

Student Stories Mike Omwenga

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 Mike Omwenga. Born in the year 1998. I was born to Mr and Mrs Kepha Osumo at Kakamega County. We are only two in our family. My brother Kevin, I had a sister, the youngest in our family but she passed away due to an unsuccessful caesarean birth.

I was brought up in a humble Christian family which upheld the Christian doctrines and principles. I was not born to a very unfortunate family, but my parents had to struggle to make ends meet. I went or started my education at the age of five. It was like a new chapter in my life because I knew that education was the only key to success as President Nelson Mandela said.

Luckily by the time I started my education the free primary education programme had already been initiated by the former President, Mwai Kibaki. My classes one to four, I didn't experience many problems and the tough road to my success started. I would on many occasions be sent home for exams and tuition money.

The other pupils could sit for the examination while I stayed home. Lady luck was on my side, one of the female teachers in our school volunteered to pay my tuition and exam money. Thereafter the path to my primary education had been streamlined. At class Five, my father and mother separated due to family problems.

I had to stay with my mother. This affected me emotionally because I loved both my parents. After finishing my Class Seven, my mother, brother and I relocated to Busia County, the birth place of my mother. The problems became tougher.

I had to join another primary school in the village. On my arrival at the new school I was received well. They had a lot of expectations that I was going to perform well. The year 2012 was one with many problems and uncertainties, but due to my desire of achieving, I persevered and never lost hope.

In that same year I sat for my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. The results came out and I emerged the top in our school. I had 373 marks. This was the best performance the school had ever

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.

Had so far in a decade.

The next year problems started again. The joining period of secondary school had begun. I had to stay for one term at home. The second term my grandpa had to sell one of his goats to send me to school. It was a glimmer of hope in my life. I was lagging behind in my notes and the class had already covered many topics at Imprezza. I worked hard and even managed to be the best in all the continuous assessments. I want to change the life of my people, the culture of my people and also help the less privileged in the society. One day if I achieve my dream of becoming a general surgery doctor, I can do these things.

I like reading novels during my leisure time and I dislike it when young, brilliant minds lose hope of achieving their goals. If I succeed in my (K.C.S.E) I would like to go to my dream universities of Pennsylvania and Nairobi from where I can achieve my goal.

A recent update on Mike, his mum has remarried and the stepdad does not want to know Mike. He is achieving A's in all subjects.



GIVEACAR Getting Rid of Your Car?

We have now joined up with Giveacar, a non-profit social enterprise which collects unwanted and unused cars for charity. Regardless of their condition, cars are collected free-of-charge nationwide by Giveacar then sold through an online auction or disposed of at an authorised treatment facility. Profits from the sale are then donated to a charity of the car owner's choice. Even if the vehicle is scrapped, it still nets the selected good cause between £40 and £250. This enables car owners to get rid of their old Vehicle in a legal and environmentally friendly way!

To get more details or to donate a car, visit www.giveacar.co.uk or call the Giveacar Team on 020 7736 4242, quoting Operation Imprezza as your chosen charity.

Or - Alison Revell, alison@operation-imprezza.org



News From Imprezza

As mentioned in the last newsletter the school had to comply with some urgent fencing and gates to enable them to remain open. Work has almost finished with a secure brick wall and gate.



The wall and metal gates.

In December crops were harvested and the land has been left ready for planting in January. Amos and Edwin are doing an amazing job in developing the agriculture and rabbit husbandry.



Top - Edwin working with the rabbits.
Left and below - Recent corn harvest



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.
- **You will soon be able to donate via Virgin Money Giving – Watch this space!**

Fundraising Event

Torquay United & Operation Imprezza
in association with
Whistlestop Theatre Company
presents
“AN EVENING AT FAULTY TOWERS”



Enjoy this unique and interactive comedy dining experience. Everything that can go wrong will go wrong, in beautifully controlled chaos, while you enjoy your excellent dinner. Tickets £25 per person.

7.30pm
Sat 14th March 2015
book call: 01803 328666
Or call Sharon Cox on 07837708406

Tickets can also be collected from the Whistlestop Cafe at Teignmouth Station
www.torquayunited.com
www.operation-imprezza.com

Connecting Classrooms visit

Catherine, and the Connecting Classrooms project, are visiting their partner schools in the UK from 21st Feb – 1st March.

We are thrilled that Catherine will be able to extend her stay until 22nd March and meet supporters linked to Imprezza.

She has a few speaking engagements booked. If you feel you would like the opportunity to attend then please get in touch.