



Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

10th Annual Report 2018-2019



Isaac Newton High School
A-level Chemistry Class



Mustard Seed Secondary School
Reading for Pleasure Prize-winners



Kasese Humanist Primary School
Children at Play Time



Katumba Humanist Primary School
Traditional Dance Show

10th Anniversary Appeal

This report appears a little later than usual. So, as well as covering developments in the schools in the accounting year 2018, it has been extended to include very significant developments made possible by our latest fundraising appeal.

When we launched our 10th Anniversary Building Appeal, the aim was to raise £150,000 to complete the essential infrastructure of Isaac Newton High and Mustard Seed Secondary Schools, to enable them to meet the educational and welfare needs of a sustainable roll of 600 students.

Our appeal did not reach the target, but still raised the substantial sum of £115,000. We are very grateful to every one of our supporters who contributed. The additional donations enabled us to step up the rate of development of the two secondary school sites. We are delighted to be able to outline, in this report, substantial additions to school infrastructure that have occurred since we launched the appeal.

Falling £35,000 short of the target has left the schools with a few unmet needs, but we will turn our attention to these in the coming years.

Fundraising

In 2018, donations received from supporters reached £160,220, surpassing any previous year. This included £76,185 in restricted funds, given for defined purposes. A further £84,035 came in as unrestricted funds that could be allocated, on a discretionary basis to the most pressing needs.

The largest single source of funds continues to be the 1,500 supporters who have contributed to the Trust in previous years. Some supporters send periodic donations by cheque. However, there has been a progressive rise in the people who make regular donations by standing order. In 2018, 61 supporters made regular donations

in this way and 86 provided scholarships. This regular funding stream is invaluable as it underpins our grants programme and allows forward planning. In addition to their normal donations, many supporters responded generously to our 10th Anniversary Building Appeal.

Funds come in through our website:

www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org



Supporters use the website to obtain general information about the Trust. Many supporters download reports on the schools, and we know, from emails received, that they appreciate their detail and frankness. We make an effort to publicise the progress of the schools, but also to share the periodic setbacks and challenges they face. The school reports display a rolling list of funding priorities and supporters are able to download, from the website, donor and standing order forms and make PayPal donations. As standing orders to the charity have grown, website donations via PayPal have fallen from a peak of £8,045 in 2016 to £3,402 in 2018. Donations through Virgin Money Giving remained in the low hundreds of pounds, and Give as You Live, where donors can name our charity for donations when they buy goods online, has been slow to take off.

In 2018 our income was transformed by large donations from individuals and organisations. We received several donations of £1,000 or more and three of £10,000. The Ethical Society of St Louis donated £33,664 to meet the majority of the costs of a second girls hostel at Mustard Seed School, and an additional £14,423 to provide full boarding scholarships for girls and allocations of reusable sanitary pads from Afripads, which went to all girls in the two secondary schools.

Scholarships

Providing scholarships continues to be an important focus for our work. Money provided by supporters enables bright, but needy, children to attend the Humanist schools. Such scholarship income makes a substantial contribution towards the general staffing and day-to-day running costs of the schools. We have ended day scholarships and now offer only full boarding scholarships. Boarding is most helpful to the very needy children, who are orphans or from destitute backgrounds. When they board in school, they have a safe environment in which to live, a decent place to sleep and they are fed properly. Boarders have facilities for study, access to the library and computers and opportunities to socialise in a supervised setting. Orphan girls, in particular, escape unwelcome sexual advances that they may be subject to in the villages.



Senior 1 scholarship holders at Isaac Newton



Scholarship girls at Mustard Seed

Roughly 60 boarding scholarships have been raised for each secondary school. We try to maintain an even gender balance in their allocation though, at the moment, rather more scholarships are allocated to girls than to boys. This reflects a greater willingness on the part of some donors to support girls.

Two additional scholarships are awarded each year to successful students from Kasese Humanist Primary School. This enables them to continue their secondary education in the Humanist environment of Isaac Newton High School. Despite different local languages and food, the first three students have settled well into the school and are starting to shine. The Kasese students settle in well at the school and are among the top students in their year. In 2019, we extended this opportunity to bright students from Katumba Parents' Humanist Primary School, in Bundibugyo on the Congo border.

Meeting the Needs of Girls

Since we started to make provision for boarding, UHST supporters have prioritised places for girls. Living in school hostels frees girls from the daily drudgery of chores such as carrying water, firewood, cleaning the compound and cooking and gives them precious time to pursue their studies. The girls, as a peer group, support each other both in learning and socially. The schools do much to encourage bonding and a sense

of belonging among the students, boys as well as girls.

Peter Kisirinya, the Isaac Newton School Director, encouraged the girls to pick a name their new hostel. After drawing up a short list of prominent women from around the world, the girls chose Malala Yusufzai. Despite coming from a different continent, the girls found Malala's story inspiring and identified with her life and support for girls' education.



