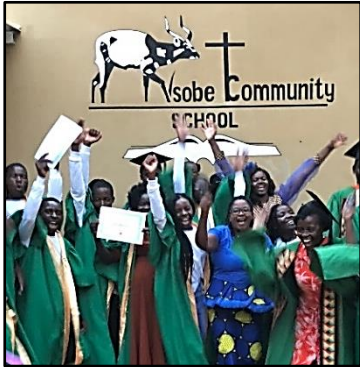


## Dear Nsobe Community School friends and supporters

Nsobe Community School continues to grow and develop, seeking new ways to offer quality education and life skills that will offer opportunity and impact positive change and hope in both our students and their community. Our enrolment now stands at over 600 students across the primary and secondary schools, taught by 35 dedicated teachers and 8 support staff.



We are very proud of our latest exam results (the Zambian academic calendar runs from January to December). Our Grade 7's, sitting the national end of primary school examination, scored 100% pass rate, with the overwhelming majority achieving high level passes. In the Junior Secondary, Grade 9 level, Nsobe came 3<sup>rd</sup> in our entire District, which is a remarkable achievement for a remote rural school competing against urban and boarding schools. Nsobe scored an 89% pass rate in the grade 9 exams, with the national pass percentage sitting at 54%. This not a boast of our results (which should be at 100%) but rather a sad reflection on the state of education in many schools across Zambia, that nearly half of all children fail to progress beyond the second year of secondary school due

to poor foundations in literacy and maths, and lack of accountability, apathy and absenteeism from those who are employed and paid by our government to teach. In the closest rural school to us only 6 out of 91 students passed their Grade 9 exams. At Grade 12 level, we performed well on paper, but generally the 2022 graduates did not score as highly as hoped in individual subjects, the consequences of COVID and the hardships of life holding them back. However, 3 of our 2022 graduates have already been accepted into universities for August intake, and we are supporting others to resit certain subjects or access skills training.



The last term of 2022, although dominated by the national exams, was full of both academic and co-curricular activities, and ended on a high note with our second graduation ceremony. Helen Malcolm and Alex Duncan who became part of Nsobe for their sabbaticals, happily mucked in with good humour, wisdom, and enthusiasm and we were greatly blessed by

their hearts to help us and their vast academic and life experience. We greatly appreciated a Teacher Aid visit by our trustees Maggie and Mike, and supporters Jon Lindforth and Zoe Joyce, who were able to spend time interacting with and inspiring our students and teachers. We held our annual Interhouse Art and crafts competition which was an amazingly talented and colourful display of imaginative creativity through drawing, handcraft, weaving, clay-work, song, mime, rap and dance.



Our Infrastructure continues to develop, and we are deeply grateful to Eireng Ireland who are partnering with us to help ensure that our building standards improve and stand the test of time. They are designing all our new building projects, while continuing to use local village made anthill bricks and train up local labour output, so that our communities can be supported, and are in constant contact to ensure that the right progress is on the ground. Teacher Aid Secondary Library project through the Welsh Government Wales and Africa Grant Scheme is nearly completed, and we are excited that our secondary students will soon be able to access books, fostering literacy, exposure, self-learning, research and empowerment. We have many building projects to complete this year: Safe houses, Primary Ablution Block, Staff and teacher accommodation through Eireng and our Cuala Dublin friends. We are currently building urgently needed teacher housing with deep appreciation to the Pharus Foundation's funding.





January 2023 we welcomed our Nsoke Board Chairman, Mr Jani Zabangwa, as our Pastoral Head to help ensure that Nsoke School stays true to our vision and ethos and remains Christ and student centred. Mr Zabangwa has started, among many other initiatives, tutor groups, to ensure that our secondary student's needs are fully supported, and a student council, so that our student's voices may be heard and they can help shape our school to support them best.

We kick-started the year with a prefect's camp training our new student management team, instilling leadership roles and responsibilities, discussing expectations and how to be role models and handle authority. We have held both primary and secondary interhouse athletics competitions which are always a fierce display of determination, healthy competition, sporting talent and a chance to shine outside of the classroom.



Our school uniforms are now all made onsite thanks to our community ladies sewing group and the Vocational Workshops built by Teacher Aid, The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and The Watford Chapel with training by Maureen Spain. We hope that by 2024 all school furniture needs can be produced in the carpentry workshop.

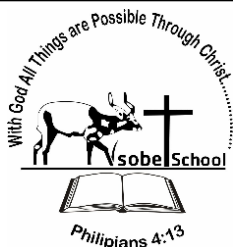


We have recently hosted Bryan and Barbara from Foroige, Ireland, who have trained facilitators from Nsoke staff and leaders from other schools and NGO's to run Foroige's Leadership for Life programme. This is an incredible programme that equips students with transferrable life and leadership skills; building self-esteem and confidence, communication, planning, organising and goal setting skills – equipping students to be who they need to be to make a success of their own lives and giving them the confidence to be active members of their communities, empowering them to initiate community programs and to know that they can make a valuable impactful difference without outside intervention, and be the change and the light that our communities need.

Teacher Aid, our main supporting charity, has a mandate to support and equip Zambian teachers to offer a quality education, and to raise the level of care and support to the children of the disadvantaged community we serve. Our dedicated teachers work incredibly hard, with a work ethic and hearts to serve not often seen, they serve long hours, as well as supporting many extended family members. Their meagre salaries do not allow them to save or equip their own homes. In December 2022 Teacher Aid held a fundraiser to help buy furniture for the teacher's houses. Thank you so much to so many of you that generously contributed. Our teachers were deeply blessed and overwhelmed to receive furniture (which will remain the property of the school for the benefit of present and future Nsoke teachers). We urgently need to increase our general support fund so that we can pay our dedicated teachers a decent and more competitive wage and look after those who care so deeply for others.



Our Nsoke CS and Howell's School Cardiff link has now begun, we are excited about Howell's support, our students on both sides of the globe will exchange letters and views, learning together and creating global citizenship. Here are the Howell's students wearing our Zambian aprons made with love from local Chitenge fabric by the girls and ladies in our skills workshops.



Thank you so much for your support of Nsoke Community School.

Together we CAN bring education, love and hope.

With gratitude and best wishes,

*Fiona*

On behalf of the students and staff of NCS

**Nsoke Community School's Vision:**

*Developing the Nation's human resources through education, personal empowerment and opportunity, for the glory of God.*