



# **VANESSA GRANT TRUST**

**Report 42 July 2023 on all projects.**





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EDUCATION TODAY *for*  
LEADERSHIP TOMORROW

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**The Vanessa Grant Girls' School** *is the biggest of the Vanessa Grant Trust projects and is a residential not-for-profit selective school for girls of secondary age. The trust provides as may assisted places as possible for bright girls from challenged backgrounds. Currently 38% are provided with fee support.*

The sense of relief in the school now that the schedule is back to normal is palpable and the renewed sense of purpose by teachers and staff alike is exciting.

**Competency Based Curriculum:** at the last minute, just as the school was poised to welcome its first intake of 12-year-old students, the government decreed that all Junior Secondary School students would be catered for within the existing primary schools. This was disappointing news indeed. The school is lobbying for a change in policy here.

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The new e-learning centre is well used.

**VGT Trustees:** in addition to the visit in 2022 by the VGGST trustees, Lucinda (Chairman VGT UK and Nutty were able to spend time at all the Vanessa Grant Projects. **Team Building Mombasa January:** all staff enjoyed a team building trip to the coast before the new academic year opened.

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Interview Shirley-Joy a sponsored student. The full VGGs staff team on the beach.

**The classroom:** the school achieved outstanding KCSE exam results in Computer Studies, Home Science, Agriculture and French. While most other results were also strong, Maths and Science were again weak. To rectify this, the school has been lucky enough to benefit from the professional services of Penn Kirk, an accredited International Schools' inspector, who, very generously, gave a week of her time free of charge. She observed classes in action and ran workshops for teachers. These were so well received that she has offered to return in October and again January 2024. In addition to this, the school contracted the services of a specialist Maths and Science educational consultant, Lillian Nyaranga, to do the same, but with specific focus on Maths and Science. We hope to see evidence of positive impact.

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## Penn Kirk with Jacklyne Adero, the Principal.

EFAC Program Students: with the support of EFAC (Education For All Children), the following VGGS alumni have been able to do part or all of their tertiary education in the USA.

### Diaspora Students

1. **Faith Ndanu** is on track to graduate from Smith College in 2024 with a bachelor's degree. She recently had an internship with Litemore Ltd in the Banking and Finance department.
2. **Miriam Waceke Kimani** graduated in 2022 from Lafayette College with an engineering degree. Last fall, Miriam was invited to be part of one of the panels for the #GetHerThere event, which was broadcast on CNN and is an initiative by the Obama Foundation's Girls Opportunity Alliance to educate and empower girls. She now works for a water engineering firm in NY.
3. **Winfred Syombua Mulwa** is in her senior year at Mt Holyoke College and will soon be graduating with two bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Biology. Last summer, she interned with The Samburu Project, mentoring young girls at the schools in The Samburu Project's network.

### Exeter Program

1. **Branice Yiamoi Karia** graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Public Health from Jomo Kenyatta University and is now working as a Medical Laboratory Officer at Community Health Partners. She also continues to support her community in a variety of ways, including as a Gender officer for the Talek Youth Association, Data Collection and analysis officer for Empower Her East Africa project, and the Secretary of the board for the Empower Her East Africa project.

### Yale Young Scholars Program

1. **Fridah Senteyion** will graduate in September with a law degree from Masinde Muliro University and in addition to being a mentor with the Tanari Trust, counseling young girls from her community, she recently had an internship with the Judiciary- Kajiado Law Courts.
2. **Stacy Karimi Murugi** is studying Medical Laboratory at Kenyatta University and will be graduating with a bachelor's degree this year. She recently had an internship as a Laboratory Officer at Mbagathi Hospital.





# VANESSA GRANT TRUST

Brief reports on the six other projects supported by the VGT follow.

## Flames of Hope

*This is the youngest of the VGT projects. It opened its doors in January 2018. It is Naomi Ndungu's brainchild. While she was the Head Teacher at the Vanessa Grant Special School, she had particular success in enabling children with limited or no speech to be able to communicate. This is a residential school that also accepts nursery age children daily.*

**Water**

The challenge of a lack of water at Flames of Hope has not been resolved, but the decision has been taken to link the school to the borehole supply from the VGGS, which is about 200 m away. Thanks to generous supporters in Australia, there is a plan to convert the pump to solar and so reduce the cost for both schools.

