

# Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

## 13th Annual Financial Report 2021



## A Challenging Year

Covid restrictions in Uganda throughout 2021 meant that whole cohorts of students spent much of the year at home. From January to April, only Senior 4 and 6 students were allowed in school. They studied intensively over long school days, from 8am to 9pm, to catch up on work they had missed in 2020. In April they took the O and A-level examinations that had been postponed from October 2020.

Senior 1 and 3 classes operated between April and July following the same extended school day. Senior 2 operated for only 2 weeks in the whole year.

In July, when S1 to S3 students were sent home again, the 2021 cohort of Senior 4 and Senior 6 students returned to school. They had the same hot-house treatment over long school days to prepare for their exams in October and November.

Throughout most of this period, due to the disruption to schooling, families showed a reluctance to pay school fees. Consequently, schools received little local fee income during 2021. As most schools in Uganda are now private, many were forced into bankruptcy.

Humanist Schools supported by UHST were kept going by additional funds raised by a successful appeal to supporters in April. This enabled the high schools to provide 50% furlough payments for permanent staff and food parcels to temporary staff. Covid emergency payments were also sent regularly to the primary schools to enable them the support their staff through the long school closure. We also provided funds to meet other new covid-related costs such as hand washing stations and gel, and anti-mosquito paint to

prevent insect bites during early morning and evening study periods.

We try hard to avoid pestering our supporters for extra funds but in May, and exceptionally, we made a second appeal. This was to raise funds to enable us to respond to local community requests to buy two failed religious primary schools and turn them into Humanist primary schools operating under the wings of Isaac Newton and Mustard Seed Humanist high schools.

The upshot is that within 3 years, UHST has added 4 Humanist primary schools to the 2 high schools we already supported.

The good news is that despite the Covid closures our schools have continued to support students and to promote learning. Supplementary funding has kept the teaching teams together and morale has been maintained. We have ensured that our schools continued to buy books to support individual study and materials to ensure the continuation of practical work in the sciences. When children have been at home, teachers have made home visits and taken learning support packs to enable students in high school and primary school children to maintain the study habit.

We have also used the time to ensure that schools were in a good state of repair for restarting. At the high schools, building projects started before the pandemic hit have been completed, school sites have been given improved all-weather pathways, better drainage, gardens have been set out and trees planted.

Furthermore, we have maintained the flow of funds to get the brand new Katumba Parents Humanist Primary to the level where it could open in January 2021. Similarly, Kanungu Humanist Primary School has also been completed and was ready for reopening.

The Humanist schools that we support have received a steady stream of positive publicity during the year:

### **March 2021 Globalnet21 Interview**

A Charity concerned with engaging audiences to discuss some of the big issues in the 21st century - issues like climate change, poverty and inequality and the reform of public services and education.

[Globalnet21](#) held an interview with Steve Hurd, Chair of UHST, about the growth of the [Humanist School movement in Uganda](#).

### **July 2021 Humanistically Speaking**

An article was published about UHST and the Humanist Schools in Uganda in the online magazine [Humanistically Speaking](#).

### **January 2022 School on Uganda Radio**

The opening of the new Katumba Humanist Primary School was covered in radio programmes broadcast by the local vernacular radio station Development FM (DFM) and the National English-Language station Uganda Broadcasting Corporation.

### **February 2022 (Forthcoming)**

[BBC-World-Service-TV](#) will broadcast a programme on the growth of the Humanism and the Humanist School movement in Uganda. The programme will feature Kanungu Humanist Primary School, Isaac Newton Humanist Schools and the Uganda Humanist Schools Association.

Covid disruptions prevented us from holding the planned 3<sup>rd</sup> Humanist Schools Conference in January 2022. This would have brought together teachers from 16 Humanist Schools throughout Uganda. However, we have rescheduled the conference for the first week of August and are cautiously optimistic that it will go ahead.

## **Receipts**

UHST's total receipts were swelled by several exceptional items.

**Gift aid** on donations made an important contribution to the funds we had available to help the schools in Uganda. Our 2020 claim for gift aid of £19,681 was credited in January of 2021. A further claim up to the end of September brought in an additional £23,665 in early December, bringing total receipts of Gift Aid in 2021 to £43,347.

The balance of a **will bequest** of £43,750, was received in April. Knowing the donor's commitment to Isaac Newton School, most of the funds were allocated to projects at that school, including the primary school purchase and refurbishment.

Donations from members of the **Ethical Society of St Louis** reached record levels. The group supported 30 bright but needy girl students on full boarding scholarships at the two high schools. In February they sent an additional £9,000 to provide sanitary pads for girl students and for general support across the schools. A further sum of over £9,000 was sent to help schools to cope with the financial challenges of Covid.

