



# Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

## 9th Annual Report 2017



Mustard Seed School daily briefing



Girls at Isaac Newton School voting for name of new hostel

## 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 Humanist principles embodied in the 2002 Amsterdam Declaration:

<http://www.iheu.org/amsterdamdeclaration>

### **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. UHST will require a copy of the relevant annual accounts 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.

### **Management and Governance**

A number of other Humanist organisations share an interest in the schools and UHST exchanges information with such organisations about grants awarded and applications received. From time to time, we share the costs of particular projects with one or more kindred organisations. UHST is affiliated to the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) and our Board of Trustees includes members from:

- The former South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists (SCANS)
- The Rationalist Association/New Humanist (RA)/School of Oriental & African Studies
- The British Humanist Association (BHA)

- Cambridge Humanists & Dorset Humanists
- Ethical Society of St. Louis, United States

UHST Trustees held their Annual General Meeting in October 2017.

The Board of Trustees in 2017 comprised:

Steve Hurd (Chair – formerly Open University School of Education)

Hilary Hurd (Scholarships Manager – Emeritus Professor of Parasitology, Keele University)

Caspar Melville (London University School of Oriental & African Studies – formerly Rationalist Association/New Humanist)

Andrew West (UHST Website/Facebook - British Humanist Association)

Dan Hurd (UHST financial adviser – Associate Partner, Ernst & Young)

Paul Ewans (Cambridge Humanists – charity manager)

Chris Smith (formerly VSO Uganda, Dorset Humanists)

Stuart Naylor (former chair of South Cheshire & North Staffordshire Humanists, Science teacher trainer and curriculum developer)

Ed Schmidt, Ethical Society of St. Louis, United States, formerly Teachers for East Africa Scheme

Glenda Miller B.A. Hons Lawyer

## Fundraising activities

### Receipts

In 2017 the donations we received to help the Humanist Schools in Uganda totalled £104,539. This comprised £55,229 in restricted funds that were given for a specific purpose, such as for scholarships or specific building projects, and £49,309

in unrestricted funds that could be allocated to meeting the most pressing needs.

Funds were raised in a variety of ways.

### Existing supporters

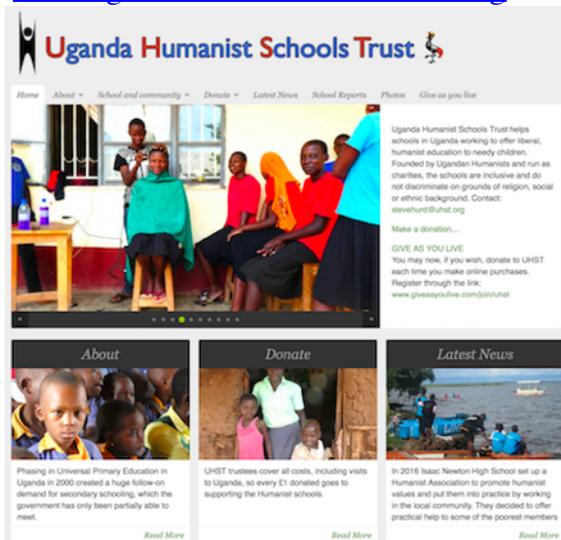
The largest single source of funds during 2017 continued to be the 1,500 supporters who have contributed to the Trust in previous years. Some supporters send periodic donations by cheque. However, there has been a steady rise in the number of supporters making regular donations by standing order. In 2017 52 supporters made regular general donations by standing order and 87 provided scholarships that way.

This regular funding stream is invaluable as it underpins our grants programme and allows forward planning.

### Website

The news blog on our website helps to maintain a constant flow of visitors to the site:

[www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org](http://www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org)



People visit 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 that the schools are making, but also to share with supporters the periodic

setbacks and challenges they face. The school reports display a rolling list of funding priorities and supporters can download donor and standing order forms, and make PayPal donations.

Website donations via PayPal, which had increased from £3,208 in 2015 to £8,045 in 2016, fell to £3,268 in 2017. Donations through Virgin Money Giving remained in the low hundreds of pounds.

