



Newsletter

Nov & Dec 2024 & Jan 2025

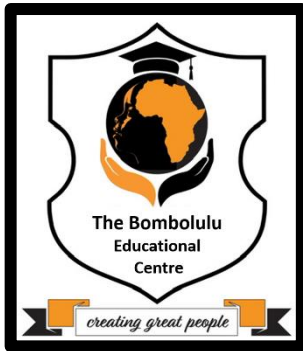


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Please sponsor a child - **give hope**

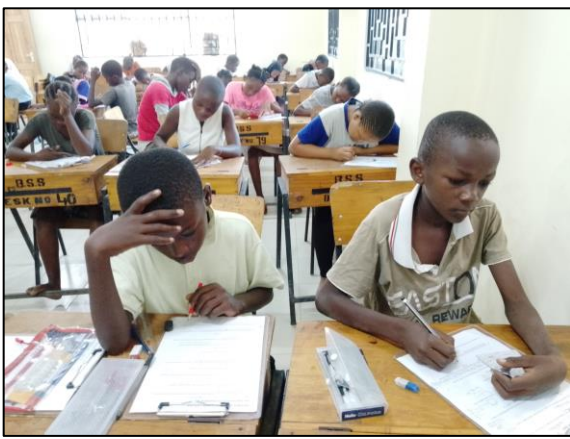
Contact details

Without this school, this child would be facing FGM and marriage to an older man as she has reached puberty. In the Maasai, girls are mere chattels and exchanged for cattle or cash from age 10 to 13. She now has the chance of an educated future – a future without fear, possession and subservience.

She now has hope



With your help, we can support more girls to become strong and confident women



At the beginning of January, we had 35 New Year 7 students join our school, selected from 143 who took the school entry exams. There were 18 girls and 17 boys; we aim to keep the numbers as even as possible. Just to restate our policies, selection is not based on religion or tribal backgrounds.

They are an ambitious bunch

We always ask new students what they want to do when they finish education. This time around it looks like we have 14 budding doctors, 2 surgeons and a neurologist (now that's specific at this age). Next most popular came lawyers (4) and, unusually, journalists (3). Then there is a real mix, we've got a ship's captain, a musician, a couple of pilots (that's been popular for every year so far), and for the second time we've got someone who wants to become president of Kenya.

Our initial impression is we wouldn't bet against the school becoming famous for developing one extremely prominent politician.

As an English based charity, it's always interesting to see how the fashion in Kenya is to give kids names that were popular but have mostly gone out of fashion in England, like Agnes (we know that's from Greek), John, Lydia, Jimmy and Esther. We've got a Churchill this year, although he's not the would-be politician.

Scary exams

As is our normal practice, the children were selected on the basis they have to come from extreme poverty, so they couldn't afford school fees which would allow them to go to another school. They have to have a history of hard work at primary school, and while we don't look for the brightest children, they do have to pass basic exams, so we can make certain they can take advantage of the opportunities we offer them. We don't have the facilities or funds to stream classes



Proud new parents

Their backgrounds are tough

Every one of our successful students has had a home visit before they were accepted. Even given their experience of the area it's hard for our team because the homes of our students are so appalling. Here's a quick sample of some of our new students



Meet Lydia

Lydia lives with her disabled granny at the nearby Bombolulu Workshop – a home for the handicapped

Meet our new students

Lydia - Her aunt does casual jobs to help feed the family. Granny has been ill for a while and had to rely on well-wishers and goes out on the streets to beg. That's tough because most of the time she gets nothing to bring home. Lydia is determined to become a doctor so she can come back, support her granny and help the disabled community



Meet Christian

Christian's father is disabled and had no means to support the family and sadly his parents separated. Christian and his mother now live with his elderly grandmother. His mother cooks snacks and sells them to local villagers on a small scale, that gives her a small income to be able to feed the family. He's another student aiming to become a doctor

Meet Alice

Alice lost her father at a very young age and her mother was never able to attend school, and she's only able to look for casual jobs which are few and far between



Meet Juma

Juma's mother left him and his two siblings when they were very young, family pressures and poverty were the main cause. His father has had no education and works hard but struggles to make a living. He works as a cobbler and in his spare time volunteers as a cleaner at a local mosque. He has a love of football and plays the game with Juma at a nearby mosque field. It's their big stress release. It's no surprise that Juma wants to become a professional footballer

