

**LETTER FROM STEVE HURD
CHAIR OF UGANDA HUMANIST SCHOOLS TRUST
ON THE OPENING OF THE NEW
KATUMBA PARENTS HUMANIST PRIMARY SCHOOL
JANUARY 2022**

First of all, I want to say how sorry I am that we cannot be with you on this important day in the life of Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School.

When my wife, Hilary, and I made our first visit to Katumba in 2018, we were very moved to hear of the troubles that Katumba had experienced.

You all made us very welcome and we felt the warmth of your community.

In fact you made us King and Queen for a day!

Although our visit to Katumba was short, we came away with a strong desire to help you to rebuild your school on a better site and to improve learning for your children.

At the time, we did not know where the money would come from.

Fortunately, when we told your story, one of the Trustees of our charity, whose father had worked in East Africa, offered his help with the project.

Our aim was to build it *mpola mpola* over 3 years, and to have it finished in time for the 2023 school year.

However, Juma Irumba Siriwayo, the committee, the entire community and the builders have worked very hard to overcome many challenges - heavy rain, floods, landslides and the problems caused by Covid and other illnesses.

As you can see, after 2 years (a year early) the school is almost finished – and in a good enough state for your children to start using it.

We are delighted that the school is opening early and would like to congratulate everyone involved in this great success.

The teachers of Katumba worked hard during Covid to support your children and many received home-study materials. Candidate classes were able to take their Primary Leaving Examinations, and the results were better than ever.

So, let us thank the teachers and children of Katumba for working so hard and to their parents for supporting the children and the school in very difficult times.

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust is delighted to be working with the Katumba Parents, and over the years we will do our very best to help you to make this a fine school that will give your children great opportunities for advancement.

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust is committed to supporting Humanist Schools, like Katumba that:

- Welcome children from all backgrounds – with no discrimination.
- Have good supplies of books and learning resources, so that children are empowered to become self-reliant learners.
- Believe every individual child is important and should be helped to succeed
- Believe good discipline comes from guidance not violence. Humanist schools do not allow coercive discipline – beating and shouting abuse at children are not allowed.
- Encourage children to be considerate towards each other and towards teachers and their parents.
- Are committed to maintaining high standards of welfare for children and for school staff. We believe that if you look after teachers then they will do their best for the children in their care.
- Provide adequate food and clean water for the children and staff. A hungry and thirsty child cannot learn.
- Encourage children to feel pride in their school, pride in themselves and their families, and pride in the whole community. We want the children at Katumba to develop a love of their community and want to help it in their future lives.

Today is a great day for the children, parents and staff at Katumba.

A school is a community and if the members of the community are happy then everyone associated with it will do well.

Congratulations to you all on the progress that has been made over the past 2 years.

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust intends to be a good friend and partner to the Katumba Community for many years to come.

We look forward to visiting you in July and seeing the school finished, working well and a happy place for everyone.

We hope everyone – children, parents school staff – will work together to make Katumba a great school! Harambee!

My very best wishes, Steve Hurd

On behalf of all the Trustees of Uganda Humanist Schools Trust.