



SAAS
SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

Empowerment Through Education

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SAAS marks 17 year Anniversary

On February 2023, SAAS marked 17 years of existence and imparting knowledge to thousands of children in Mombasa, Kenya.

SAAS was founded 17 years ago by two Irish people, one of whom is the current executive director Gina Woods.

In the early years, SAAS could sponsor only a few students. Still, thanks to benevolent donors, Kilquade Parish, Cavan County Council, Avolon and Greystone Parish. SAAS annually supports over 200 students to school, all of whom come from the Kongowea slum in Mombasa, Kenya.

SAAS's mission is to give the impoverished a secondary school education. We found that some donors are also continuing with sponsorship through college or



SAAS Mombasa staff from left, Maria, Fred and Sylvia

university, given that they will have established a bond with the students.

The charity is tiny, with just three employees in Mombasa, Kenya, that is Maria Nekesa, Fredrick Onyango and Silvia Masere, and five directors based in Ireland, Georgina Woods, David

Maguire, Lucy Hayes, Paul Cran and Ebby Soinani, all of whom work full-time and support SAAS in a voluntary part-time capacity.

The SAAS board of directors and office extends their sincere gratitude to all the donors and sponsors who have walked the journey with us for the last 17 years.

New Staff Alert

We welcome our new staff member, Fredrick Onyango.

Fred will be in charge of communication.

He brings forth communication skills and experience having worked as a news reporter for different media houses in Mombasa since 2013.

Fred is a former SAAS Sponsored university student holding a degree in Political Science and Communication studies from the University of Nairobi.

He also holds a Diploma in Mass communication from the Technical University of Mombasa.

The board takes pleasure in welcoming Fred in the organization as we look forward to revamping our communication mechanism and information dissemination

Mombasa Walk Movement

The Mombasa Walk Movement is a community-based organization that advocates for healthy living by walking.

Major (Rtd) Idris Abdulrahman founded the movement

Idris believes there is a need to

take action to encourage walking and cycling to keep fit. He is encouraging the introduction of a car-free day in Mombasa.

The common fitness exercises in Mombasa are cycling, football and swimming, but thanks to

Idris, walking is now emerging as the new trend.

His fitness journey was inspired by his desire to manage his hypertension and the diabetic condition he was diagnosed with.

(continued on page 3)



Annual SAAS Maths Camp

We held our annual five-day Maths camp from the 9th to the 13th of January, 2023.

We had the camp in January since students were on a long holiday.

The event usually takes place in August, but we couldn't have the camp last year due to the squeezed academic calendar.

The camp had an attendance of over 60 students per day. Mathematics was the main subject taught in addition to Physics, Biology and Chemistry.

The students selected topics they were struggling with, and the tutors were ready to assist them.

We had five tutors for the camp; Patrick Zuma, Graham Oyigo, Abraham Charles, Neema Sara and Michael Musembi.

Much appreciation goes to the SAAS board for facilitating the camp with stationeries.



A class in session during the annual 2022 Maths camp

KCPE, KCSE and KPSEA National exams

The government of Kenya administered three levels of national exams to some 3.4 million candidates spread across the country last December.

The exams included the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), which saw some 1.24 million students sit the exams.

The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Edu-

cation (KCSE) candidates were 884,263.

About 1,287,597 Grade 6 students sat for their inaugural Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) exams that saw them get a promotion to join Grade 7, which will now be part of Junior Secondary School

Junior Secondary is part of the new Com-

petency-Based Curriculum introduced by the Kenyan government in 2022. The CBC curriculum replaces the 8-4-4 curriculum, where students studied eight years in primary school, four years in secondary school and four years in university.

Form 1 Intake and Bursaries

Schools in Kenya officially opened on the 23rd January 2023. We have 69 new SAAS students who all joined Form one, of which 32 are male and 37 are female. We have 50 students in boarding schools, while 19 are in day schools.

From the list, 18 are sponsored by Grey-stone Parish, while our new sponsors, Mr and Mrs Stewart, are supporting 40.

The students will go for their mid-term break on March 23, with the term expected to end on April 21 for a two-week holiday.

The office also issued bursaries to 61 students in high school. The beneficiaries included 36 male and 25 female students.



Form 1 students reporting to

SAAS Fun Day 2022

The 2022 SAAS Fun Day took place at the office on January 14, 2023. A total of 165 students, 78 girls and 87 boys, participated in the event.

We had our SAAS university students and former SAAS students in attendance to motivate the young lads to work hard in school.

The event aimed to bring SAAS students together to mingle and unwind after an extended academic year.

Students enjoyed dancing, paper games, and acting, among other entertainment we had in

store for them. Afterwards, we held talks on several topics, including:

- Academic performance and discipline
- Career choice
- Drug abuse
- Social media influence
- Peer pressure
- Hygiene
- Early marriages
- Sexuality



Maria and the girls during our Fun Day

Walking to keep fit

Idris took to walking along the beach every morning with friends.

Last year, he started documenting his fitness journey by sharing videos and photos of his walks.

Little did he know that it would make him an internet sensation.

Enthusiastic residents and visitors look forward to the mega walks every Saturday morning.

Idris says that aside from just walking, the walks also serve as excursions for those who want to explore the beauty of Mombasa on foot.



Dan and Fred joined the walk

Saas January Computer Program

We enrolled 57 students for the computer classes in January.

This intake runs for three months and will end in April 2023.

At the end of the course, students will receive certificates in computer packages.

Among the 57 students, 10 are SAAS-sponsored students.

The students are taught by SAAS students

who went through the program. They work as volunteers.

We have Wellington, Daniel, Moses, Abraham and Fletcher, who have volunteered to teach for the January intake.

We have four classes in a day, each with 14 students. Each class runs for one and a half hours.



Students during a computer class

Our Star Achiever 2022



We celebrate Yusuf Mohamed for flying the SAAS flag high in the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exam results released in January.

Yusuf scored an A- of 80 points. He is among the 884,263 students who sat the exams last December. Across the country.

He is one of the many students sponsored by SAAS to attain high school education. We had 61 Form four candidates last year.

Students Awards 2022

We awarded the top students in each class for the year 2022. The awards were for the best student in Form 1, Form 2 and Form 3. We had a prize for the SAAS personality of the year too.

The top student in each class received a trophy and a gift voucher worth Ksh2,000. For the first time in SAAS history, we also awarded the second student in each category with a voucher worth Ksh1,000 and the third with a Ksh500 voucher.

The aim was to motivate the students to know that the office appreciates their

exemplary performance. It was also to inspire the rest of the students to work hard so that they could also be recognized and awarded.

The awardees were as follows:

Form 1:

1. Best student – Tunu Ivan Mpuye
2. Second student – Abdallah Juma Mwache
3. Third student – Hasma Japhet Kambua

Form 2:

1. Best student – Brian Mwasiya

2. Second student – Felix Juma Otieno

3. Third student – Lydia Mwende

Form 3:

1. Best student – Jilton Faraja

2. Second student – Dylan Akide Kelvin

3. Third student – Shirlean Mkonzo

The SAAS personality award for the year 2022 went to Mwanakombo Swaleh.

All students received personal hygiene effects, including toothbrushes, paste,



The SAAS personality of the year award winner and best students in Form 1, 2 and 3



Best form two students 2022