



Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

Chair's Report on the Year to September 2020



Mustard Seed Secondary School
New Science Lab in Former Hall



Kanungu Rugby Campus
Entrance to Site



Katumba Parents' Humanist Primary
New Nursery Section



Isaac Newton High School
Construction of New Hall

Financial Picture Sept 2020

Donations to UHST have grown steadily year by year since we were established in 2008. In 2019, annual donations reached a record level of £160,220, with grant disbursements not far behind at £155,176.

We began the year with **cash reserves** of £68,208. Nearly one-third of that (£18,412) being restricted funds, given in 2019 and already earmarked for spending in 2020.

In the first 8 months of 2020 we received £123,351 in donations and issued grants of £152,272 – the difference drawn from reserves. This included previously allocated funds for building work that carried over from one financial year to the next.

Our reserves on 7 September 2020 stood at:

Current account	£ 10,542.34
Savings account	£ 15,168.74
TOTAL	£ 25,711.08

Against reserves and current income, we have the following commitments:

Completion of	
Isaac Newton Hall	£ 3,000
Mustard Seed Dormitory	£ 6,590
TOTAL	£ 9,590

Scholarships for Nov & Dec £ 6,534

Commitments to end of 2020 £16,124

Between now and the end of December we will be receiving regular monthly income from standing orders. This income generally meets the monthly scholarship demands, so scholarships rarely draw upon reserves.

We are expecting, in the next few months, a bequest in the region of £60,000.

Grants since Jan 2020

The generosity of UHST supporters has enabled us to contribute funds to the following essential needs of the Humanist Schools:

	Amount
Scholarships	£35,557
Books	£1,150
Science & Computers	£0
Water, Sanitation	£18,870
Girls' Sanitary Pads	£0
Staff Bonus & Hardship	£14,800
Site, Buildings, Furniture	£74,993
Other Education/Welfare	£6,903
TOTAL	£152,272

Money was allocated for books at Katumba and Kanungu Schools but, by the time we were ready to give money for books to the high schools, the Covid lockdown had started. This equally affected the purchase of science materials and replacement sanitary pads for the girls – who have, in any case, been out of school since April.

Scholarship money, which meets 45% of total costs at Mustard Seed School and 30% at Isaac Newton, has been used to provide 50% of replacement pay for full-time school staff and to pay tax and utility bills. We have provided additional hardship payments to help staff on part-time contracts.

The one chink of light that has come from the Covid closure is that it has allowed us to get on with funding essential infrastructure improvements. The following work has been completed so far this year.

Mustard Seed Secondary School

2nd Girls' Dormitory – Internal ceilings fitted throughout to keep down noise and disease transmission. The building has been plastered, and paintwork completed, inside

and out. Power and water has been connected.

Refurbishment of Old Hall – This work, started in 2019, has been completed. It provides a reading room and book storage bay, and a new science lab with a wet prep area with sink and drainer. The old laboratory was re-equipped as a computer lab at the end of 2019.

Additional Boy's Toilets on the New Site – were completed earlier in the year.

2nd Boys Hostel – This is being built on a new piece of land purchased for the purpose. The building has reached the roofing stage and we have recently sent funds to extend mains electricity to the building. The plot of land, on which the dormitory stands, has been fenced.

Isaac Newton High School

Site works - Extensive work to complete and secure the fence around the site has been carried out, together with improvements in site roadways and drainage channels.

Water supply – We provided funds to bring mains water to the school and neighbouring villages. However, the Ministry of Rural Affairs is being criticised over high water charges for using the new facilities. The water usage charges for the school became excessive, so we provided funds to renew the original pump and pipes bringing water up from the well in the valley a half mile below the school.

Mains Power – A spur from the main hydro-electric power line from Bujagali Dam on the River Nile has brought electricity to the school and surrounding villages. UHST supporters provided 10% of the funds, with the rest coming from the World Bank. This will make a huge difference by providing

light and power to the school and the whole area around.

New School Hall – The current big project has been to fund the construction of a large hall for assemblies, dining, examinations, music, dance and drama events, as well as for community social gatherings. This has reached the stage of fitting the roof, windows and doors.

