



The Mary Wood Trust Newsletter

Charity Number 1144311

CHRISTMAS 2022

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas – the first normal Christmas for three years – and we would like to thank all our supporters for their ongoing interest in the charity. The work of the charity has continued, and Uganda, like the United Kingdom, has returned more or less to normal. However, there are continuing problems and issues including the rising cost of living and a new Ebola outbreak in central Uganda. On a more cheerful note the organisations that we help are all up and running and we are planning our further support for the next few years. A very Happy New Year from all the Mary Wood Trust trustees.

NYAKABUNGO GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL

School numbers

Following the disruption of Covid 19, the numbers at the school are up to 186, a little higher than before the pandemic. 25 of these are in the sixth form. We are proud to be sponsoring 41 girls at present but this number may be reduced next year unless we can recruit some more individual sponsors.

Subjects

A good range of subjects is offered at O level and lower in the school vocational subjects are now included- Agriculture, Fine Arts and Design, and Clothing and Textiles. However because of a shortage of science teachers the A level subjects are mainly the Arts – Geography, History, Literature in English, Entrepreneurship, Christian Religious Education, Fine Arts, Runyankone Rukiga, Economics and Maths. This shortage of science subjects offered at A level is a great drawback. However the Headteacher, Molly Musinguzi, is hoping that her request to the government for science teachers will have a positive response and that the proposed new A level and Fine Arts block that we are planning to build will be a real attraction to encourage more students.

Samaritan Fund

The Samaritan Fund is continuing to help especially needy girls. For the first time this year we have also been providing sanitary pads to all the girls in the school, irrespective of need. This is a very valuable benefit to the girls, and also to the school, as it makes it more attractive for students to attend. The cost of sanitary pads is £10 per student per year and is partly being met from general funds and partly from specific donations so more assistance is always welcome. As a follow on from this programme we are also looking at how we could provide a new incinerator to dispose of sanitary waste.



New protected spring water tap

Female Staff Housing

In 2014 the MWT built a house for female staff working at the school. This has been in use but now needs some refurbishment and reconfiguration to suit the future needs of the school. We also hope to install some solar lighting to make it a more pleasant place to stay in. We are in a position to finance this work and are hopeful that this will all be carried out soon, preferably before the start of the first term next year.

Mosquito Nets

Malaria is still a big problem in Uganda. We have pledged to provide mosquito nets for all the girls at the school. The supply has run out and they will need about 100 new nets at the beginning of the next school year in February. They cost about £5 each (the cost of a large cappuccino at a well-known coffee shop).

Visit to NGSS

The last visit any of the trustees made to Uganda was in March 2019 just before the pandemic. Clare now plans to make a visit in March 2023 which will be very valuable in re-establishing the personal contact with all the beneficiaries and supporters in Uganda.

Sponsorship of Girls

Since 2002 we have sponsored over 100 girls at the school, many of them being sponsored by individual supporters. The girls chosen to be sponsored come from very poor backgrounds and by offering this support we are giving them a chance to have a secondary education, which they may not have otherwise. If you feel this is something you might like to be involved in then please do get in touch. The cost is £20 per month which covers boarding fees and some extra tuition. The girls are expected to pay for their uniforms and other sundry items. Hopefully you will receive a letter from your girl two or three times a year, plus school reports, which keeps you up to date with their progress.