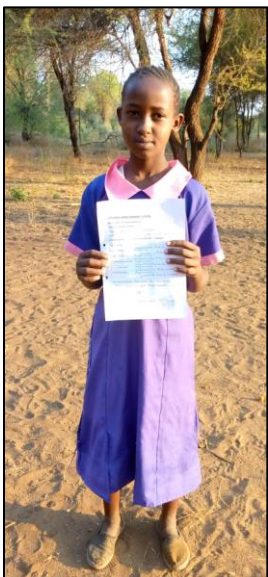




Faith is amazingly ambitious. She comes from the poorest rural area of the south coast and fled to live with her guardian, a housewife, and her husband who is a casual labourer, so she could go to school. As a leader at her primary school, she now has big visions for leadership and her future, and she aims high. Her boldest dream is to become president of Kenya. *Watch this space*

Meet our Maasai girl. As you may have heard Maasai's are the pastoralists from the Northwest part of Kenya and they are known for their rich culture and a unique dress code. As the culture dictates Maasai girls are not supposed to go to school and those who manage they go up to primary level and once they reach puberty stage they are circumcised and then married off to a man who is older in exchange for cattle or cash. This happens at the age of 10 to 13.

There's a high level of poverty as this region is affected by drought year in year out. Schools are very few and children have to walk miles through the wild to get to school which have no basic facilities, no food and even classrooms are old with no proper walls and floors leave alone well-trained teachers



All these challenges affect education greatly and force children especially girls to drop-out of school at a very young age.

But Rina's case is quite different

Our Maasai girl's case is quite different because of her father who is our security guard! Through our sponsorship she has escaped the horrors and all these challenges girls of her age undergo in their rural village. She is the latest one to come into the safehouse and she loves her new home and new and welcoming family.

She's getting along well with her peers and enjoy learning this being her first time to learn in a modern school. Her ambition is to become a doctor so that she can go back home and support children, women and men who are in dire need of healthcare services. It's our hope that when she accomplish her dreams, she will also use her skills to empower other girls in the village to pursue education



Building our school Building their futures!

This is definitely our mega project which started in November 2024 and it's still in progress. Our plan was to have the first floor complete but luckily, we got a good contractor who accepted a down payment to go up and now we have a two-storey building but only 1st floor is complete. This is a great milestone for the school and the charity and children really love their new spacious classrooms.

The school building Sept 2024

THANK YOU

Our huge thanks to the many charitable trusts and individuals who helped us to achieve this development – the children will now have a place of learning for years to come – once complete, of course.



