SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

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DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 49



Maria poses for a photo with some of the girls after collecting their school fee support at the SAAS office. Students are heading back to school for Term 3 of the 2026 academic year.

Back to School: Term 3

Wishing our KCSE students success

On 24 August 2026, schools across Kenya reopened for Term 3, the final term of the 2026 academic year. The nine-week term will run until 23 October, with the academic calendar culminating in the national examination period.

For thousands of students across the country, Term 3 is a particularly important period. It is a time of intensive teaching, revision and preparation as candidates work towards their final examinations.

At SAAS, we are especially proud to announce that 94 of our scholars will sit for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education **(KCSE)** examinations this year. For these young men and women, the examinations represent an important milestone after years of hard work, determination and perseverance.

The candidates are now entering the final stage of their secondary school education, preparing to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout their years in school. For many SAAS scholars, reaching this point is itself a significant achievement, particularly for students who have overcome financial and personal challenges to remain in education.

Across Kenya, more than one million students are expected to sit for the national examinations, making this a significant period for students, families, teachers and communities.

As our scholars enter this important season, we celebrate their achievements so far and encourage them to remain focused, disciplined and confident. We also extend our appreciation to the SAAS sponsors, donors, teachers, parents and well-wishers whose continued support has helped these students reach this crucial stage of their education.

SAAS wishes all 94 of our candidates, and every student sitting the national examinations across Kenya, every success. May their hard work open the door to exciting new opportunities and brighter futures.

The Richard Hayes Entrepreneurial Programme

For over two decades, SAAS has transformed the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged young people by providing access to education and creating opportunities for a brighter future. Through scholarships, many beneficiaries have successfully completed secondary school and progressed to higher education.

However, completing an education does not always guarantee economic independence. Many young graduates continue to face high unemployment, limited employment opportunities, and challenges accessing the capital and business support needed to establish sustainable enterprises.

Recognising entrepreneurship as a pathway to economic empowerment and self-reliance, SAAS is set to establish **The Richard Hayes Entrepreneurial Programme of Support.** The programme will extend SAAS's support beyond the classroom by equipping current and former beneficiaries with the knowledge, skills, mentorship and resources required to start, develop and sustain viable businesses.

Named in honour of **Richard Hayes**, in recognition of his commitment to youth empowerment and education, the programme will provide a structured pathway from entrepreneurial training to mentorship, business incubation and seed funding. Participants will be supported to develop practical business ideas, strengthen their entrepreneurial skills, access professional guidance and, where appropriate, receive seed capital to establish or expand their enterprises.

The goal is to create a generation of economically empowered SAAS graduates who can build sustainable livelihoods, create employment opportunities and contribute positively to their families and communities. Applications will open soon.



Faith Kadzo, our top student in the 2025 KCSE exams, takes our Form 3 students through a Chemistry lesson during the August Holiday Tuition Programme.

Beyond The Classroom: SAAS Hosts Two-Week Holiday Tuition Programme

As part of its commitment to providing holistic support to sponsored students, SAAS successfully implemented a two-week August Holiday Tuition Programme, bringing students together for additional academic support during the school holiday.

The programme ran from 3 to 15 August, with classes held at the SAAS office over 10 learning days. Students from different schools came together in a supportive learning environment designed to complement their formal school education.

The academic sessions were led by professional teachers, working alongside selected senior SAAS students who volunteered as peer tutors. The teachers focused on subjects and topics where students needed additional support, providing targeted instruction and opportunities for students to strengthen areas they found challenging.

Rather than simply repeating classroom lessons, the programme encouraged students to ask questions, seek clarification, participate in discussions and work collaboratively. This created an environment where students could engage more actively with their learning and develop greater confidence in seeking help when they encounter difficulties.

An important feature of the programme was peer-to-peer learning. The involvement of senior SAAS scholars as volunteer tutors allowed younger students to learn from peers who had experienced similar academic challenges. Being able to interact with students closer to their own age also created a more relaxed environment for asking questions and discussing areas of difficulty.

Beyond academic support, the teachers and volunteer tutors served as positive role models, demonstrating that success requires discipline, consistency, resilience and a willingness to seek assistance when needed.

The August Holiday Tuition Programme reflects SAAS's belief that education is about more than examination results. It is about building confidence, developing resilience, encouraging positive relationships and giving young people the tools they need to succeed.

Through programmes such as this, SAAS continues to invest not only in the education of its scholars, but also in their overall growth and future potential.



Students pose for a group photo during the two-day Peer Talk Session event held at the office in August. The initiative continues to foster a culture where students feel heard, valued and supported.

SAAS Peer Talk Session – August 2026

Understanding The Student Beyond The Classroom

Recognising that a student's academic performance can be influenced by emotional, social and family circumstances, SAAS incorporated two Peer Talk and Counselling Sessions into its August Holiday Programme.

The sessions provided students with a safe, supportive and open environment where they could share their experiences, discuss challenges and explore practical ways of coping with situations that may affect their education and personal well-being.

