SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

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Maria poses for a group photo with some of the students and parents after picking their school fees at the office. Students are heading back to school for Term 2 of the 2026 academic year.

Back to School: Term 2

Wishing our students the best

Schools in Kenya reopened on April 27, 2026, marking the beginning of Term 2 of the 2026 academic year following a three-week break after the end of Term 1.

As has become tradition, the weekend before reopening was a beehive of activity at the office as students and parents streamed in to collect cheques ahead of reporting back to school.

The second term, which will run for 14 weeks, is expected to end on July 31, with a five-day half-term break scheduled between June 24 and June 28.

The continued support from our donors and sponsors has made it possible for many of these children to remain in school, restoring hope to families who once feared their children's education dreams would come to an end.

Our girls were all smiles as they received sanitary packs for the new term, ensuring they return to school confident, comfortable, and prepared for learning.

We wish all our students safe travels and every success as they begin the new school term.

Faith and Unity

This year offered a unique and meaningful moment as both the Christian season of Lent and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan were commemorated during the same period.

Across communities, families, and places of worship, people of faith came together in devotion, sacrifice, prayer, and acts of kindness—values that strongly resonate with the mission and spirit of SAAS.

Both Lent and Ramadan are seasons that call for reflection, compassion, discipline, and generosity. They remind us of the importance of caring for one another, extending grace to those in need, and strengthening our commitment to building a more compassionate and supportive society.

While observed through different traditions and practices, both seasons share a common message of hope, humility, renewal, and service to others.

As an organization committed to transforming lives through education and opportunity, SAAS recognizes the power of unity in diversity. We celebrate the rich backgrounds, beliefs, and traditions that make our community stronger.

It is through understanding and supporting one another that we create lasting impact and foster a spirit of belonging for all.

May we continue walking together in kindness, understanding, and hope—building brighter futures and stronger communities for generations to come.



Mr. Ben, a SAAS alumnus and teacher at Matuga Girls High School engages the students in a session during the SAAS Career Talk Day held at the office on April 17, 2026.

Career Talk:Dream Big, Plan Ahead

Empowering Young Minds to Build Their Future

On April 17th, we held an impactful and inspiring career talk session with our secondary school students, focusing on career development and life beyond the classroom.

The students were encouraged to discover their strengths, pursue their passions, and align their academic journey with their future goals. The session also emphasized the importance of discipline, consistency, and making informed subject and career choices.

The discussion was led by Mr. David Kwemoi, Dean of Students at Waa Girls High School, and Mr. Bendictor Luganje, a SAAS alumnus and teacher at Matuga Girls High School. Their insights and experiences greatly enriched the session.

Beyond academics, we highlighted the importance of essential life skills such as communication, leadership, and resilience—qualities that will help students navigate both challenges and opportunities in life.

Students were also reminded that success is not limited to one path. Whether through university education, technical training, or entrepreneurship, there are many ways to achieve their dreams. Most importantly, they were encouraged to believe in themselves, stay focused, and never allow their background to limit their ambitions.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our alumni—Tabitha (beautician and salon owner), Dan (Developer and IT expert), Oscar (journalist), Moses (cybersecurity expert), Phylis (Maritime Transport and Logistics student), and Philip Charo (Aeronautical Engineering student at the East African School of Aviation). Their personal journeys served as powerful inspiration, demonstrating that with determination and resilience, anything is possible.

We are proud to continue walking this journey with our students as they shape their futures.



Madam Lillian taking the girls through a session during the two-day Peer Talk Session event held at the office on April 15 and 16. The initiative continues to foster a culture where students feel heard, valued and supported.

SAAS Peer Talk Session – April 2026

Creating Safe Spaces For Growth and Well-Being

On April 15 and 16, SAAS successfully conducted a two-day Peer Talk session for our secondary school students as part of our continued commitment to supporting their growth beyond academics. The sessions brought together students in a safe, supportive, and non-judgmental environment where they were encouraged to openly share their experiences, concerns, and personal challenges.

Adolescence can often come with academic pressure, emotional struggles, and social challenges that may affect a student's overall well-being and performance in school. Recognizing this need, the Peer Talk sessions were specifically designed to help students ease academic stress, strengthen their emotional resilience, and equip them with healthy coping mechanisms as they navigate their educational journey.

