



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update – December 2024

My main purpose in writing to you remains, as ever, to thank every one of you for your consistent and faithful support of our work in rural western Kenya to make good quality education available to the local community, including those many families, who would otherwise be unable to afford it.

This is especially so, thanks to the ways in which you have supported us in overcoming specific challenges in recent months. This means we can face the start of another School Year next month, confident of being well resourced to extend the same quality of education, consistently achieved in the Nursery & Primary classes, to the newly created **Junior Secondary School**.

A year ago, our **Donor Update** included Edward Wata's own summary of what had been achieved in 2023 and I am pleased to say that further progress has been made, including: -

- A further improvement in the **Pupil: Textbook ratio** towards a ratio of 2:1
- A continued commitment to arranging **External Visits** and the expansion of **Scouting Activities** – both of which are now being partly-funded by the parents, a sign of increased commitment to and appreciation for what **Barbara Leighton Academy** can offer

In the **August Donor Update**, Jackie Iles (Trustee) was honest about the challenges, resulting from the decision of the Kenya National Government to locate the **Junior Secondary School** within the Primary School sector.

As illustrated in this **Donor Update**, I am pleased to confirm that your generous support has enabled us to meet the challenges to provide the following additional resources: -

- Completion of a new **Science Laboratory plus Equipment**
- Construction of an expanded **Computer Laboratory** – including a specific gift to fund **2 additional Desktop Computers**
- **Additional Latrines** in recognition of the increasing pupil numbers
- A supply of **Storybooks** – in addition to **Textbooks** – to help pupils enjoy learning to read

We are therefore well placed to accommodate pupils to join **Grades 7 & 8 (Junior Secondary School)**, although we shall still need to raise funds to construct a **Grade 9 Classroom** in preparation for the **School Year 2026**.





However, our recent work on the **BLA 2025 Budget** has highlighted the inevitable increase in **Operating Costs**. As a guide: -

- **Total Annual Operating Costs (2024) – say £25000pa/£2083pm**
- **Total UK Support (2024) - net of locally generated Fee Income etc – say £18000pa/£1500pm**
 - It is interesting that this level of UK Support is equivalent to say **£150pa/£12.50pm per pupil**

Additional 2025 Costs include: --

- **Additional JSS Teacher – Ks 15000pm (£94pm/£1128pa)**
- **Expanded Feeding Programme – say an extra Ks10000pm (£63pm/£504pa – term-time only)**
- **Additional Teacher Training (new Curriculum etc) – say Ks30000pa (£188pa)**

We remain truly grateful for all your donations but, if appropriate, please consider if you feel able to help us to match some of these increased costs by reviewing your current giving.

If you would like to consider leaving a gift to **Rehema Trust** in your Will, your legacy would help to secure the long-term future of **Barbara Leighton Academy** for the benefit of future generations of children. Please feel free to contact me to discuss how to go about this.

Edward Wata – UK Visit - April 2025!?

- With Church support, I am hoping that Edward will be able to visit Ashtead again next year, accompanied by his colleague, Steven Omollo – subject to their Visa applications being successful
- If so, we will ensure there will be opportunities for them to meet our supporters and others interested in strengthening our mission partnership

Thank you so much for your prayers and donations.

I hope this Donor Update will encourage you and help you to see how much impact you have had on the school and the children

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For more information, please see our website (www.rehematrust.com)

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