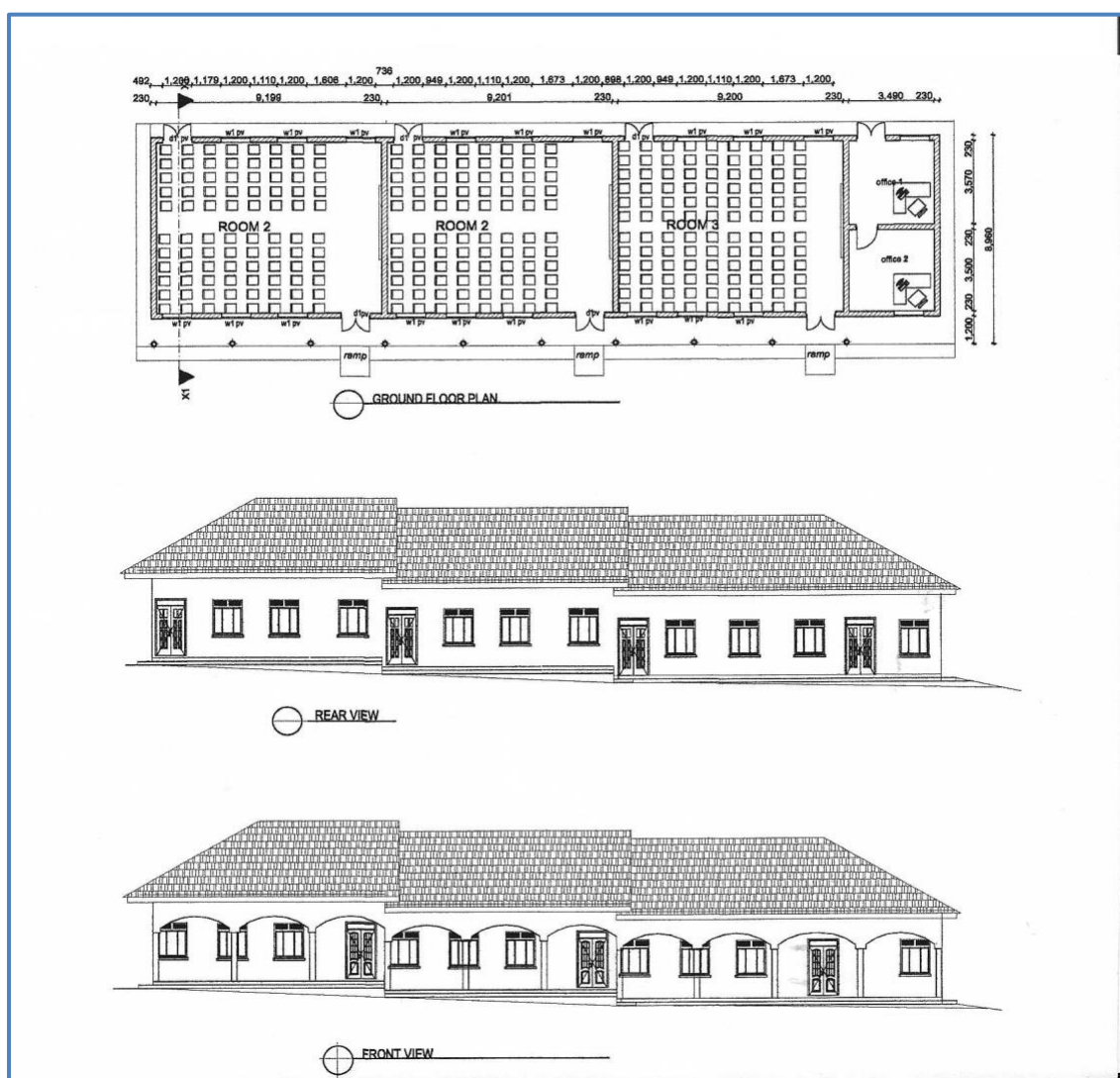


NEW BUILDING PROJECT AT NGSS

Ever since the formation of the MWT the trustees have tried to help out with the structure of the school as well as support individual students. This is an ongoing concern and started when, on the first visit to the school in 2002, the most pressing problem was found to be leaking roofs in the dormitories which meant that the girls' bunks became wet when it rained. At the time money was raised to replace the iron sheeting on the roofs. In the following years we have financed a new large 3-roomed dormitory, a sick bay, accommodation for both male and female staff, a sewing room with 13 sewing machines, a dining shelter and a new kitchen. We have also helped to maintain some of the buildings, helped with the installation of rainwater collection tanks and secured the water source with a tap, provided solar lighting to various buildings throughout the school, replaced printers and generators and offered support to teachers during the Covid lockdown.

The next project is to provide a new classroom block to replace existing dilapidated buildings. This will consist of 2 A level classrooms, a Fine Arts room and an office for the Director of Studies. It is an ambitious project that we are undertaking, costing about £50,000 and is being made possible by a very generous contribution from a charity, whose founder was a very good friend to the Wood family. She visited Uganda herself and knew first-hand just what a difficult life the people there lead. She was also very keen to support the education of girls and also being a lover of the Arts she would really approve of this project. By providing this facility the school will become more attractive to both students and teachers and will help boost student numbers, particularly in the two senior years and because of this will hopefully allow an increase in the number of A level subjects offered.

Although the major funding for this project will come from the outside charity as mentioned above, Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School will also be having some fundraising events, as will we. Please watch out for news of various fundraising activities yet to be decided upon. I believe that we the MWT need to raise about £10,000. If you have any ideas about fundraising events, however big or small, please do get in touch.



