



# Sponsor and supporter update

## Aug Sept Oct 2024



## Onwards and upwards! (literally)

The next floor of the school is now about to be built

*Thank you to everyone who has helped us to achieve this*

**We now need to raise the funds finish building the school -  
Please can you help?**

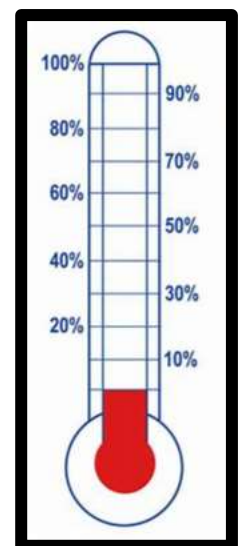
**Any donation would help enormously – THANK YOU**

**For debit/credit card payment:** (Ctrl + click – this takes a while to load)

<https://empoweringkidsinkenyahouse.com/cp/52edc/fundraiser#!/>

**Bank payment:** Santander – Empowering Kids in Kenya –  
sort code 09-01-28 – account number 49379650

**£82,000  
now  
needed**



**The school is being surrounded by residential properties on both sides. This is causing security issues as the balconies are so close to the school that we are in danger of access onto our roof and down the stairs into the school. Thus the urgent need to finish the building to its full 3 floors.**

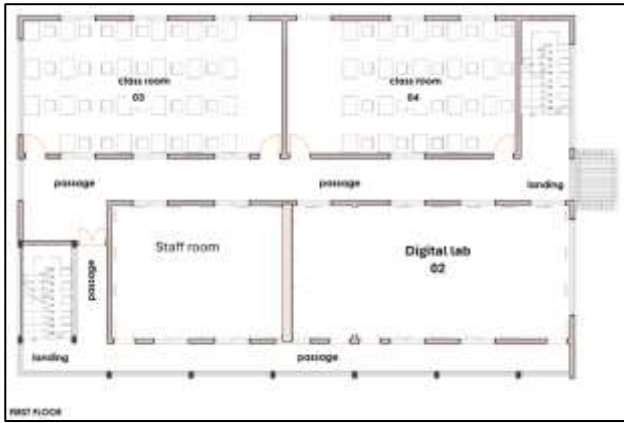
The plan was to purchase the bungalow adjacent to our playground but the purchase did not go through. Therefore, we are building upwards. Funds raised to date will pay for the next floor (plan below). But we now need to complete the school which will cost a further £82,000.

*£13,300 to build the full height walls of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to help prevent entry from the flats on either side.*

*£22,800 to put the ceiling onto 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. £16,700 to build all the interiors of the 4 classrooms on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.*

*£23,300 to build the walls with tall spikes on the roof to prevent intruders and to safeguard the children.*

*Boy's toilets outside £2,580. Girl's toilets on the roof £3,170.*



By building the next floor, we will be able to retain our school licence. This was critical and I can't thank everyone enough for their support to achieve this. The school broke up on 24 October for their long summer break. Hopefully by the time they return in early January, they will have a new floor built, even if not completely finished.



### Let's tell you about some of our star pupils

The children sat their exams just before the school closed. Their results make all the work in keeping the school open worthwhile. They genuinely do their very best. Here is a little of the history of the top 3 in each year.

### KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL (KNEC) 2024 TOP STUDENTS

#### GRADE 7 END-TERM 3-2024 EXAM SCORE SHEET

| LEARNER'S NAME    | MATHS | PL  | ENGLISH | PL  | KISWAHILI | PL  | SCIEN | PL  | PRE-TE | PL  | AGRI | PL  | SOCIA | PL  | C.ARTS | PL  | RELIG. | PL  | TOTAL | AVERAGE | POSITION |
|-------------------|-------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|---------|----------|
| GEORGE MUNGA      | 90    | E.E | 83      | E.E | 90        | E.E | 92    | E.E | 82     | E.E | 95   | E.E | 98    | E.E | 80     | E.E | 98     | E.E | 808   | 90      | 1        |
| SHERINE SHERIAT   | 82    | E.E | 83      | E.E | 73        | M.E | 88    | E.E | 94     | E.E | 75   | M.E | 90    | E.E | 89     | E.E | 100    | E.E | 774   | 86      | 2        |
| BLESSING MUTETHYA | 70    | M.E | 85      | E.E | 88        | E.E | 80    | E.E | 72     | M.E | 85   | E.E | 80    | E.E | 89     | E.E | 100    | E.E | 749   | 83      | 3        |

*The top ten students in Grade 7 with George being the lead, well done!*



## GEORGE MUNGA

George comes from a humble family and here is a brief bio from our records:

*“George is a top-notch student with a strong personality. He managed to be the top student in a list of 107 students who sat for our entry exams. He comes from a single-parent family and his mother does casual jobs to feed her children. George is determined to work hard in school and become a pilot.”*

Right from the beginning this ever-smiling boy has proven to be hardworking.