The discussions created an opportunity for students to learn from one another, build confidence, and understand that they are not alone in facing challenges. By encouraging openness and meaningful conversations, the initiative continues to foster a culture where students feel heard, valued, and supported.

At SAAS, we strongly believe that academic success goes hand in hand with emotional and personal well-being. Through initiatives such as Peer Talk, we remain committed to a holistic approach that nurtures students into academically successful, emotionally resilient, and well-rounded individuals who are prepared to navigate life with confidence and purpose.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our facilitators, Mr. Sheddy and Madam Lillian, whose dedication and mentorship continue to positively shape the lives of our students. We also express our gratitude to the SAAS Board for their continued support in helping us raise grounded, empowered, and confident young people ready to thrive in the future.



The January-April 2026 cohort of our computer program pose for a group photo with their certificates during their graduation ceremony after satisfactorily completing the three-month ICT course.

Graduating in to a Digital Future

Equiping Young Minds in the Digital Age

We successfully held a graduation ceremony for our computer students from the January–April 2026 intake.

A total of 76 students graduated after satisfactorily completing their three-month course and excelling in their final assessments.

In today's digital economy, learning essential computer packages such as Microsoft Word, spreadsheets like Excel, and presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint is no longer optional. These skills are fundamental in unlocking career opportunities, improving productivity, and supporting success in higher education.

The SAAS ICT Program has been running for the past 15 years and has positively impacted over 3,000 students, equipping them with practical digital skills that enhance employability and digital literacy.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our tutor, Moris Muteti, for his unwavering dedication and commitment in ensuring the continued success and growth of the program.

St. Patrick's Day 2026

March 17 marked the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, a day recognized across many parts of the world as a time to celebrate heritage, community, faith, and togetherness. While its origins are rooted in Irish history and tradition, St. Patrick's Day has grown into a global celebration that reminds us of the importance of unity, compassion, and supporting one another.

At SAAS, these values resonate deeply with our mission of transforming lives through education and opportunity. Every day, we witness the power of communities coming together—donors, sponsors, partners, volunteers, families, and students—all united by a shared belief that every child deserves a chance to pursue their dreams.

St. Patrick's Day also reminds us that hope and perseverance can create meaningful change. Through collective effort and generosity, barriers can be broken and brighter futures can be built. The impact made through education extends beyond classrooms; it strengthens families, uplifts communities, and creates opportunities for generations to come.

As we reflect on the spirit of this special occasion, we celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions that enrich our global SAAS family. Together, we continue building bridges of understanding, kindness, and support.

May the season inspire renewed hope, gratitude, and continued commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people. Together, we can continue changing lives through education.

Mombasa set to host 11th Our Ocean Conference

It will be the first to be held on African Soil

In June, Kenya will make history by hosting the 11th Our Ocean Conference in Mombasa and Kilifi—the first time the prestigious global event will be held on African soil. The conference will bring together governments, civil society organizations, researchers, youth leaders, and private sector stakeholders from across the world to strengthen commitments toward marine conservation, climate resilience, sustainable blue economy initiatives, and improved ocean governance.

Guided by the theme, **"Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future,"** the conference will emphasize the vital role oceans play in sustaining livelihoods, preserving cultures, and supporting communities worldwide. It will also provide an opportunity to showcase Kenya and East Africa's rich coastal heritage, unique biodiversity, and marine ecosystems to the global community.

For Kenya, and particularly coastal communities in Mombasa and Kilifi, the event represents more than international recognition—it is a chance to highlight the importance of protecting marine resources that millions depend on for food security, tourism, employment, and economic growth.

The conference is expected to shine a spotlight on Africa's leadership in ocean action while encouraging stronger partnerships toward safeguarding marine ecosystems for future generations.



Our top KSCE candidates in the 2025 KCSE exams Muraya Maina and Faith Kadzo together with their parents enjoy a lunch treat from SAAS at the REEF Hotel in Mombasa following their exemplary performance.

