

Dear supporters,

This is perhaps one of the most important newsletters we have had to write. You will know all about the current Covid 19 pandemic and the effects it is having right across the world. During these times we are sure that your minds will also turn to those less fortunate than us and that includes the students and staff at Imprezza Academy.

Not only is the corona virus in Kenya but also very near the school. They are also having to contend with heavy rains and flooding and not far away there are the locusts which threaten the very crops the school is trying to grow and harvest. With the exception of 11 students, permitted by the authorities to remain at school the remaining 300 plus students have had to be placed back into the community. Until recently their welfare was being monitored by the hard working staff who also prepare, distribute and collect finished assignments throughout the week. All this whilst a daily curfew is in place. Unfortunately we have only just heard that the teachers are no longer permitted to visit the students due to the lock down rules added to which the roads are so bad that many are impassable making any visits impractical.

So, what you may ask can we do? Our options are severely limited due to our own curtailed activities. Our fundraising activities have all but stopped which in turn means our already severely depleted funds are not being replaced. However we are trying and to date we held our first successful online quiz, more of which will be explained further in this newsletter.



The main road to Busia as well as side roads badly affected by the heavy rains.

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown continues in Kenya with very restrictive movement. Fortunately with some protective equipment a team of engineers came out and serviced our borehole pump for the first time and it was restored to full working order. This new and continuous supply of clean water both for the school and the local community is fundamental to maintaining clean hygiene. Of the 320 plus students only 11 students were permitted to remain on the school site with the remainder of students having to return to their homes or to others if they had no family. Interestingly one of four recent massai students helped the people working on the pump repairs. From having no idea what his future would bring apart from expecting to go back to his nomadic life herding cattle, he is now inspired to consider water engineering and drilling as career options.



As far as the school reopening we have just learnt that it will not now happen in June. It would seem all classes will be repeated so presumably there will be no end of year exams.

During this lockdown our classroom floors have been re-tiled to comply with new regulations.

Other things causing problems in Kenya are the floods. Lake Victoria is at its highest since records began. Massive devastation around its shoreline and the rising water level is making it difficult for rivers to drain into the lake causing backups and flooding along those rivers. After years of drought they have had a second lot of flooding in only 6 months. The Red Cross estimates 150,000 people are homeless of which 40,000 are in the

area around Busia, the nearest big centre to Imprezza. Fortunately the school is situated on a hill and the local river would have to rise over 100 feet to affect us. However local dirt roads are barely passable. Over 200 people have been killed due to the floods and landslides have also contributed to road closures, bridges washed away making getting aid to those areas very difficult. Out of 47 counties in Kenya, 30 are affected by flooding and to make matters even worse 19 of those areas are affected by locusts which are expected to spread even further across the country. Food supplies already hit by drought then heavy rains and flooding are now faced with the devastating ravages of the locusts. All this leads to increased shortages of food and higher costs at a time when our ability to raise much needed funds is seriously curtailed.

Fundraising

Our fundraising is significantly reduced at present but we are always open to ideas to try and raise additional funds, now more than ever.

We ran our first ever online quiz recently which exceeded our expectations which people seemed to enjoy and we managed to raise £300. The timing was perfect as one of our students was robbed in his home and his food was stolen and he was left with a number of injuries.

As the quiz worked so well we are going to run another ON THURSDAY 25TH JUNE logging on at 7.15 p.m. with a 7.30 start. Further details below. In the meantime do please tell your family and friends and let us see how much bigger we can make this event.

Another ongoing tasks for all the trustees is to seek out and submit grant applications for financial support for Imprezza Academy. We have identified and submitted applications in the current round and we recently received a grant of £3000 from the Souter Foundation Trust. This will help with additional costs and needs of the Corona Virus, the single biggest item being a large metal food storage container to store non perishable food which will be vermin proof (N.B. Some rats are the size of cats!). Additional food will also be purchased as a back up together with additional soap, sanitizers as well as some medicines. We are so grateful to the Souter Foundation and send our sincere thanks to them.

Information and Legacy Leaflets



We are in the process of updating and renewing our Information and Legacy leaflets. When they are available you will either be able to request them or download from our website.

Friends of Buburi

Following the completion of a project near Imprezza a charity called Friends of Buburi now have a new focus although keeping the same name. Following discussions with this charity when Catherine was over in the UK they agreed to a small grant to allow Catherine to set up a small workshop at the school making reusable sanitary pads for girls and women. Our own students are supplied free of charge whilst some are sold to the women in the surrounding area. The profit from this helps to cover the cost of materials. Friends of Buburi have now gone further and from the funds they raise in the UK they will buy additional pads for distribution to other school girls in the immediate area free of charge. This is a win win situation both for the girls at Imprezza and the school itself which will make a small profit towards school funds. As our partners we have agreed to put links on our respective websites.

Update on Anastasia

For those of you who have been following the progress of Anastasia you will be pleased to know she finished all of her treatment for cancer of the uterus. She remains in Nairobi with her nurse presumably in lockdown like the rest of the country. Those in Nairobi are not permitted to travel outside the city boundaries. It is hoped she will be able to resume her studies when school eventually reopens.

Fundraising Events in 2020

Our only fundraising activity in the diary so far is another Zoom Pub Quiz which is set for THURSDAY 25TH JUNE. The signing in starts at 7.15 p.m. with the quiz starting around 7.30 p.m. Individuals can make up teams of 4.

However if two people are in one location and they wish to partner others at another location they can do so. Further details will be supplied including how to download Zoom, how to sign in on the night and how to get your answer sheet. In the first instance you have to indicate your interest by emailing Chris Hulme at info@imprezza-academy.org He will then forward your email to our treasurer David Dupont who is also our very own quiz master and he will send you all the details you require in order to take part. You can take part on your PC, Ipad or mobile.

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.

For more details please visit our website, see our facebook page or reply to this email.
<http://www.operation-imprezza.org/events.html>

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, please visit <http://www.operation-imprezza.org/donate.html> and scroll down to 'Other ways to donate'

- 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.

Thank you!