



## Trip to Imprezza – South Dartmoor Academy

Our visit to Imprezza Academy was one of the best experiences anyone could have. We arrived at the Bungalow where some of the students had cooked us dinner...and lots of it! The students were amazing and made us all feel more than welcome after watching them sing and dance for us.

We all got covered in paint whilst painting the dormitory for the students to stay in. Quotes were painted in English on one wall, in Kiswahili on the opposite and a handprint tree on another. After Catherine showed us round all the classrooms, we introduced ourselves to the students and told them what we want to do in the future.



The newly completed dormitory.

## Torbay Police Choir

Presents

*Beaver to Bank Manager*

Charity Concert in aid of Operation Imprezza

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

at Teignmouth Baptist Church

**7.30pm – 9.30pm**

Tickets £6.50 – available at the Whistlestop Café, on the door or ring 01626 777419

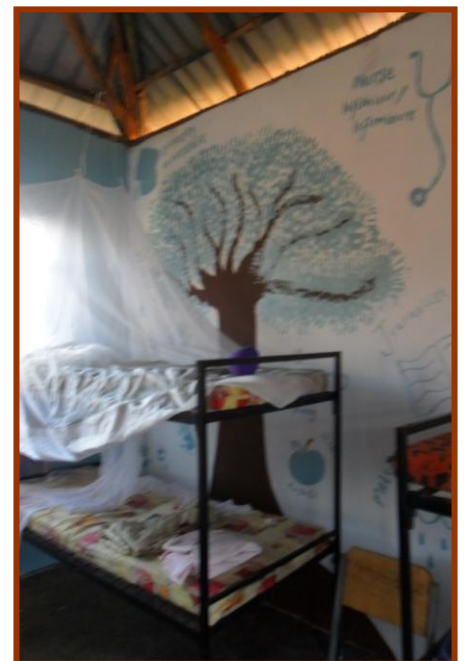
## Celebrating Christmas

Each year at Christmas time we send over donated funds to help buy extra food so the children at the bungalow can have a treat on Christmas Day.

If you would like to donate to enable the students at the bungalow to have a small treat then please do get in touch. With the growing number of students living at the bungalow and the vast increase in food prices any help you can provide will be more than welcome.

They were stunned by some of our aspirations for example, Peter telling them he wanted to be a farmer! They found that hilarious. Many of the students were in the middle of their exams and would wake up extremely early to revise until late at night. The dedication they had towards learning and doing well in life inspired us all from South Dartmoor. Everyone at Imprezza really appreciates their education and certainly opened my eyes as to how much we take for granted in England.

Ellie Hughs



# Student Stories

## Emmanuel Ouma Makokha

*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 Emmanuel Ouma Makokha, aged 17 years. In Form two at Imprezza Academy, Busia. I came from Masewa in Busia County. I am the first borne in our family of five children. I myself like swimming as a hobby. After my education I would like to be a doctor in the future.

I was born in a poor family. I had many problems at my early age. When I was 6 years I fell sick for one and a half months without any treatment. This was due to lack of financial funds whereby I could not be admitted to the hospital for treatment. I was suffering from polio and I ended up with a leg problem.

After a period of five years my mother fell sick and because of lack of enough money to take her to the hospital she died. We remained at home with our father, who also died in a road accident, and our grandmother who was not able to take us to school.

When I was aged 8 years, I was taken to school by my uncle. I worked very hard knowing that I don't have any parent that I will face in future for assistance and I passed with a total of 298 marks.

After that I sat at home for three months without going to school. One day I received a letter from Imprezza Academy for a chance to join Form One. I was very happy and proud. I thanked God for being in high school. My prayer is that one day I will get a chance for sponsorship for school fees in my secondary education.

I will work hard in order to achieve my goal of being a doctor. I will ensure that I help my young brothers after my success.

I appreciate your presence at Imprezza for supporting our community. We still require your assistance to support others who have the same problems as mine.

May God bless you all for your presence.



Emmanuel Ouma Makokha

## Operation Imprezza

Self sustaining, equal-access education in Kenya

[www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org)

Registered Charity Number: 1148240

### Medical Issues (Updated)

In the previous newsletter we mentioned some of the serious medical issues currently at the school. The various medical treatments have taken a large chunk of funds recently (around £3,000)

We are busy raising funds to assist the most urgent cases. These include:

- The student with the benign tumour has had a big operation. At the moment we are unsure if his sight and hearing will improve.
- There has been a third student who has come to light with epilepsy. At the moment she is refusing treatment as she feels strongly that it is caused by witchcraft We are optimistic that once she sees the improvement in the other students who are on medication she will change her mind.
- We recently had a form three student, Sarah, who was in a serious collision with a matatu (taxi). Catherine had to drive her to hospital in the back of her car. She has many injuries including loosing 7 teeth, having to have a metal plate in her nose. Sustained injuries to her body. Apart from time needed to recover from these injuries it will be the trauma also to cope with.

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.

***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.***

## Two New Additions to the Family!

In a recent newsletter, I mentioned a student who was expecting twins. I first met Laureen during a recent visit to the school. She is 19 years old and a Form 4 student. When I first met her she was completely isolated and reluctant to interact with others. We discovered she was completely alone, with no family to support her. She had been afraid of being alone and was married. She fell pregnant but continued with her education. Her problems arose when her husband demanded she leave school to take care of him. Laureen knew that education was the only way to a better life. She made the difficult decision to remain at school, with the result being her husband chasing her out of the home late one night. She managed to make her way to the school where she stayed sat in a chair on the balcony until morning. We were able to help her with a safe place to stay and food at the school and was then able to move her into a local house. She was like a different person when we left as she felt a great weight had been lifted.

Laureen delivered twin girls on 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Aga Khan in Kisumu. Catherine said she was extremely brave during her labour and both mum and babies are well.

We want to help Laureen and her babies have the best possible start and will certainly not see them struggle. Our main concern is where she will stay when she leaves hospital and how she will support herself long term. A very temporary measure is at the bungalow, but this is very short term as we have students waiting to start school and will need accommodation.

If you feel you could help Laureen and her babies with a positive start then please do get in touch.



Laureen with her girls..no names yet.

## New Trustee

*We are extremely pleased to welcome Alison Revell as a new trustee to the charity.*

Alison Revell is a dentist in Newton Abbot. She first learned of Operation Imprezza from Chris Hulme some 6-8 years ago.

She visited Imprezza Academy in September 2013 in her capacity as a dentist and was able to offer Oral Hygiene Instruction and dental treatment to the staff and students. Subsequent to this visit, Alison is delighted to be joining the Directors and looks forward to supporting the Charity and thereby, the Academy as much as possible.



Alison Revell

### How You Can Help

- **Donate online** at [www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org)
- **Donate via Believe** at <https://believein.org.uk/operation-imprezza/>
- **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](mailto:lesley@operation-imprezza.org) for details
- **Send a cheque** payable to Operation Imprezza to 14 Elm Grove, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8SA.

Thank You