He is very active in class and he always asks questions whenever we have a session for both classes and even when they go on an outside competition. He has a strong desire to learn something new and he’s bold enough to ask about things he does not understand.



| Roll No. | Name         | Class   | Grade | Remarks     |
|----------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------|
| 1        | George Munga | Grade 5 | 5     | Top student |
| 2        |              |         |       |             |
| 3        |              |         |       |             |
| 4        |              |         |       |             |
| 5        |              |         |       |             |
| 6        |              |         |       |             |
| 7        |              |         |       |             |
| 8        |              |         |       |             |
| 9        |              |         |       |             |
| 10       |              |         |       |             |

*-Looking at his performance he has maintained a good record of being at the top.*

He was also among the team that represented our school in the **Insha writing** event in which our students did very well and George received an award for being among the top-three students out of over 100 students from different Junior Secondary Schools within Mombasa County.

Next year all students will be promoted to the next Grade and it will be interesting to see how his performance continues.

It’s our hope that all our students become the best version of themselves and achieve their dreams 😊.

## SHERINE SHERIAT

Sherine is such a lovely girl. She is the current class prefect so a great leader in the making!

Here is a brief bio of Sherine from our records:

*“Sherine is a very bright girl with a lovely personality. She comes from a single-parent family. Her dad died when she was still a small girl and her mother, out of desperation, got married to another man who is very abusive every time he is high on drugs. The day of our visit they were packing their clothes so that they could escape after her parents had a bad fight that morning.*





*There was a Good Samaritan who accepted to host them for a few weeks while her mother figures out what she can do. Her mother is a talented saloonist but it's hard to secure a job in a well-paying beauty shop without college documents, but despite these challenges, Sherine is determined to study hard and become an optician."*

Just like all our students Sherine faced many challenges at home and the only hope for these children is for them to get a good education, get into a good career-path and be in a better position to transform their lives for better. Sherine, who is known by her schoolmates as a cool girl, leads by example. Her hobbies include dancing and singing so she joined the music club.

She also took part in the quiz challenge during the Mombasa Open Championship organized by the African Debate Academy. This event was held at the Prestigious Aga Khan Academy Mombasa. Our team emerged to be among the top and they qualified for the Continental competition that was held in South Africa in October.

Unfortunately, the cost of travelling to South Africa was beyond the means of the school. That is a great pity as they were the only school who qualified who was not an expensive international school. Life is not a level playing field!

Despite the many challenges she has at home, this lovely girl has maintained good academic records since she joined our school.

It's our prayer that she becomes the best optician she dearly desires to be!

| SUBJECT            | MARKS      | GRADE    | TOTAL MARKS |
|--------------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| ENGLISH            | 80         | A        | 80          |
| KISWAHILI          | 75         | B        | 75          |
| MATHEMATICS        | 85         | A        | 85          |
| SCIENCE            | 80         | A        | 80          |
| SOCIAL STUDIES     | 85         | A        | 85          |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION | 80         | A        | 80          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>505</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>505</b>  |

## BLESSING MUTETHYA

Blessing is such an adorable girl and, of course, quite unique from all our kids as she's an albino.

Here is her brief bio from our records:

*"Blessing is very bright. She is a little bit different from other kids as she is an albino. She comes from a very poor family. Neither parent has a stable income. Her mother is a housewife and her father hawks bread on a small scale. She has eye problems, and she is determined to work hard in school and become an optician or a surgeon so that she can take care of people - especially children who have eye problems."*





Blessing is quite shy but very candid. As a teenager she wants to fit in and doesn't like it when other students treat her in a special way because of her sensitive skin – she's bold enough to ask for what's right for her. Although there are



common challenges that any albino would face like delicate skin and bad eyesight, which her parents are not in position to tackle. Many thanks to her sponsor Tim Tucker who is an optician, together with the excellent optical practice he works for, D Murphy in Cambridge, they paid for Blessing's eye test and glasses and now she doesn't struggle anymore. We also

bought her a hat and sunscreen to protect her from sunburn and subsequent skin cancer.

Coming from a family where scarcity is a norm, Blessing has been attending a school that had no facilities and when she came to our school the first thing she commented on was that our toilets are very clean and have got running water. Many schools in Kenya have only pit latrines with no water, which are extremely unhealthy for kids and adults alike.

Her performance record is really good and she has always been among the top ten students. She loves indoor activities like debates and also enjoys reading.

We hope that she will accomplish her dream of becoming the best Optician or a surgeon!