There has been a history throughout Africa and the developing world of girls missing school during menstruation. For a number of years, we have worked to combat this in the Humanist high schools by giving every girl re-useable sanitary pads from <https://www.afripads.com/>. For the past two years, much of the cost of over £1,500 has been met by members of St Louis Ethical Society. When the pads are issued, the girls are taught about menstruation and associated hygiene, which few learned about from their mothers or their primary schools.

Since we started to provide Afripads, girls' absence from lessons has fallen dramatically, and teachers now notice little difference between the concentration of boys and girls in class.



Mustard Seed girls receiving Afripads



Nurse Lydia provides needed medical support

While the Humanist schools start in Senior 1 with more girls than boys, the situation has tended to reverse by Senior 4. A number of pressures make girls more likely to drop out of school. Some families withdraw girls when they need additional labour at home, and others expect girls to marry early in exchange for a bride price. Forced marriage has been made illegal in Uganda so, when it happens and the schools hear about it, they call upon the police to help bring girls back into school. Through awareness raising, increased vigilance and a desire to provide the same opportunities to girls, the

Humanist schools are making progress in reducing female drop out.

Book Assisted Learning

As the standard of education and performance of students in national examinations has improved, the Humanist schools have experienced a growing pressure for places. In 2016 Mustard Seed School enrolled 365 students and Isaac Newton School 450. In 2018, each school recruited over 500 students and, in 2019, they were both very close to their sustainable target of 600 students. Local communities recognise the high standards of education and welfare being achieved. In particular, they appreciate the priority given to the plentiful provision of learning resources, which marks the Humanist schools out from other schools in their



districts.

Well-used library at Isaac Newton

UHST has always done its best to ensure that the Humanist schools are well stocked with both textbooks and books that encourage reading as a source of pleasure through life. In 2017 we allocated £3,000 to the Mustard Seed and Isaac Newton accounts at Aristoc Bookshop to enable them to buy interesting general reading books. This has been exceeded in 2019. Each school has appointed a member of staff to coordinate reading development. Additionally, we provided grants of £800 and £600 respectively to enable Kasese and

Katumba Humanist Primary Schools to build up their libraries.



Girl expressing her views on a book in the Reading for Pleasure competition

We share with the schools the belief that excellence in reading is both an important life skill and a source of pleasure. It also helps to raise student performance across all subjects.



Students showing off their prizes in the popular Reading for Pleasure competition

Both high schools attribute much of the improvement in examination results in 2016 to our policy of flooding the schools with books and encouraging students to take personal responsibility for their own learning.

A Wider Vision of Learning

As well as promoting excellence in core subjects, the two high schools are constantly trying to widen opportunities for

students both within and beyond the formal curriculum.

The teaching of agriculture, for example, is growing in both high schools. Isaac Newton has had help in establishing a school farm, from a recent graduate in agriculture from Makerere University. He established experimental plots to allow controlled trials to be undertaken on seed varieties and the relative effectiveness of organic and chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The school set up a pig breeding programme, which showed considerable early success and taught the children much about animal husbandry. Unfortunately, earlier this year, all the pigs were wiped out by African swine flu, which seems destined to kill half the world's pigs.



Pig rearing at Isaac Newton

Mustard Seed School has phased out old-fashioned commercial subjects, like commerce and accounting, which encouraged rote learning. In their place, they now teach entrepreneurship – a subject with a more practical approach, which requires students to create their own enterprise activities.

Both schools have been working hard to develop their science teaching. The picture below shows students at Mustard Seed School. The girls are working together, in a shady spot, to figure out their Physics prep.



Mustard Seed Girls in a huddle learning Physics

As Peter Kisirinya is himself a scientist, he has been working to establish Isaac Newton High School's credentials as a specialist science school. For some time they have had a well-equipped O-level science lab and prep room. However, this year, a specialist A-level lab has been added. The school subscribes strongly to the principle that "*the best way to learn science is by doing science*". Students fully appreciate the need to subject hypotheses to formal testing using controlled experiments. This is a very good training for life in a rational world.



Girl A-level Chemist at Isaac Newton

UHST has a programme to increase the number of computers in the schools, once there are suitable rooms to house them. Isaac Newton has just bought 12 additional computers through a United Nations programme, and we intend to increase provision at Mustard Seed School once the old hall and science lab have been

repurposed. This year Mustard Seed has connected the school to the Internet, and Isaac Newton is exploring options for using wireless internet through a mobile phone network.

