

To our valued supporters of the Makomborero Zimbabwe.

This newsletter is to update you on the success of the 3rd term 2021. We are very grateful for your contribution to Makomborero Zimbabwe and we look forward to a continued partnership. Please find below an update from our team in Harare.

From the Trustees of Makomborero Zimbabwe

The end of 2021

2021 was another amazing year at Makomborero Zimbabwe! As we draw to the end of the year, we feel the usual concoction of happiness, sadness (to say goodbye to our upper sixes), relief about the things that have gone well and the kind of gratitude we always find difficult to put in words. The end of the year is another reminder that we could never have done this without our donors, supporters and partner schools. We are truly humbled.

Covid-19 and its effects continued to be felt throughout the last part of the year. Our team is now accustomed to re-jigging things and taking small windows of opportunity as they present themselves. With Covid-19 easing up and the team refusing to be stopped, we managed to do a lot more of the 'normal' Makomborero things at the end of this year than we did the past two years.

A-Level students

Thanks to our partner schools, our internal students continued to have face to face learning right up until exam time. The Upper Sixth internals completed their exams in November and stayed at the boarding house for various end of year celebrations such as end of year dances, the Christmas party and the annual camp. All internal students did a great job of keeping their spirits up and coming up with ways to keep themselves entertained such as movie nights,

games etc. This year, internal students have had to spend a great amount of time at the boarding house to minimise the risk of Covid-19. Weekends at home proved too risky and where it was possible, parents and guardians visited. Lower Sixes managed to go on their leadership camps which they all enjoyed and learnt a lot from. It was worth all the Covid-19 protocols they had to adhere to upon their



return. We are proud that despite the anomalies, there were some impressive academic achievements! We are celebrating all the following students and were able to do so in person at some of their prize giving ceremonies. We continue to be extremely grateful to the teachers who worked so hard with our students to make these achievements possible.

St George's

Trust and Marshall - Academic full colours and Academic full colours for AS results

Trust, Marshall and Ropafadzo - Rector's commendation

Trust - Best Physics student

Marshall - Vrachus Cup for best A Level results

Nicolle and Ropafadzo - Academic half colours

Nicolle - A Level commendation

Gateway

Melanie - Merit award for L6 and U6 and Commendation in Maths, Chemistry and Physics

Tanatswa - Maths Cup, Science Cup, DHL Senior attainment trophy (for best AS result), Best A2 Maths, Physics and Chemistry

Hellenic

Priscilla - Academic full colours O level and AS results

Priscilla - Commendation in Physics for AS, Physics and Chemistry for A2

Priscilla - Prize in Biology

Dadiso - Commendation in Maths and good results

Dadiso - Graduated from Musikana Future Leaders Program

Donell - Academic full colours

Donell - Subject prize U6 Computer Science

Our external students have also had face to face lessons this term. We were able to have meaningful contact with them on a few occasions this term when they came to the boarding house for their life skills sessions and to have more study materials loaded onto their tablets. A lot of them felt they were playing catch up but were relieved to be back to normal lessons. Their tablets which had pre-loaded studying material proved to be an invaluable resource. Third term for our external students started later than usual as the country was emerging from Covid-19 restrictions. The knock on effect is that the Christmas break is much shorter and they will be writing their A'Level exams into the new year, some starting back as early as the 3rd of January 2022. We continue to be amazed at the tenacity of our external students. Year after year they surprise us with how adaptable they can be and how fiercely they chase their right to education. External students, we are so proud of you!

There were a few opportunities to jointly celebrate internal and external students, starting with our graduation ceremony. While it was very sad to say our goodbyes to the Upper Sixes, the occasion was beautiful. All our Upper Sixes had achieved so much under very difficult circumstances and there were some real precious moments when Mrs Albertyn and Mrs Chikowore reminded each individual of how far they had come and how amazing they are. Our Lower Sixth internal students helped out with pointing guests in the right direction, sanitising hands and giving out masks and they did an amazing job serving the food.

The Christmas party followed soon after and once again all our students had a great time playing games and eating food lovingly prepared by staff.

