

# ACE Newsletter and Christmas Appeal 2025



## ***From Little Acorns.....***



We hope you will already have watched the video of Arise School. Many of you have supported the charity since 2013 when the first classroom opened with just one teacher and eleven children. Today, Arise Pre and Primary Community School has over 30 staff, ten classrooms, 400 pupils, Science and Computer Rooms and a staff room. The kitchen has recently been renovated and upgraded to make it environmentally friendly and a Dining Room is under construction.

The school is working towards becoming self-sustaining. Over the years, ACE has also funded the installation of a well and irrigation system, electricity and solar power and various animal husbandry, farming and fishing projects. In order to bring in income, ten houses for rent have also been built on land adjacent to the school.



It is you, our supporters, who have made all of this possible. In 2012, when Frank, now the School Director, first showed us the family land on which he wanted to realise his dream to build a school open to any child in the local community, our aim was just to try and raise enough to build one classroom!

We hope the video gives a small insight into Arise School and the education it affords so many children who would not otherwise have that opportunity. If you wonder why some of the pupils are wearing a hat in the tropics, the school is over 1,000 metres up Mt. Kilimanjaro. Hats and jumpers are the norm at certain times of the year!

***Our sincere thanks and appreciation to you all for so generously supporting us in these endeavours over the years.***



## ***Endings and New Beginnings.....***



Their national examinations behind them, a sixth group of Arise students celebrated their hard work and achievements as they ended their primary education and look to begin their secondary education in January.



It was a festive, joyous and colourful occasion with dance, drama, poetry and song. Certificates were awarded for achievement and performance in a range of areas, demonstrating the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals. As always, the formal ceremony was followed by refreshment - a time for laughter, photos and heartfelt goodbyes.



***We wish them all good luck and every success as they await their examination results and prepare to start their journey through secondary education.***



## ***Bringing the Benefits of Music and Technology Together.....***

Previous years' ACE Christmas Appeals have focused on donations to purchase musical instruments and computers. Music has now become an integral and much enjoyed part of the Arise School life whilst the additional computers have greatly extended potential for students' learning and communication, including globally.



Earlier this year, a musical Zoom was arranged. Its purpose was to showcase students' talents and extend their experiences, at the same time enabling sponsors to see something of Arise school and the direct benefit students get from their donations. Pupils from Queens Park Primary School, St Helens, which regularly supports Arise, also participated.

Disappointedly, there was no control over the weather! Heavy rains and fallen trees badly affected the school's WiFi and, in spite of an alternative venue being found, reception was very intermittent. But, the show went on. Students did themselves proud and it was much enjoyed by all.



***"Such a good start to the day! It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and so much joy and enthusiasm ....such a pleasure to take the tour of the school and see what has been achieved there." Sponsor***

***"I loved their singing. I liked seeing their school that we have been learning about."***

***"Their singing and dancing was beautiful and I loved the trumpets. Thank you for playing and singing to us." Queens Park School Pupils***

***Our very grateful thanks for your support of previous appeals and to the two very generous donors who came forward following the Zoom to meet the cost of upgrading the WiFi.***



# ACE Christmas Appeal 2025

Arise School was set up with the underlying philosophy that it should be so much more than a school. Whilst seeking to provide quality education, it also takes a wholistic view of children's needs, nurturing and providing opportunities for extra-curricular activities that, given the poverty of their home circumstances, many of them would never be able to experience.



Currently, arrangements are underway to set up an online Chess Group. With his father's support, the tutor will be a 12 year old chess champion. Having had the opportunity himself, he now wishes to use his skills to benefit other young people. Donations from this year's Christmas Appeal will be used to purchase chess boards and clocks. It is also planned to extend this to other traditional board games to the benefit of students more widely.



In addition, sport, both team and individual, is very much part of the life blood of Arise School. For so many, it is a critical part of their learning and personal development. Donations will also go towards replenishing basic items, such as footballs, netballs, nets and athletics equipment.



## ***How to donate to ACE.....***

***by using the Donate button on the ACE website:***

***ACECharity.org***

***by transferring money directly into the ACE account:***

***Barclays Bank***

***Name: Africa's Children in Education***

***Sort Code: 20 74 45***

***Account No: 03910431***

***by sending a cheque made payable to ACE: ACE Charity,  
16, Windle Grove, Windle, St.Helens, Merseyside,  
WA10 6HW***





## ***Lastly, supporting local families.....***

In 2024, a successful pilot community project was initiated whereby ACE provided funding for six of the poorest families to rent an acre of land for 12 months. The aim was for them to grow maize to feed their own family and sell any surplus to bring in income for the family, including to cover the ongoing cost of the land rent. This year, the project was extended to a further 12 families. Once again, the results of the recent harvest demonstrate the benefits of the project.



We hope to be able to extend this opportunity to more families in 2026. The cost of renting an acre of land, providing seeds and the necessary farming equipment is £150 per family. Any donations towards this would also be greatly appreciated.



***Thank you for all your ongoing support and generosity that makes such a difference to the lives of children at Arise School and their families. On behalf of both Arise and ACE, our warmest wishes for the holiday season.***



## **Arise School Grade 7 Results 2025**

*This year's Grade 7 results are now in. We are delighted to say that, once again, all 35 students at Arise have done exceptionally well. Students are required to sit six national exams for which they receive an individual grade. They are also awarded an overall, average grade.*

*Amazingly, 32 students received Grade A average and three Grade B!*

*All students received Grade A in three subjects - English, Science and Civic and Moral Education!*

*Arise School was graded as "Excellent" overall in four subjects English, Kiswahili, Science and Civic and Moral Education!*

*At the outset, our shared aim with Arise was that the school should provide "quality" education. We never dreamed it would be on quite such a journey towards excellence!*

*Our very warmest congratulations go to the students and all the Arise School staff who, from the earliest years, work together to provide a nurturing and supportive environment in which every student is able to thrive, learn and enjoy their education, irrespective of their family background and circumstances.*

*The results are to the credit of you all. We are very proud of you all and very much hope that you are justifiably proud of yourselves.*