**Large donations**

We are delighted that we continued to receive a number of large donations of over £1,000 in 2017. Supporters in the north-east donated an additional £10,000 towards a new classroom block at Isaac Newton School. This supplemented the £5,900 received from North-East Humanists in 2016 towards the science lab in the new block. The lab will be dedicated to the memory of the physicist Ian Gurney, who was an active member of the group. The Ethical Society of St Louis donated a further £15,149 towards scholarships for girl students and for general school improvement.

**Grants awarded**

**Scholarships**

The money our supporters provides for scholarships brings bright, needy children into the Humanist schools, such scholarship income makes a substantial contribution towards staffing and day-to-day running costs. In 2017 we moved over to providing entirely boarding scholarships. This is because we feel that 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, they have a decent place to sleep and are fed properly.



When they stay at school they have facilities for study, access to the library and computers and opportunities to socialise in a supervised setting. The orphan girls, in particular, are able to escape the unwelcome sexual advances they are often subject to in the villages. In 2017 our boarding scholarships were allocated as follows:

Isaac Newton School	61
Mustard Seed School	68

2017 saw the complete switch from day scholarships of £120 to boarding scholarships of £300. Although the total number of scholarships provided has fallen a little, there has been a substantial increase in the income of each school as a result of the switch.

Below is a picture of Hilary, our Scholarships Manager, with some of the scholarship holders from Mustard Seed School.



We try to maintain an even gender balance

in the allocation of scholarships though, at the moment, rather more scholarships are allocated to girls than to boys. This reflects the preference of some donors to support girls. As in the previous two years, two additional scholarships were provided to enable successful students from Kasese Humanist Primary School to transfer to Isaac Newton High School. This has proved to be a very fruitful link. The Kasese students settle in well and are among the top students in their year. As the standard of education and performance of students in national examinations has improved, the schools have experienced increased demand for places. In 2016 Mustard Seed School enrolled 365 students and Isaac Newton School 450. However, in 2017, each school recruited over 500 students. The picture below shows a successful A-level student, Joan, being carried by her classmates. Joan is hoping to gain a government scholarship to enter Makerere University, Uganda's top institution of higher education.



### **Learning Resources**

In 2017 we allocated £2,000 to the Mustard Seed and Isaac Newton accounts at Aristoc Bookshop to enable them to buy books to promote Reading for Pleasure. Each school has appointed a member of staff to coordinate reading development in their schools. Additionally, we gave a grant of £500 to enable Kasese Humanist Primary School to buy books. Below we see children from the BIZOHA campus of

Kasese Humanist Primary School with their new textbooks.



We share with the schools the belief that excellence in reading is both an important life skill and a source of pleasure through life. It also helps to raise performance across all subjects. Both schools attribute much of the improvement in examination results in 2016 to our policy of flooding the schools with books, which has enabled students to become autonomous learners. As a further positive development, Isaac Newton High School has introduced English Literature as a compulsory subject for all students, with the aim of promoting excellence in English to the benefit of all subjects across the curriculum.

We substantially increased the allocation of funds for science. Hitherto results in science have been poor in Mustard seed School. We provided, therefore, £1,500 to enable to school to hire a well-qualified Head of Science and Science Technician and also to hire trainers to convey good practice to all science staff in the school. Additionally, we gave a further £500 to enable the school to increase its stock of essential science equipment and chemicals. Isaac Newton School, which has always allocated funds to science, was given an additional £500. Below are students at Isaac Newton School having an extra science practical lesson on a Saturday morning.



Providing the girls with sanitary pads was another priority and we did this by arrangement with Afripads, a Dutch/Uganda social enterprise. Much of the costs of £1,876 were met by a grant from members of St Louis Ethical Society.



In the above picture girls from Mustard Seed School are receiving their packs of Afripads. While not a learning resource, the provision of the pads has greatly reduced girls' absence from lessons and increased their ability to concentrate in class.

### ***Infrastructure improvements***

#### **Isaac Newton School**

In 2016 we provided £2,860 for work to improve the site roadways and paths, to dig drainage channels and construct a retaining wall across the site to deflect floodwaters from classrooms, and to complete a reception building at the school gate. The picture below shows the completed

retaining wall which diverts water away from the classrooms.