**Covid appeal.** We had a tremendous response from supporters to an extended appeal to help the schools to survive the pandemic. The proceeds included an unprecedented amount of £57,000 in single donations greater than £2,000.

**School Purchase Appeal.** In April we sought help from supporters for help in the purchase of two bankrupt religious primary schools. Within 4 weeks, £39,700 was raised in amounts between £1,000 and £2,000 alone.

**Large-untied donations.** UHST has also benefited from substantial donations in the sums £10,000 and £20,000 by individual supporters, bringing in a further £40,000.

**Scholarship donations** reached a record level of £41,412.

**Untied regular donations** came to £71,631 (of which £670 was from sales of the “Thoughtful Tales for Growing Minds” books).

Large donations from individuals and organisations have transformed what we have been able to do for the schools. Partnership with the Ethical Society of St. Louis has also hugely increased our capacity to help the schools. A new partnership with Humanist Aid (Sweden) is being forged. The group has sent funds to Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School to help teachers through the Covid crisis, for a school nurse, medical supplies and sanitation measures.

## Grant Payments

UHST allocated £305,727 in grants to the Humanist Schools in Uganda:

### *Scholarships* (£40,692)

At the start of the year 138 students were awarded scholarships to study at Isaac Newton and Mustard Seed High Schools.

Scholarships cover the education of named children including tuition fees, accommodation, school meals and uniform.

Due to Covid, children have only been in school for certain periods of the year. When in school, they have followed an extended school day, running from 8am to 9pm. This has required more from teachers and there have been additional costs of feeding, sanitation and the provision of anti-malaria paint. In periods when children have been forced to stay at home, teachers have made regular visits to deliver home-study packs and to monitor their use.

During the periods of national lockdown, the monthly transfers of scholarship money

have provided a lifeline to the schools and their teachers. They have enabled the schools to pay 50% furlough payments to permanent staff and to send food parcels to temporary staff. Without this money, the students would have had no schools to return to once the closure was over.

### *Additional School Support*

#### **Isaac Newton Schools** (£93,580)

Books

Home-study kits

Science materials

Examination materials

Covid handwashing, gel

Sanitary pads

Supplementary Covid financial support

Secondary school infrastructure

- General repairs & maintenance, including repainting
- Dining hall furniture
- Site drainage, paths & tree planting
- Pumping out latrine cess pits

Purchase of primary school £24,390

- Classroom refurbishment & painting
- Construction of new latrines
- Construction of kindergarten
- Construction of a school kitchen with externally-vented wood burning stoves
- Rain-water harvesting & storage tanks

#### **Mustard Seed Schools** (£79,441)

Books

Home study kits

Science materials

Examination materials

Bicycle

Covid handwashing, gel

Sanitary pads

School food supplies

Supplementary Covid financial support

Secondary school infrastructure

- General repairs & maintenance, including repainting
- Boys' dormitory beds
- Site paths, gardens & tree planting
- Pumping out latrine cess pits

Purchase of primary school £26,466

- Classroom refurbishment & painting
- Construction of new latrines
- Construction of a school kitchen with externally-vented wood burning stoves
- Rain-water harvesting & storage tanks
- Registration fees

**Katumba Parents Primary (£60,523)**

Books & play materials

Home-study kits

School outing to Semliki National Park

Site security measures & staffing

Purchase of school food supplies

Financial support payments due to Covid (including discretionary hardship funds to help children pay fees and teachers with financial help during periods of closure)

Bicycle

Construction of Junior Classrooms

Construction of school offices & staffroom

Construction of library/computer room

Construction of kitchen, food store and sleeping quarters for cook

School furniture

School registration & inspection

**Kanungu Humanist School (£31,300)**

Books & play materials

Bicycle

Mains water supply

Solar panels

Rental of accommodation for teachers

Financial support payments due to Covid (including discretionary hardship funds to help children pay fees and teachers with financial help during periods of closure)

School furniture

Construction of kitchen, food store and sleeping quarters for cook

Construction of school latrines

Fencing of school site

Site maintenance & painting

School registration & inspection

*Other expenditures*

**Legal & Land Registry Fees (£1,792)**

These fees were one-off expenses incurred in securing the legal titles to the land and buildings of:

- Isaac Newton Humanist Primary School
- Mustard Seed Humanist Primary School

An additional £1,000 was paid for the purchase of additional land adjacent to the Isaac Newton Primary School to enable the building of a Kindergarten.