## GRADE 8

### GRADE 8 END-TERM 3-2024 EXAM SCORE SHEET

| LEARNER'S NAME | MATHS | PL  | ENGLISH | PL  | KISWA | PL  | SCIENCE | PL  | PRE-TEC | PL  | AGRIC. | PL  | SOCIAL | SPL | C.ARTS | PL  | RELIG. | E PL | TOTAL MA | AVERAGE SC | POSITION |
|----------------|-------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|------|----------|------------|----------|
| ROSESKY TENDE  | 80    | E.E | 92      | E.E | 91    | E.E | 99      | E.E | 70      | M.E | 90     | E.E | 88     | E.E | 70     | M.E | 98     | E.E  | 778      | 86         | 1        |
| KUNTA KAZUNGU  | 80    | E.E | 82      | E.E | 94    | E.E | 96      | E.E | 80      | E.E | 85     | E.E | 82     | E.E | 68     | M.E | 96     | E.E  | 763      | 85         | 2        |
| PRESSY AMONDI  | 60    | M.E | 83      | E.E | 100   | E.E | 100     | E.E | 70      | M.E | 88     | E.E | 86     | E.E | 66     | M.E | 94     | E.E  | 747      | 83         | 3        |



*Top ten students in Grade 8 with Rosesky being the lead. Sadly, Shantel was sick thus she did not attend the closing day ceremony.*

## ROESKY YTENDE

Rosesky is smart boy and here is his bio from our records:

*“Rosesky is a talented boy. He does painting and makes things from available materials. His mother works as a house help and his dad does casual jobs”*



For Rosesky, life at home is not good. Just like the rest of our kids, it's not easy for parents to get even casual jobs in order to be able to provide for their children. This is why it was so important for us to provide meals to students as it's hard to teach a learner who is starving.

| Subject             | Grade 7 | Grade 8 | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mathematics         | 70      | 75      | 80      | 85       | 90       | 95       |
| Science             | 75      | 80      | 85      | 90       | 95       | 100      |
| English             | 80      | 85      | 90      | 95       | 100      | 100      |
| History             | 75      | 80      | 85      | 90       | 95       | 100      |
| Geography           | 70      | 75      | 80      | 85       | 90       | 95       |
| Art                 | 85      | 90      | 95      | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Physical Education  | 80      | 85      | 90      | 95       | 100      | 100      |
| Music               | 75      | 80      | 85      | 90       | 95       | 100      |
| Religion            | 85      | 90      | 95      | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Character Education | 85      | 90      | 95      | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Overall Average     | 75      | 80      | 85      | 90       | 95       | 100      |
| Final Position      | 5       | 4       | 3       | 2        | 1        | 1        |

Despite, the challenges at home, Rosesky has proven to be hardworking, and he has been consistently improving since last year when he joined Grade 7. He started off at position five and he has maintained being among the top five, but this is actually his first time to be at position one.

Indeed this is an excellent performance! Bravo to him!

Apart from academics Rosesky enjoys playing football and painting. When he joined us he said he would love to become a lawyer, later last year he came and told me that he feels engineering is more technical and thus he would like to be an engineer. This is interesting indeed but still it's part of personal development which is really a good thing 😊.

## KUNTA KAZUNGU

Kunta is great leader in the making! Last year he served as the kitchen prefect and his role was to support the teacher on duty to ensure that all students have eaten, collect students views regarding the menu and report to his teacher on duty for consideration. This year he got a bigger post - he served as the CS of Environment and Nutrition.

As a first tast, he wrote a letter to the management requesting for permission and support to do a beach cleaning environmental project which was an amazing idea!

The beach cleaning event was a huge success!





Here is a brief bio of Kunta from our records:

*“Kunta comes from a single parent family. His dad passed away when Kunta and his younger siblings were still little babies. His mother who has never been to school, works as a casual house help to be able to feed her children. The family live on the edge of the big farm of a rich man who has allowed them to stay there temporarily in a mud hut as they look after his farm.”*

| Sl. No. | Name  | English | Mathematics | Science | History | Geography | Physical Education | Art | Music | Character Education | Religion | Home Science | Health Education | Information Technology | Foreign Language | Other | Total | Average | Grade |
|---------|-------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------------------|-----|-------|---------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1       | KUNTA | 85      | 75          | 80      | 70      | 75        | 85                 | 80  | 75    | 85                  | 80       | 75           | 80               | 75                     | 80               | 85    | 800   | 75      | B     |

In academics Kunta has been thriving right from the beginning and last year he managed to be at the top of his class.

Right from the beginning Kunta’s ambition is to become an engineer as he loves sciences so much. He also enjoys painting, singing and dancing.



