



Kisima News

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DEVELOPMENTS

The second term of the year is underway and there are a lot of changes on the school site. Following the drilling of our borehole last year, a water tower has now been built. On the ground floor this has a treatment system to purify the water, and above there are four tanks, each of 10,000 litres, which supply the school. We have also been able to install showers in the dormitories, so now the students have the choice of a cold shower or a warm bucket of water to wash with! In future we hope we may be able to make warm showers available.



Our next building project is our new ICT and teaching block. Work began in January, following a special ground-breaking ceremony which was attended by students, staff and Kisima trustees. One of the trustees, Bishop Lesuada, gave a short sermon and then led everyone in prayers, for the construction work to go well and for the building to be beneficial to the school in future. A number of students and staff then had the chance to do a few strokes of digging.



Teacher Eglia breaking the ground for the new building

Since then, progress has been rapid. The ground and first floors have already been constructed and work has begun on the final storey. When the building is finished it will be equipped with a computer facility, enabling the students to learn vital skills, plus larger classrooms that will accommodate them more comfortably. The existing classrooms will be converted into a new library and other learning spaces.

Our very great thanks go to those supporters whose generous donations have enabled these various developments to go ahead.



The new building as seen from the school field

Back in January we received the KCSE results for last year's Form Fours, who took their exams in December. We are delighted that all their hard work paid off, with the following number of students achieving each overall grade:

A-6 B+10 B9 B-8 C+1 C2

This means that thirty four of the thirty six students have qualified for university (compared to the national average of 19.6%). The other two have strong grades for college entry. Our top girl, Larrita, was among the highest performers in Nyandarua County and so has been selected for Equity Bank's pre-university leadership programme. She follows in the footsteps of several other Kisima students who have taken part in the programme over the years.

These results encouraged the current students as they returned to school at the start of the academic year. A week later, the new Form Ones joined us, coming from many different primary schools in Northern, Central and Western Kenya. They have varied stories to tell of their family backgrounds but are all those who are in need of support and who have shown they have the potential to change their lives through education. The Form Two students have looked after them and helped them to settle in, and now they are quite used to the daily routine.



At last school life is back to normal after the pandemic catch-up, with the usual three terms a year. The students found last term very long; none of them had experienced a normal-length term in secondary school, as the current Form Fours were in Form One when their first term was cut short. Fortunately, a variety of extracurricular activities helped give them a break from their studies. The most popular was the interclass football competition, in which the Form Four boys and the Form Two girls were crowned the champions.



The Form Three girls' team

Another highlight was the alumni weekend, when about seventy five former students came back to catch up with friends, inform us about their progress and give advice to the current students. For the first time, the main session was shared online, and many who were unable to attend watched the proceedings and sent messages of encouragement from afar.



VISITORS

We are very thankful that sponsors have been found for all our new students. UK company First Event are sponsoring five of them and we were delighted that two of their staff members paid us a visit in February. James and Katie spent almost a week with us and got stuck into whatever work they could help with, such as cataloguing books in the library, processing the Form One files and painting the water tower. They also attended lessons and club meetings - Katie danced with the Music Club and James planted onions with the Young Farmers.



We really appreciate the time they spent with us and also thank the whole of First Event for the gifts they donated to the school, which included a laptop, sports equipment, novels for the library, stationery and art supplies.



As well as James and Katie, we received three other sets of visitors in term one - Roger and Alison Butler, Gillian Bullock and Jo Lawrance, and David Munns and Samantha Haydon. This term we have already had a flying visit from a group from Sweden. It is great to have so many visitors and the students always enjoy the time with them, whether hearing about the history of Kisima from those who have been involved from the start, sharing about life in different countries or singing together!



We are now looking forward to welcoming a volunteer from the UK who will be with us from June to August, helping in the office and with extra-curricular activities.

OTHER NEWS

• As last term continued well into April, we celebrated Easter while the school was still in session. It was a good day to present each of the Form Ones with a Gideons New Testament and a Kiswahili hymn book.



• We started the year with two new cooks who joined the team in the place of two who left last year. This term we have been joined by an accounts clerk and by a student teacher on her teaching practice in Maths and Geography. However, we are missing our secretary Evelyn as she is on maternity leave - congratulations to her on the birth of a baby boy.



Martha and Kelly at work in the kitchen

• We are happy to report that after a very long dry spell, there has now been a good amount of rain here and in many other parts of the country. Maize has recently germinated at our farm and the school compound is green with potatoes, cabbages, kale and spinach.



• Although we have sponsors for all our Form One students, one of our other sponsors has been unable to carry on their support and therefore we are looking for one sponsor for a girl in Form Two. If you are able to help in this way, please get in touch with Alison Hayward on office@teft.org.uk

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for...

- All the developments on the school site
- The excellent exam results for last year's Form Fours
- An encouraging weekend with many of our former students
- All our sponsors, visitors, and others who support the school in different ways
- The rain we have received

Please pray for...

- The building work to progress safely and successfully
- Our Form One students to fully benefit from their time here - academically, socially and spiritually
- The two months with our volunteer to be a blessing to everyone
- Our new staff members to feel at home at Kisima
- Continued favourable weather for farming