

Issue 14

February 2019

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Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2019. Since our last newsletter there have been some fantastic achievements and developments at the Walk Academy.

The Academy reopened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January with the children returning in their droves full of enthusiasm and zeal to learn. We have a number of updates detailed below on the next steps being taken by some of the students but I would like to especially inform you of the progress of our first University graduate. Eric Mwangi graduated from University in the summer of 2018 and we are thrilled to let you all know that he has secured a role as an assistant project director at a charitable organization in Nairobi. The charity provides similar support to The Walk Academy. We look forward to hearing more from Eric as he settles into his new role



We would also like to provide some clarity on the names of the Kenyan and UK operations. As we detailed in our last newsletter the school in Kenya has changed its official name to “The Walk Academy” following a request from the Ministry of Education. The UK charity will remain “The Walk Centre” as we provide support to projects beyond the school.

We welcome you to read through the newsletter for more stories from the Academy and the UK Charity. We thank you all for your continued support and please do let us know if you have any questions.

**Amy Marriott**

The Walk Centre Chairperson

## Educational Achievements

### Graduation

In 2018, the Academy saw 34 children graduate from pre-primary class II to Grade One. With this move the children are met with the challenge of learning more subjects and to mark this transition they move from a navy blue uniform to maroon. To date Grade One has 36 pupils with 100% returning after the Christmas break eager to participate and learn.



## Contact information

Enquiries: [enquiries@thewalkcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@thewalkcentre.org)

Tel: 07870 698177

Virgin Money Giving [www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com)

UK Registered Charity Number: 1129576

# Educational Achievement (cont.)

## News from the Walk Academy

### High School

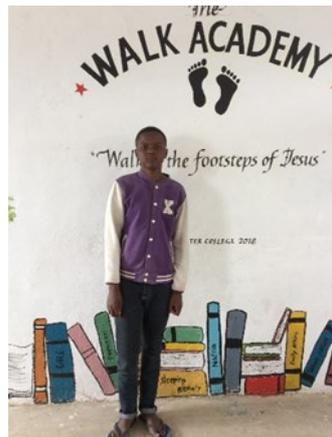
Prior to the Christmas break candidates sat the national primary exams to gain places at High School. Twenty-nine of our students sat the exam with all but two gaining high school places. These two have been advised to re-take classes and re-sit the exam. Some of those that passed the exam have been identified as high achievers and selected by the Ministry of Education to join top performing national schools but unfortunately these schools require additional funding which we do not have. We hope to gain additional funds to help send and sustain these students at the right school to ensure they have the greatest chance of success.



### University/College

The Walk Academy saw nine students sit the national exam for entry to College and University. One of our students, John Mwangi, gained a place at a University of his choice and is only the second student after Eric to gain such high grades. John would like to do a Bachelor of Science in Microprocessors technology and instrumentation. The other eight students will be able to join college. Although this is great news and we are immensely proud of the students it is with a heavy heart that at present none of the students can take up their places due to limited funds. If you or anyone you know are interested in

finding out more about sponsoring a student, then please do contact us at [enquiries@thewalkcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@thewalkcentre.org).



### New Class

Thanks to the construction of the new primary school at the Academy there is now a new Class for Grade 6. This now caters for 32 pupils who are aged 13-14.

The Academy has also introduced music classes in the afternoon three times a week. There are also plans to form football teams, drama and environmental clubs so watch out for updates in our next newsletter.

The school programme has been revised to include counseling and guidance. This is felt to be key to the well being of the students and one of the main drivers for the construction of a primary school at the Academy. To have this topic within the programme allows the staff at the Academy to monitor and assess how children are fairing at home and school, and to quickly identify any welfare issues before they escalate.

With the addition of Grade 6 and a music class the Academy welcomes two new teachers into the fold.



### Computer Class

The children at The Walk Academy have had access to a limited number of computers over the years that were provided by the Walk Centre and thanks to African Adventures this number has recently been increased by a further four machines. Over the Christmas holidays a computer class was held with students due to start High School in 2019. This type of class will also be introduced for the younger students in order to keep the children up to date with technology. There is also a plan to introduce the classes to the local community outside of school hours to improve parents' chances of gaining employment.