We have completed a further upgrade of the school's computer system by adding another 10 Zotec Z-box computers. The school now has 20 workstations and all computers come with the huge RACHEL repository of educational materials. We started two large projects at the end of 2016 and they have been completed in 2017. The larger project was the construction of a second girls' hostel made possible by a large grant of \$40,000 from St Louis Ethical Society. The new building provides high quality accommodation for 96 girls in a large hostel divided into small rooms which each take 6 to 8 girls sleeping on double bunk beds.



Each room has a ceiling to keep down noise and to prevent mosquitos from moving freely from room to room transmitting malaria. The girls are encouraged to sleep under mosquito nets. Many do but some girls find the nets claustrophobic and prefer to have a free air

movement. Adjoining the hostel there are showers and wash rooms and Italian-style squat flush toilets.



We paid the school and local community's £10,000 share of a £56,000 project by the Ministry of Rural Electrification to bring mains hydroelectric power to the school and its surrounding villages. Two Humanists from Leicester Secular Society provided the bulk of the funds for this. It is a hugely important project. The school will have lighting for the evenings and early mornings, and power for audio-visual equipment and computers during the day. The local villagers will also be able to connect to the local grid for lighting, refrigerators, TVs and power tools. This development will transform life and productive opportunities in the local area.



A dispute between the Uganda Government and the World Bank set back the project for a whole year and it is now due for completion in mid-2018. The picture above shows the first poles that will

carry the power line around the school and local villages.

In November UHST provided £22,343 for the first two phases of work on a much-needed additional teaching block, with 3 additional classrooms and a second science laboratory. When completed in June 2018 it will allow the school to reduce its class sizes by operating with two classes in each year. The picture below shows the stage of work reached by the end of the year.



The final new infrastructure development at Isaac Newton School has been the construction in concrete of a large 100,000 litre underground tank. This will be filled with water harvested from the roofs of the girls' hostel and the new teaching block. This will ease the growing pressure on water supplies as the school has expanded. It will reduce the amount of water that has to be pumped up from the valley bottom. Up to now the school has used a diesel pump but, once the mains power is online, an electrical pump will be fitted, which will have lower running costs.



### Mustard Seed School

We funded a further extension to Mustard Seed School's computer system, so they now have 20 working computers.

The growing popularity of the school in the area has meant that student numbers have been growing faster than the infrastructure. The school was criticised, by the school inspectors, for allowing class sizes to grow too large – some classes had over 100 students, something not at all uncommon in Uganda, but as a charity supporting the school we had also expressed our concern about this.

The solution was to build more classrooms, so the school could move to two-streams. UHST had not planned for such a major building project so soon, but the inspection report meant that action had to be taken quickly. We provided money for an architect to draw up plans and, in March, building work began. A new teaching block, costing £31,000, has been built at the lower end of the playing field. It has 4 new classrooms, each with ceilings and wired for lighting and power, and a number of small staffrooms. A further £4,000 was spent equipping it with furniture.



When we visited the school in June, students and staff were suffering from an acute shortage of water. The first borehole had dried up, as the water table had fallen due to excessive extraction in the general area around the school. Students had to fetch water in jerry cans from the new borehole, a quarter of a mile away from the hostels, at the far side of the playing field. The school's hopes of mains water were dashed when the main pipe was diverted to

serve the needs of the village of a prominent local politician.

Derek Miller, one of our visiting party, went with Moses to discuss the situation with the regional water authority. After a ground survey, the Authority proposed a plan that involved connecting in to a new high-pressure water main bringing water from a pumping and filtering station on the Rive Nile. The water would then be piped 1.5 km to the school and stored in two overhead tanks for distribution around the school sites.

UHST found the £5,550 cost of this scheme, which we felt would solve the school's water problems. The water supply would be metered so the school will receive quarterly bills for water, but at least the supply will be reliable.



We were delighted that the water authority started work without delay and the system was completed within 6 weeks.

Unfortunately, there were two further problems. Construction work at the pumping and purification station on the Nile fell behind schedule so, although the system was in place, it would be months before the water started to flow. We were then presented with a completely unexpected problem. Uganda Road Authority decided to upgrade the road along which the pipe had been laid, so we had to provide a further £1,158 to have the connecting high-pressure water pipe moved back 3 metres from the line of the new road.

