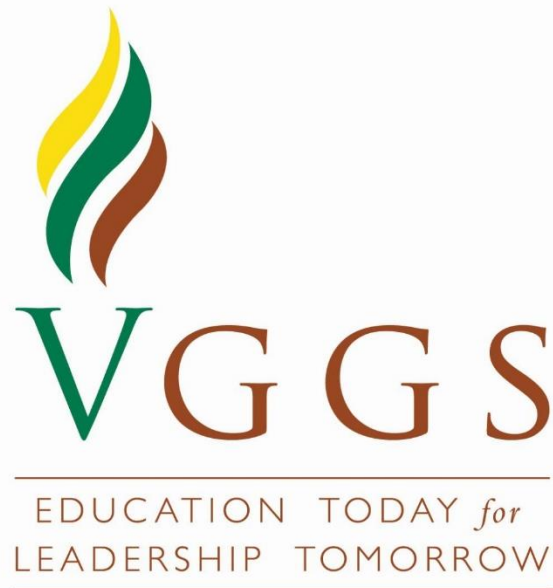




# **VANESSA GRANT TRUST**

**Report 44 July 2024 on all projects.**





**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. It was set up after a recommendation by Director of Education Rift Valley Province in 2008. Trust provides as many assisted places as possible for bright girls from challenged backgrounds. Currently 38% are provided with fee support.*

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**Exam results and numbers:** The significant improvement in the national KCSE exam results was a just reward for the focus the school has made on academics and led to a strong list of applicants for places in Forms One, Two and Three. The school population is increasing, which makes budgeting easier. The entry for Grades Seven and Eight has been launched. The first fifteen students benefit from small classes and excellent individual attention. We anticipate strong uptake as this develops as the public schools are very congested.

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The CBC Pioneers.

RT Revd. Bishop

Muchai blesses the new CBC classrooms.  
classes to Her Excellency.

The Principal shows off one of the new

**Solar conversion:** the ability of the school to generate some of its own power has helped reduce the cost of the unreliable grid. A further generous donation from Australia means that the next phase will proceed before long.

**Thanksgiving and visit by Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta:** early in April, the school organised a memorable Thanksgiving Day to mark the successes of the school in 2023. Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta had kindly agreed to be Guest of Honour for the tenth anniversary of the school's foundation, but that was cancelled because of Covid. She very kindly agreed to grace this occasion, despite officially retiring from public events. What a wonderful day it was. The Bishop of Nakuru, Rt Reverend Bishop Joseph Muchai led the service. This was followed by an excellent and entertaining speech by Her Excellency and much enthusiastic entertainment by the students.







Her Excellency greets trustees and Bishop Muchai.

Tree planting in the rain.  
Fridah Nakhanu.

Her Excellency receives a portrait created by

**In the classroom:** throughout the year the staff have been attending workshops focused on developing a more interactive delivery of the school curriculum to make learning a more exciting process and to improve results. There was particular focus on Maths and Sciences early in the year and then on other subjects later in the year under the guidance of the wonderful Penn Kirk who has given so generously of her time and professional expertise. Recently several staff have also shadowed teachers at St Andrew's School Turi, a high performing independent British Curriculum School (and the school that Vanessa attended when the family still lived in Kenya). They all came back with plenty of fresh ideas. We are very grateful to Penn and to St Andrew's for giving the VGGS these opportunities.

**Library donation:** Lauren, the chairperson of the VGT UK kindly organised a wonderful donation of books from Brannel Secondary School in Cornwall. These are such a valuable boost to the library.







**VANESSA  
GRANT  
TRUST**

Brief reports on the 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.*

All is running smoothly at Flames of Hope and nothing new to report.





A fun day in February this year.





One of the donated computers in use under Dorothy's guidance.

**Vanessa Grant Special School. (VGSS)**

*This was the first project undertaken by the VGT in conjunction with the Ministry of Education 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 was lucky to have the services of five excellent volunteers. Bea Salmon completed this lovely mural at the gate. VGT Australia also raised money so that each dormitory can enjoy different programs on TV appropriate to the age group rather than sharing one TV in the common room. This has made a significant impact to everyone in the evenings.







Vocational class.

Mural by the gate.

One of the four TVs in the dormitories.

Have a look at this video of some of the work done by the pre-vocational class.