Beyond the formal curriculum, the schools have a thriving programme of co-curricular activities. There are popular and successful boys and girls football teams, girls' netball, mixed volleyball, school choirs, dance and drama. Mustard Seed School has made its mark in scouting. Their students have done well in District, Regional and National scouting competitions. The District scout gathering has been held on school premises, with the scouts, both boys and girls, camping on the school playing field. Moses Kanya, the school Director, has become the District Scout Leader. In this position he has set about changing the scout ethos to one based on secular Humanism.

Student Humanist Societies are strong in both schools. In the past year they have been honing their First Aid skills, following up on a workshop I ran with them last year. Many students seek employment when they leave school in the growing health sector, where they serve as medical specialists, nurses and medical technicians.

At Isaac Newton School, Peter Kisirinya has arranged for a branch of the Uganda Red Cross to be established to enable the students to improve their skills. The Red Cross group regularly provides First Aid support at sporting events. As a spin off, the Uganda National Red Cross ran their annual conference and training session at Isaac Newton School in August this year.

Infrastructure Development

Isaac Newton School

Our 10th Anniversary Building Appeal has made it possible to complete a fine new L-shaped teaching block at Isaac Newton on an excavated flat terrace cut into the hillside. The block has three large

classrooms, that can each comfortably seat up to 60 students.



New L-shaped teaching block

The building also contains a splendid new A-level science lab (below). The school has named the laboratory in memory of Ian Gurney. Ian was a university physicist and a former prominent member of North-East Humanists in the UK, who raised money towards the lab's construction.



A-level science workshop at Isaac Newton

The rooms each have the major innovation of a ceiling, which is very rare in rural schools. Ceilings are wonderful for dampening the sound of tropical rain on a corrugated iron roof. They also prevent lessons from being disturbed by voices from neighbouring classrooms. These are things we have come to take for granted in our comfortable western homes and schools. The new rooms are painted with discrete Humanist emblems and well furnished. The extra classrooms have enabled the school to

reduce class sizes from 100 to 50 by creating two parallel classes, North and South, in each year.

With generous help from two UHST supporters, we were able to pay the school and local community's £10,000 share of a £96,000 project by the Ministry of Rural Electrification to bring mains hydroelectric power to the school and surrounding villages. It has taken two years to realise but it is a hugely transformational project.



Power cables to the computer lab

The school now has lighting for the evenings and early mornings, and power for audio-visual equipment and computers during the day. Villagers can also connect to the grid for lighting, TVs, power tools and, as living standards improve, refrigerators. Mains power will transform life and productive opportunities in the cluster of villages around the school. Leisure time will also be enhanced for students as they will have a reliable power source to enable them to watch premier league football, feature films, news and documentaries on satellite TV.

Water supply has been an ongoing problem at Isaac Newton School, and has become more acute as student numbers have grown. In 2018 UHST funded the construction of a large 100,000 litre underground concrete tank order to increase water storage on the site. This collects water harvested from the roofs of the girls' hostel and the new teaching block. It has eased the pressure by

providing a source of grey water for washing clothes and scrubbing floors.



Satellite dishes for school TV

Good quality drinking water was pumped up from a water hole in the valley bottom. Unfortunately, a few months ago the second-hand diesel pump broke down and an essential part can no longer be sourced. Furthermore, the poor quality pipe bringing water up to the school started leaking. As the situation was critical, Peter Kisirinya, sprang into action and persuaded the national water authority to bring mains water 5 miles from the trunk pipeline to the school. UHST contributed 10% of the costs, with the rest coming from the Uganda government. As with electricity, the piped water will be supplied to villages around the school, where it will transform daily life for many local women and children who currently spend hours fetching water each day.

At the end of 2018, we provided money for the first boys' hostel to be refurbished. Ceilings were constructed to keep down noise and insect transmission. Doors were fitted to each room, floors re-laid, walls plastered and painted, both inside and out. The work has given the boys a new-found pride in their hostel.

With the refurbishment completed, attention switched to meeting the urgent need for a second boys' hostel. We had to end the practice of boys sleeping in classrooms and free up those rooms for

teaching. Work began on the new hostel in December 2018 and was finally completed in September 2019.



Smart new boys' hostel

With this new hostel completed, Isaac Newton School has a very high standard of boarding accommodation, housing almost 200 boys and 200 girls in 4 separate hostels. As a Ministry of Education requirement, the two girls' hostels have been enclosed within a wall, to keep out possible intruders. The walls look rather stark at the moment, but the school intends to use climbing plants, like bougainvillea, to disguise them.

The large amount of building work that has been going on at the school over the past year left the site looking a little unkempt, with piles of bricks and exposed earth banks. Our final grant to the school in 2019 has been to enable the site to be tidied up. Work is underway to improve roadways, build retaining walls and drainage channels. Older buildings are also being given a lick of paint.

In recent years, the Isaac Newton School site has been transformed. When visitors arrive, they are now invariably impressed by what they see. Outside groups are starting to choose the school as a venue for workshops and conferences during the school vacations. This has created an additional income stream for the school.