With the large number of students sleeping in hostels on the site, housing some staff

on the site for supervision in the evenings and at weekends has become a priority. We have given the school £3,000 to buy some partially completed buildings on a fourth plot of land that UHST donors purchased for the school. Next year we hope to be able to find the funds to complete and convert these buildings into staff housing.

During the course of the year we paid legal fees of £1,158 to secure 4 long-term leases on the land, in order to safeguard the long-term future of the school.

## Priorities for 2018

By the end of May, a new teaching block with 3 classrooms and a science lab, each with integral storerooms, power and lighting, should be completed at Isaac Newton school. This will allow the school to be run as two streams and to halve class sizes. At the same time a major project to bring mains electricity to the school should also be completed, and as a spin off we will be providing power to the villages around the school. This will transform life and opportunities for the wider community around the school.

The next major requirement at Isaac Newton School is to make provision for a new library and information centre where students can access information from books and computers. The school also needs a canteen, where students can take their meals. We are looking into the possibility of creating a new building which combines all three functions.

At Mustard Seed School our aim is to raise funds for a new school hall, with connected deputy head's/site manager's office, to be constructed next to the new playing field. Once this is finished it will be possible to turn the old hall into a library, reading room and information centre with on-line computers so that students can research information from both off and on-line sources. The old

library will be removed to free up space for creating a refurbished science lab. The adjoining classroom will be turned over to a staff room, where teachers can undertake preparation work. This will have the advantage of being close to the new computer information centre so that teachers will be able to research new material for lessons. The old, very cramped, computer room will also be released for use as staff offices. The original site will then be able to undergo a facelift and flower garden planted to make it a pleasant place to receive visitors and for staff to work. It will also improve the environment for the girls who stay in the hostel on the same site.

As well as developing the infrastructure of the two schools we also intend to continue the policy of ensuring that students and staff have plenty of books to consult for research and to read for pleasure. We also want to ensure that all subjects have the learning resources they need to offer a good education. In addition we will try, where we can, to help the schools to offer co-curricular activities such as sports, music and outside visits.

We are very grateful to our supporters whose generous donations have made the progress reported here possible. Should readers wish to donate to our work to improve school infrastructure to cope with the rising numbers of students who are being attracted to the Humanist Schools in Uganda please visit our website:

<http://www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/donate/make-a-donation/>

## 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 2017***

Steve Hurd B.Sc.(Hons), M.A.(Econ), PGCE, FRSS (Chair)

Professor Emeritus Hilary Hurd, B.Sc.(Hons), Ph.D., FRES, FRSTMH, FBiol (Scholarships Manager)

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

Andrew West, B.A. (Hons) (British Humanist Association)

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

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

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

Stuart Naylor, B.Sc., PGCE, M.A., C.Sci.Teach (Science education consultant and publisher, former 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.

# Grants awarded by UHST

## January to December 2017

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### Isaac Newton High School, Kateera, Masaka

School Director's Honorarium (22 Feb)	£1,000
Scholarships (7 Mar)	£4,473
Scholarships (26 Apr)	£1,547
Scholarships June & July (30 May)	£3,057
Bicycle (30 May)	£75
Friendship week contribution to expenses (30 May)	£537
Books from Aristoc Bookshop Account (1 June)	£888
Science materials from Chemequip (2 June)	£500
Sanitary pads from Afripads (7 June)	£938
A-level science lab furniture and animal house (15 June)	£1,186
10 Z-box computer systems (22 June)	£1,453
Reading for Pleasure Dictionaries from Aristoc Bookshop (24 July)	£87
Scholarships August (31 July)	£1,547
Scholarships September (8 Sept)	£1,547
School Director's Honorarium (8 Sep)	£250
Work on Bursar's House (Roof/Windows) (8 Sep)	£500
Water storage tank (14 Sep)	£2,927
Scholarships October (6 Oct)	£1,547
Scholarships November (2 Nov)	£1,547
New classroom block 1 <sup>st</sup> payment (27 Nov)	£9,000
New classroom block 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment (15 Dec)	£13,343
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£47,949</b>

