

January Newsletter 2022

Dear Supporters,

We are delighted to report that primary and secondary schools reopened across Uganda on Monday, 10th of January 2022. For the youngest classes this is after a period of almost 2 years. This prolonged closure has inevitably caused disruption to every school especially in terms of academic school years. NCLC welcomed back 105 children and next week we will also welcome 25 new children including 14 into P1.

Likewise at St Kizito secondary school, 18 students, who graduated from NCLC in 2021, began their secondary education in S1 with new school uniform and an array of 'requirements'. They join the 10 other students from NCLC who are now in S2. St Kizito is a secondary school located close to Nabugabo and it is the secondary school of choice for students graduating from NCLC. We are very proud of all these children and especially pleased to have 100% attendance after such an uncertain time.



Representatives of The HUGE Partnership were fortunate enough to visit Nabugabo at the beginning of December 2021 to assist in preparation for the reopening of NCLC. We took with us 100kg of second hand uniform donated by Headington School, St Andrew's Prep school, and Englefield Primary School. In addition, we took out an incredibly generous supply of new underwear donated by the parents of Pangbourne College. We were given a very warm welcome by all the staff and the community and spent time together discussing the forthcoming school year. We also welcomed teacher Jackson who is a new staff member teaching social science.



As a result of this visit, several key initiatives were actioned:

- A programme of essential repairs to classroom, staff and cooking areas.
- A complete redecoration of the school
- Fencing the grounds of the examination hall
- Shopping trip to Masaka to buy equipment and resources for the school



During the visit, we met headteacher, Leonard at St Kizito Secondary School. He explained the difficulties faced by schools in Uganda, where during the pandemic, many teachers were forced to pursue other jobs to make a living. Students were also sent out to work and he voiced a concern about whether his teachers and all the children would come back to school. He did however praise the students from NCLC and identified in them an eagerness to learn and a diligence in study.

Representatives from HUGE will be returning to Nabugabo in mid-February and we are busy assembling resources and clothing to take out. We hope this will now be the start of a regular programme throughout the school year.

Back in the UK, whilst the opportunity to fundraise has proved limited in 2021, HUGE did host a successful Christmas wreath making workshop and special thanks goes to Sarah Ras for her excellent tuition, Joe Batten for his amazing canapés, Andrew Bond for being such an attentive barman and 20 wonderful wreathmakers! We are hopeful that we will be able to arrange more fundraising events in 2022 – watch this space!



The running of NCLC in all respects, from the employment of staff to the provision of schoolbooks, is totally reliant on charitable donations and we would like to thank all our supporters, including individuals and families across the globe, for their amazing support during such difficult times. We would also like to thank Sotogrande International School, Pangbourne College and Beatrice Laing Trust for their significant financial contributions to both NCLC and the Secondary School Fund.

Finally, a huge thank you to Headteacher Vincent and his team for their dedication and commitment to NCLC and we very much look forward to supporting them throughout 2022.

We are constantly looking to take out to Uganda, good quality second hand uniform (blue, grey and white), second hand, good condition teenage bras, home clothes and trainers for ages 5 - 13. Please contact Mel Batten if you can help.



Helping **UG**anda **E**ducate



The HUGE Partnership

The HUGE Partnership is UK registered charity which has been set up to make a difference to children in Uganda. It specifically provides financial and resource support to the Nabugabo Community Learning Centre, a primary school set up originally by David and Judy Batten solely to provide free education and support to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, who would otherwise not be able to attend school. If you have a specific query or would like to speak to one of the Trustees please email **Mel Batten** at melanie.brandon@icloud.com.

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