He was also among the students who represented our school at the Mombasa Open Championship organised by the Africa Debate Academy held in June at the prestigious Aga Khan Academy Mombasa Campus. Our team did very well and they reached the semi-finals qualifying for a continental event that was held in South Africa in October. Our team did not attend due to insufficient funds.

The team bagged 3 medals and a trophy for the school. 2025 marks end of Junior Secondary School for our Grade 9 students who will then proceed to Senior School and it will be really interesting to see them develop further.

## PRESSY SUSAN

Pressy is a cool girl and here is her brief bio from our records:



*Pressy is an orphan and stays with her elderly grandmother. She is a bright girl.*

Recently Pressy joined our girls in the safe house due to many challenges at home. She is a happy kid now.

| Sl. No. | Name   | English | Mathematics | Science | History | Geography | Physical Education | Art | Music | Character Education | Religion | Home Science | Health Education | Information Technology | Foreign Language | Other | Total | Average | Grade |
|---------|--------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------------------|-----|-------|---------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1       | PRESSY | 85      | 75          | 80      | 70      | 75        | 85                 | 80  | 75    | 85                  | 80       | 75           | 80               | 75                     | 80               | 85    | 800   | 75      | B     |

Pressy has also maintained very good academic records since she joined us. She has always been among the top five students.

She enjoys reading and debates a lot, her ambition is to become a nurse so that she can help other people.

Well done Pressy!



## The curriculum

The school is run using the new CBC (competency-based-curriculum) educational model. This means that it follows the 2-6-6-3 model (2 years of pre-primary, 3 years of lower primary, 3 years of upper primary, 3 years of lower secondary, 3 years of upper secondary and 3 years of university). Instead of the old model of 8-4-4 (8 years of primary, 4 years of secondary and 4 years of university).

The new CBC model has a learner-centric curriculum designed to be experiential, as opposed to the previous teacher-led 'learning by rote' and examination approach. It focuses on the children being guided to identify their strengths from an early age and building on those strengths in preparation for suitable careers. The implementation of the CBC model emphasises what students are expected to be able to do rather than what they are expected to know.

### TradeAid -



The CBC approach means that the children need to be taught how to prepare themselves ready for work. To that end, we were lucky enough to have had the support of TradeAid this year. They provided us, totally free of charge, 6 trade boxes – 4 with sewing

machines and all accessories, a carpenter's box and a handyman box. This means that we can now teach the children many work skills. Thank you to Ken Billington and the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven for your kind generosity. These TradeAid boxes will help to keep all our children out of the poverty trap that ensnares many of their parents and guardians.



## Our annual delivery to the school

**DHL** – Without the incredibly generous help of DHL, we simply could not afford to ship all your extremely kind and generous donations to Kenya. **Thank you DHL**



*DHL – there to load in the UK and there to offload in Bombolulu*



**Tesco** – Tesco in Bar Hill donated over 500 items of uniform and clothing for the children. Amazing support and we give our thanks to you. The kids love their new dresses 😊 .



**ActionCOACH** – Alan Brighton provided a large quantity of personal development books for the children. Both children and teachers thrive on self-improvement. These books will give them the encouragement needed to make the most of their opportunities.



**Lindsey Knight and The Edward Peake School** – We had six large boxes full of Year 6 maths books donated by The Edward Peake School which will help our children to revise for their exams. Although Bombolulu Educational Centre starts at Year 7, many start school with poor maths. They have all come from extreme poverty and their primary schools, in most cases, were not the best.



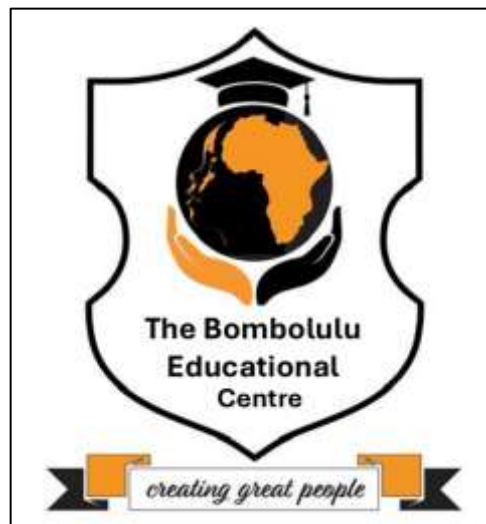
**Many Rotary Clubs and individuals** – We had many pairs of period pants plus lots of clothes donated by the Rotary Club of Harpenden Village plus lots of books and clothes from other Rotary Clubs and

individuals. The Rotary Club of Lutterworth donated the funds for rucksacks for the children which will mean they can take their books home to study. Ryan donated a large quantity of sanitary wear plus hygiene products which were gratefully received.