Mustard Seed School

Donations from the Anniversary Building Appeal has facilitated substantial improvements at Mustard Seed School. A new teaching block was finished in early

2018. This gives Mustard Seed four additional classrooms, a small staffroom and Director's office. It has also made it possible for the school to split large classes by operating two parallel classes, named East and West, in each year.



Mustard Seed's new Teaching Block

In rural Busoga, where the school is located, it has proved difficult to find builders with the experience and skills required for large school buildings. The quality of workmanship has been poor, and they tend to skimp on the quality of materials. This has led to disappointing work at the school. Floors have been made with too much sand and too little cement, so they break up quickly. Cheap roofing sheets, not been properly colour coated, are already rusting. Windows and doors are of poor quality. This affects functionality and durability and detracts from the general appearance, so we have agreed to provide additional funds to rectify the faults.



A gathering in the new multi-purpose Hall

Work on a new multi-purpose Hall continued apace through. This is a large structure that accommodates over 600 students and their teachers for assemblies, debates, music, dance and drama events. It was put to good use during our annual visit in July, when the Reading for Pleasure Competition took place.

During our 2017 visit we learned that the main borehole for water had run dry and it was becoming a major challenge to supply the school's need for water from a single lift pump. Fortunately, we were able to arrange for the water authority to extend mains water to the school. This has alleviated the problem but at the cost of having to pay water rates. Although an extra cost to the school, the charges are proving to be affordable. Upgrading the track through the school to a district road imposed the additional cost of moving the water pipe back into a new trench constructed through adjoining farms.

Although the school has sufficient classrooms, the growth in the number of boarding students forced the school to accommodate students in teaching rooms, thus putting pressure on lesson space. A second girls' hostel became a priority, and UHST, through the Appeal, was able to raise funds for this. The picture shows the building almost completed, but unpainted (it has since been painted pink, at the request of the girl residents). The new hostel sits in a pleasant woodland glade in a corner of the playing field. The hostel has 12 small rooms, each sleeping 8 girls. It was finished in August, together with additional toilets and washrooms. Mains electricity and water have been extended to the site.



Entrance to the new girls' hostel

Mustard Seed now accommodates over 300 students boarding on the school site 7 days a week. Although generally poor, most students are sent to school with small amounts of pocket money and some do small jobs around the neighbourhood to earn money. While individual children have little money, the combined purchasing power of 600 students is a substantial stimulus to the local economy.



School tuck shop

Student spending power attracts traders to the school. One trader runs a tuck shop from a school room, where she sells pens, pencils, notebooks, calculators, sachets of washing powder (Omo) and food treats such as mangoes, bananas, cakes and sweets.

No sooner was this tuck shop set up, than a competitor opened another one in a wooden kiosk, just a short walk away.



Competitive trader on the school site

Two enterprising young men have set up stalls where they prepare Rolex, a popular local delicacy which involves rolling a one-egg omelette in a chapati. These sell for 1,000 Uganda shillings (22p).



Rolex maker at Mustard Seed School

Other casual peddlers come along selling different small items to students. The two ladies pictured sell supplementary foodstuffs, such as portions of raw white cabbage, kabalagala (small buns made from maize flour and bananas) and cassava chips.

The growth of commercial activity around the school is not just confined to traders selling goods to students. Local farmers supply food to the school kitchens. Motorbike taxis (called bodabodas) transport people and goods to and from the school. Local people work as labourers and

craftsmen on building projects. The school is a significant employer, with paid jobs for: teachers, librarian, bursar, secretary, nurse, cooks, cleaners, gateman and ground staff.



Ladies selling supplementary foodstuffs

Many local families have built rooms to let out as teachers' accommodation. Local markets and businesses in Busota benefit substantially from their additional spending. So, all in all, the school is an engine of economic growth and social improvement in the local area, through its spending, the spending of its staff and students and the taxes it pays to local and national government.

During our visit to the school in July we saw that the boys' toilet facilities were inadequate. We provided funds to build a new large toilet block, which was completed recently.

The small track through the school has been adopted by the local highways department and upgraded to highway status. Unfortunately, in the process of upgrading the road, the school fence was demolished by a bulldozer. It is a Ministry of Education requirement that schools near highways have a safety wall or fence to prevent students from running onto the road. The school has had to find the money for this, even though it had a fence there before. The additional expenditure required has put an unwelcome squeeze on school finances.

Mustard Seed School's standing in the community is high. The school stands 5th or 6th among the 30 schools in the district, on the basis of its O-level results. Students from the school are also gaining places in further vocational and academic training.