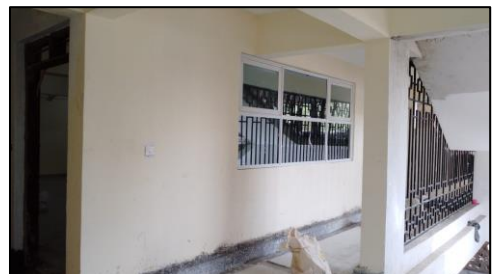
The school building Jan 2025



One of our lovely new classrooms

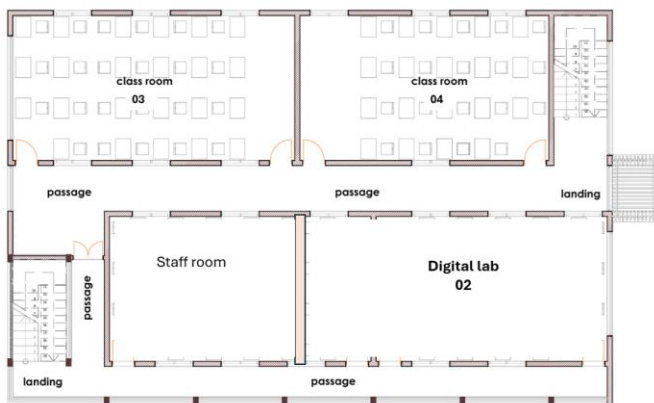


The back – mid-Jan 2025

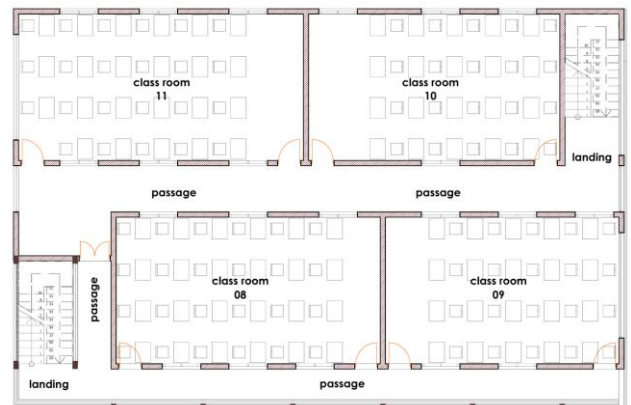




**Our dream is
gradually
becoming a reality**



First floor complete and in full use



2nd floor up but completely unfinished



**Please help us to finish the school
– just £52,000 to go!**

We're so proud of what our students are achieving



Travis

Travis's story is one of a kind

It really affected him

When he came in last year, he was very shy and lacked self-esteem due to realities he has to face every day at home; some local people view the disability of his mother and his sibling as maybe a curse and for any young boy it can be difficult to understand and how to overcome such things. There were times when he was very low which had a huge impact on his academic performance.

His first term in school was quite tough as he did not perform well in academics or co-curricular activities. He was totally disturbed!

But help was on its way

The guiding and counselling teacher stepped in and through continuous guiding and counselling and encouragement from other teachers, he now understands that he cannot change the past but through his commitment to studies, he will one day become a doctor and then he can be able to offer solutions to the challenges they have at home.

Now that's a great shift of mind-set and this has impacted positively on his academics and social life. By the end of last year he was among the top ten students coming in at position eight for the end of term examination and he continues to thrive, what an improvement!

Well done Travis!

Travis is a clever boy from a very needy family. Neither of his parents have ever been to school and the family is devastated due to a rare disease that infects them. This disease has claimed the arm of his mother and his younger sister. His dad works at the dumping site collecting scrap metals so that he can sell them and get a very small income with which to feed his family. However, the boy has an ambition to become a doctor and he believes that one day he will be in a place to offer a solution to bad diseases that are believed to have no cure



Pressy was going to have to leave school

Pressy's dream was to be shattered last year at the beginning of third term when her granny, who has brought her up, decided it's time to relocate to their rural village due to the hardships and, as a person of age, she thought it would be much better for them to go back to the village. This move was to automatically get Pressy out of the school she loves and has settled into well, as there's no money to take her to another school in the new village. Her future held nothing but subservience in an early marriage and a life with no hope.

She came to us crying

Out of desperation, Pressy went to Nancy, our school manager, crying and begged for a chance to be placed in the safehouse so that she could continue with her studies.

Pressy is a very bright and disciplined girl and there was no way Nancy could imagine losing her. At that time, we only had facilities for five girls. We already had 5 girls established in the safehouse. We were extremely lucky to have the support of the Rotary Club of Bedford and Rotary District 1260 who agreed to us receiving a grant to expand and update the safehouse. Without this funding, we would have struggled to find a space for Pressy.

Saved by the safehouse

Pressy is now safe and very happy indeed in the safehouse with her new 'family'. A massively supportive peer group.

Pressy is supported by the RotaKids Club of Sheerhatch Primary School in Cople and all the children love corresponding with each other. Great for an understanding of children in the 3rd world for our UK kids and great for Pressy to be supported by an enthusiastic group of young children and their amazing Head Teacher.



We wish Pressy and her fellow students who live in the safehouse the best in academics and that they will grow up and accomplish their boldest dreams! That's our aim as Empowering Kids in Kenya – making a difference! ***Impacting lives through quality education!***



A huge thank you to all Rotary Clubs, individual sponsors and supporters for choosing to walk with us this journey

***Together
we are making a
difference!***

Remedial classes – summer break – we can't keep the kids away!



This time our regular remedial classes went on for the first two weeks of November and we had to stop so as to allow the construction work to start. The remaining period, students were allowed to come and take books, read at home in groups and then return them at the end of every week. This was a good arrangement to get students engaged while at home.

Our 2024 academic year came to an end on 25th October and that meant that students had a very long holiday of two months - November and December

For other children from well off families the long holiday is characterised by many exciting activities like going on vacation, travelling, going for shopping, joining college to learn a new skill and relax at home watching and doing something fun and meaningful.

