

Dentistry Comes to Imprezza!

During September a team of volunteers, including two trustees, (Chris Hulme and Lesley Smith) dentist Alison Revell, Jaqui Orme and Kirti Sime, spent a busy 3 weeks at the school and in the community.



Check up time...

Chris Hulme and I have known each other in a dentist-patient sort of way for about 8 years. Sitting in my dental chair one day, Chris said to me "We could do with a dentist at Imprezza." I decided to take up the challenge and see if my skills could be of any use, I really didn't know what to expect. I raised money with my patients at my surgery in Newton Abbot, bought instruments from a charity called Dentaaid, and was donated consumables from my Practice. Gloves were donated by my colleague Mr Nick Tomes.

On our first day in Kenya we visited the AgaKhan Hospital in Kisumu. The hospital is quite smart and made me think of a small version of our own Torbay Hospital. The dentist there told us that Kenya has a massive shortage of dentists, only 400 for a population of 40million. Many people never see a dentist even if they want to. I also met the dentist at Busia Hospital, the nearest main medical facility for Matayos. This hospital suffers more from overcrowding and underfunding. The dentists are meant to run Outreach clinics in surrounding neighbourhoods but due to lack of equipment it doesn't happen.

Once we arrived at the bungalow and spent a first day at school I was able to assess need and demand. I checked all the students and most of the staff, including the kitchen staff and some locals. I completed 114 check ups in a day, that must be a record!

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.

I was pleased (and relieved) to find that most had very good teeth. There is a lot of fluoride naturally occurring in the water of the Rift Valley and this, along with a diet that is mainly savoury with little or no refined sugars means that the local experience of decay is low.

Other things I noticed about the students teeth were that they were all very straight (no work for the orthodontist here) and almost everyone had wisdom teeth. At home lots of teenagers have trouble with impacted wisdom teeth because our mouths are smaller. Nurse Hulme was very helpful supporting patients as we tilted them back on a dining chair in order for me to get a good look at their teeth. He reassured the more nervous students and kept an eye on Nelson who was doing an excellent job as Dental Receptionist, taking each persons name and writing down the details that I dictated.

I went into each classroom and gave a lesson on Oral Health and toothbrushing. The students demonstrated for me how they clean their teeth using sticks that they chew, or sugarcane. It seems strange to chew sugarcane to clean your teeth but it is very fibrous and the raw cane is not that sweet. If there is no toothpaste they use salt or ash. Tesco supermarket in Kingsteignton had donated 200 toothbrushes and Chris and I were very popular when we gave these out along with small tubes of toothpaste.

The following day we set up a surgery in the Bursars Office. Lesley Smith became decontamination Nurse for the day and busily scrubbed instruments and sterilised them in a pressure cooker that I bought specially. We had compiled a list of those requiring treatment and slowly dealt with each one. Jacqui and Kirti acted as Recovery attendants, looking after the patients after their teeth had been taken out.

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Nurse Hulme testing the equipment along with a 'willing' volunteer!

Operation Imprezza
HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

Student Stories

Stephen Omoudi

I have collated a collection of students stories from the school which will feature in newsletters. They are typed as they are written.

My name is Stephen Omoudi a student at Imprezza Academy, Busia. I was born in the year 1995 in Matayos division, Busia County in Kenya. I am the last born in the family of five children. One of my sisters and two brothers passed away due to outbreak of diseases and by now we are two children in our family.

I started my primary education in the year 2001 at Masewa Primary School. I led a poverty life, walking barefoot for long distances to and from school.

In the year 2006 my dad passed away after a long illness of lung cancer. Life became hard because my mum had to meet all of our basic necessities, that is she had to provide school fees for us, clothing and ensure that we had good health. This was like great suffering to my mum as she had no job opportunity.

The following year (2007) my mum passed away while in pregnancy labour. due to this the baby could not survive. this led my brother and I into great sufferings. We had nowhere to go but just live with our grandmum who made sure that we went to school, get good food and shelter.