Among the key topics discussed were trauma recovery, coping mechanisms, emotional intelligence, peer pressure, self-esteem, mental and emotional stress, personal challenges affecting academic performance, communication and seeking support.

The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Sheddy and Madam Lillian, who have supported and journeyed with SAAS students over the years. Their experience and commitment helped create an environment in which students could engage openly and reflect on issues that may sometimes be difficult to discuss.

The inclusion of counselling represents an important development in SAAS's holistic approach to education. While academic performance remains important, SAAS recognises that students are young people first, and that circumstances outside the classroom can have a significant impact on their ability to learn and thrive.

Financial difficulties, family circumstances, relationships, peer pressure, examination anxiety and difficult personal experiences can affect a student's concentration, motivation, confidence and school attendance. These challenges are not always immediately visible through examination results or classroom performance.

By creating a platform for honest dialogue, SAAS is seeking to understand not only whether a student is struggling, but also the circumstances that may be contributing to those struggles.

The sessions encouraged students to recognise their emotions, develop healthy coping strategies, communicate their concerns and understand the importance of seeking help when they need it.

At SAAS, we believe that supporting a child's education means supporting the whole child. By listening, understanding and walking alongside our scholars, we can help them navigate challenges, build resilience and develop the confidence they need to succeed.





Shilah, a SAAS alumnus, is all smiles after she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Chemistry from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) on August 15, 2026.

Shilah's Story: The Power of a Scholarship

How SAAS Changed The Course of Shilah's Life

For 24-year-old Shilah John, the dream of completing her education and graduating from university once seemed almost impossible. Her family struggled to raise the money needed to keep her in school, and by the time she reached Form 2, Shilah was on the verge of dropping out.

Everything changed in 2019, when Shilah was awarded a SAAS scholarship.

The scholarship gave her the opportunity to remain in school and, most importantly, allowed her to focus on her studies without the constant worry of being sent home because of unpaid fees.

Shilah worked hard and went on to achieve an impressive B+ mean grade in her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education **(KCSE)** in 2022. Her strong performance earned her a place at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology **(JKUAT)**, where she pursued a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Chemistry.

On **15 August 2026**, Shilah achieved a major milestone when she proudly graduated from JKUAT.

Today, the young woman who once faced the possibility of leaving school is looking ahead to an exciting professional future. She is currently undertaking her internship at Société Générale de Surveillance **(SGS Kenya)**, a Swiss multinational company providing inspection, verification, testing and certification services. She is attached to the Chemistry Laboratory Instrumentation Department, gaining valuable practical experience in her field.

Shilah's ambitions extend far beyond her university graduation. She dreams of becoming an international researcher, working with multinational corporations in bioengineering and quality control.

Her journey is a powerful reminder of what education and the opportunity to access it can achieve.

SAAS did not simply help Shilah stay in school. It helped keep her dream alive.

Today, she stands as a proud university graduate, ready to pursue the future she once only dreamed was possible.



Parents and guardians keenly following up on the meeting proceedings at the SAAS Office. The meeting was vital for parents to get first-hand information on what their children were going through both academically and mentally.

Partners in Education: SAAS Hosts Parents Meeting

Working to support the academic and well-being of scholars

In line with our approach to nurturing and supporting young people, SAAS recently held a Parents and Guardians Meeting at the SAAS office, creating an important space for open dialogue, reflection and collaboration.

The meeting provided an opportunity for SAAS to share feedback and insights arising from issues raised by students during the Peer Talk and Counselling Sessions conducted as part of the August Holiday Tuition Programme.

The conversations highlighted the important role parents and guardians play in the lives of young people. Parents were encouraged to create a safe, open and supportive environment where their children feel comfortable sharing the challenges they experience, both at home and at school.

The discussions also provided valuable insights into family dynamics and how these can influence a student's academic performance, emotional well-being and personal development. Understanding these challenges is an important step towards ensuring that students receive the right support at the right time.

Parents and guardians committed to taking a more active role in supporting their children, while SAAS reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with families and schools.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen collaboration between SAAS, parents, schools and students. By working together, we can better support our scholars as they navigate the academic, mental, emotional and physical challenges of growing up.

At SAAS, we believe that educating and empowering a child is a shared responsibility. When families, schools, communities and organisations work together, young people are given the confidence, support and opportunities they need to thrive.



Computer students pose with their certificates during their graduation ceremony in August after satisfactorily completing the three-month course at SAAS.

39 Graduates Complete SAAS ICT Training

Equipping young people with digital skills for a changing

SAAS proudly celebrated the successful graduation of its May–August 2026 ICT Cohort, marking another important milestone in the organisation's commitment to equipping young people with relevant, practical and future-ready skills.

After three months of rigorous ICT training, 39 students successfully completed the programme and were awarded certificates, recognising their hard work, commitment and newly acquired digital skills.

