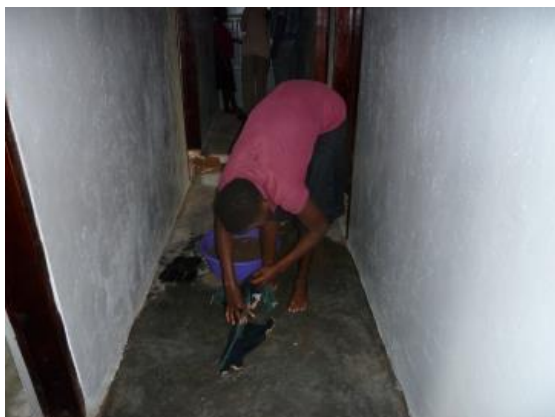


Girls' Hostel

The newest and largest development has been the construction of a girls' hostel. The money for this had come as a generous bequest from the family of a UHST supporter in Cambridge. A small number of girls, including orphans, had been staying at the school in pretty unsatisfactory make-shift wooden bunk beds in an unfinished classroom. The new building, illustrated on page 1, contains 17 separate rooms each accommodating 6 girls with a separate room for a matron and a wash room with 4 showers.



The first girls were just returning to school the day we arrived. The top picture shows a girl mopping down the main corridor to clear up residual plaster dust. The second picture shows the first three girls to take up residence in the hostel. Each room has three bunk beds. The two lower tiers are used for sleeping and the top tier for storing the girls' possessions. Students bring their own metal storage case for personal possessions. Mosquito nets are fitted to protect the girls from being bitten at

night and to greatly reduce the likelihood that they will contract malaria. The pictures below show one of the showers and the external soakaway for waste water. The girls regard this a real luxury, which none of them have in their homes, where water generally has to be brought in plastic jerry cans each day.



These are words of appreciation Joan Mukisa one of the first residents:

"I would like to thank those people who contributed towards building our new hostel. It is very nice and no other secondary school has such a hostel. They are normally found only in universities. Everything is very good because it has most of the things inside including showers, and each room has its own electric light. We feel very lucky to have these."

Lydia Nambiro, added: *"The bathroom is very good. When you go there you feel like you are in a swimming pool."*

Pumped water storage system

Two years ago the school received funds through the Rationalist Association in the UK to construct a bore hole and lift pump. This made water available on the school site and removed the need to carry water from the compound of the catholic church, some distance away. The expansion of girls' boarding made it necessary to take another step forward to improve water supply. The lift pump has been removed, the borehole re-lined in plastic and a submersible electric pump sunk below the water table 60 metres below ground level. Water is now pumped to a 5000 litre header tank from where it is gravity fed to stand-pipes, taps and showers around the school compound.



The pumped storage system supplies the girls' showers and also stand pipes for hand washing next to the toilets and for food preparation near the kitchen. It will make a

huge difference in terms of both convenience and hygiene. Moses, the school Director, is already aware that there may need to be a protocol regulating how long girls can spend in the showers – in order to preserve water in the header tank.

VIP Toilets

The other development which has been essential to allow more girls to board at the school has been to improve the provision of toilets and washrooms. This has been possible thanks to the generosity of a UHST supporter living near Manchester.

After conducting research, UHST advised the school to choose a hygienic design of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilet developed in Zimbabwe. Peter Kisirinya knew of a Ugandan firm that had been building such toilets for a number of World Bank funded projects, and this is the firm employed to build the VIP toilets at both Mustard Seed and Isaac Newton High Schools. The diagram below illustrates the basic design principle, in which flies and odours escape through a pipe which vents the latrine from the rear.