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Stephen Omundi

Operation Imprezza

Self sustaining, equal-access education in Kenya

www.operation-imprezza.org

Registered Charity Number: 1148240

How You Can Help

- **Donate online** at www.operation-imprezza.org
- **Make a cash donation** to one of the Trustees or Operation Imprezza collection boxes around South Devon, (if you know an establishment that would be willing to have a box on display, please get in touch)
- **Set up a standing order** – contact our treasurer Lesley Smith lesley@operation-imprezza.org for details
- **Send a cheque** payable to Operation Imprezza to 14 Elm Grove, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8SA.

Thank You

dentistry continued.....

Later in my visit, two of the dentists from Busia Hospital came to work with me for a morning. Local people queued up outside. I was fascinated to watch the dentists work in circumstances they were clearly familiar with and obviously they could communicate in Swahili which made treating many of the older people easier.

Before I left, all the instruments and equipment that remained, I donated to Matayos Health Centre. Now that we have made a contact I hope the dentists will continue to deliver the Outreach clinic and the people of Matayos can access dental treatment when they need it.

I would like to Thank absolutely everyone who supported me in this visit. I DO hope I am able to go again and continue to encourage a better dental future for the students and local people.

by Alison Revell

I would like to add as one who saw the work Alison did, how amazing she was, working under quite extreme circumstances at times and remaining calm and composed through it all. A fantastic job with amazing results.

Lesley Smith



Some delighted students with new toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Student stories continued...

In the year 2010 I did my Kenyan Certificate for Primary Education (KCPE) to mark the end of my primary education. I passed examination by getting 332 marks. The following year 2011 after the release of results I had to join high school, but I had more challenges since I had nowhere to get school fees which resulted in staying home for the whole of first term without going to school. I kept praying God to open ways for me to join High School

By good luck I heard about Imprezza in Matayos and inquired for a chance to join.

I joined Imprezza Academy Busia in March 2011 due to support from Madam Catherine Omanyo. I was able to stay there and continue with my education. I never want to lose such a chance that I got in Imprezza. Really the support from Madam have made me forget about the death of my beloved parents and have Madam Catherine as my mum.

Getting such a chance was very difficult from any other person in our Country. I thank God for giving me support through Madam Catherine.

by Stephen Omundi

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Hopefully you all would have received an invitation to help us celebrate our 10th year. It is amazing to think what has happened during that time and how far the school has come.

We do hope you can join us on the evening of Thursday 24th October 2013 at Torquay Girls Grammar School, 7pm – 9pm. If you would like further details, please get in touch.

Blog Spot!

During my recent trip to Imprezza I managed to update a 'blog'. If you would like to take a look and read about some of my experiences, the link is.

<http://milliegoestokenya2013.blogspot.co.uk/>

Medical Issues

It became very 'real' to me on my recent visit to Kenya how Catherine at times has to make some very difficult decisions. I mentioned in my 'blog' how needs are all assessed and dealt with on a priority basis.

At times however certain needs can come to light that basically 'throw a spanner in the works.' We are in the process of investigating whether we are able to cover the students with a medical insurance policy which will help drastically with the costs, but at the moment when medical emergencies arise, we try and appeal here or things are cut at the bungalow and school to help.

I will list these concerns and if you feel you may be able to help with funding for any of these then please get in touch.

- A serious benign tumour in the ear which needs to be operated on soon, if not the condition will only become worse with possible loss of hearing.
- We have two cases of epilepsy which need specialist investigation and maybe ongoing medication.
- We have an asthmatic, who was taken to the AgaKhan a few weeks ago and prescribed inhalers. This prescription is ongoing, although we are hopeful that she will 'grow' out of the condition.
- We had a lad who we thought may have TB as he has had a bad cough for some time, but after he was taken to the specialist he has been diagnosed HIV positive, which was a shock for everyone. He will need care to keep himself well.
- We have a girl who married and is now pregnant. Her husband has driven her away as she wishes to complete her education. She is completely alone with the baby due in November (just after the exams) We have taken her for her first ante-natal and all seems well, but she will need care before and after the baby comes. We will be supporting her in any way possible to ensure that mother and baby are kept safe and well.
- A girl with suspected 'sickle cell' syndrome (she was told by a family member that she would be dead by the time she was 18) We have taken her to see a specialist and they are still investigating but think she may have haemophilia.

If you feel you could help maybe with a coffee morning or other fundraising activity to raise funds specifically for these urgent medical concerns please do get in touch with one of us.