



Kisima News

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LEARNING IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Here in Kenya it's the last term of the school year, and a very short one for most of the students. For those in Forms One to Three, the term ends on 27th October, when they will go home for a holiday of more than two months. The Form Four students will remain in school for their national exams, which run from 6th to 24th November. They are busy revising four years' worth of work, answering past papers, and doing science experiments so they are ready to face the practical exams in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.



However, it is not 'all work and no play' - as well as the usual sports and clubs, the Form Fours, plus a few lucky students from the lower classes, recently went on a trip to Nairobi. It's a four-hour drive so they set off in the school bus at 4am! The first stop was the Nairobi Terminus railway station. Sadly they just missed seeing the departure of the passenger train to Mombasa, but they enjoyed having a guided tour of the station and learning about rail travel.



Next they proceeded to central Nairobi to view the parliament buildings and other famous landmarks. Lastly they visited the Bomas of Kenya cultural centre where they saw traditional houses, artefacts and musical performances from many Kenyan communities.



Then it was the journey back to Nyahururu, arriving at school shortly after 9pm. For most of the students, it was their first time to go to Nairobi, and for everyone it was a day to remember as a highlight of their time at Kisima. Special thanks go to our bus driver, Ndirangu, and to the kitchen staff who between them served up a very early breakfast and a very late dinner!

MOVING ON TO FURTHER STUDIES

Although the academic year is coming to an end for schools, it is just beginning for universities and colleges, and so most of last year's Form Fours have recently begun the next stage of their education. This year the government has introduced a new funding model for higher education, but this is proving to be controversial and we wait for the way forward to become clear.

Three students are free from concerns about funding, as they have been awarded scholarships. They are now studying at United States International University - Africa (in Nairobi), under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme. The programme offers mentoring, leadership skills development and career services as well as providing for their tuition and living costs, so it is a great opportunity. The students tell us about their experiences so far:

Hilda

(Information Systems and Technology)



'Getting a chance at USIU-A is a great blessing and privilege. It has started to expose me to a lot of opportunities that will build me towards my career.

I am faring on well and have had a chance to interact with people from east, west, north and south Africa. My hope is that when I finish my degree I may further my studies to Masters level. When I look back to my time in Kisima, I can say Kisima has moulded me and built a bridge for me to get to where I am today. I am so thankful to the Kisima fraternity.'

Faith (Software Engineering)

'Here at USIU-A, every day is full of new, exciting and educative experiences. I appreciate the role Kisima played in my life in giving me values that help me appreciate diversity and interact freely with



people from different ethnic communities in Kenya and now with people from different countries in Africa and the world at large. I am so grateful to have got this opportunity that is going to open great doors for me. I look forward to successfully completing my studies and I hope to impact many young lives positively just as mine has been impacted.'

Elijah (Software Engineering)

'Having a chance as a scholar in USIU-A is more than a privilege and honour and I feel very special. I am really enjoying the best faculty in the world. Due to my Kisima experience, my life and education has been made very easy. Kisima learning environment, rules, diversity and education have formed a very strong base that has seen me coping faster with the USIU-A programme. I am navigating through the lectures with ease and already have skills that I never had before. I have made a large number of friends from various countries, with whom we share great ideas. I know I will produce one of the best software engineers of myself. I am hoping that in the near future, I will come up with and establish a giving-back project for my community.'



ACTIVITIES AND FRIENDSHIPS

Last term was perhaps the most action-packed term in Kisima's history! On one Saturday we held the annual talent show, which featured dancing, singing, acting, acrobatics, drawing, joke-telling and more. There were also many trips out to different places in the surrounding area. The girls were delighted to play a friendly football match at another school, especially when they won 4-0! The Form Three class walked to a nearby river for a Geography field study, and the Form Three and Four History and Government students visited the Nyahururu prison. About sixty students took part in a sponsored walk in aid of the Nyahururu Hospice (for which all the students had helped raise funds), and another group represented the school at the county education day. Here we received many trophies for the excellent performance in last year's exams, including for coming top out of the 205 schools in the county, and for having the greatest percentage of students who achieved a university entry grade.



In all these events, the students were joined by Kesh Emmanuel from the UK, who spent ten weeks here as a volunteer as part of her gap year before university. She helped out in many ways, including producing the school magazine, organising the library, painting the water treatment room, assisting the students with their studies and working in the kitchen. The students had a wonderful term because of all the time they spent interacting with her.



Here's what Kesh has to say about her time here:

'I had the experience of a lifetime at Kisima!! It is a very special place full of dedicated students who are so determined to transform both their lives and the world around them. The school is always full of their laughter and their joy is infectious.

The best thing about my time at Kisima was spending time with the students: sharing stories, laughing, learning with them and being part of their community. Everyone in Kenya welcomed me like family and I'm so thankful for all the love, care and kindness everyone showed me. I hope to visit again as I miss Kisima a lot!

To all the sponsors and friends of Kisima, I want you to know what an amazing thing it is that you are doing. You are giving these students a chance to transform their lives and have a better future. I hope God continues to bless you and Kisima.'

We look forward to next term when we will have another volunteer from the UK as well as some shorter term visitors from Sweden.

OTHER NEWS

• Construction of our new ICT and teaching block is progressing well. The main structure is complete and now work is ongoing on the wall finishes, railings, floors and windows. Work will have to stop during the exam period and then resume in late November, and we hope that by early next year the building will be ready for furniture and fittings. Another big step forward this term was the installation of a fibre-optic cable, enabling the school to be connected to the internet via a new national cable network.



• In recent months we have been encouraged by the students' involvement in our Sunday service, especially three of them who have each taken a turn to preach the sermon.



• Catherine, James and Sarah will be taking advantage of the long school holiday by travelling to the UK in December and staying for five weeks. We look forward to seeing family, friends and supporters of Kisima in various locations.

• A new goat has joined Kisima's flock, thanks to the father of one of our former students, Daniel. He is very happy about the chance Daniel had at Kisima, and donating one of his precious goats was the only way he could express his appreciation.



• We are preparing for our next class of Form One students and have received 115 application forms from primary schools, recommending their pupils to us. From these we will select forty bright and needy children to join us in January. If you would like to become a sponsor for one of them, do get in touch with our new UK sponsorship coordinator, Yvonne Pickwick, on office@teft.org.uk

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for...

- The safe and enjoyable trip to Nairobi
- All our former students who have joined university or college
- Helping three students to get scholarships
- A great time with Kesh here as a volunteer
- The students who have shared in our Sunday service

Please pray for...

- The Form One to Three students to make good use of their long holiday
- The Form Four exams to go smoothly
- Those now at university or college to settle in quickly and study well
- Continued good progress in the building work
- The right Form Ones to be chosen and enough sponsors to be found