RUTH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL, KIHIIHI

The nursery continues to provide a nurturing space for young children. The MWT has supported the nursery again this term providing food, pancakes, milk, maize flour, beans and rice, as well paying for the cook, firewood and water bills. Food has become scarce and prices have risen in Uganda too so the support has been very welcome. The MWT has sent money to cover the extra needs relating to Covid-19, as well as exercise books and other stationary. The playground equipment, seesaws and slides had fallen into disrepair. Money from the MWT has paid for their repair and the re-stocking of new balls.



NEWS OF PAST NGSS SPONSORED GIRLS

Despite all the problems of the last 3 years, university and other tertiary and vocational education has continued, much of it through remote learning. However, the concept of remote learning in Uganda is very different from in the UK and although great efforts have been made there are significant problems with lack of internet connections, computers and facilities at the educational establishments. The MWT has tried to help with this and we have provided laptops where appropriate and paid for data to allow our sponsored students to complete their studies. The overall result is that all of the further education students have graduated successfully despite the problems.

Gift recently received her degree in Business Management and Administration and Prudence was awarded her certificate in Nursing. We have also received photos of Dallen learning how to inoculate cows on her animal husbandry course and Immaculate's sewing shop where she plans to make school uniforms and ladies clothes.



NYAKATARE HEALTH CENTRE AND DENTAL CLINIC

Since our last newsletter the Health Centre has been upgraded to a level 4 clinic. This meant that a new fully qualified doctor was appointed to take charge and his name is Dr Joe. Nexon, who was previously in that temporary role, will remain in charge of HIV/AIDS Services at Nyakatare Health Centre 111. We wish him well as he tries to raise funds to go and study for a degree in medicine and surgery next year.

The dental clinic is still without a fully qualified dentist and much of the equipment needs mending. However, we continue to support the dental assistant who does what he can to encourage good oral health and to carry out minor procedures. The new maternity hospital is up and running and there are a number of private rooms now at NHC 111 which helps to bring in a bit of income.

The health centre is still in need of a blood count machine when funds allow.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER - DR PETER WOOD

As a charity we are thankful for the generosity of all our supporters in the work that the Mary Wood Trust is doing in Uganda, be that in directly sponsoring individual students at NGSS or at the various colleges of further education or supporting the Nursery School, providing an early start to children's education. We also really appreciate the regular unspecified income that we receive and use to support various needs that come up during the year. This coming year we are hoping to enable the building of the Sixth form block which will be good and support for this will be valuable. Through your generosity we will also be able to refurbish the Female Staff House this coming year.

AREAS WHERE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP?

Sanitary pads – we aim to supply all the students with disposable sanitary wear - see below

- Mosquito nets - we aim to supply all new students with mosquito nets - see below
- Sponsor a girl at NGSS
- Sponsor further education
- Fundraising for the new Sixth Form block

OTHER NEWS

One really exciting piece of news is that Peter's eldest daughter, Rachel Wood, has agreed to come on board the Mary Wood Trust as a trustee. We are all so happy about this. Having spent her young formative years in Uganda she knows just how difficult things are there, especially for girls. She is yet to be formally appointed to this role, but we are all so pleased that she wants to get involved in this way, ensuring that the charity and its work will continue well into the future.

The 12 girls sitting their A levels this year were thrilled when they each received a thermos flask, the weekend before their exams started. The headteacher commented that some of them were in tears by this gift. This was made possible by the generous donation from one of our girl's sponsors and we are very grateful indeed. The girls will be able to take these flasks with them when they return home at the end of the term.



We have just been informed that the school, along with all other schools and institutes of further education in Uganda, have had to close 2 weeks early, due to the threat of Ebola. This is a very concerning situation. We hope that this intervention by the President will halt the spread of the disease and keeps our girls safe.

The Mary Wood Trust relies entirely on your support. Thanks to all who give so generously.



At this **Christmas time** perhaps you might like to give a gift of [sanitary pads](#) or [mosquito nets](#).

If this is something you would like to do please click on one of the links above where you can make a donation towards these, or visit the [Mary Wood Trust Facebook](#) page, or get in touch with us directly and we will be able to post or e-mail you a card to show your gift and what it is for.

If you would like to know about setting up a standing order or taking advantage of Gift Aid then please do get in touch – through our website www.marywoodtrust4uganda.org Here you will find lots of other information as well.

Or send an e-mail to marywoodtrust@gmail.com

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