The ICT programme remains a cornerstone of SAAS's commitment to youth empowerment through education and technology. As digital technology continues to transform the way people learn, work, communicate and do business, access to practical ICT skills is becoming increasingly important.

Through the programme, SAAS aims to develop graduates who are not only technically skilled and digitally literate, but also professionally prepared, socially responsible and committed to contributing positively to their communities.

The graduation ceremony was therefore more than a celebration of completing a course. It was a recognition of the opportunities that education and technology can create for young people and a reminder of the importance of investing in skills that can open doors to employment, entrepreneurship and continued learning.

SAAS extends its heartfelt appreciation to the programme's dedicated volunteer tutors, led by Morris, whose passion, generosity and commitment have been instrumental to its success. Their selfless service, mentorship and hands-on approach to teaching continue to inspire and equip young people with skills for the future.

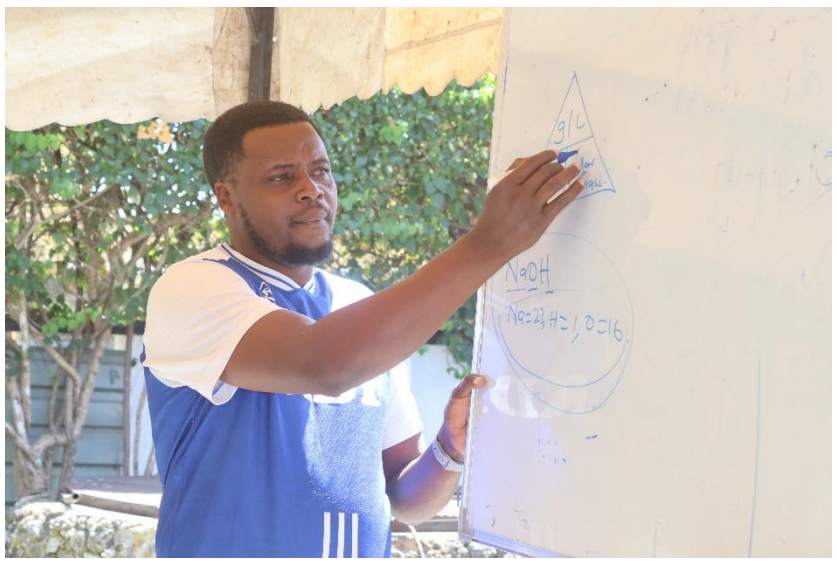
As the 39 graduates begin the next chapter of their journeys, SAAS is proud to have played a part in their development and looks forward to seeing how they use their new skills to build careers, create opportunities and contribute to their communities.

Congratulations to the May–August 2026 ICT Cohort!

News Pictorial

SAAS Holiday Tuition Programme

1. 

2. 

3. 

1. *Students follow keenly what their teacher is teaching.*

2. *Mr. Kitsao, one of the teachers, takes the students through a chemistry lesson.*

3. *The students pose for a group photo after their classes.*

Peer Talk and Counselling Session

1. 

2. 

1. *A student enjoys her plate of chicken biriyani*

2. *The boys enjoy watching an educative short film during the session.*

3. *The girls enjoy colouring their mandala art.*

3. 



Students perform a dance during the 98th edition of the Kenya Music Festival held in Kibabii University, Bungoma County. This year's competition brought together over 130,000 scholars from all schools across Kenya's 47 counties.

Students Showcase Talent at 98th Kenya Music Festival

SAAS Scholars Proudly Represented Their Schools Too

The 98th edition of the Kenya Music Festival was a vibrant celebration of talent, creativity and artistic expression, bringing together students from academic institutions across all 47 counties of Kenya.

Hosted at Kibabii University in Bungoma County, the festival was held under the theme: **"Enhancing the Creative Economy through Artistic Expression for Sustainable Development."** Organisers described this year's edition as the largest ever held in the country, attracting more than 130,000 learners from across Kenya.

At SAAS, we are proud to congratulate all our scholars who represented their schools throughout the various stages of the competition. From the sub-county and regional levels to the national festival, our students demonstrated confidence, creativity, discipline and commitment as they shared their talents on some of the country's biggest stages.

We are especially proud of those who progressed to the State Gala, hosted by President William Ruto at the Bungoma County State Lodge, a remarkable achievement and an opportunity to celebrate the dedication and talent of young people from across Kenya.

The Kenya National Music Festival provides an important platform for learners to develop and showcase their abilities in music, dance, drama, elocution and cultural performances. Students progress through successive levels of competition, gaining valuable experiences in teamwork, confidence, discipline, creativity and public performance.

At SAAS, we believe education goes beyond academic achievement. Nurturing talent, creativity and confidence is an important part of helping young people discover their potential and prepare for the future.

We celebrate all our scholars who took part and thank the teachers, schools, parents, guardians and supporters who continue to encourage them to explore their talents and pursue excellence.

Congratulations to all our SAAS scholars—you have made us proud!