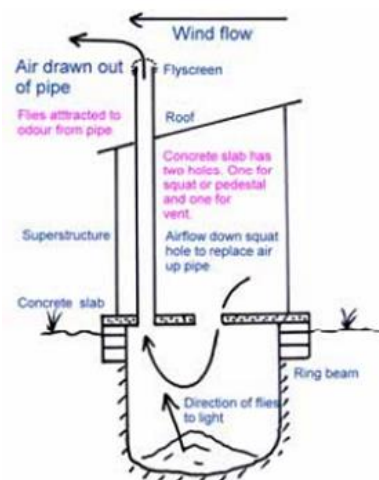


Figure 2-4: Effect of venting a pit toilet

http://www.ecosanres.org/pdf_files/EcologicalToilets-PeterMorgan-Mar2009.pdf

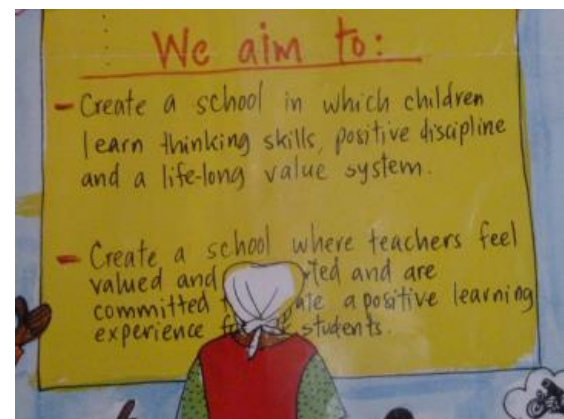
The new toilet block at Mustard Seed provides 4 toilet stances for girls and a separated unit for female staff and visitors. A separate set of cubicles has been constructed to enable girls to wash in privacy.



“Our toilets are very nice. You can go without fearing because the place is very clean. We are also very happy to have the incinerator as we will no longer need to drop towels in the toilets.”

Signs

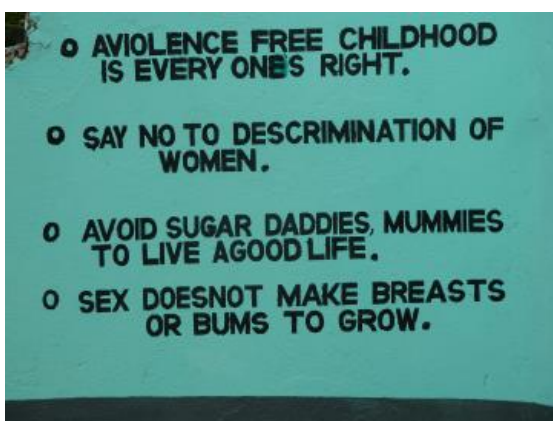
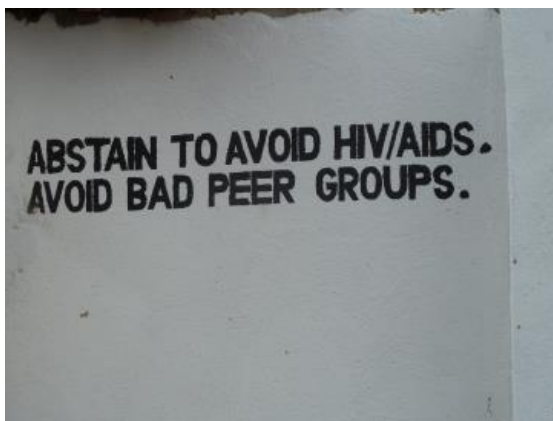
One new development at the school was the appearance of a number of signs to explain to visitors about the school and to encourage appropriate behaviour. These include:



The two top pictures above show the new girls’ VIP toilets. Below them is the new incinerator which has been placed beside the girls’ wash cubicles for the disposal of sanitary towels.

The girls really appreciate these new developments which have greatly improved facilities for maintaining personal hygiene. According to Lydia :





The teachers

Moses has followed a strategy of employing young teachers, many of whom are still undertaking their university teacher training as part-time students. The school currently employs 8 full-time teachers and 7 part-time.

Retention of staff has improved. This is due to a combination of factors. Improving exam results have raised the status of the school, staff room facilities for teachers have improved, as has access to books and computers for preparation. Another

important factor has been the introduction of end of year staff bonuses for teachers who stay to the end of the year and indicate that they are returning for another year. The bonuses have been paid by UHST to avoid burdening the school.



The school operates an enlightened and inclusive approach towards staffing. There is a good balance of male and female teachers. The picture above shows Steve Hurd talking with Andrew Kawura. Andrew is partially sighted and can only read braille texts. Yet, with the help of other staff and students, he is managing to teach and mark English Literature, at the same time as undertaking postgraduate studies in Social Psychology at Makerere University.

Students and fees

The number of students in the school is steadily rising year by year. At the end of 2012 the student body stood at 270. As a result of good O and A level results in 2011 and 2012 and becoming an approved centre for O-level examinations, student intake has increased across the board due to transfers from less well performing schools.

Increasing demand for places at Mustard Seed has allowed the school to raise its fees. Annual day fees in 2013 are equivalent to £62 for O-level and £85 for A-level. Boarding fees are £142 for O-level and £178 for A-level.