## New school name – The Bombolulu Educational Centre

Unfortunately, our former school name, Bombolulu Secondary School and Training Foundation fell foul of the Department of Education's new rules as schools and training now fall under separate departments. Thus, out of all the logical names we put forward, the only one that was allowed was 'The Bombolulu Educational Centre'. This is actually a good thing as it no longer limits us to secondary schooling. Once the building work is completed, we will then be able to educate all age groups in basic literacy and numeracy and work skills. This will enhance the employability of a whole community. This being the catalyst to help towards preventing extreme poverty.



## SAFEHOUSE

Our safehouse is indeed a beacon of hope. We started with one girl in January 2024 and now we have seven girls – all happy and safe. A huge thank you to all our supporters towards our safehouse. For the first time in years, these girls live without fear of abuse or poverty beyond imagination.

These young girls find it totally different being in the safehouse as they are provided with everything they need which is not the case while at home. This term Sara Viereck and her daughter sent some lovely pillow cases with the names of the girls on them and shipped them together with other gifts all the way from the Netherlands! This was a huge surprise to the girls – *Mercy receiving a birthday card for the very first time in her life – it really means the world to her.*

Such surprises make these girls feel special and loved and they are now learning that life is not all about suffering and that there are people with big hearts.

Also with a donation of £100 Nancy took the girls to the local market to shop for clothes which was a great experience for them – A super treat! Thank You Sara Viereck and lots of hugs to you from your girls in the safehouse!

(KES 100 = 62p – very cheap second-hand clothes)

We have recently added a further two girls to the group in the safehouse and we still have enough space to take in two more and also have a bed reserved for emergencies.

A huge thank you to the **Rotary Club of Bedford** for giving us a grant which made it possible for us to buy bedding and the most essential items to be able to bring in more girls.





## Visit to Kenya



In September, Sally Searle, Keith Hichisson and Val Beale visited the school. The children love having visitors. Please do consider visiting yourself 😊



**New teachers for 2025** - While there, Sally helped to interview new teachers to take on the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) role. The school had well over 100 applicants from all over Kenya apply. All were very well qualified. The final two to be selected were Moses and Milka. Moses will take on the lead role with Milka supporting not just STEM subjects but a wide range of other subjects she is qualified to teach. This is a real step forward for the school. Moses (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and Milka (2<sup>nd</sup> right) are a great addition to the teaching staff and are both very welcome indeed.



**Technology tournament** - Keith had organised a technology tournament, run along the same lines as a Rotary school technology tournament. The children certainly rose to the challenge.



Their imagination in creating a mechanism to launch a ping pong ball as high as possible was astounding. Well done to all the kids, Keith and Val.



**New volunteer for the charity** - This year, Val Beale from the Rotary Club of Harpenden Village joined us for the visit. Val needed first-hand experience of the children, the school and the community. She is now about to join our fundraising team as she has lots of experience in this field. This is a great addition to our team and we welcome Val onboard. The photo is of Val with Blessing wearing the sunhat that Val gave her. She is delighted and looks so cute. Sun protection is so important as she is an albino and skin cancer is a real threat.

**Visit to the homes of our students** – Sally, Val and Keith, along with Nancy (school manager) and Thomas (head teacher) visited the homes of some of our students. The trip brought home to us the extreme poverty and deprivation our children come from.





The level of poverty seems to get more extreme year on year. Our children all come from appalling living conditions. Many where several adults with their children all share a hovel 3 metres x 3 metres. Only pit toilets (if any toilet at all), no water, little protection from wind, rain and blazing sun. We visit the homes of every child who is admitted to the school as we need to make certain that they meet our entry criteria of extreme poverty. And they all do – by a long way.

**End of year outing with all the children and staff to the Nguuni Animal Sanctuary** – The children love trips out as it is something they have never experienced in their lives before joining the school. It cost just £200 to take all 70 children and 10 staff on this day out. Including entry fees, transport and snacks. A very close-up experience and one they will never forget.



### Medical camp

The medical camp was held during our visit this year. It was a massive success with many 100s of people attending for help. Hopefully this will be an annual event as so many people so desperately need the help we offered as they are unable to afford to go to any medical centre as they are all a paid-for service. Our community do not have the money for food and education, let alone for medical help. Even for common ailments and preventable diseases.





The queue for triage prior to being allocated to a professional within the school building.

Many in this 20,000 strong community have experienced polio. Our school prides itself on having disabled access and disabled toilets

Sally, Chair of Trustees, administering a dose of polio vaccination. Part of the programme to keep Kenya polio free. So very important for a community with poor hygiene because of the lack of water for washing



The queue to see the two opticians was long. All the spectacles that were donated went to very good use. Poor eyesight is a major problem as



the community cannot afford to have their eyes checked. And they certainly could not afford glasses, even if they did get their eyes checked. Three of our students with an interest in going into medicine, helped direct people to their allocated professional.