# News from the Walk Academy (Cont.)

## Library

With the assistance of volunteers, the school now has a library room which has been painted and shelves installed. A library session has been introduced for the children where they can read story books. The Ministry of education do recommend story books for the children as well so this addition is key.



## Languages

The Academy has taken the decision to promote the English language at the school. With the start of the new term the students will now be encouraged to speak English Monday through Thursday. On a Friday the students will return to Swahili. The aim is to bring the school amongst the high achievers for languages with English being the second official working language after Swahili in Kenya. This also has the added benefit of removing any communication barriers with overseas visitors.

## Music Festival

Each year between June and August Nakuru County holds a music festival. There are different categories including small children and teenagers. The Walk Academy competed against bigger schools within Nakuru County. Although they did not win, the children gained good marks and rewards for their confidence, zeal and passion for music.

## Reading and writing competition

In October 2018 six children from The Walk Academy aged between 5 and 6 competed within a reading and writing



competition. The aim of the competition was to check how well children can pronounce words, and how well they are able to write and cleanliness. The children did really well and passed three levels to get to sub-county level. The children came third as a collective which I think we can all agree was a fantastic result.



## School Construction

The continued construction at the Centre, thanks to funds provided by Chichester college and African Adventures, has seen the completion of the new kitchen. The construction began in August 2018 and ended in early November when volunteers completed the painting. The Kitchen is housed in the new area of the school and utilizes the stoves originally provided by Windsor St George through an International Rotary grant. The design of the kitchen is proving to be reliable and efficient and has been structured in a way that allows children to be served without having to enter the kitchen. This in turns reduces the risk of any injury during serving.



## Christmas Gifts

Thanks to the fantastic generosity of our supporters the UK Charity was able to fund the annual Christmas Gifts to 250 families. The gifts consisted of essential supplies including maize, salt, cooking oil, sugar, rice and soap. The gifts were distributed at The Walk Academy and each recipient family were extremely grateful as the supplies made the festive period more joyful taking away the worries of where their next meal would be coming from.



# News from The Walk Centre UK

## New Website

We are thrilled to announce that our new website is now live. With the help of Will at WM Designs we have been able to increase the accessibility of the site, improve imagery and fix all the ongoing issues with newsletter availability. We have also made available our first ever impact report. This looks at the value that the UK charity has provided since registration rather than on our annual charity reporting timeframe. It has been a great way to document our journey and evidences the hard work and impact of all our trustees and sponsors. You can access the website at [www.thewalkcentre.org](http://www.thewalkcentre.org)

## Move from JustGiving to Virgin Giving

Due to the increasing fees at JustGiving the Charity has made the decision to cease use and move to Virgin Giving. As a charity we continually review any costs that we have to ensure that as much funding as possible is going to the students and not to administrative costs. If you are planning an event then please check out our website or follow this link. [www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com)

## Amazon Smile

The charity has initiated a new way of supporting The Walk Centre. If you use Amazon please support us by going to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and select The Walk Centre as your chosen charity. We will then receive a 0.5% donation for millions of products. Its free for you but will add up for the children and families of The Walk.

## Special Thanks

**Rotary** - After many years of support the Rotary Club of Windsor St George have continued to be amazingly generous to us. After a number of fundraising events they have donated a fantastic £855 and a huge amount of foreign coins that we will be converting into cash soon. We could not be more grateful for their support and belief in what we do.

**St Mary Magdalene Church in Hullavington and St Pauls Church Wooburn Green** - A special thanks to both these organisations who have supported us a great deal over many years and continue to do so with fundraisers, donations and support.

**Xmas trees** – We are extremely grateful to ex-students from Juniper Hill School who ensured £5 was donated to the Charity for every Christmas tree that was sold.

**Xmas Fayre** – Thank you to all who supported our stall during and after the event at The Cherry Tree. We made a fantastic £200.

**We would like to thank each and every one of our supporters who have shown their support and donated to the Charity. Every penny donated makes a huge difference to the students and families of the Walk and helps to give them a chance at a better future.**

## Do you have unwanted foreign coins or notes lying around?

If you have then we can take them from you! We have teamed up with Cash4Coins who will change any of the following into cash for us!

We can accept: All foreign coins and notes

All pre-Euro coins and notes

Damaged and commemorative notes and coins

Old British and Irish coins and notes

Pre-decimal currency

Please get in touch and we can arrange a collection!!