Supporters of Uganda Humanist Schools Trust are providing scholarships to 47 students at Mustard Seed in 2013. We set the cost of our annual scholarship at £120 or £10 a month by

standing order. At the time, the Humanist schools had only day students and this seemed a sensible and affordable amount for our supporters. £120 pays the day fee to enable bright, but needy students to attend the humanist schools. It also covers the cost of uniform and school food and makes a contribution to the general running costs of the school. However, it falls short of the costs of boarding provision and yet boarding is particularly suitable for the neediest orphans, and for the girls it affords them a safe environment where they are free from harassment. We are grateful to Mustard Seed School for housing in boarding many of the children we are supporting. The additional costs are, at the moment, coming from general school funds. Below is a picture of some of the students who came into Senior 1 of the school on a UHST scholarship last year.



The next picture shows Senior 4 students, the O-level year, in their first class of the year.



The table shows the number of students who are enrolled in school at the start of 2013.

Classes	Boys	Girls	Total
Senior 1	32	46	78
Senior 2	40	28	68
Senior 3	31	33	64
Senior 4	31	29	60
Senior 5	24	6	30
Senior 6	16	3	19
TOTAL	174	145	319

Additional costs that have to be paid by all students are examination entry fees and the costs of essential exam related field work for subjects like Geography. UHST provided supplementary finance to the school in 2012 to cover the exam entry fees of those families who could not pay. Similarly the school covers the field work costs when families really cannot pay. Extremely poor students are provided with exercise books and pens from school funds.

Support from UHST in 2012

UHST supporters have provided the following support for Mustard Seed School since January 2012:

180 desks & chairs to establish examination centre	£1,200
New kitchen building + 30 beds for boarding students with mosquito nets	£5,500
40 scholarships	£4,800
Efficient wood burning stoves for kitchen	£1,200
Textbooks	£1,000
Science equipment	£500
Purchase of land to expand the upper school	£4,100
Emergency food money (East African drought)	£900
Extension of electricity to new site	£1,850
Repayment of science lab loan	£2,050
Data projector	£378
Large cooking pots for new stove	£390
Girls' VIP toilets and wash rooms	£6,400
Materials for science exam centre	£630
Hostel for 102 girls	£27,500
Annual pay bonus + £200 for Conference expenses	£1,200

The school made considerable progress during 2012. The additions that have been made have greatly improved conditions for both students and teachers. The pumped water storage scheme has transformed daily life on the lower school site. Improvements in the kitchen have transformed cooking

arrangements. The conditions for the girls have improved as a result of new toilets, wash rooms and the fine new hostel. Earlier work refurbishing the hall, fitting windows, fencing the site and purchasing science materials for examinations has enabled the school to qualify to become an examination centre. This allows students to take their exams in the place where they are learning and eliminates the boarding, subsistence and travel costs involved when they have to use another more distant centre.

Priorities during 2013

We are working to a plan which will see the Mustard Seed School becoming self-sustaining within the next three years. The aim is to provide the basic infrastructure that will support a student body of 400, at which point the school should be able to cover its basic running costs. It will continue to be a struggle even then to fund major new buildings from school income alone.

Boy students in the school are feeling envious of the improvements in the facilities for the girls which have taken place during 2012. They would like to see us provide funds for new toilets and wash rooms for the boys and the boarders would like to have a similar hostel to the girls' one. The entire upper school site needs refurbishment, including the installation of windows, new doors, plastering and painting, and water needs to be made available on the site.

At present for sporting activities the school has to book slots to use the playing field of the primary school, which is some way away. Last year we bought a suitable plot of land to provide an on-site playing field but this needs to be cleared and levelled. With growing numbers of students it is a constant challenge to maintain an adequate stock of books and materials for science, the arts and music.

The largest single challenge in 2013 will be to raise funds for a boys' hostel on the upper school site with a pumped water system and electricity supply. With large numbers of students in residence they will also soon need

a dispensary and sick bay, with resident nurse.

The funds we are aiming to raise for Mustard Seed School during 2013 are:

- VIP latrines and wash rooms for boys (£6,500)
- Refurbishment of Upper School Site (£3,500)
- Construction of boys dormitory, provision of water and electricity (£30,000)
- Levelling and surfacing the school playing field (£2,750)
- Constructing a school clinic and sick bay (£6,000)
- Books, science and other learning materials (£3000)

If you feel you or your group would like to contribute to meeting any of these needs then please contact stevehurd@uhst.org (01782 750338).

Donation and standing order forms can be found at:

<http://www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/donate/>