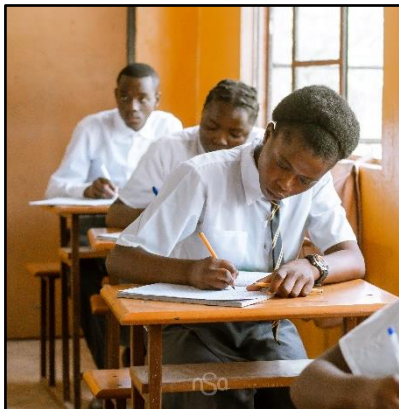


## Nsobe Community School Newsletter May 2021

Dear Nsobe Community School friends and Teacher Aid supporters

2021 is a milestone year for Nsobe Community School, with the first 16 children ever to be enrolled in our school completing their secondary school education in December this year as our inaugural graduating school leaver's class. These children have grown with our school as we have added a grade each year since 2009, developing from reedmat and mud floor makeshift classrooms and temporary teachers to a full primary and secondary school campus of 450 students, taught by 24 dedicated teachers and deemed a model school by our Ministry of Education.



And we are not stopping there! We continue to grow and develop both student support, teacher development and infrastructure. The final secondary classroom block (4 classrooms plus offices and store rooms) is finished thanks to the generosity of a Wilde Ganzen grant together with Diaconie PKN Drunen and our Irish friends from Cuala.

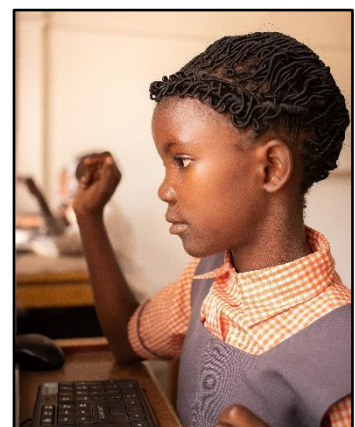
Our first Safe House for vulnerable girls is now open and 12 girls showing academic promise ranging from Grade 8 to Grade 12 are excited and very happy to be homed under the loving care of our House mother Inonge. Grateful thanks to all who

participated in the Gower Yomp, Cardiff and who generously donated through Teacher Aid to make it possible to offer these girls a safe, nurturing and protected environment where we can ensure that they graduate from school and take educated control of their own futures. We hope to be able to build more Safe Houses for the great need to support the undervalued girls in our community.



Building of our Vocational Skills training workshops are underway funded by an Allan and Nesta Ferguson Grant, The Watford Chapel and Teacher Aid. These workshops will teach practical hands on skill acquisition of carpentry and sewing/tailoring - training students in vocational skills that will enable them to earn incomes. Soon all school and lodge furniture, school uniforms, and female hygiene products plus so many other things will be produced onsite, providing sustainable income generating business streams both for the good of the school and the students.

We have recently completed Camara training for our upper Primary School children in our Primary Computer lab and Audio Visual room (installed and kitted out by Mike Papadacos through a Teacher Aid Wales for Africa Grant in November last year). This training helps the students fast track computer mastery, maths practise, touch typing skills and cross curriculum Camara based self-learning programmes. They loved their Camara teacher and lapped up the new knowledge happily coming to school over the weekends hungry to learn more. Our teachers received valuable computer literacy skills training across programmes both for their own professional development and for the better lesson delivery, curriculum support and Camara educational content access.





Nsobe Community School continues to shine out as a model school in our District, and we thrilled to achieve great exam results once again. We achieved 100% high scoring pass rate in the end of year National exams for both our Grade 7 and Grade 9 classes. Such a high achievement at Grade 9 level, in a remote rural area is unheard of. We were especially thrilled with our Grade 9 computer results, which scored as the highest scoring subject thanks to Teacher Aid for our computer labs and Camara for the great training. No other rural community school in our area has access to computers. National

exams are taken at the end of Primary school (grade 7), Grade 9 and Grade 12 (GCSE level). This year we will have our first Grade 12 students sitting for these critical exams.

A fun upper primary girl's campout was held where our deeply caring teachers gave them a wonderful weekend. Our girl students are seldom celebrated and most of the home chores and younger sibling care falls to them – they don't have time to just be children. They had such fun playing physical outdoor games, singing, eating, watching an inspirational relatable movie called "Queen of Katwe", team building, muddy obstacle courses and camping. On a more serious note there were indepth talks about home challenges and self-protection, and sex ed – the girls really appreciated the teacher's openness and addressing hot topics never spoken of at home; lots of questions, blushing, giggling and understanding with a chance for those not feeling safe to chat privately and be further supported by their teachers.



We have so many more projects to complete, to name a few: more Safe houses, a secondary library, secondary boarding houses and much needed teacher accommodation. We are hoping to set up an online math programme called MathsBuddy to help all our students strengthen their maths foundation and skills and help those who have joined us late to catch up and master maths. We are also setting up a bursary loan scheme to help our school leavers access academic or vocational tertiary education.

Please spread the word and help us become better and do more!

Thank you for helping us to educate the children of our community, offering them hope and a brighter future.

With gratitude and best wishes

Fiona

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Please watch an **updated** short video of Nsobe Community School on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTHLRCrdLhg>

(with thanks to Hans Kwanda of New State Art for producing it for Teacher Aid)