



## Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

# Mustard Seed Humanist Schools

## Report by Moses Kamyá Schools' Director & Headteacher, September, 2023

School Motto: Commit to Excel



Mustard Seed Girls winning the District Scouting Competition

Our schools continue to progress in our cardinal role of improving humanity through education. Mustard Seed Humanist Primary School is now duly licenced by the Ministry of Education and Sports, giving parents confidence to leave their children in our care.

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UHST) has provided badly needed textbooks for our primary children and for the new secondary curriculum, materials to support the teaching of science by doing science, and reusable sanitary pads for all our girls of menstrual age. UHST funded the improvement of our boys' dormitories, by

putting in ceilings to reduce mosquito and disease transmission, repairing broken floors and walls and painting.

10 of our newer teachers were delighted to be funded to take part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Humanist Schools Conference held at Isaac Newton High School last month. We followed this with a successful school-based staff workshop to enable conference participants to share what they learned with those teachers who could not get to the conference.

Ten new computers have been added in our lab serving both primary and secondary.

Three former Mustard Seed students have graduated with good university honours degrees this year. Joan Mukisa (pictured below), our former head girl, was in the top 50 cohort of students gaining an honours degree in Law from the top Ugandan Law School at Makerere University. Joan is now taking a follow-up Masters course in digital forensics.



Joan Mukisa graduating in Law

Two more of our former students have returned to Mustard Seed School as teachers following their success at university: Hellen, who graduated with a BSc(Hons) in Agriculture with Education and Saidat, who gained a BA(Hons) in Economics and History.

All three of these students benefited from UHST’s scholarship programme. All academically bright, their home circumstances could not have afforded to pay for their education, so the scholarships they received from UHST supporters have transformed their life chances. They should

each have fulfilling lives and be able to help others in equally needy circumstances.

### Enrolment 2023

#### Primary school

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Nur	16	14	30
P1	11	13	24
P2	10	09	19
P3	07	09	16
P4	09	07	16
P5	06	07	13
P6	09	11	20
P7	12	12	23
			161

#### Secondary school

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
S1	71	85	156
S2	67	68	135
S3	51	53	104
S4	74	87	161
S5	12	23	35
S6	06	15	21
			612

Our schools continue to excel academically. In 2022, we had our first cohort of students taking their Primary Leaving Examination. All children gained one of the two top grades (out of 5). 3 of the 15 candidates gained a coveted grade 1 and the rest secured a very good grade 2.

In the 2022 UCE (O-level) results, 10 students gained the top Division 1 grade across 7 subjects, 32 gained a good Division 2, 41 a creditable Division 3 and 8 gained a Division 4 pass grade. In the 2022

In UACE at Advanced level, all our 18 candidates qualified to join higher institutions of learning. Isaac Mutibwa is thrilled to be supported through a BSc course in Mathematics and Physics with

Education by the British couple who funded his UHST school scholarship.

### Infrastructure improvements

We have been working hard to limit student numbers in classes and dormitories to avoid congestion. Part of the boys' dormitory has been renovated with a ceiling, floor, painting and window repair to give the required comfort and safety. The water supply to the girls' dormitory has been restored. Kitchen cooking stoves at the secondary have been improved. This is reducing firewood consumption which reduces our costs and benefits the environment. The staple diet for children and staff is posho and beans with variety coming from the addition of rice, sweet potatoes, cassava and green vegetables.



Fuel efficient cooking stove



Nursery children breakfast on porridge

We continue to plant trees at our schools to improve on our environment.

### Co-curricular activities

Games and sports are given prominence in our schools. Our girls' football team took the trophy for Kamuli District and represented the district at the regional tournament up to semi-finals. The primary school boys football team took the trophy for the southern division competitions in Kamuli Municipality.



Successful girls football team



Primary boys football team

Our Scouts troops from both schools won trophies in the district camping

competitions and went on to represent the district at national camping competitions.



Receiving scout competition cup

Debating and other games are an important part of our wider curriculum.

### Relationship with the community

We continue to foster cordial working relations with the community in Busota and the surrounding area. Local people bring foodstuffs into school to sell. These include pancakes (chapatis), sugarcane, donuts and fruits. In term one, our children planted trees to provide fresh fruit and shade in the local trading centre and participated in general cleaning of the centre and the neighbouring health facility.



Helping their community by sweeping clean the streets of Busota town

Children from poorer local families are very appreciative of the help they receive from the UHST scholarship scheme.



Showing pride in their school grounds

### Success in collecting local fees

We continue to register a significant improvement in the ability and willingness of local families to find and pay the required fees to keep their children in our school. Mustard Seed has become the school of choice in our area and competition to get their children into the school means that fees get paid on time. This is propelling us towards long-term sustainability. Dan Kasanda, the UHST auditor is helping us to digitise our school accounts. UHST has bought a laptop for each of our bursars and they are learning how to use accounting software.



Bursar using digitised accounts

This helps us to monitor more closely the flows of money coming in and going out

and improving financial monitoring. Local fees now cover our basic running costs. UHST scholarship money has helped us to gradually improve staff salaries.

### **Targets for 2023/24**

We need to:

- procure more books and science materials to promote independent and evidence-based learning.
- provide more play materials for the nursery school.
- refurbish the remaining secondary boys' dormitory.
- provide the primary school with an independent computer facility and a piped water supply.

### **Supporting the Humanist Schools**

If you feel you or your group would like to help us to support the Humanist Schools in Uganda, or to sponsor a student then please contact [stevehurd@uhst.org](mailto:stevehurd@uhst.org) (07773 972601).

Donation forms can be found at:  
<https://ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/donate/>