Joannex Mukisa studying Law at top university

A growing number train as nurses, teachers and mechanics and some gain university places, with a few winning scholarships. Joannex Mukisa (pictured above), the star student from 2017, has just begun her studies in the top law school in the country, at Makerere University. She did this by gaining the required marks in a highly competitive entrance examination. Joannex is a popular role model for girls in the school, who wish to follow in her tracks.

Staffing

In a competitive education system, such as Uganda's, two important factors affect a school's performance: the quality of students and ability to attract and retain able and committed teachers. Humanist schools are gradually becoming the schools of choice in their areas, due to a growing recognition of their high standards of education and welfare. Like other rural schools, where income from school fees is low, the Humanist schools find it impossible at the moment to match the pay of government or urban schools.

Good leadership matters. This is ably provided by Peter Kisirinya, the Director at

Isaac Newton School, and by Moses Kanya, the Mustard Seed School Director (pictured below).



Moses Kanya, Mustard Seed School Director

In order to reward the outstanding efforts of the two school Directors, UHST provides each with a termly honorarium. Easing their personal financial worries helps to free the Directors to focus their talents and commitment on their schools' development.

They work hard to keep their staff. Local teachers are recruited who show a strong commitment to their home communities. Bright young student teachers are also employed. They work part time and use the money they earn from the school to pay their university fees. The schools make a contribution to tuition fees for a number of teachers each year. This is much appreciated and helps to foster loyalty towards the school. Teachers like the ethos of the Humanist schools, which work to foster mutual respect among students and teachers and, by rejecting coercive discipline, create a pleasant working atmosphere.

UHST has tried to encourage teacher retention in a number of ways. A few years ago, the schools were experiencing high teacher turnover. Teachers were only paid when they taught, and they received no holiday pay. Consequently, many left because they found it difficult to survive the long holiday between one school year and the next. To combat this, UHST introduced

an end of year cash bonus (equivalent to a month's pay) for teachers who had stayed with the school throughout the year. This made it easier for teachers to get through the long holiday.

The schools have also played their part in encouraging teacher retention. All teachers on permanent contract are now paid on a monthly salary basis, over 12 months. Furthermore, they are enrolled in the National Social Security Fund, in which employers and employees contribute towards a final pension.

In 2018, as a reward for the sudden jump in examination results in both high schools, UHST paid every school employee a one-off exam bonus. This recognised the contribution that the whole team, including ground staff and cleaners, make to overall school success.

At Mustard Seed School, a lawyer friend who has visited the school for the past two years, has helped the teachers to establish a group saving scheme. All members of staff pay a set monthly amount into the scheme from their salaries (10,000 Uganda shillings, £2.50). They take turns to borrow for personal needs and pay back with a small amount of interest. The scheme is very popular, and we have been asked by teachers to pay the UHST staff bonus into the scheme this year. This is currently under consideration.

In order to show our charity's appreciation for the efforts that all members of staff give to their schools, from time to time we organise a staff party in a local hotel when we visit. The picture shows staff of Isaac Newton High School enjoying a meal at the Brovad Hotel, Masaka.

To further encourage a team spirit, the schools, from time to time, organise staff outings. For example, Isaac Newton High School organised a staff coach trip to Queen Elizabeth National Park to see the wild animals. This was the first time most

teachers had seen Elephant, lion, hippo, crocodiles and other wild game.



Staff party in Masaka Hotel

In August 2020 UHST will be sponsoring the 3rd Uganda Humanist Teacher Conference at Isaac Newton School. This will be an opportunity for the teachers from the different Humanist schools to socialise and share their thoughts on Humanism and raising educational standards in the schools.

Future Directions

UHST is a small charity and, when we started, there were few Humanist schools around. So, it was perfectly natural to concentrate our funds on a couple schools and to develop a close partnership with them. We visit the schools regularly; twice a year in the early period and now annually. Regular visits have enabled us to get to know staff and students and to understand the issues they face.

The schools propose areas where they need help and we put forward suggestions on the basis of what we observe. UHST has tried to be a dependable partner. We share successes and challenges and our commitment extends over years. UHST helps the schools with learning resources, construction and in developing and weaving a Humanist ethos into daily activities. This requires long-term engagement. Our ultimate goal is to support our partner schools until they achieve a sustainable state, with an ability to thrive without us.

We have learned that it is essential to pay attention to matters of school ownership and governance. We expect the schools we support to be registered as not-for-profit companies. We want them to own or have a secure tenancy on the land. In Uganda, whoever owns the land is the ultimate owner of anything built on it. This makes schools vulnerable should the land change ownership.

Isaac Newton High School is on land that Peter Kisirinya's family worked as peasant farmers for generations. It is owned by the local chief but local custom dictates that once used for a school it has to remain so. Needless to say, we are still working to secure a long-term lease. In the case of Mustard Seed School, we have spent 5 years securing long-term leases in the name of the school to each of the small plots of land that have been consolidated to create the school. We are now as confident as we can be, that the long-term investment we have made in each of these schools is secure.