<https://youtu.be/Ahvrh-Ktw3A?si=AcVX8C9FNdL6o-0N>

## 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.*

Although there has been no capital development at the school, lots is happening. Have a look at this video taken recently: [https://youtu.be/6pH-bT0STTM?si=cL2WVPXeW9MRR4\\_M](https://youtu.be/6pH-bT0STTM?si=cL2WVPXeW9MRR4_M)

## **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.*

Gogar Primary school is looking very smart. The government has at last injected funds to renovate classrooms.



classrooms and roof upgraded thanks to government funds

Gogar Primary







The new ECD classroom was ready for use in January. This was built entirely with funds raised by Cheltenham College.

Have a look at this video of Cheltenham College in action at Gogar Primary School.

<https://youtu.be/fEX9n-Jyw-o?si=qWJnWYG7qg2JwtT0>

### St Michael's Nursery School.

*St Michael's nursery school is a project initiated by Lauren Sundercombe (VGT Trustee) and Cornwall College in conjunction with Agnes a local teacher. 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.*

S Michael's continues to thrive and is in great demand as the nursery school of choice. No significant capital development has taken place recently.

## **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.*







Fresh furniture and fabric for the silting room.

Two 10,000 litre tanks for rainwater harvesting, to be pumped by solar to a small header tank...spot the stand!

## Pamela Scott Secondary School, Leldet Primary School and three Deloraine Nursery Schools.

*Thanks to support from the Peter Cundill Foundation and donations from Xan Smiley, the VGT has been able to extend support to another five schools in the area. There are three small and very modest nursery schools serving the local community, Leldet Primary School with about 500 children and Pamela Scott Secondary School with about 800 students.*

**Nursery Schools:** no further projects but fundraising on-going for a kitchen and dining area.

**Leldet Primary School:** completed projects:





Additional security for the computer room.  
computer room and temporary science lab.

Under construction as a  
In use in June 2024.



**Pamela Scott Secondary School:**



Computers delivered to Pamela Scott Secondary School by VGT UK trustees Lauren and Miles and a team of volunteers.

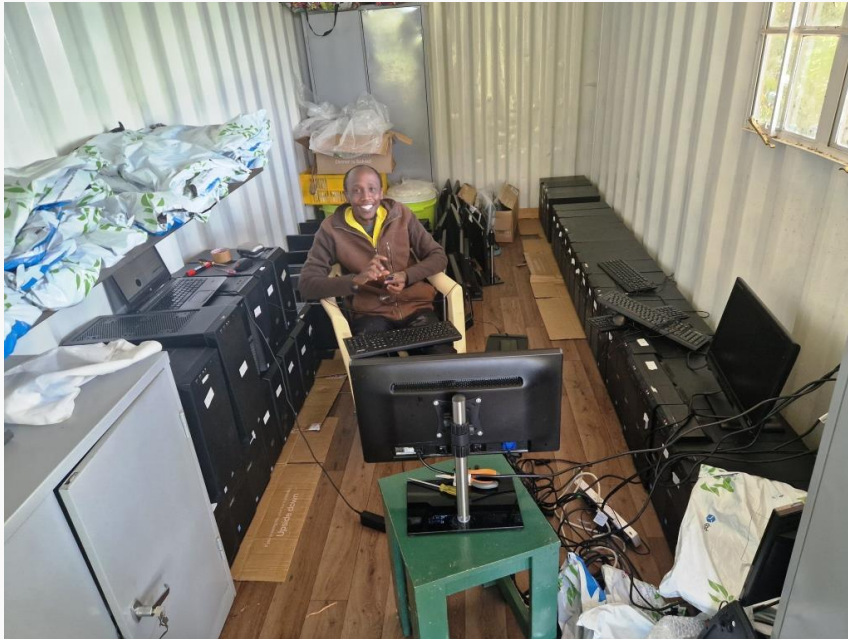
## Schools recently added to the VGT portfolio.

*Thanks to a wonderful donation of 40 computers by Fluid Branding, the VGT has been able to refurbish rooms at nearby government schools in preparation for delivering computers to enable these schools to as Computer Studies to the curriculum.*

### **Kimangu Secondary School**







Kimangu Secondary School room preparation June 2024  
in use July.  
delivery, June.

Fluid Branding computers being prepared for

### **Springs High School:**





Fluid Branding computers delivered on July 16<sup>th</sup>.  
first time on 17<sup>th</sup> July

In use for the

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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.,

**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 July 2024**

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

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