Honouring Our 2025 KCSE Champions

Celebrating Excellence, Resilience and Determination

In early January, SAAS celebrated an important milestone by honoring our two top-performing students in the 2025 KCSE examinations with a special celebratory lunch at the Reef Hotel in Mombasa alongside their parents.

The occasion recognized the outstanding achievements of Faith Kadzo and Muraya Maina, two students who proudly flew the SAAS flag high through their exceptional performance in the national examinations.

Faith, a student at Alliance Girls High School, attained an impressive mean grade of A (Plain), making history as the first girl in the SAAS scholarship program to achieve this milestone. Muraya, from Kenyatta High School, also demonstrated remarkable academic excellence, earning an A- (Minus) grade and emerging as the top-performing boy within the SAAS scholarship program.

Their achievements reflect years of commitment, discipline, sacrifice, and determination—not only from the students themselves, but also from their families, teachers, donors, and supporters who walked alongside them throughout their academic journey.

The celebration was filled with joy, gratitude, and reflection as the students and their families gathered to celebrate the fruits of perseverance and hard work. It also provided an opportunity to recognize the critical role parents and guardians play in nurturing and encouraging learners to pursue their dreams.

As part of the celebration, both students received brand-new laptops to support their university studies as they prepare to join higher learning institutions in September. Their families also received assorted food supplies in appreciation of their unwavering support.

The occasion served as a powerful reminder that when opportunity meets determination, education can transform lives and open doors to limitless possibilities.

STAR STUDENTS



NAME: Faith Kadzo

AGE: 18

SCHOOL: Alliance Girls High School

KCSE MEAN: A (Plain)

CAREER: Doctor

We proudly celebrate our Star student Faith Kadzo for her extraordinary achievement by becoming our top-performing student in the 2025 KCSE examinations.

Faith flew the SAAS flag high after attaining an outstanding Grade A (Plain) — a truly remarkable accomplishment. She has made history as the first girl in the SAAS Scholarship Program to achieve Grade A (Plain) in the KCSE examinations.

Her exceptional performance placed her among only 1,932 candidates nationwide who attained a Grade A (Plain) out of the 993,226 candidates who sat for the examinations across Kenya.

This achievement is a powerful testament to:

• Faith's hard work and determination

• The impact of sustained educational support

• What is possible when opportunity meets potential

As an organization, SAAS is immensely proud of Faith's academic excellence and celebrates this historic milestone with gratitude to all our donors, partners, and supporters who continue to make such success stories possible.

Faith's success is proof that education changes lives.

NAME: Muraya Maina

AGE: 19

SCHOOL: Kwale High School

KCSE MEAN: A- (Minus)

CAREER: Engineer



SAAS is proud to celebrate Muraya Maina as our Star student for achieving an outstanding mean grade of A- (Minus) in the 2025 KCSE examinations.

Muraya emerged as the top-performing boy from SAAS in the 2025 KCSE results — a remarkable achievement that reflects his dedication, discipline, and academic excellence.

His success is a powerful reminder of what is possible when bright and determined students are supported and given the opportunity to thrive.

Congratulations, Muraya! Your achievement has inspired many young scholars to dream big, work hard, and believe in themselves. Thank you for making SAAS proud.

Education changes lives — and Muraya's story is proof.



Tabitha, a SAAS alumnus, is all smiles as she welcomes SAAS founding director Gina Woods who visited her salon in Mombasa during her recent trip to Kenya.

Tabitha: A Journey of Resilience and Hope

From childhood hardship, to a salon owner & entreprenuer

Orphaned at an early age, Tabitha faced immense challenges growing up, often moving from one relative to another in search of shelter and support. Despite the hardships, she remained determined to pursue a better future and successfully completed her primary education before moving to Mombasa to live with her uncle.

With no immediate opportunity to join secondary school, Tabitha took on manual jobs to support herself. Her life took a positive turn in 2010 when she joined SAAS as a computer student. After completing the course, she volunteered to assist in teaching computer classes, demonstrating remarkable dedication and commitment.

Her hard work and resilience earned her a scholarship opportunity to further her education. Having delayed joining high school, she chose a practical path and enrolled in a beauty college in Mombasa, where she completed a course in beauty and hairdressing.