**Volunteers**

**Thanks to a very active group of volunteers, Flames of Hope now has a useful shaded sand pit, which has been in full use since the recent term restarted.**







Sam at Flames of Hope.

Tilly and some of the children enjoy a light moment.

[Vanessa Grant Special School. \(VGSS\)](#)

*This was the first project undertaken by the VGT and is a residential public school for forty children with special needs. It opened its doors in 2000 and has developed steadily since then.*

The school is thriving. Dyna, the Deputy Head, is doing a wonderful job in the pre-vocational class with the craft work she is helping the children produce. The school is very fortunate to have the services of Mufu Luvai, a professional music therapist. She is having particular success with some of the more autistic children.







Dinah, deputy head, with children in the pre-vocational class.  
Mufu at work with a music therapy group.

Security has been improved at the school by raising the level of the surrounding wall and building a guardhouse at the gate, to be better control who comes and goes. The kitchen and dining area have been transformed by renovations and all is now tiled which is so much easier to clean.







A sparkling new look to the kitchen.





The new computers and one of the very early lessons after they were first set up.

### Vocational Training School

*The Vocational Training School was another of Naomi Ndungu's ideas when it became clear that there was no suitable place for the children from the VGSS to proceed to once they had to move on. This is a residential school for 40 boys and girls run by Peggy, Naomi's daughter.*

Thanks to the VGT UK, there is fundraising underway to enable the school to build two more classes so that cookery and computing can be added to the skill training on offer. If you can contribute to this significant project, please click on the link. Any donation, however small, will help the VGT reach its target of GB 12,000.00.



The Vanessa Grant Trust [cafdonate.cafonline.org](http://cafdonate.cafonline.org)

The computers from Lewis Silkin are now being used regularly. What a boost these have given to the students. Here Peggy is demonstrating some of the specialised software.



### Gogar Primary School

*Gogar Primary School is a public school that the trust started supporting in 2012 by linking it to Cheltenham College and undertaking additional fund raising to refurbish and build new classrooms, renovate the latrines, build a library, staffroom, computer room, and kitchen and provide a water supply. Numbers at the school have increased from 300 to 900 day students today.*

The Head Teacher, Mr Ngetich, has expressed his sincere thanks to the valuable commitment shown by this year's group of volunteers to life both in and outside the classroom.









Product of an art lesson.  
Tilly and Sam escorted through Rongai.

Tamsin on a day out.







Who says school is not fun?

### St Michael's Nursery School.

*St Michael's nursery school is a project initiated by Lauren Sundercombe (VGT Trustee) and Cornwall College. It is a school for children between four and six and is run by Agnes Wangari. Fluid Branding, the company that Ross Sundercombe, Lauren's husband works for, has been wonderfully supportive and enabled the VGT to buy the adjacent plot to develop as a playground – requirement for registration with the Ministry of Education.*

Lucinda, chairperson of the VGT UK, Karen and Nutty, fellow trustees with Agnes, visiting S. Michael's in January as part of the due diligence process by trustees.













Amelia, Sam and Clemmie helping at lunch time.

**Molo River House (MRH)**



*The Molo River House is accommodation that Cheltenham College and Cornwall College helped the VGT to fund to provide a safe and comfortable place for the increasing number of volunteers that have been arriving over the years. This has eight rooms and sleeps sixteen people very comfortably and more when needed. Situated in the middle of Gogar Farm, it is quiet and secure.*

Tilly, Sam, Amelia, Clemmie, Helen and Tamsin enjoy birthday tea. The trust is very grateful for all the work and commitment given to the schools by our 2023 volunteers.



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## VGT Trustees

**USA:** Hermione Gluck, Mary Asphar, Susan Nelson.

**UK:** Lucinda Bolton-Carter, Nutty Thrupp, Sarah Darling, Lauren Sundercombe, Karen Robertson-Macleod.

**Australia:** Nicola Darling, Judith Fiander, Bruce Gibson, Jess Kingsford, Richard Kingsford, Libby Prell, Kim Taylor and the late Stephen Porges,

**Kenya:** Hamish Grant, Nigel Shaw, Johnny Ponsonby, Nick Hutchinson, Johnny Onslow

## VGGS Trustees

**UK and Kenya:** Alan Bell, Anthony Bell, Hamish Grant, Nigel Shaw, Joshua Rutere, Sarah Rutere, Johnny Onslow.

**JEO June 2023**

[www.vanessagratttrust.org](http://www.vanessagratttrust.org)

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