Since education was liberalised in Uganda in the year 2000, many new private schools have been established and most are desperate to attract funds. Unscrupulous school Directors are willing to profess whatever belief will attract the attention of an NGO with funds to disburse. So, caution is the watchword. We receive approaches for support from an average of one school per month. Many of these are religious and have not read our Humanist conditions of support.

Now the core infrastructure of the two high schools is close to meeting their essential needs, UHST is open to supporting some of the new schools coming along, so long as they have effective governance and a genuine commitment to Humanism. Difficult choices need to be made if our limited resources are not to be spread too thinly. We intend to restrict our help with infrastructure to one or two particularly promising schools at a time. However, we

will help selected other schools to raise their educational standards by providing learning resources.

We will also help eligible schools to network with other Humanist Schools. As an example, we will set aside resources for a 3rd Uganda Humanist Schools Conference at Isaac Newton School in August 2020. This will bring 10 Humanist schools together, under the umbrella of Uganda Humanist Schools Association, to share ideas on Humanism and good educational practice and to make connections for mutual support.

New ventures

In recent years, we have been building a good working relationship with two particular Humanist school projects in the West of Uganda.

Kasese Humanist Schools

Robert Bwambale has established a number of Humanist projects in and around Kasese, near Queen Elizabeth National Park. He has built three primary schools, a new secondary school and a small orphanage. The schools are funded from irregular local fee income and with support from individual Humanists and Atheists in North America and elsewhere.



Robert Bwambale at Rukoki campus of Kasese Humanist Schools

Robert has impressed us by what he has achieved with limited resources and by the enthusiasm for Humanism he develops among staff and pupils. UHST has opened an account for the school at Aristoc bookshop in Kampala, which enables the school to enrich learning through books. We are also setting up an account with a science supplier, so the secondary school can build up a stock of materials for practical work in the science subjects. Staff development is another of our priorities. We have provided funds to enable Phiona Nabirwe, one of Robert's talented primary headteachers, to upgrade her qualifications from a Certificate to a Diploma in Education.



Children at Kasese Humanist Primary

UHST supporters provide scholarships to enable 8 Kasese students to continue their secondary education at Isaac Newton School. Two of the brightest students have already reached the 6th form and are expected to achieve top A-level grades in science. Their hope is that a generous sponsor will provide the funds they need to study medicine at university.

While we are very keen to help the Kasese schools further, help with infrastructure will require first some legal changes to the governance and land arrangements.

Katumba Parents' Humanist Primary School

This school adopted a Humanist ethos 3 years ago, following an insurrection, led by a witchdoctor, in which 100 fathers from the school were killed, leaving 180 children fatherless and the mothers were bereft. In 2018 we made our first visit to the school, which is in a small village near Bundibugyo, 3km from the Congo border.



Katumba school room with Humanist messages and surrounding drainage ditch

The buildings were constructed by the parents themselves, from timber hewn from local forests. Unfortunately, the only land available at the time is subject to flash flooding.

We are impressed by the commitment of the parents, who collectively own the school and employ the teachers. When we reported back to our Trustees on the high educational standards and children's proficiency in English, they were very keen to offer help to Katumba. To date, this has taken the form of a contribution towards the school fees of fatherless children (single orphans) and assistance to the school to buy books.



Katumba children

However, what the Katumba parents need is a new school constructed in a drier place. A suitable plot of land has been donated to the school by Teopista Nanganda, a grandparent of children in the school, who is now too old to work the land.



Land gifted for new Katumba school

Katumba parents elected 4 representatives to be Directors of the school, which has been registered as a not-for-profit company based on the model articles that UHST, in collaboration with Isaac Newton and Mustard Seed Schools, has developed for Humanist schools. The articles have been lodged with Uganda Registrar of Companies and they have reserved a Directorship for UHST (following the pattern set by the two secondary schools). The school has an independent bank account and UHST is in receipt of simple, but adequate, annual Receipt and Payment accounts.

UHST Trustees agreed at our recent annual meeting, in October 2019, that we would take on the challenge of trying to raise funds for a completely new Katumba school. We are reluctant to bother our supporters with another appeal, so soon after the 10th Anniversary one. Instead we will try to build the new school in stages over the next few years.