Tabitha went on to work in the beauty industry for ten years, gaining valuable experience and building her skills. In 2021, after the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, she took a bold leap of faith and opened her own salon.

Today, Tabitha is the proud owner of a successful salon and beauty parlor. She continues to grow her business while pursuing her dream of one day establishing her own beauty college — inspiring many young people through her journey of resilience, determination, and hope



Philip Chiro(right), poses for a photo with a colleague besides a charter plane parked at the Mombasa International Airport (MIA) runway area. He is a third year Aeronautical Engineering student (Avionics Options) at the East African School of Aviation.

Licensed to Dream – Philip Chiro

A story of resilience, determination & a dream taking flight

Philip Chiro (23) is a third-year Aeronautical Engineering student (Avionics option) at the East African School of Aviation whose journey is a powerful story of determination, resilience, and hope.

Philip's dream of joining the aviation industry began in primary school after reading a storybook titled **License to Fly.** The story of a young boy from a humble background who earned a scholarship and became a pilot deeply inspired him, and from that moment, Philip resolved to pursue a similar path.

He is the last-born in a family of three children. Despite performing well academically, his elder siblings were unable to pursue higher education due to financial constraints and instead took up manual jobs to support the family. This reality placed enormous pressure on Philip, who became the first member of his family to attend college.

His journey took a major turning point in 2019 when he earned a SAAS scholarship after excelling in his KCPE examinations with 426 out of 500 marks. The opportunity enabled him to join one of Kenya's top national schools, where he continued to excel and later attained a B Plain in his KCSE examinations, securing his admission to college.

Today, Philip is not only excelling in his studies but is also gaining hands-on experience as an apprentice in the engineering department at Moi International Airport.

Philip is set to graduate this year and hopes to use his skills to contribute to the aviation industry — continuing a journey that began years ago with a book that taught him to dream beyond his circumstances.

His story is proof that with opportunity, determination, and support, dreams can truly take flight

News Pictorial

New Grade 10 pupils and parents orientation meeting

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1. A section of our new Grade 10 pupils and their parents pose for a group photo after their orientation meeting at the office in January

2. Grade 10 pupils and their parents keenly follow the proceedings during their orientation meeting at the office in January.

Rewarding our top KCSE students at the Reef Hotel in Mombasa

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1. **Faith and Muraya together with their parents pose with the food items they received from SAAS following their remarkable performance in the 2025 KCSE exams.**

2. **Faith and Muraya cut the cake to celebrate their top performance in their KCSE exams.**

3. **The two are all smiles as they receive their new laptops issued to them by SAAS as a reward for their great performance in their KCSE exams**



Grade 10 students carry their personal belongings as they report to school in January 2026. This is the first cohort of Grade 10 learners marking a significant step in Kenya's education reforms and gradual implementation of the CBE Curriculum.

Stepping into Senior School: Grade 10-12

A New Education Journey under Kenya's CBE System

In January 2026, Kenya's education system reached a historic milestone as the first cohort of Grade 10 learners reported to Senior School following the opening of the new academic year. This transition marked a significant step in the country's education reforms and the continued implementation of the Competency-Based Education (CBE) curriculum.

As this landmark transition unfolded, SAAS proudly stepped in to support 40 new Grade 10 learners who had excelled in their examinations but faced the possibility of missing out on Senior School due to financial challenges. Through scholarship support, these students have been given the opportunity to continue pursuing their education and building brighter futures.

This initiative reflects SAAS's unwavering commitment to expanding access to education and supporting vulnerable learners as they take critical steps in their academic journey.

The move to Senior School represents Kenya's gradual shift away from the 8-4-4 system, which served the country for more than 35 years and has been progressively phased out since 2017. The new education framework seeks to nurture competencies, practical skills, talents, and values while providing learners with more personalized educational pathways.

More than 1.1 million learners sat for the inaugural Kenya Junior Secondary Education Assessment (KJSEA) in late 2025, marking their completion of Junior Secondary School (Grades 7–9) and readiness to join Senior School (Grades 10–12).

All learners who completed the assessment transitioned into Senior School under three pathways—Arts & Sports Science, Social Sciences, and STEM—representing a major step toward a learner-centered education system designed to prepare young people for diverse career opportunities and lifelong success.