The paediatrician was in great demand and was so lovely with the children. A huge quantity of medication was dispensed. These were paid for by the Rotary Club of Harpenden Village, Rotary District 1260 Foundation and Jill and Geoffrey Kelly.



From the very young to the very old, all flooded into the school desperate to receive medical help, medication, health and wellbeing advice and vaccinations. What a massive success these free medical camps are proving to be. We can't thank all the medical professionals, Rotarians and Rotaractors who made this event the outstanding event that it was.





## Rotary District Governor's visit to our school

It was a great honour as a school to have been visited by our District Governor Dr. Joe Kamau on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the school. His district includes the whole of Kenya, Eritrea, South Sudan and Ethiopia. An enormous district, which is why securing a visit was an exceptional honour.



On his visit to the Coastal Region Rotary Clubs, our DG was very keen to see which projects are there within this region and The Bombolulu Educational Centre stands out right at the top of the list. Our school is the flagship project for RC Mombasa Downtown and a major project in the whole region.



Accompanied by the District Governor Elect, Mr. Wairimu and members of the executive committee team from the District, Joe Kamau was happy to see that this project is a huge success and that we are able to support the community

because by giving education to children we are eliminating many things including poverty, illiteracy, child pregnancy and crimes.

The District Governor, District Governor Elect, and the entire team of Rotarians were impressed by how the school has developed from its inception up to date and they all promised to continue supporting us.



Upon arrival, the District Governor was received by a number of Rotarians who were already at the school including District Service Chair – Rose, President Aaron RC Mombasa Downtown, DRFC Protus Lumiti and all the Assistant Governors within the Coast Region together with the school manager Nancy and the school head teacher Thomas and a group of amazing students who performed a poem for the visitors.



The children were enthralled by the whole event and felt very privileged to be visited by so many very important people all on one day. You can see their reaction below. The girls taking it all very seriously and the boys just enjoying the celebration.





## Kenyan team's visit to UK for a Rotary District conference

In October, 4 of our Kenyan team visited the UK to be speakers at the joint district conference for Essex and East Anglia. They all paid for their own flights, which represented many months of salary, but they felt it important to give a first-hand account of their experiences of the children and the school. Also to thank everyone in the UK for



The team met 3 District Governors in one day. Chris Knight (district 1070), Ann Moriarty (district 1240) and Ian Graham (district 1080)



their incredible support for the school and all it stands for. Offering a completely free education is almost unique in Kenya, particularly in Bombolulu where the school is located. The conference was a massive success. So many people made contact with the team to thank them for their dedication to these poor and vulnerable children.

Our Kenyan team consisted of Nancy Wangila, school manager and member of the Rotary Club of Mombasa Downtown, Vivian Perose, one of our charity trustees and a member of the Rotary Club of Nairobi Langata, Enos Kiforo, the chair of the board of governors and the president of the Rotary Club of Mombasa North Coast and his wife Lilian, also a member of the Rotary Club of Mombasa North Coast.

While here, the visitors certainly enjoyed great hospitality from so many people and Rotarians. Our thanks to Sally Searle, Mary Whitehead and Dick & Brenda Wilkinson (all Bedford Rotary Club) for hosting them. Also to Keith Hichisson, Val Beale, Alan Brighton, the Rotary Clubs of Bedford, District 1070 E-Club and St Neots for hosting events during the visit. Without this support, the visit simply could not have happened or been the success that it was.



They visited Sheerhatch primary school and spoke to the RotaKids group who sponsor Pressy, one of the girls in the safehouse. They also visited London for a day which included the science museum, a



ride on an open top bus (which froze them), a spot of retail therapy on Oxford Street (Nancy found some jeans that cost £260 – an entire month’s salary!), fun on the underground, a ride on the London Eye which was perhaps the highlight of the day, a boat trip up the Thames to the Tower of London. A very full day full of experiences they will remember forever. Thank you Alan, you made their day spectacular and memorable.



### Here is the reaction of Nancy:

I must say that this was the most adventurous trip of my life!

This was my very first trip outside Kenya and every part of it gave me a new experience; right from passport processing to booking flights, experience the Emirates flight, the food, people and music was such a sweet feeling.

It was a 10-day trip from 6<sup>th</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> October. I travelled with Enos who is the Chair of the Board of Governors, Vivian who is a Kenyan Trustee and Lilian who runs a primary school within the community and understands very well the challenges kids face after completing their primary education when there is no one to support them through secondary education. Bombolulu gives hope to these children.



**Other highlights of the trip:**



An outing to Wrest Park in Bedfordshire with the Rotary Club of Bedford and organised by Dick Wilkinson. An amazing day in a beautiful country house.



