



Vanessa Grant Girls' School

Report 4: March 2011

By the middle of February with the bulk of Form 1 pupils in school, numbers were 107 and since then have risen to 110. The Admissions Committee has put in days of work meeting pupils and their parents. It is thanks to their commitment that the school is so sound.

The School



Vanessa Grant Girls' School March 2011

The Staff

There are now seven full time teachers with a good balance of young and more experienced. See website for details. We are still looking for an IT Teacher, a crucial appointment. A part time music teacher has been employed to train the choir and the school has invested in a keyboard and several percussion instruments.

Development

The second classroom block has been in use since the beginning of term and the first two classes also now have ceilings, which has been much appreciated given the very hot and dry weather we have had this term.

The bus now has its own garage with a store and workshop on either side. Until now the contractor had been using a classroom for a store and one of the empty staff houses for his office. The mower and workmen's bikes also have a shelter near the main gate.



Garage with store and workshop on either side and a shelter for bicycles and the mower.

Water tank: this has caused up some headaches but the lining should be fitted within two weeks. It will have a low roof and we will put a shrub fence around it to conceal it. It will take all the water from the two dormitory blocks and most of the water from the dining hall roof. There are tanks in place to collect water from the Science and IT blocks. This will be linked to some drip irrigation to keep the flower beds alive during dry weather. The bore hole is too salty for this.



The underground tank.



The new classroom block with garage in the background.

The second dormitory block has a roof and is now being plastered. The external design is similar to the first but there are improvements to the layout, which include a big Common Room, the showers and loos at the rear and a better House Mother's accommodation.



The second dormitory block.

Despite the dry weather, thanks to watering by the girls, the shrubs in the quad of the Londiani Home have flourished.



Londiani Home quad.



The Molly Tree

The playing fields have been flattened thanks to Matt Evans and Rongai Workshops and have now been chiseled and harrowed to prepare as smooth a surface as possible. Grass seed will sown once we have had enough rain. We are very grateful to Gogar Farm for their advice and use of machinery. The land preparation for the farm has also been done using Gogar equipment. Now we hope for reasonable rain as the saving on the catering budget could be significant.



Work on the playing fields.

Other mundane but essential building has been a septic tank for the new dormitory block and a big soakaway to deal with the grey water from the showers. This has been placed at the top end of the playing fields and will collect waste water from all four dormitory blocks once complete and could be the converted into a wetland or similar water treatment system in due course.

Fund Raising

A total of eighty nine girls are given fee support. Education For All Children (EFAC) runs its own sponsor programme and The Carol Barclay Memorial Bursary Fund receives other sponsorship fees, including the very generous support given by Les Enfants de L'Alma. The Trust is also deeply grateful to the many individuals who have elected to sponsor one or more girls. The school has undertaken to ensure that the sponsored girls write a termly letter and the sponsor receives the termly school report. Without this wonderful support, the school would not be flourishing in the way it is.

The Trustees: the school is fortunate to have the support of trustees who not only take an academic interest in the school but enjoy immersing themselves in the life of the school. Alan Bell and Lyndon Bowring have already spent three days here this year and attended a governors meeting as well as spending time in school with staff and girls. This is a great morale boost to all involved with the school.

The Governors: another reason why the school is thriving is because it has the services of a very hard working and dedicated governing body. In particular, tribute must be paid to Edward Munge, retired Head of Menengai High Boys School and Brother Francis Njoroge retired Head of Rongai Boys School. Combined with the support offered by the other high powered members, Joan Watsulu has a formidable team behind her.

J E O March 2011

