



Dear Supporters,

You may have noticed we have been absent for a while, and you may also notice the look of this newsletter has changed!

We are trialling a new type of newsletter (this one!) and would really appreciate any and all feedback on this new style. Some readers may prefer the old style newsletter where we emailed out a PDF, particularly for those wanting to print copies for friends or colleagues.

Imprezza Academy Student Letters

This piece of writing is by one of our young female students who has to undertake a perilous journey to school each day. Read here what she has to say about her life and her first meeting with Imprezza Academy Director, Catherine Omanyo...



“I was born in 1997 at a place called Sio. We were seven children of which it was three girls and four boys. My mother was a peasant farmer. We used to depend on our crop harvest for the survival. All of us had no idea of where our Dad went but soon the rumours were had that he had gone to search for a job in one of the cities.

During the 2007 riots that left many people dead and homeless my mother was also killed. She was shot to death. Since I was the first born I was left alone with the weight of the world on my shoulders. It was too sad to cry, the sadness gripped my chest like a tight iron band.

I could sit down pensively thinking. Questions ate up my mind all the days. I had to leave school so as to look after my younger sister. The day was tiresome I had no time to rest since I was like their mother and everything. I could abscond schools due to some challenges that I faced but all could not make me to perform since it was like a routine.

One day I decided to pack all my luggage and moved to our nearest town Busia just next to Uganda, the journey was to look for a job. I had promised my younger brothers and sisters that I am going to do my best so that I can get money to take them to school. That evening as I was walking in Busia street I met a woman with a very beautiful dress. The woman looked so courageous and walked majestically.

I really admired the woman but my admiration made me to move closer to where she was. My aim was just to greet her and have a hold on her hand. She was very intelligent since she kept her eyes on me. Before I could reach at her I heard a voice greeting “Hello girl, What is your name please?”. Before she could finish I said my name very quickly knowing that chances comes once. The woman was a loving mother. I had to tell her as to why I was there. The woman gave me her mobile number and some amount of money.

The day looked so wonderful I had to go back home since I have found what I was looking for. The next day as I was cleaning the compound the same woman arrived at home. I had directed her initially as to where I stay. That day she promised to take me to school the same day. I was very happy to be back to school.

Beside being at school I have to survive some situation. I have to buy one candle and survive with it in the whole week. The school is about 12km from my homestead but everyone is supposed to be in class very early.

Some times I found myself walking alone on the road passing through the River Sio which is well known as the dangerous place.”

We would like to add that the river this student mentions is infested with crocodiles and snakes. She used to cross it every day to get to school because it is her most direct route, however she is now boarding in the girl's dormitory at the school, made possible by generous donations from our supporters. Other students of Imprezza Academy risk robbery, assault and worse in their daily journey in the dark to and from the school.

The Girl's Dormitory

We currently have a temporary dormitory for around 60 of the female students to live in. However, the need is so great that in excess of 100 students sleep there. The building incorporates a shower block and sanitary toilets, but the dormitory structure is clearly over-crowded and hot - it has a concrete foundation and corrugated walls and roof. It houses many more girls than it was built for and we desperately need to make it larger and construct a more permanent brick built structure.

Once the accommodation is in place, students will be able to live comfortably on site. They will not have to make their long and sometimes dangerous journeys to and from school.

They will also be able to study in the evenings which inevitably leads to improved exam results (which, in turn, leads to more fee-paying students, helping the school become self-sustaining), but most importantly, they will be *safe!*

Crowdfunding Project

Due to the urgent need for this dormitory, we plan to launch an online Crowdfunding Project in October 2016 to raise the money for the building. All our fund-raising efforts will be concentrated on this project.

It is estimated that £10,000 is required to complete the building work, and due to some fantastic fundraising by Torquay Girls' Grammar School we already have £5000 of this target! Please watch out for further details of this exciting new mission, it will run from 20th October until 30th November 2016.

A Summer Of Fundraising

We are, as always, indebted to all of our supporters and their ongoing efforts to build Imprezza Academy and help the young people of Western Province in Kenya. Here is a flavour of some of the amazing things that have been going on in 2016:

A coffee morning at the home of long time supporter, Mary Pryor. She held her annual coffee morning in June and raised £200! We would be delighted if anyone else would like to hold a coffee morning in aid of Imprezza. We can supply manpower, leaflets and information boards, just let us know a date and a venue. Thank you Mary!



Car-washing with Lustleigh Scouts who have supported us over the last few years raised over £180 - a fantastic effort by all!



The Operation Imprezza River Dart boat cruise with superb musical entertainment from local Jazz band, Teign Pan Alley! Over £600 was raised on this venture, and a lot of fun was had too!





The Torquay Girls' Grammar School annual sponsored walk raised a staggering sum of over £5000! This money will kickstart the dormitory appeal and is an absolutely remarkable effort - a huge well done to all participants and unlimited thanks to all that donated.



We couldn't do it without all of you!

Upcoming Events:

Thursday 20th October

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee and hear an update, for current and new supporters, of all the work going on at the school. And lookout for the launch of our Crowdfunding Project!

At the Whistlestop Cafe, Teignmouth, 7pm. Free event.

Friday 18th November

"Death Under The Big Top" - A Murder Mystery Evening with Moonstone Theatre Company at Tradewinds Resteraunt, Teignmouth at 7pm. Tickets are already selling for this event and the previous show was a sell-out! Buy your tickets now from the Whistlestop Cafe at Teignmouth Railway Station or call Chris on 01626 777 419.

For more details please visit the 'events' page on our website, or check our facebook page, or reply to this email.

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.

----- 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 PayPal and Virgin Giving. 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!