas Gifts

Looking for the perfect gift for someone who has everything? Not sure how to fill up that stocking? Why not try an ethical gift, which will benefit Imprezza Academy in Kenya. There's something for all price ranges and ages, to help give everyone a very merry Christmas – not least the students at Imprezza!

What you get: We will email you a downloadable, printable gift certificate, explaining more about the gift you have bought.

What they get: All money raised goes straight to the Academy. They will buy the gift from local markets, not only benefitting students but also helping to boost the local economy.

How to purchase;

Please speak to one of the trustees directly, or email info@operation-imprezza.org, stating which gift(s) you would like to buy, and at what quantity.

Merry Christmas



A nice comfy mattress to get a good night's sleep before school the next day. £11



A mosquito net to keep the beasties at bay, and protect children from malaria. £3



A textbook for school, to learn maths, science, Swahili, agriculture... £5



A desk for students, so they don't have to sit on the floor. £33

Junior sized desks for the little ones. £15



Imagine studying hard for your exams, but not being able to afford to take them! One student's final exam fees (equivalent to A levels). £60