An evening of fun and friendship at Santaniello's with the Rotary Club of Bedford.



A night out with the District 1070 E-Club. It was a super evening of fun, laughter and friendship – all Rotarians together.

A visit to the MS Centre in Barkers Lane, Bedford. The guests were given a guided tour which brought it home to us all the effects of Multiple Sclerosis and the amazing facilities to help sufferers at this centre. They then visited the charity shop above the centre.



They could not believe the value there. They spent all their money in here instead of in London. Such value for money and lovely clothes. Please do visit them. Well worth while. The ladies who run the shop were just brilliant and could not have been more helpful and kind. Thank you!



An evening out with Alan Brighton of ActionCOACH after an afternoon of practicing our conference talk until almost perfect.

Attending the charter lunch with The Rotary Club of St Neots. President Barry made his guests feel very welcome. Nancy





particularly wanted to thank the club for supporting the global grant that built the school several years ago. Without that support, there would be no school. Many children would now be on the streets instead of in school. It has transformed their young lives – given them hope. Thank you St Neots Club.



Val Beale organised a guided tour of St Albans to see the fascinating old buildings and the cathedral. Steve Potter kindly undertook the tour for us and he was incredibly knowledgeable, being an official tour guide for both the town and the cathedral. We were lucky enough to have had a chat with the Bishop of St Albans who was attending a school event in the cathedral. What luck! Memorable. The day culminated in a wonderful meal with Val and her husband in Wheathampstead.



### Work experience teachers

We were lucky enough to have two work experience teachers (Faith and Mercy) join us for a couple of weeks. These two have completed their studies at the university awaiting for graduation and instead of spending their time on personal engagements they requested to come and volunteer at our school. Having brought up in this community they understand very well the challenges students face both at home and in schools with no proper facilities and it's out of their hard work that they managed to go through university. Now they have the urge to give back which really a noble act. These volunteer teachers helped with children who needed additional help. A great project for all – children, Faith and Mercy, plus the current staff.



### Finding new kids

At the beginning of every calendar year we enrol another set of 35 children who have completed their Primary National Examination which qualifies them to join Junior Secondary School. For many children in this community, this transition is not as exciting as for other kids from well-off families.

Sadly, for many children who are barely 10-12 years old this might be the end of their schooling journey due to poverty. Our school gives hope to these children.

This year's selection process was quite interesting. We had over 150 applications and only 107 children qualified to sit the entry exam where they are given maths, science and English tests plus they showcase their talents and also they are taken through the oral questions to test them on attitude, communication skills and other abilities. We are looking for a keenness to learn.

The teachers analyse the results and then we pick the best 35 students as this is the right number for the capacity for our classrooms. It's a sad and emotional experience to see other kids leave - it's definitely hurting them too as it's a dream of every poor child to get a chance to attend our school.

Our appeal dear Sponsor and Supporter is that you support us with a donation of any amount towards the building so that we will be able to rescue many more kids who desperately need our support through education. We also rely on sponsors for our children as it is this steady income that keeps the school running. Please make contact if you can help one of these children.

For the year 2025 it's going to be crazy – we already have over 70 applications and we expect many more to come in January when the academic year begins.

So far, we have selected two kids; Rina Nailantei Lekoko and Kennedy. These two meet our requirements.

**Rina** is a Maasai girl from Narok and she is a daughter to Lekoko our Maasai Security guard. Maasais are pastoralists and have a rich and unique culture right from their outfits to their houses (Manyattas). Rina comes from a region that is faced by the worst drought in years and generally life is



not easy. She is a hardworking girl and in the end of year examination she was at the top of her class. She is very excited about joining our school in January! As her mother and siblings live in the Maasai, Rina will join the other 7 girls in the safehouse. Her father lives in a tiny room under the stairs on the school premises as he is our night guard.



### Kennedy

Kennedy is an average student from a very poor background. He comes from within Bombolulu and he has now completed his primary education ready to join Junior Secondary School. Kennedy's story is a sad one. Due to extreme poverty, one day his mother decided to leave and never came back, leaving the young boy with his father who had no form of income at that time. His father had no choice but to find ways that can sustain him



and his little boy. Since then, Kennedy's father works at the dumpsite. He collects plastics and any other recyclable items and sells them to make a small income which keeps this family going. He is proud of his boy's hard work in school and very grateful to our school as without this opportunity, this would be the end of Kennedy's ambition of becoming a great footballer and a doctor.

### Rotary District Grant – Thank you to Harpenden and District 1260



The Rotary Club of Harpenden village provided the funds to purchase a large TV, a soundbar, projector and a large commercial fridge for the school. The children now study using YouTube for learning content for lessons, including music tuition. The children can now film their own performances and show them to the whole school and the parents. Thank you to District 1260 for matching the funds raised by Harpenden Village Rotary Club.

