

Sponsorship Proposal



Introduction

For almost 6 decades the Starehe schools in Nairobi have been empowering their students with an opportunity to escape poverty through access to a first class secondary education and a safe, secure home – free of charge. Not only does a Starehe education help students to create a bright future for themselves it also encourages them to make a valuable contribution to the development of their communities and Kenya at large.

To be able to continue offering free places to poor but gifted boys and girls, the schools are seeking sponsorship for individual students. Each school has to raise £850 to feed, clothe, educate and care for a child for one year. This includes 3 meals a day, 365 days a year, school uniforms, shoes, sports kit, extracurricular activities and housing in dormitories in the care of full-time house parents. A donation of £3,400 would cover the full four years of secondary education for one student. We invite you to sponsor one or more pupils, in full or in part, at either the Starehe Boys School or the Starehe Girls School.

For every student sponsored you will receive a report on their academic achievements and a personal letter from the student at the end of every term. This will give you an insight into the impact of your donation and allows you to monitor your students' progress through their secondary education.¹

¹ Kenya operates an '8-4-4' system of education, with secondary school starting at age 14.

The Need For Sponsorship

It is tough for all poor children growing up in Kenya. Basic primary education is free of charge, and whilst 75% of Kenya's children now enroll in primary school, only 40% of secondary aged children will attend secondary school². Kenya is the ninth lowest country in the world in terms of the percentage of children in school³. The Kenyan government only pays £150 per student towards their secondary education. The difference between the government contribution and the school fees has to be paid by students' families, hence many poorer children are forced out of the system, especially those living in rural communities. It costs the Starehe schools £1,000 to feed, clothe, educate and care for a child for one year⁴, £850 sponsorship is therefore required every year for every free place offered to a poor child.

Starehe Schools Background

The Starehe Boys School was founded by Dr Geoffrey Griffin in 1959 as a charitable institution providing a first rate education, as well as a safe and secure home for gifted boys in need. The school has grown over the years and now has approximately 1000 students. The Starehe Girls School was opened in 2005 following the same principles as the Starehe Boys School, by 2020 it will provide a safe home and education for 600 girls.

At least 70% of the school places are offered free to the brightest children from the poorest families across every rural and urban province of Kenya. Such is the reputation of the schools that on average about 30,000 pupils apply every year for 410 places offered across both schools, demonstrating the overwhelming need for sponsorship. Right from the start, the students are encouraged to see Starehe as home. This ethos is in stark contrast to the brutal regimes common in many Kenyan secondary schools.

The Starehe Schools expect students to study a broad curriculum and a minimum of 13 subjects. Year on year Starehe pupils achieve excellent results in the Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education final examinations. In 2018, Starehe Girls' Centre ranked 10th and Starehe Boys' Centre 13th out of the 8,297 public secondary schools in Kenya.

From the 256 Starehe Boys who sat the exams in 2018, 77% achieved a grade of A or B. The cut-off for entry into one of Kenya's public Universities is C+, an impressive 88% of students secured a place at university setting them up for a positive future. Similarly, in 2018 76% of the 119 Form 4 students at the Girls School achieved a grade of A or B, with 94% meeting the grades for a university place⁵. The Starehe Schools' academic results put them on a par with the best private and public Kenyan secondary schools whose intake is far more privileged.

² Statistics provided by UNICEF

³ World Education News & Reviews, 2015

⁴ Financial figures provided by the Director of Starehe Boys' Centre, 2018

⁵ <https://softkenya.com/education/kcse-results/> Starehe Boys' Centre ranking has dropped over the last few years as Kenya becomes more prosperous the academic standards improve and there is more competition.

Purposeful extra-curricular activities are central to school life and are designed to engender leadership, self-reliance and service. Both schools have their own scout troops and pupils participate in the President Award Adventure Scheme; Kenya's equivalent to the UK Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Students regularly reach the highest gold level and attend the State House to receive their award from the President of the Republic of Kenya. Pupils participate in a vast array of sporting disciplines with opportunities to compete in county and regional level events on a regular basis.

Students are encouraged to be active in the local community around Starehe by devoting their full holiday to volunteering in understaffed hospitals, clinics, health centres, public offices, rural primary schools or libraries.

What We Hope To Achieve

Starehe alumni have shown that poverty can be reversed in a generation through education. Former pupils from the poorest backgrounds are now serving their country in roles as diverse as medicine, academia and business, see the attached case studies for specific examples. With your help the Starehe Schools can continue to transform the lives of the brightest children from the very poorest communities across Kenya for another 6 decades.

Thank You

We would like to thank you for considering sponsorship of a Starehe student. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss your sponsorship in person please contact Joanne Knight, Starehe UK Charity Manager via admin@starehe.org or call +44 (0)333 360 1215.

Case Studies

Irungu Nyakera came from a peasant farming family in Kenya's Murang'a County. He was sponsored to attend the Starehe Boys' Centre and graduated from Stanford University in 2007 with a BSc in Management Science and Engineering. He worked briefly for Citi Group in London before returning to Kenya in 2008 to continue his banking career. In 2015, at the age of 33, Irungu moved into government when he was appointed Kenya's Transport Principal Secretary, the youngest Principal Secretary in Kenya. Irungu recognises Starehe Boys' Center changed his life and he claims the inspiration instilled in him at Starehe has stayed with him throughout his career. Following a reshuffle by President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2017, Irungu is currently the Principal Secretary for Planning and Statistics.

Mugambi Laibuta attended the Starehe Boys' Centre from 1998 to 2001, after which he went on to study a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at Kenya's Moi University before attending the Kenyan Law School for his Bar admission. He further studied for a Master of Laws (LLM) at the London School of Economics and Politics. He currently teaches Law at the Kenya School of Law and is a constitutional, legislative, democracy, governance, devolution and human rights consultant. He has also been involved in Constitution making processes in Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia and Chile. He recently served as the Director of Legal Affairs at the Council of Governors in Kenya. Mugambi has been instrumental in protecting free speech in Kenya by representing bloggers and online journalists in cases against the state.

Vivian Adhiambo Onano is a social entrepreneur and seasoned humanitarian who is recognised as an emerging woman leader with the courage to lead change on the African continent. She has a strong commitment to education, women economic empowerment, and leadership. Vivian has a deep interest in redefining Africa's growth and development, and creating an inclusive world where women and youth can play an important role. She is a graduate of Carthage College and a strategic development consultant on education, youth empowerment and employment, and women economic empowerment. Vivian is a youth adviser to Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO and the Founder/Director at Leading Light Initiative.

Vane Mora comes from the Kisii tribe in the South Western part of Kenya and studied in a local village school before joining Starehe Girls Centre in its first cohort of students when it opened in 2005. She achieved a BSc in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nairobi, and a MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems Kenya from the University of Edinburgh in 2017. Vane plans to use her knowledge to develop sustainable energy solutions for Kenya and the developing world. To give something back to the community she founded Fly Sister Fly Foundation in 2011. The Foundation advocates for the rights of women and girls in marginalised areas of Kenya. This comes from the belief that a little support can change someone's life forever.