Funding Priorities

At our October meeting of Trustees, we set the following priorities for the next period:

1. **Scholarships** – money we raise for scholarship provides an education in a liberal, Humanist setting for bright but needy children and, at the same time, provides essential core funding to the schools. We want to maintain our current scholarships at 130 or more each year.
2. **Learning resources** – promoting the ability in students to research and learn independently is a central goal of Humanist schools. We want to maintain high levels of spending on books, science and other learning resources.
3. **Libraries** – we want to help each secondary school to create a larger physical space for storing and reading books.
4. **New Katumba School** – £80,000 should build the basic facilities of a much-needed new primary school. If this came in a single donation it would be wonderful. Otherwise we will start by trying to raise £20,000 for the nursery block and then carry out a new stage each year.
5. **Computers** – we want the children in the Humanist schools to benefit from the huge learning potential of the Internet. This means providing more computers and good internet access both to learn how to use computers but also to use computers for research in their day-to-day learning.
6. **Site improvements** – we need some money to make schools sites safe and

attractive for such things as fencing, drainage, roadways and paths, and for flowers and trees.

Longer-Term Projects

1. **3rd Uganda Humanist Schools Conference, August 2020** – we estimate that this will cost £6,000 if we are to invite teachers from the 10 Humanist Schools that currently exist.
2. **Multi-purpose Hall** – at Isaac Newton High School for assemblies, music, dance and drama, dining and a study and exam space (cost £40,000).
3. **Second Boys' Hostel** – at Mustard Seed School to release classrooms currently used a temporary sleeping places. (cost £37,000)

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

People and contacts

The UHST (UK) is a charity that raises funds to support education in Humanist schools in Uganda. Charity Number 1128762.

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Board of Trustees in 2018

Steve Hurd B.Sc.(Hons), M.A.(Econ)
(Chair, formerly Economics Lecturer &

Educationist, Staffordshire & Open Universities)

Professor Emeritus Hilary Hurd, B.Sc. (Hons), Ph.D., FRES, FRSTMH, FBiol (Scholarships Manager, formerly Professor of Parasitology, Keele University)

Caspar Melville, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (London School of Oriental & African Studies, formerly Rationalist Association & New Humanist)

Andrew West, B.A. (Hons) (UHST Website/Facebook, Director of IT, Humanists UK)

Paul Ewans, B.A.(Hons) (Cambridge Humanists, formerly Foreign & Commonwealth Office)

Daniel Hurd, B.Soc.Sci., ACA., MABRP (Honorary Accountant, and Partner, Ernst & Young)

Christine Smith, B.Sc., PGCE (Shropshire and Dorset Humanists, and former VSO Mathematics Teacher Trainer, Uganda)

Stuart Naylor, B.Sc., PGCE, M.A., C.Sci.Teach (Science education consultant and publisher, former Teacher Trainer and Chair of South Cheshire & North Staffordshire Humanists.)

Ed Schmidt, B.Sc.(Education), M.Sc.(Mathematics), M.Sc. (International Affairs), Ethical Society of St. Louis, United States, formerly Teachers for East Africa Scheme.

Glenda Miller, B.A.(Hons) Lawyer and UHST supporter and Uganda schools visitor.

UHST Objectives

Object 1: To support the educational work of Humanist Schools in Uganda.

Object 2: To provide support to enable needy children to attend those schools.

The Charity supports schools providing a broad general education consistent with the principles embodied in the 2002

Amsterdam Declaration on Humanism: <https://humanists.international/what-is-humanism/the-amsterdam-declaration/>

Grant-making Policy

The Trust offers grants to Humanist schools in Uganda. We normally expect the schools we support to be not-for-profit organisations and to be members of the Uganda Humanist Schools Association (UHSA). Our mission is to help the schools provide a good educational experience for children attending them. A condition of support is that a proportion of places are made available to disadvantaged children from the local community.

UHST funds items that contribute to improvements in the education and welfare standards of children attending the schools. The Trust gives grants for learning materials, staffing costs, staff development activities and towards the improvement of school buildings and infrastructure or for additional buildings and such other items that meet the objects of the Trust. The Trust also funds boarding scholarships so that schools can recruit bright children without the means to pay.

Trustees will consider applications for funds from (a) individual Humanist schools and (b) from organisations offering services on a collective basis to the schools (for example, to pay for professional development events for teaching staff). Applicants are advised to approach the

Trust on an informal basis and to seek advice before they make a firm application for funds. Where bids exceed the funds available the Trust reserves the right to provide a proportion of the funds requested or to mount an appeal for additional funds to meet a need that has been identified.

From time to time, the Trust may offer grants to schools for specific purposes determined by our Trustees. The Trust may also announce a total amount of money available for a specific purpose and invite applications from schools either individually or on a cooperative basis.

In most cases, successful grants go through the following stages: (1) initial enquiry and outline bid, (2) full application with reasonable and realistic cost estimates from suppliers, (3) on approval of larger projects, payments may be sent as each stage is completed, (4) recipient supplies evidence of completion with a list of outcomes, including photographs, (5) a final account with receipts are submitted.



Steve Hurd & Peter Kisirinya discussing priorities

UHST requires a copy of the relevant annual accounts and bank statements of each school supported and we expect the amount and purpose of each grant to be recorded in those accounts as well a record of how the money donated has been spent.

