

Where did all the students go?



Last November, 17 year 8 students at Green Pastures School passed a massive hurdle in their lives – they took 5 exams – the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education, or KCPE. The results came out at the turn of the year, and placed Green Pastures amongst the top ranking primary schools in the country. By February, the 17 graduates were all placed in top or middle level secondary boarding schools. The 5 boys on the left won coveted places at Dagoretti High, and Phenny, (right) is

on her way to State House girls' school.



A number of other students moved school this year. When we visited last July, the 20 students who were sponsored at Equator Boy's School and its sister school, St Xavier's,



brought to us a number of concerns about the quality of education they were receiving, and asked to be transferred. After investigating their complaints we agreed, and in January those who had come from Korogocho slum returned to Kao la Tumaini, and were housed in the new boarding facility there. In spite of the troubles that developed, they praised the standard of teaching, and all but 2 have continued as the school has moved to its new location and been renamed Neema School. The rest of the students from the Equator schools were moved to other government schools. The group from Equator and Green Pastures who went to Masinga in the lovely Kenyan countryside are pictured left.

Another 28 students sponsored in various secondary schools took the 8 subjects of the Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE). It was March before their results came out. Some were disappointing, others did very well. We have begun a policy of offering some the students we have taken through secondary school a further 1 – 2 years of vocational training, depending on their aptitude. This usually includes all but the Dagoretti boys, for whom the agreement has always been a little different, and most of whom excel in their exams and have access to higher education by other means.

In March, 5 of the girls enrolled at Unity College, where we have a partnership agreement, to do catering, hotel management, tourism and IT courses. In April 2 more began a Law course at Nairobi Aviation College (which has nothing to do with flying!) Then 6 boys started at Unity College in May, on courses such as motor vehicle mechanics and accounting. 3 girls graduated from Unity College in December, and 3 more got their diplomas in March. Finally, Emily, right, got her certificate in IT from Nairobi Aviation College with distinctions and credits in all courses.



The administration involved in all this is not small – and it is mostly down to Japheth Mutinda, who liaises with secondary schools, establishes fees arrangements, allocates start-up grants for the purchase of uniforms and supplies, and oversees transport for the students. Eunice works with him, particularly when it comes to books and supplies, pocket money, college visits, managing the college boarding arrangements (most of the girls live in rooms rented by us) and counselling the girls on college courses. Johnstone took on the oversight of Neema School's education programme, including hiring of teachers and the registration of the students who are taking exams this year. He also oversaw the move.

Thank you again to all of you who support these children.

Denise