Katumba Parents' Humanist Nursery and Primary School

New Nursery and Infants Sections - Thanks to a single, large phased donation we are in the process of constructing a completely new school on a much better site. The work started towards the end of 2019. A 3-roomed nursery section was completed by March, and a 4-roomed infant section is nearly finished.

Mains Water – We paid for mains water to be brought 2kms to the school site. This has been the only source of clean water for the Katumba villagers, since the landslides and floods caused latrines to overflow and contaminate open water sources.

Mains Power – The poles are in place and cabling is being undertaken to bring power, 4km from Bundibugyo Town. This, with the piped water, will transform the welfare and prosperity of the area. Power and light in the school will enable school rooms to be used for community meetings in the evening. Clean water will hugely reduce the disease burden, especially from intestinal diseases, the main cause, with malaria, of early death among children. The power will enable local people to charge phones, have light and electricity for power tools. As we have already seen at Isaac Newton School, the power will spawn new employment and income generating opportunities in the area – providing the power for such activities as milling and woodworking, light and heat for

chick hatcheries and doubtless a few families will buy small refrigerators.

Kanungu School

The additional funds that have come into Uganda Humanist Schools Trust have enabled us to give a helping hand to the very vulnerable Kanungu Humanist School, which has been built next to the site where over 800 innocent villagers were massacred by religious fanatics in 2000. Our funds have provided an essential means of subsistence to enable the school staff to survive the Covid closure. We have given money for rain-water capture and storage and are currently working with the school on a development plan to extend the infrastructure to provide good quality buildings for a primary school.

Reflections

The Hall at Isaac Newton and Boys Dormitory at Mustard Seed School are the last major items of infrastructure that Peter and Moses have identified as being essential. So, the core estate of these two schools is now pretty well there. That said, is there any school that cannot give you a long list of things that could be done to make it better? We know that some of the earlier buildings that were put up in both schools were of a low standard and could do with some refurbishment. Repair and maintenance (including repainting) are ongoing jobs. Both schools have further to go in smartening up their sites, including establishing trees and gardens. Appearance is important to potential parents, and it lifts the moral of staff and children.

Even more important than the physical infrastructure is the health, welfare and quality of education they provide. The schools have made much progress on these. The rise in educational standards is evidenced by the schools' rising, and already high, position in league tables. We

have done our best to flood the schools with books, to support science and provide good IT facilities. Of crucial importance is the need to steadily attract better qualified teachers; without losing the strong commitment which current teachers have to the local communities they serve.

The schools have done a lot to improve welfare through improving school food, making water and power available, providing good quality dormitories, funding co-curricular activities (e.g. scouts, sports, trips), getting the schools to reject coercive discipline and move towards a more supportive, empathetic counselling approach, involving families in the few cases where students present serious problems of anti-social behaviour. In recent years visitors have been struck by the rising level of "happiness" among students and teachers.

It would probably be unwise for us to interfere too much with the pay regime. Though I do keep plugging the idea that paying more is a good way to raise teacher commitment to the children and to raising standards. We could perhaps help by refining the way that UHST bonuses are given. To date our annual bonuses have been designed to reward teachers for staying through the year (i.e. retention). We could instead offer bonuses, on an opt in basis, to teachers with ideas for embedding the Humanist Ethos into the schools and who are willing to adapt their style of teaching away from "talking at" students in directions that empower children to become thoughtful, questioning and independent learners.

My current count of Humanist Schools in Uganda is 12. There is a little about each one in the document on our website. The schools were all excited at the thought of coming together for a 3rd Humanist Schools' Conference at Isaac Newton School. Covid got in the way of this, but I have not abandoned the idea. In the

meantime, it has been gratifying to see Peter and Moses, as Chair and Secretary of the Uganda Humanist Schools Association, taking the initiative to visit Katumba and Kanungu recently to welcome those schools into the Humanist Schools' fold. I certainly think that we should use some of our money to help draw more new schools into the fold of UHSA.

