



SAAS

SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

ISSUE NO 26.

DONOR AND DIRECTOR VISITS

In December we were delighted to welcome our former CEO Ebby Soinani and her husband Peter. Ebby was greatly encouraged by the progress made since her departure and enjoyed her time catching up with the staff and students.



Mr Peter Becker (Ebby's husband) with his 2 students. Ebby Soinani Becker awarding a trophy to the Top performing Form 1 student of the year 2017.

In January SAAS was delighted to welcome a good friend from Ireland, David Cahill who spent two weeks working in the IT lab at the SAAS office. David was a great support in the lab and brought his vast knowledge of IT to the students who were delighted to learn from him. He also spent a lot of time with the students in their homes in Kongowea and was deeply moved by their circumstances and their strength in adversity. Through the help of his friends back home, David kindly donated food, sanitary products, nappies, mattresses, learning materials and clothing to struggling families who are most grateful for his support.



Dave giving out learning materials to a disadvantaged school in Kongowea. Dave offering food material to an orphanage which he visited.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

. Email : info@saas.ie Web : www.saas.ie

Directors : Gina Woods, Henry McLoughlin, Ursula Redmond Vat No: 20130521/1810, Charity No : CHY 17318



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IT PROGRAMME

The SAAS IT programme continues to grow from strength to strength with 60 students enrolling in the January intake. This is most encouraging and while it is just a short 3 month course, it equips students with the basic skills necessary to compete for jobs in the modern work force. We are delighted to regularly get feedback from former students who have on to secure jobs which they previously would not have qualified for.

ACADEMIC RESULTS

Last year we had 25 SAAS students who sat for the National Secondary Examinations (KCSE). All students put in a huge effort and the girls performed particularly well this year. We would like to take this opportunity to give special appreciation to Avolon Aircraft Leasing and Management Services in Dublin who supported 12 students through secondary education in 2017, most of which got B+ grades in their KCSE exams.

SAAS FUN DAY

When the schools close in December SAAS hosted our holiday fun day and prize giving at the SAAS office. We organised games and music and dancing followed by lunch. A session was also organised for the boys and girls to discuss privately any issues they are experiencing. Topics discussed by our trained staff included HIV/Aids, force/early marriage, self-respect, sex education, drug abuse, etc. The girls were also given a sanitary pack.

The awards this year went to Shalyn Juma of Kombeni Girls School for best Form 1 student, Faith Kaveti of Our Lady of Fatima High School for best Form 2 student and Owen Samuel of Voi Secondary School for best SAAS personality and best Form 3 student. The computer class graduates were also presented with their certificates on the day.



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Top Left; Girls receiving their pack of sanitary towels, Top right; a group photo of the students during the fun day. Down; Happy computer graduands showing of their certificates

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

The Kenyan National elections initially took place in August 2017 however the results were nullified by the Supreme Court. Therefore the elections were rescheduled and took place in October. There was considerable tension at the time however Mr Uhuru Kenyatta emerged the victor and has now been sworn in as President.



President Uhuru Kenyatta being sworn in for his 2nd term.

GRADUATIONS

Congratulations goes to Daniel Otieno Okwach & Lydia Michira from the Technical University of Mombasa who graduated in November with a Degree in Computer Science and Mathematics and a Diploma in Human Resource Management respectively. Our Director, Gina Woods was delighted and honored to be able to attend the graduation ceremonies.

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SAAS Director Gina Woods giving a speech during Daniel Otieno's family graduation party. Lidya Michira with her sister during her graduation.

MATHS SUMMER CAMP

In the middle of August, SAAS organised its 10th annual Maths Camp at its premises. Lots of students attended, it was very encouraging to see them all. It was a good forum for them as they got to experience a lot and thanks to the SAAS Youth Group tutors who were there to help them solving all their mathematical problems. The students were problem solving among themselves hence making mathematics easier to understand. Among the tutors were Elizabeth Wanyonyi, Allan Ouma, Benson Odhiambo and Daniel Otieno who were there to give their expert knowledge to the students and made sure that the entire Maths Camp event was a successful one



Students working out mathematics problem during the camp. A group photo of the Form 4 class during the camp, many of which were Avolon Aircraft Leasing and Management Services students.

Coming Soon

- *School Close for Easter Holiday*
- *Director Visit*
- *New computer intake*

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