**Accounting Fees (£1,944)**

To relieve schools of the burden of accounting fees and in the process to improve overall accountability, UHST has employed a Ugandan Public Service accountant to prepare and conduct annual audits of all the school accounts. During 2021 a full asset valuation was conducted to create baseline accounts for:

- Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School
- Kanungu Humanist Primary School
- Isaac Newton Humanist Primary School
- Mustard Seed Humanist Primary School

In addition, UHST paid for a local audit of the annual accounts of:



- Isaac Newton Humanist High School
- Mustard Seed Humanist Secondary School

The Ugandan auditor checks cash receipts against school bank statements and coordinates with UHST's accountant and Independent Examiner. The new arrangements have improved overall transparency and accountability.

## Prospects for 2022

We regard the essential infrastructure of the two high schools and four primary schools that we support to be in a pretty good state, and do not envisage the need for further major building investment in 2022. Instead we will focus on helping the schools to restore and surpass former standards of welfare and education. Our aim is to raise each schools standing and make them the schools of choice in their districts.

We will do our best to help genuine new Humanist schools as they come along. However, we will resist the temptation to spread our funds so thinly that quality is compromised. This may mean having a core of well-funded schools and helping others in smaller ways.

Covid continues to overshadow the future and we must go forward cautiously. At our 2021 AGM, following in the path set in 2020, we laid out the following tentative set of priorities:

1. **Cash Flow Assistance** – We will do all that is necessary to help our schools to survive the economic shock of Covid - help with staff pay, and for students who cannot afford full school or examination fees.
2. **Scholarships** – We hope to attract more boarding scholarships, to give more bright but needy children the gift of good education in a liberal, humanist setting.
3. **Learning resources** – We will provide more funds for books, play, science and arts

materials and support to enable children to become independent knowledge seekers.

4. **Welfare** – We will continue to support measures that lead to improvements in children's welfare, including sanitary pads, hygiene and food standards, personal safety and happiness.
5. **3<sup>rd</sup> Uganda Humanist Schools Conference**  
We have postponed this conference from January to the first week in August 2022. We estimate that this will cost £6,000 if we are to invite teachers from the 12 Humanist Schools that currently exist.
6. **New schools** – We will continue to forge links with new Humanist Schools and consider how best we can help them to play their part within the Humanist Schools Association family.

The Covid Pandemic has created extraordinary times, but we are determined the help the schools to come through it and to be even stronger than before. UHST and the Uganda Humanist Schools are very grateful to our supporters for increasing their generous donations to help us through this challenging time.

Should you wish to donate to help take forward the pathbreaking work in Uganda to develop the world's first Humanist schools, please visit our website:

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

If you wish to learn more about the new Humanist schools then take a look at our new [Directory of Humanist Schools in Uganda](#). This can be downloaded from the front page of our website.

Steve Hurd  
Chair, UHST  
18 January 2021

## **Uganda Humanist Schools Trust**

The UHST (UK) is a charity that raises funds to support education in Humanist Schools in Uganda.

Charity Number 1128762.

*Postal address:*

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

*Telephone:* +44 (0) 1782 750338

*Email:* [stevehurd@uhst.org](mailto:stevehurd@uhst.org)

*Website:*

<https://ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/>

### ***Board of Trustees in 2021***

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

Professor Hilary Hurd, B.Sc., Ph.D.,  
PGCE, FRES, FRSTMH, MIBiol  
(Scholarships Manager)

Daniel Hurd, B.Soc.Sci., ACA., MABRP  
(Honorary Accountant)

Paul Ewans, B.A.(Hons)  
(Humanistically Speaking)

Christine Smith, B.Sc., PGCE  
(Dorset Humanists)

Glenda Miller, B.A. (Hons) (Lawyer)

Derek Miller, LL.B. (Lawyer)

Krystal White, B.A., M.A.T.  
(St Louis Ethical Society, U.S.)

Lee Denison, M.Eng, ACGI,  
IT Specialist, Google

## 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 offer 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 Accounting Summary 2021

## RECEIPTS

Scholarships	£41,412
General Donations	£215,017
Gift Aid	£43,347
Interest & other	£2

**Total Receipts = £299,778**

## PAYMENTS By Purpose

Scholarships	£43,693
Purchase of two primary schools	£50,856
Utilities (water, sanitation, power)	£18,664
Learning materials	£8,100
Covid emergency funding/salary support	£52,050
Sanitary pads (Afripads)	£874
Legal & Land Registry Fees	£1,792
School accounts & audit fees	£1,944
Furniture	£9,784
Directors' honoraria	£3,450
Infrastructure & all other expenditure	£114,329
Bank charges	£151

**Total Payments = £305,687**

## GRANTS by School

Isaac Newton Humanist Schools	£114,800
Mustard Seed Humanist Schools	£98,913
Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School	£60,523
Kanungu Humanist Primary School	£31,300

## RESERVES

End of year 2020	£33,635
<b>End of Year 2021</b>	<b>£27,726</b>