Funding Priorities

Our long-term aims are to provide:

- **Access to High Standards of Education and Welfare within a Liberal, Humanist Ethos**
To achieve this we need to continue providing scholarships to enable bright children from deprived backgrounds to enjoy the benefits the Humanist Schools provide with their rising standards of learning and welfare in a happy, supportive atmosphere.
- **Independent Learning** - We want to help each school to empower students to become freethinking individuals, who question everything in a hunger for truth. We are trying to help teachers to shift from being "tellers" to being "enablers". The schools need more physical spaces for independent study, with ready access to books and computers as resources for learning. Hitherto we have relied on off-line learning resources, such as the RACHEL Repository, but we are now moving to developing online learning, and the time has come to use social networking to link together students in the different Humanist schools with other students around the world. It would be nice to see schools creating online newspapers and podcasts and becoming excellent users of computers and social media.

Immediate Priorities:

1. **Building Completions** – The Hall at Isaac Newton School and the 2nd Boys' Dormitory at Mustard Seed School need to be finished to a good standard.
2. **Katumba School** – Complete the Junior section of the school and an admin block with staffroom.
3. **Scholarships** – Expand the scholarship programme.
4. **Books and Learning Resources** – Continue to build up the stock of learning resources in each school.
5. **Reading for Pleasure** – Continue to fund this successful programme and extend it to the Humanist Primary Schools.
6. **Site improvements** – We need some money to make schools sites safer and more attractive with such things as fencing, drainage, roadways and paths, and flowers and trees.

Proposed New Commitments

7. **3rd Uganda Humanist Schools Conference** – We estimate that this will cost £6,000 if we are to invite teachers from the 12 Humanist Schools that currently exist. This should be organised as soon as it is safe, with Covid, to do so.
8. **Kanungu Humanist School**
Robert Magara has asked for our help to develop Kanungu Humanist Primary School on the site of the embryonic secondary school, which will close.
9. **Provide Support for New Humanist Schools** – e.g. by providing funds for learning resources and help with fees for needy families.

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.

Chair: Steve Hurd

Postal address:

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust
31 Greenmeadows Road
Madeley
Crewe, CW3 9EY, United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0) 1782 750338 *Email:*
stevehurd@uhst.org

Websites:

<https://ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org>
<https://humanstudies.education>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ugandahumanistschoolstrust>

