

Examination Time !

Form 4 begin their National Exams which last for 4 weeks from mid-October.

This will be the first year the exams have been able to take place at the school. The students and staff are all striving to do the best they can. In the words of the students, 'We are the pioneers.'



Ready for the practical exams

The written exams cover many subjects and there are also practicals in science. The laboratory has been finished and ready for the students to use this year. Catherine sent the photo and comments *'that the students were feeling very confident.'*

The examinations are taken in a very high-pressure environment because as well as external invigilators on site there are also armed guards – not the best way to calm the nerves considering students' past experiences of violence.



Students waiting to begin exams with 'armed guard'

Catherine did put her foot down and insisted that the guards remained outside the room with just the invigilators inside.

In Catherine's own words via a brief message....

'No policeman with guns in an examination room! I personally fear a gun, how about a candidate who has to focus on an exam?'

At least the DEO (District Education Officer) listened to me, they had to sit outside and leave invigilators and a supervisor inside the room. May our good Lord bring the candidates memory to date starting from form one to four; exam is set from first day in high school, each candidate does at least 9 subjects!'

The students have been working so hard for so long and are determined to succeed. It is amazing how resourceful they are, achieving so much with so little. As soon as we know the results we will publish in the newsletter.

Agriculture

Two new members of the team in Kenya were appointed and have been spearheading the agriculture programme. They are Joshua and Edwin. Both are experienced and committed to helping the community. They were appointed during the recent Trustees' visit and have made substantial progress on the site.



Edwin (top) and Joshua

Operation Imprezza
HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

Student Stories

Golden Ann Akinyi

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

I am Golden Ann Akinyi. I lived in Busia. I am 17 years old and I am in form 3 in Imprezza Academy. I am the second born in our family. We are three children, two boys and my older brother is jobless. He is just at home not doing anything.

I came from poor background which is unable to afford my school fees. This is due to what happened when I was six years old. We used to be rich in our family but one day robbers came and attacked our family at night when we were asleep. They took all our properties and then killed my father. We lost all our properties and my mum was stressed because she knows that her children's education had stopped there. Also she was stressed because I was asthmatic and she knew very well that my uncles and aunts could not help me.

My brother was forced by the situation to drop out of school because mum did not have enough money for his school fees. My older brother was in form 3 while I was in class 5, so he was forced to leave school and stay at home.

When I completed class 8 I passed with 380 marks. I found a neighbour who was willing to pay my school fees. He did so for the first term when I was in.....



Golden Ann Akinyi

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.

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

.....Form 1. Unfortunately he was involved in a road accident and he lost his life on the spot. I was then forced to leave school and I had nowhere to go. I could dig for people in shambas so that we can get some money for buying food.

Then one day I went to church and saw Madam Catherine in our church. I went and told her my story and she told me to come at her home here in Matayos.

When I came she told me that she will take me to her school so that I can finish my education. I was happy, I couldn't imagine that she could help me. I thank God because He has not left me alone. I am also grateful that I have someone somewhere who does not know me but is kind enough to help me.

I am working hard so that I can be an Airhostess. In the future I would help my family and even other people who cannot help themselves.



Golden Ann at the bungalow with some of the girls

Agriculture Report;

'Development is reliant on the ability of people to work together. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.'

We are now receiving regular updates from Joshua and Edwin of the valuable work they are undertaking on the agricultural side.

There has been an area of fenced land slashed and planted with various crops, including potatoes, carrots and green grams (which are also being used as a test plot for comparisons regarding the use of manure)

It is wonderful to see the land being cultivated to produce crops which will benefit the school.



Potato planting prepared in ridges for conservation agriculture

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at Torquay Girls' Grammar School to celebrate 10 years since the charity was formed.

It really touched home how much has been achieved over the time with help from many people.

There was a video message from Catherine and also in person from Sarah Anthony and Sue Roberts, who were key people in starting the charity.

A special thank you to the team who worked so hard and provided a wonderful 'African' themed meal, which was rounded off by a 'birthday' cake.

More photos can be found on our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/#!/OperationImprezza?ref=ts

Medical Issues (Updated)

In the previous newsletter we mentioned some of the serious medical issues currently at the school. You may recall we were looking into the option of taking out insurance to help with the high cost of some of the treatments. At the moment this is not an option as we do not have the regular income to cover the amount needed.

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

- 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. The operation is booked for early November and we still need funds to cover this.
- There are two cases of epilepsy which have now been seen by a specialist and have medication. This will be an ongoing expense, at the moment they are being closely monitored until happy with dosage prescribed.
- One student is asthmatic, who currently needs to ensure inhalers are taken daily.
- One married student, who is expecting in November, will be monitored through her remaining term to ensure she and the baby are both well. We will let you know when she delivers.

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.

Blog Spots!

A group from South Dartmoor College have recently returned from the school. We will have a report in the next newsletter, but for a flavour of how the trip went you can follow their blog.

<http://bhodgedawlish.wordpress.com/>



Sue and Sarah cutting the cake!