### Musical instruments – guitar and keyboard

Sally sent over one of her guitars on the DHL delivery and has since sourced a keyboard. Val Beale has also sourced three more guitars. This will mean a lot to the children as they are very keen to learn to play music. Especially now they have a large TV and can use YouTube to learn to play. Do you or anyone you know have any other musical instruments that we could send over please?



### CMW – corporate partnership with Bombolulu



#### How CMW Got Involved with Supporting Empowering Kids in Kenya

CMW work very closely with ActionCOACH and were introduced to Sally and her work at one of their events



earlier this year. CMW and individual staff members sponsor a total of 7 children and are looking to continue supporting those children until they finish their secondary education.

CMW regularly promotes the charity in communications to its customer base to encourage as many people as possible to get involved and donate.

Emma Harris, the CMW employee support and compliance officer commented, “When we heard about the plight of the children in Bombolulu, I knew straight away that the CMW team would want to get involved and help wherever they could.”

“CMW had been wanting to work closely with a suitable charity for quite some time, when this opportunity presented itself, it seemed the perfect way to fulfil our wishes and provide much needed support to a small charity which is making such a difference to numerous children’s lives.”

“It only reinforced that we had made the right decision with supporting this charity, when we received the thank you letters from several of our sponsored children. We look forward to providing ongoing support wherever we can and continue to see how these children grow and learn.”

### **CMW is Supporting Empowering Kids in Kenya Since 2023**

Cable Management Warehouse (CMW) has been a trusted distributor for the network, data, and telecom industries. Based in Bedford, our headquarters is home to a dedicated team. Our trade counter welcomes visitors to collect orders, while our online store lets you browse products, place orders, review your account, and earn reward points.

We offer a diverse selection of high-quality product ranges which include plastic and metal trunking, rigid and flexible conduit, copper & fibre optic cabling, AV & power solutions, and a whole host of cable management products including GOP boxes, VELCRO® Brand fastening and sticking products and cable fixings and cable ties. We also have a warehouse and trade counter facility in Farnborough. The trade counter is perfect for customers to stop by and pick up any last-minute items and get expert help and advice at the same time, whilst on their way to projects in the city and surrounding areas.

You can pre-order your goods for collection from both of our trade counters or just visit as and when you need something to finish off the project that you are working on.

With CMW, you’ll experience a professional, quality service from a team committed to helping you find the best products to best fit your requirements.

## **Child sponsorship – it is through sponsoring a child that the school survives**

**Thank you** – our sincere thanks go out to each and every one of you who sponsors or supports the children in order that they stand a real chance of reaching their goals and full potential. Every sponsorship we receive makes a significant difference to our children and helps the local community to develop and grow. Without your support, the majority of these children would drop out of education altogether – aged just 11/12 years old.



PLEASE do consider supporting our wonderful children. Without your generous sponsorship, none of them would be attending secondary school at all. The girls would end up in subservient, menial roles or married off and the boys would struggle to support themselves and thus potentially turn to crime, simply to gain enough money to feed themselves. Their options are very limited in this poverty-stricken area.

## **Child sponsorship – sadly the costs are escalating – can you help please?**

The cost of food has escalated massively in the past couple of years. Teachers' salaries have also increased in line with government salary scales, especially as they are now well qualified secondary school teachers. Both result in the cost of feeding and educating a child increasing considerably. We also now have over 100 children to educate and feed.

Please do not feel under any pressure to increase your sponsorship unless you are happy to do so. Even an extra £5 a month will provide many meals for a child, a cost that would not be covered otherwise. Perhaps you could consider sponsoring a child between more than one person? And don't forget, a year's child sponsorship makes a fabulous Christmas or birthday present 😊. Regardless of the overall cost of supporting a child, we are only asking £20 per month or £240 per year from sponsors.

**If you would like to sponsor a child, the rate per year is £240 or £20 per month - but any amount per month or as a one-off donation would be amazing, please use this link to pay by debit/credit card:**

<https://empoweringkidsinkenia.enthuse.com/cp/52edc/fundraiser#!/>

Or you could pay by BACS to Empowering Kids in Kenya – Santander – sort code 09-01-28 – account number 49379650. Or a cheque made payable to Empowering Kids in Kenya and sent to 117 Willington Road, Cople, Bedford MK44 3TN.

## **In summary**

The children are absolutely thriving. They are happy, well educated and well fed.

The additional classrooms have secured our school license and we are delighted with this progress. Unfortunately we now need to complete the school in order to keep our children safe and our property protected. Please, please do consider helping us to complete what we have started. Any donation toward this goal will help enormously.

# ***Thank you***