

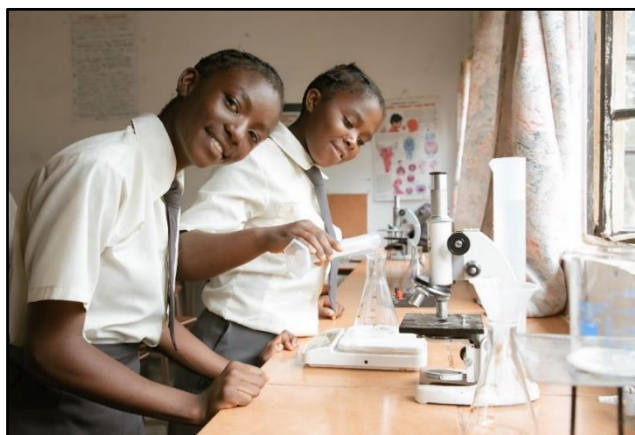
Nsobe Development Trust

www.nsobedevelopmenttrust.org

June 2026 Mid-Year Update

Dear Nsobe Friends and Supporters

We are most grateful for your continued support, which sustains Nsobe Schools and brings hope, care and transformative education to our community in Masaiti, Zambia. Through your partnership, Nsobe is not only able to operate each day — it is growing, impacting lives, and opening doors to brighter futures for the children we serve.



The 2025 National examination results once again highlight the strength of education at Nsobe. While Zambia recorded national pass rates of 79.4% at Grade 7, 59.8% at Grade 9, and 70.3% at Grade 12 (Zambia's highest-ever national Grade 12 pass rate), Nsobe continued to excel with outstanding results of 100% at Grade 7, 95.5% at Grade 9, and 95% at Grade 12. These are exceptional achievements for a remote rural school, whose students are the bringers of literacy to their communities.

On Labour Day, 1st May both Nsobe Primary and Secondary Schools were recognised for their outstanding achievements

during the 2025 national examinations and were awarded at a Ministry of Education ceremony. Between our 2 schools, fifteen of our teachers were awarded certificates of achieving academic excellence. Nsobe Schools have steadily been raising standards of educational performance in Masaiti District. Nsobe Primary School was top ranked in the district and Nsobe Secondary School earned 4th ranking position from 29 schools. (It is worth noting that the 3 schools that stood above Nsobe were all well established and full-fledged boarding schools with high entry requirements). An inspiring highlight came from our Adult Literacy Programme, where a 37-year-old learner achieved outstanding results in his Grade 7 exams (Primary) — a powerful reminder that it is never too late to learn.

May and June have been very busy with Volunteer visits. In early May, Teacher Aid Volunteer administrator, Andy Gowman, and Jon Linforth and his team from Bethany Baptist Church, had a wonderful 10 days of meaningful connection and mentorship with pupils, staff, and Safe House girls, alongside outreach into the wider community — strengthening relationships at every level. We are most grateful for the provision of laptops from Teacher Aid for our Nsobe graduates in tertiary education, a practical investment in their futures made possible through Teacher Aid's support.

In May, we were delighted to welcome students and teachers from St Benildus College, Dublin. They fundraised and built Primary Classrooms for Nsobe so that we can double stream our Primary School ensuring smaller class sizes and more focused and interactive learning, while growing enrolment – enabling us to offer quality education to more of our community's children. We will treasure the joy they brought to our primary school learners. Through games, music, dancing, and laughter, they filled the school with energy and excitement. Seeing our little ones perched proudly on the shoulders of their new Irish friends, their faces beaming with delight, was a beautiful reminder that sometimes the greatest gifts are the friendships, kindness, and happy memories that last long after the work is complete.





In June, Cuala GAA Transition Year students visited Nsobe for two unforgettable weeks of service (building, plastering and painting), learning, and friendship. Through their generous fundraising our new A-Level Science labs will soon be fully equipped and completed. Yet the greatest achievement was not what they built, but the friendships they formed with their Nsobe Buddy peers. Through shared sports, village visits,

singing, dance, games, and everyday life; Irish and Zambian students quickly discovered how much they had in common. In a world too often divided, these young people remind us that the future can be built on understanding, respect, and shared humanity. Their openness to learning from one another, and the shared joy that this brought, gives us great hope that the next generation will become leaders who build bridges rather than barriers.

In April, the NDT Kwabuka Bridge Programme was delivered for all Grade 12 students, guiding them to transition from secondary school into university, further education, or the world of work beyond school. Through evidence-based training in mental health, career exploration, health choices, and personal development, the programme provides practical tools for ongoing growth. Students were equipped with the skills, confidence, and mindset needed to thrive personally, professionally, and socially. Through NDT the Kwabuka Bridge programme will be rolled out in the second half of the year to two further disadvantaged communities in our Province.



In February five Nsobe Graduates (Class of 2025) were honoured at the Irish Embassy in Zambia, receiving their Foróige Leadership for Life awards, accredited by the University of Galway and Queen's University Belfast, from The Irish Ambassador, Aidan Fitzpatrick. A remarkable achievement for young leaders from remote rural villages, once with no access to education — recognised for leadership, community service, and academic excellence on an international stage. Nsobe continues to roll out the Foróige Leadership for Life Modules 1&2 to all our secondary students.

Remembering Ross Chembe Tomlinson: On the 16th of February 2026, Ross, my beloved 20-year-old son, died in a motorbike accident, the day he was due to start University. Nsobe Schools is the legacy of my children, Jemma and Ross. What began in my garden in 2009, homeschooling my children alongside 16 village children who had no school to go to, has grown and flourished into the full Primary and Secondary Nsobe schools of today. As a mother, as a family, and as a community we are devastated by his death: but so proud of our warm, kind and vibrant Ross, a too-short life so well-lived, a young man so happy and so excited for his future and the future of Nsobe. His legacy will live on through all those educated and loved at Nsobe.



This year so far has brought both challenges and encouraging successes, reminding us that Nsobe is more than a school — it is a growing family rooted in hope, resilience, and shared purpose. We look forward to the rest of the year. Thank you for your support.

With blessings and gratitude

Fiona

On behalf of the children, teachers, and families of Nsobe Schools

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Please do visit our new website: www.nsobedevelopmenttrust.org