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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 2019															
Date	Current AC	Details of Grant	ISAAC NEWTON Scholarship Restricted	Unrestricted	MUSTARD SEED Scholarship Restricted	Unrestricted	KASESE Unrestricted	KATUMBWA Scholarship Restricted	Unrestricted	KANUNGU Scholarship Restricted	Unrestricted				
01/09/2020	Withdrawal	£17.39 Accounting fees (Kasanda re new schools)													
01/09/2020		£6,534.00 Sep/Oct scholarships	£3,386.00		£3,148.00					£108.70	£1,000.00				
26/08/2020		£1,000.00 Kanungu Covid Water & Teacher support													
24/08/2020		£500.00 Katumba Teachers' Hardship Payment													
20/08/2020		£8,000.00 Isaac Newton Hall 4		£8,000.00											
17/08/2020		£500.00 Katumba Mains Electricity													
17/08/2020		£5,682.00 Mustard Seed dormitory Latrines				£5,682.00					£500.00				
04/08/2020		£8,000.00 Isaac Newton Hall 3				£8,000.00									
03/08/2020		£6,200.00 Mustard Seed dormitory 3				£6,200.00									
27/07/2020		£14,200.00 Isaac Newton Hall 2		£8,000.00											
22/07/2020		Mustard Seed dormitory 2													
22/07/2020		£1,900.00 2nd half August scholarships	£1,000.00		£900.00										
22/07/2020		£3,000.00 Katumba Mains Water & Latrines							£3,000.00						
14/07/2020		£200.00 Katumba Director's honorarium							£200.00						
10/07/2020		£7,847.53 Isaac Newton Hall 1			£7,847.53										
06/07/2020		£6,200.00 Mustard Seed dormitory 1				£6,200.00									
01/07/2020		£227.27 Company registration legal fees								£227.27					
29/06/2020		£6,000.00 Katumba Infants Block 3							£6,000.00						
29/06/2020		£5,568.18 Land purchase for dormitory (50%)				£5,568.18									
08/06/2020		£400.00 Ariseoc books for Katumba							£400.00						
08/06/2020		£6,000.00 Katumba Infants Block 2								£6,000.00					
03/06/2020		£5,500.50 July-Mid-Aug Scholarships		£2,539.50	£2,361.00										
18/05/2020		Directors' honoraria		£300.00		£300.00									
14/05/2020		£7,400.00 Kanungu Covid Relief Payment													
13/05/2020		£3,267.00 Katumba Infants Block 1	£1,693.00		£1,574.00				£7,400.00						
24/04/2020		£2,000.00 Covid emergency funds/teachers' aid		£1,000.00		£1,000.00									
22/04/2020		£3,287.00 May scholarships	£1,693.00		£1,574.00										
17/04/2020		£500.00 Directors' honoraria		£250.00		£250.00									
14/04/2020		£533.33 Electricity for Katumba Nursery								£533.33					
26/03/2020		£7,000.00 Covid emergency funds/teachers' aid		£3,500.00		£3,500.00									
23/03/2020		£6,267.00 Katumba Nursery Block Final								£2,000.00					
		Covid emergency funds								£1,000.00					
		April scholarships													
18/03/2020		£1,747.13 Mains electricity	£1,693.00		£1,574.00										
17/03/2020		£500.00 Directors' honoraria		£250.00		£250.00									
09/03/2020		£1,900.00 March scholarships	£1,900.00												
06/03/2020		£1,574.00 March scholarships			£1,574.00										
04/03/2020		£750.00 Books from Ariseoc									£750.00				
20/02/2020		£1,500.00 Katumba hardship fund									£1,500.00				
14/02/2020		£6,000.00 Katumba Nursery Block 3													
10/02/2020		£1,700.00 Feb scholarships			£1,700.00										
07/02/2020		£1,900.00 Feb scholarships	£1,900.00												
05/02/2020		£500.00 Staff Development Fees (Phiona)							£500.00						
03/02/2020		£5,341.88 Blair toilets													
13/01/2020		£1,793.48 Toilet													
		University Fees (Joan Mukasa)				£1,086.96									
02/01/2020		£150.00 Bicycle & repair		£150.00											
02/01/2020		£6,000.00 Katumba Nursery Block 2													
02/01/2020		£3,600.00 Jan scholarships	£1,900.00		£1,700.00										
TOTALS		£159,887.69	£17,704.50	£1,150.00	£42,195.93	£16,105.00	£2,086.96	£34,150.18	£500.00	£1,747.13	£27,400.00	£8,719.30	£0.00	£0.00	£2,108.70

Charity Name	No (if any)
UGANDA HUMANIST SCHOOLS TRUST	1128762

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2019		31/12/2019

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	91,237	-	-	91,237	75,150
Donations- restricted	-	21,788	-	21,788	33,664
Donations- scholarships	-	41,904	-	41,904	42,521
Gift aid	-	-	-	-	8,675
Interest	247	-	-	247	210
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	91,484	63,692	-	155,176	160,220
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	91,484	63,692	-	155,176	160,220
A3 Payments					
Isaac Newton Kateera - unrestricted	48,296	-	-	48,296	41,094
Isaac Newton Kateera - restricted	-	1,378	-	1,378	-
Isaac Newton Kateera - scholarships	-	21,340	-	21,340	19,707
Mustard Seed School - unrestricted	33,893	-	-	33,893	39,228
Mustard Seed School - restricted	-	24,142	-	24,142	9,932
Mustard Seed School - scholarships	-	21,714	-	21,714	18,528
Kasese Humanist Primary School - unrestricted	400	-	-	400	1,800
Katumba Humanist Primary School - unrestricted	2,800	-	-	2,800	3,000
Katumba Humanist Primary School - restricted	-	6,000	-	6,000	-
Bank charges	121	-	-	121	126
Sub total	85,510	74,574	-	160,084	133,415
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	85,510	74,574	-	160,084	133,415
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,974	(10,882)	-	(4,908)	26,805
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,914	29,294	-	68,208	41,403
Cash funds this year end	44,888	18,412	-	63,300	68,208

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		18,412	-
	Donations - restricted	44,888	-	-
	Total cash funds	44,888	18,412	-