UHST GRANTS AWARDED IN 2018

Date		Isaac Newton	Mustard Seed	Kasese	Katumba
15/01/18	Classroom block 3rd payment	£7,000			
18/01/18	Scholarship advance January		£1,000		
19/01/18	Staff development course fees			£500	
	Scholarship advance January	£1,200			
09/02/18	Classroom block 4th payment	£867			
12/02/18	Scholarship Advance February	£1,200			
	Scholarship Advance February		£1,100		
26/02/18	Scholarships March		£1,100		
	Director's honorarium		£250		
27/02/18	Scholarships March	£1,719			
	Director's honorarium	£250			
	Classroom & science lab furniture	£3,000			
19/03/18	Classroom furniture		£3,150		
03/04/18	Scholarships April	£1,725	£1,720		
19/04/18	Scholarships May & June	£3,450			
20/04/18	Aristoc bookshop account	£800	£800	£800	
23/04/18	Scholarships May & June Aristoc bookshop Reading		£3,220		
27/04/18	for Pleasure Prizes	£113	£113		
21/05/18	Multi-purpose Hall 1st payment		£8,205		
04/06/18	New classroom block Books from Aristoc	£3,061			
05/06/18	Bookshop	£600	£600		
19/06/18	Transport to schools	£103	£103		
19/06/18	Scholarships July	£1,725	£1,720		
19/06/18	Multi-purpose Hall 2nd payment		£8,052		
22/06/18	Afripads sanitary pads	£756	£756		
09/07/18	Exam bonus for all staff		£1,000		
11/07/18	Multi-purpose Hall 3rd payment		£4,111		
23/07/18	Scholarships August	£1,788	£1,788		

Date		Isaac Newton	Mustard Seed	Kasese	Katumba
27/07/18	Exam bonus for all staff	£1,000			
09/08/18	Scholarships September	£1,725	£1,720		
	Multi-purpose Hall 3rd payment		£2,171		
10/08/18	Staff development course for headteacher			£500	
28/08/18	New classroom block final payment	£2,600			
12/09/18	Mains electricity connection and wiring	£1,812			
17/09/18	Director's honorarium	£250	£250		
21/09/18	Supplementary school fees for Orphans				£2,400
24/09/18	Aristoc bookshop account				£600
25/09/18	Scholarships October	£1,725	£1,720		
24/10/18	Multi-purpose Hall 4th payment		£3,000		
30/10/18	Scholarships November	£1,725	£1,720		
30/10/18	Site safety works - walls and drainage	£4,000			
05/11/18	Hall furniture		£2,126		
26/11/18	Director's honorarium	£250	£250		
	Scholarships December	£1,725	£1,720		
	Annual staff bonuses	£2,201	£2,451		
	Multi-purpose Hall Final payment		£1,841		
05/12/18	Refurbishment of olf boys' hostel	£2,457			
12/12/18	2nd Girls' Hostel 1st payment		£9,932		
14/12/18	2nd Boys' Hostel 1st payment	£9,973			
	TOTALS =	£60,801	£67,687	£1,800	£3,000

Charity Name UGANDA HUMANIST SCHOOLS TRUST		No (if any) 1128762		CC16a	
Receipts and payments accounts					
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2018	To	Period end date 31/12/2018		
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations - unrestricted	75,150		-	75,150	42,812
Donations- restricted		33,664	-	33,664	21,807
Donations- scholarships		42,521	-	42,521	33,423
Gift aid	8,675	-	-	8,675	6,309
Interest	210	-	-	210	189
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	84,035	76,185	-	160,220	104,539
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	84,035	76,185	-	160,220	104,539
A3 Payments					
Isaac Newton Kateera - unrestricted	41,094	-	-	41,094	9,804
Isaac Newton Kateera - restricted	-	-	-	-	42,795
Isaac Newton Kateera - scholarships	-	19,707	-	19,707	15,802
Mustard Seed School - unrestricted	39,228	-	-	39,228	53,655
Mustard Seed School - restricted	-	9,932	-	9,932	-
Mustard Seed School - scholarships	-	18,528	-	18,528	18,270
Kasese Humanist Primary School- unrestricted	1,800	-	-	1,800	658
Katumba Humanist Primary School unrestricted	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Other including printing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	126	-	-	126	113
Sub total	85,248	48,167	-	133,415	141,098
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	85,248	48,167	-	133,415	141,098
Net of receipts/(payments)	(1,213)	28,018	-	26,805	(36,559)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	40,127	1,276	-	41,403	77,962
Cash funds this year end	38,914	29,294	-	68,208	41,403
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period					
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	
B1 Cash funds	Donations - unrestricted		29,294	-	-
	Donations - restricted	38,914	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	38,914	29,294	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	