To top it all off was a joint weekend camping experience with a focus on mental and emotional health. It allowed for deeper relationships amongst students and staff and was a breath of fresh air after two years of not being able to host a joint camp.

Our recruiting process for 2022 A'Level students has just ended, leaving Mark and Laura Albertyn with probably some of the hardest decisions they have to make each year. However, every single year great comfort can be taken in that the testing process is not just a

selection exercise but a conscious effort to impact the life of each and every child that comes for testing. The process gives students the opportunity to explore their artistic sides, to hear from others who had a difficult start to life and were able to make something of themselves, and to build relationships. The team speaks a language of hope and the past students who volunteer at the testing process not only speak hope but model it as they themselves would have gone through the testing process in recent years. We are so grateful for all who make this process a success and continue to marvel at the past students who give back by volunteering.

Our UZ students attended face to face lectures until the tail end of the semester where they were learning online and going to university for exams only. They too have continued to overcome obstacles and deal with unpredictability in admirable ways as they chase their degrees. Travelling to and from university is not always easy for them and the fluctuating prices of public transport make it even harder. Due to Covid-19, the universities have had to reduce the amount of students they give residential places to and while this is understandable, it caused some chaos among students at the start of the semester. Many had a difficult time finding places to stay that were close enough to the UZ and if they did find places, the rentals were extortionate. Many thanks to our donors, we have continued to give stipends to university students and were able to take in five students into our UZ house. This was our first ever intake into the newly renovated Beit Trust project, we will be increasing the intake annually until we are at a point where the house can fully support the maximum capacity of twenty students. On a fun note, Mrs A held a social with UZ students this term. It was a great afternoon of food and being spoken into. One of the students helped capture the memories with some top notch photography.

Other projects

Ndeipi entrepreneurial training carried on this term without a hitch. We received a wonderful donation of baby clothes from the UK. Ndeipi participants were able to buy a batch for a dollar and re-sell individual items making huge profits. This term we were able to celebrate the success stories of this initiative and all that participants had learnt. Participants were given certificates at the annual graduation. Thank you One Hope Initiatives for continuing to partner with us in changing lives in this way.

Girl Child Mentorship programme also ran smoothly this term with a nothing-less-than-awesome end of year lunch. We were sad to say goodbye to our girls but incredibly humbled to hear from them what they had learnt in this period and to be witness to their transformation. Our heart is still to add more schools to the programme even though we have not managed it this year. We are grateful for our mentors who week in and week out continued to give of their time to invest in these girls!

The Mobile Science Lab did very well this term though numbers had to be kept to half the capacity as part of our Covid-19 protocols. We were so pleased to be able to welcome Nyasha, one of our past students to assist in the lab and teach Physics lessons. Together with our overseeing teacher Mr T and our Intern Milton, they made a powerful team and week in, week out the students came eager to learn. Well done and thank you team!

Farewell to Mrs Banga

Staff had a lovely evening celebrating the first and only house mother that Makomborero Zimbabwe has ever known, Mrs Banga. She has retired and taken her final courtesy this year! Staff and students will miss her motherly nature and unmatched knack for

keeping the house going as it should. Happy retirement Mrs Banga. We love you!

Round up

This term has been a notably easier term after much illness and loss last term, we are so grateful! We have not been without our challenges, cobid scares, seemingly impossible logistics but we have also had some lovely moments this term. From student proposals in the boarding house to having a past Girl Child student and a past Mobile Science student making it to our testing process. We have always been a team that celebrates the little things but more so this year.

With all the highs and lows, Mark and Laura Albertyn have had to be more conscious than ever of staff and student mental and emotional

health and this has unashamedly played a great part in how we did life this year. Group therapy sessions have been amazing for our students and a great way for them to end the year.

This year we celebrated ten years of Makomborero being able to give hope through education and all the projects that were birthed out of that. The online event was nothing short of heartwarming and a great reminder that none of this would be without you our sponsors, donors, volunteers and encouragers. We thank you. We honour you. Term after term, year after year, we are humbled that you continue to choose to partner with us.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy 2022!!!

Proudly Sponsored by

