



The Mary Wood Trust Newsletter

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SPRING 2025

As we approach Eastertide it is a good time to give thanks for all that has gone before but also to look forward to new beginnings and the challenges that lie ahead. We are so grateful for all our committed supporters – regular givers, those who sponsor individual girls at school or university and those who respond to specific requests. Without you none of the work that we carry out in Uganda would be possible. Thank you.

NYAKABUNGO GIRLS' BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Nyakabungo Girls Boarding Secondary School is now settling into its first term of the year, under the leadership of a new headteacher, Mrs Ester Atukunda. With 23 years of teaching experience behind her and coming from a similar background to most of the girls, she understands the problems and challenges that they might face. The numbers at the school have increased to 244 and the staff are being very supporting of the new set up. The MWT continues to sponsor 40 girls at the school with 6 new girls starting in S1.

The newly installed chain link fencing is now keeping the school and the female staff accommodation secure and hopefully mosquito nets have now been distributed to all new girls at the school. Sanitary Pads were given out a few weeks ago to all the girls – such a small gesture really but so important and gratefully received, and the new incinerator that was built last year is doing its job. We have sent money for a Samaritan Fund, which helps provide small items of uniform or stationery for those who really struggle, and we have provided funds so that the Art Room has sufficient supplies for all its various projects this school year.

The brass band continues to be a great attraction, the football team are involved with inter school matches and the new A level and Fine Arts Block- Margaret Hall - has certainly lifted the status of the school, with larger numbers in the A level years than ever before. The school does still have financial challenges – mainly due to school fees not being paid on time or at all. In this poor rural community even the small fees charged can be a challenge for some, causing a chain reaction of debt for the school which can be difficult to get out of.

Despite this the school does have plans for the future – building an administration block (with flushing toilets!), setting up a bakery and/or a poultry project (to try and provide both skills for the girls as well as an income for the school itself), establishing a working internet so that the girls can reach the educational standards of more fortunate schools. All great ideas and we wait to hear more about these projects .



NYAKATARE HEALTH CENTRE

Nyakatare Health Centre were delighted to receive the baby incubator that we have just provided and we have also been able to send money to enable community health outreaches for the next 3 months. Unfortunately there are no dental health facilities at present due to lack of qualified staff. However dental health education is still provided on these visits.



RUTH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL, KIHIIHI

Our donations to RMNS ensure that the children at enjoy daily food of pancakes, milk, beans, rice and maize, which sets them up to be in the best position to learn. They enjoy the outdoor play equipment of footballs seesaws and slides. We have recently sent money to repair the seesaws which get a lot of use and are easily broken. The support from the MWT helps to ensure that the children can socialise, learn and thrive.



FURTHER EDUCATION SUPPORT

We have six girls who are in the further education system, either at degree or diploma level. As some of them are soon to complete their studies and also because of a generous donation, we are able to offer University support to three more girls to start their courses in the next few months.

We have so many things to be thankful for and the messages received from girls who have gone through our support system really do re-enforce this.

We received this recently from Agnes . She has just completed her teaching practice at NGBSS and will be finishing her degree in education later this year.

“Good morning my mum., It has been a long time. How is United Kingdom? Here at Nyakabungo things are good. But my mom I want to thank you for the great work you have been doing and you are still doing at Nyakabungo Girls' secondary school. The school for sure looks nice

The school is now fenced with wire nets as well as female staff hostels. Another thanks goes to you for providing us with a great meal and enjoyment on 8th March,2025 (International Women's Day and Mary Wood Day).Further news at Nyakabungo is that the number of students has greatly increased than ever before in both senior one and senior five

In addition to that I have reached at the climax of my school practice and I thank you very much for your efforts towards my school practice. I was supervised two times during my school practice and I performed well but the results are not yet out but I think when we report back to the University they will be out plus results for last semester. We are reporting back to the University on 5th May 2025”.

The Mary Wood Trust relies entirely on your support. Thanks to all who give so generously. If you would like to know more about sponsoring a student, setting up a standing order or taking advantage of Gift Aid then please do get in touch- through our website – www.marywoodtrust4uganda.org or send an e mail to marywoodtrust@gmail.com

If you would like to donate directly to our ongoing work it is possible to do so by using the QR code to the right to access our Total Giving page.