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS** *spent partly from restricted funds in 2017*

Water supply, WCs and cess pit for Health Centre (27 Jan)	£2,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Girls' Hostel (St Louis Ethical Society) (27 Jan)	£5,000
4 <sup>th</sup> Girls Hostel: electrical wiring and bunk beds (27 Feb)	£6,932
Final Girls' Hostel payment (2 May)	£6,520
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£20,452</b>
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>£68,401</b>

### Mustard Seed Secondary School, Busota, Kamuli

School Director's Honorarium (6 Jan)	£1,000
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Scholarships (13 Feb)	£4,416
Head of Science salary (20 Feb)	£1,500
New classrooms: surveyor/architects fees (2 Mar)	£472
New classrooms: 1 <sup>st</sup> payment (7 Mar)	£8,201
New classrooms: fencing site (8 Mar)	£2,237
New classrooms: 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment (31 Mar)	£6,835
New classrooms: 3 <sup>rd</sup> payment (18 Apr)	£6,761
New classrooms: connection to mains power (24 Apr)	£1,295
Scholarships (26 Apr)	£1,679
New classrooms: furniture (2 May)	£4,000
New classrooms: 4th payment (12 May)	£3,067
New classrooms: final payment (22 May)	£2,176
Scholarship June & July (30 May)	£3,321
Friendship week contribution to expenses (30 May)	£537
Books from Aristoc Bookshop Account (1 June)	£888
Science materials from Chemequip (2 June)	£500
Sanitary pads from Afripads (7 June)	£938
10 Z-box computer systems (22 June)	£1,453
Connection to high pressure mains water (18 July)	£5,880
Reading for Pleasure Dictionaries from Aristoc Bookshop (24 July)	£87
Scholarships August (31 July)	£2,079
Scholarship's September (8 Sept)	£1,680
School Director's Honorarium (8 Sept)	£250
Scholarships October (6 Oct)	£1,679
Scholarships November (2 Nov)	£1,679
Purchasing buildings on new land	£3,000
Annual staff bonus (27 Nov)	£1,600
School Director's honorarium (27 Nov)	£250
Legal fees for land leases (5 Dec)	£107
Diverting water pipe to avoid road works (7 Dec)	£1,158
Advance scholarship payment for January 2018 (22 Dec)	£1,200
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>£71,925</b>

### **Kasese Humanist Primary School**

Books via Aristoc Bookshop (16 June)	£500
Education degree fees for Kasese School Headteacher (21 Aug)	£158
<b>Total funds to Kasese Humanist Primary School</b>	<b>£658</b>
<b>Total grants allocated =</b>	<b>£140,986</b>

**Receipts and payments 01/01/17 to 31/12/17**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Donations - unrestricted	42,812		42,812	52,084
Donations- restricted		21,807	21,807	40,779
Donations- scholarships		33,423	33,423	21,316
Gift aid	6,309	-	6,309	12,874
Interest	189	-	189	202
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>49,309</b>	<b>55,229</b>	<b>104,539</b>	<b>127,255</b>

<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Isaac Newton Kateera - unrestricted	23,780.73	0.00	23,781	13,965
Isaac Newton Kateera - restricted	0.00	28,818.62	28,819	35,695
Isaac Newton Kateera - scholarships	0.00	15,802.00	15,802	10,650
Mustard Seed School - unrestricted	53,655.24	0.00	53,655	16,719
Mustard Seed School - scholarships		18,270.00	18,270	8,704
Kasese Humanist Primary School- unrestricted	657.73	0.00	658	500
Kasese Humanist Primary School- scholarships	0.00		-	240
Bank charges	113.39	0.00	113	104
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>78,207.09</b>	<b>62,890.62</b>	<b>141,098</b>	<b>86,577</b>

**Net of  
receipts/(payments)  
A6 Cash funds last year  
end  
Cash funds this year  
end**

(28,897.74)
69,025.08
40,127.34

(7,661.38)
8,937.17
1,275.79

-36,559
77,962
41,403

40,678
63,900
77,962