Unfortunately for our children, it's totally different. Their homes are just tiny single rooms with no basic facilities and most importantly, no food. So kids don't like staying at home at all, they prefer staying in school even during weekends and holidays, therefore we agreed to have them come into school for a half-day so they can attend their remedial lessons and also have breakfast and lunch before returning to their exceedingly poor homesteads.



Photos of the slum region our kids come from – extremely humble dwellings – no water – poor sanitation

Meet our two new STEM teachers



Milka

At the end of 2025, the first intake of children will have completed their three years of Junior Secondary School

They then stream into their chosen subjects, just the same as in the UK

Milka and Moses complete the staff needed for our more academic students



Moses

Before the end of the year, we will need to be taking on new teachers for our children that are more gifted in other areas such as art, drama, music, sport and work-related skills. Some of these children are extremely talented and deserve our support in just the same way as the more academic students.

We have a delivery going out to Kenya in July this year (a couple of months earlier than usual). Please would you contact Sally (empoweringkidsinkenia@gmail.com) with any donations of art materials, musical instruments, sports equipment and clothing, carpentry and other tools, books on any of the non-academic subjects. They can then go on the shipment ready for the start of 2026.

Would you like to join us on our trip out to Kenya in August 2026? An opportunity to meet the children, staff and supporting organisations

Kenya is an amazing country and you could combine a few days at the school with other activities like a holiday on the coast or a safari.



**Our thanks to The Rotary Clubs of Bedford, Harpenden and Lutterworth
– and, of course, Rotary International**

The Rotary Club of Bedford raised £2,000 (matched by District 1260) which purchased essential items for our safehouse, including additional beds and also shoes and uniforms for our new children. Yet again, many started school without shoes – usually the first items to be purchased



Please sponsor a child

**It is the funding received from people like you sponsoring a
child that means that the school can continue
*no sponsors – no school – no hope***

We had 35 new children start in January and thus we need 35 new sponsors please – just £20 per month - £240 a year

The impact this amount will have on the life of a desperately poor child is immense – we can't do it without you!





**Please don't let our children
walk alone**

**Taking this journey with them
is a very rewarding
experience**

**Your help empowers them to
help themselves**

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://empoweringkidsinkkenya.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 and love their new, larger classrooms. 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*



Happy International Women's Day to all women and girls! I'm Nancy, the school manager. I am so happy to be speaking about women and girls (US).

Growing up in Africa I learned many stark realities around gender. When I was a young girl, I could see it – boys were prioritised in education which eventually landed them good jobs and great opportunities while most girls were forced to drop out of primary schools. We lacked supplies of sanitary towels, learning materials and uniforms to name a few, which meant they were not supported after primary school or to join secondary school. Because of poverty, many girls had early pregnancies and marriages to older men in exchange for dowry for their families. The tough transition for young mothers often leads to gender-based violence. African culture dictates that women must stay in the marriage no matter the challenges. The sad reality is that these women suffer depression, they are physically abused, and some commit suicide while others live a life of hopelessness.

I'm glad to say that with time, girls have learned to fight for what is right. We've started pushing for equal chances for education which has not been easy as it's often perceived as a threat to men. Now, many girls have gone to school, have good jobs and are leading in many sectors including government positions. We have women who are advocating for fellow women, girls and children, but we still have a long way to go. Many girls and women in many parts of our country today are still undergoing GBV, femicide, discrimination and much more. We say no to any form of abuse to our women, girls and children. At The Bombolulu Educational Centre we are raising a generation of powerful, resilient and brave girls! We teach them that each one of us is a jewel and nobody should demean them. They all have equal opportunities to education through our sponsorship program, and if they work hard and get good grades, they will achieve their boldest dreams!

In this community today, we have many girls who dropped out of school due to poverty and retrogressive cultural practices. A huge number of these young women have no basic education, which makes life difficult for them and creates a need for empowerment. We want to give hope to these women and girls by giving them training on tailoring, plaiting, computer literacy, entrepreneurship and many more employability skills.

Also, access to quality healthcare services are a major challenge in this community due to the high level of poverty, which leads women and young girls to give birth at home, causing complications to both mothers and their children. Drug addiction, stress and depression are rising and there's a need to set up a healthcare facility to deal with these challenges for a better future. All these require resources, it's our appeal to you all to join us on our mission to make The Bombolulu Educational Centre great by uplifting our children, women, our young girls and boys, the youth and men altogether. Women are the pillars of our society! Happy International Women's Day.