

Changing lives through education

WELCOME to our first newsletter! After years of “unofficially” running a charity, followed by a small hiatus, we re-ignited the charity last year by becoming UK registered in May 2022. After months of waiting for a bank account to be sorted, we launched our first fundraising initiative in December. Since then we’ve raised over £10,000, and are providing secondary school education to TEN young Malawians.

Meet our 2023–2024 students



2nd from left: Promise, Stephani, Julius, Olive, Chrispine and Stanley. At each end of the photo are members of the Charity Committee – Clepperton and Sengo.

Every year Standard 8 students sit their end of primary school exams.

This year, out of 40 students, 18 passed their exams, however, of those 18, only six were allocated a space at a local secondary school.

We soon found out that all six are from very low income families who do not have enough money to pay for the school fees.

We are delighted that we have secured enough funds to ensure that all six are able to continue their education!



A final addition

Soon after confirming the six students, whilst busy buying their school stationery and having their school clothes made by the local tailor, another family approached us. Blessings, pictured to the left with his mother, has just completed Form I, however his father, who has recently become blind, is struggling to find work and has had to pull Blessings out of school. Blessings has a rare back disability and is more vulnerable than most Malawians. We felt we couldn't say no, and so Blessings will also be joining the 2023–2024 cohort.

Our support

Blessings, and the six other students, will join last year's cohort, bringing the total number of students up to ten. Gift, Ferister and Mussa, our first three students from 2022 have all completed their 1st year of Secondary School, Form I (Year 9). After their Term I reports were released, it was evident they were all struggling with Maths, and so during the holidays we paid for a tutor to give them extra Maths lessons. Mussa in particular is now doing very well and is currently position 1 out of 101 in his class!

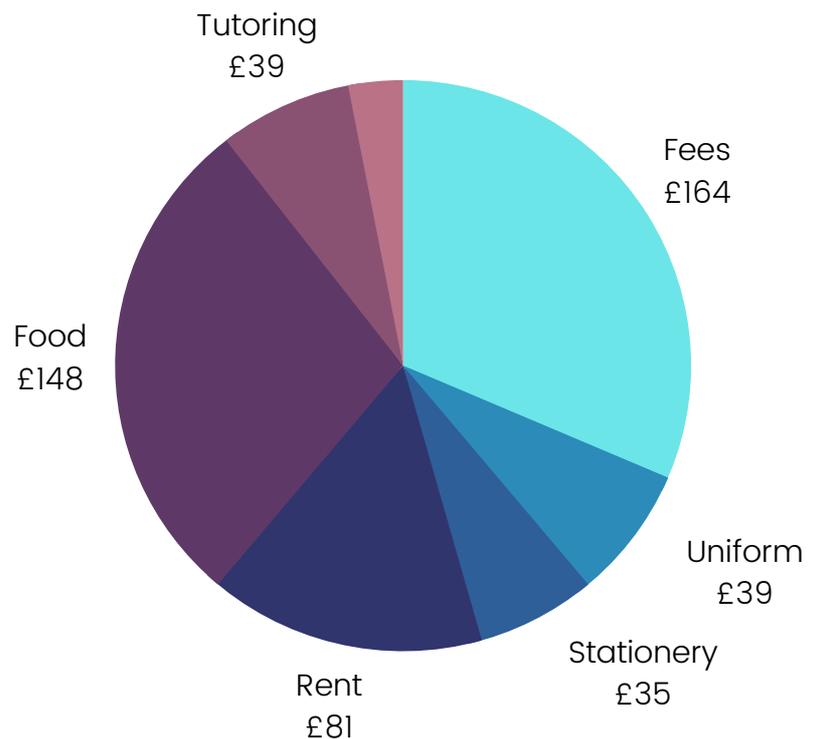
What we provide

- ✓ School fees
- ✓ School uniform
- ✓ Self-boarding (a room close to the school)
- ✓ Maize and sugar for meals
- ✓ Textbooks, notebooks & stationery
- ✓ Transport to and from school at the start and end of term

Funds spent since December 2022

Form I has cost £175 per student for our first three students. The breakdown of costs is shown in the pie chart.

For every student that we support, we like to be sure we have enough funds to see them through all four years of secondary school education, which is what the remaining funds are earmarked for.



Raising funds

Tough Mudder

In May, Alex Knapp (Barron), the founder of the charity, took on a Tough Mudder challenge - a 5km gruelling obstacle course. The course included crawling in mud under barbed wire, swimming through muddy tunnels, climbing 12ft walls, as well as running through live electricity wires, raising a total of £2,070!



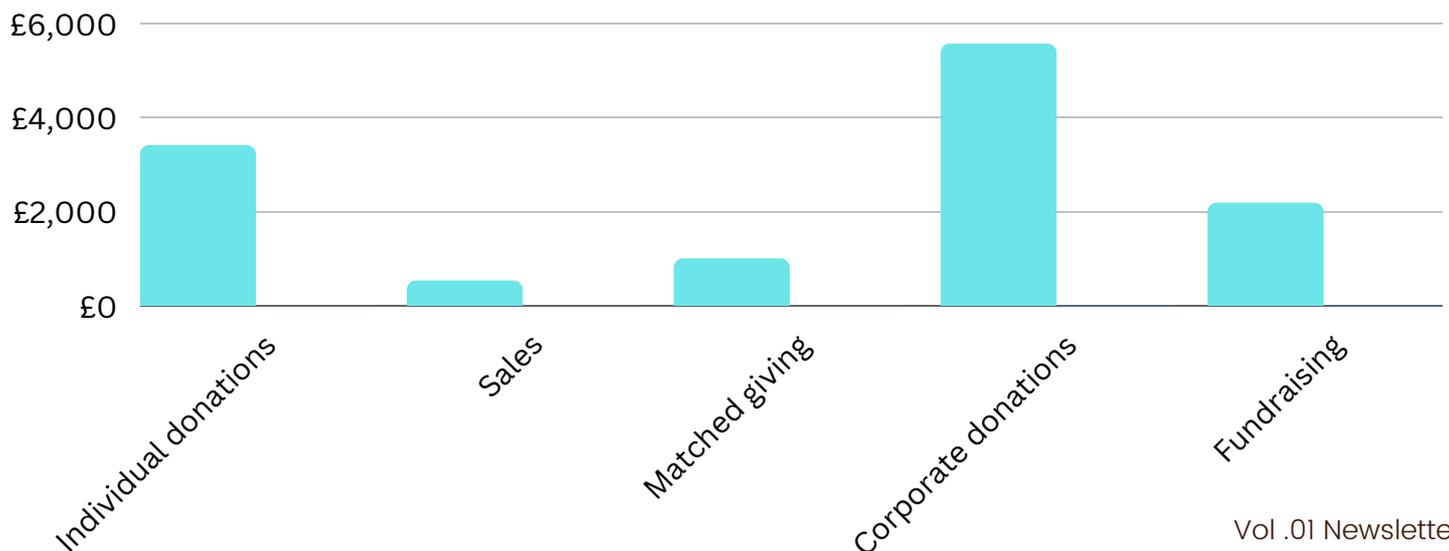
Have a piece of Malawi in the UK!



To add to our fundraising efforts we have partnered with Kibebe Malawi, a social enterprise in Malawi, selling beautiful products hand made by refugees living in Malawi. We buy the goods from Kibebe, and sell them for a profit in the UK - win win for both organisations. We held our first stall at the Gayhurst School summer fair, raising £250. We have some stock left - from durable shopping bags, to sunglass cases, to beautiful baby onesies - the full list of products can be found at www.mspmalawi.org/buyfromus.

Breakdown of funds raised

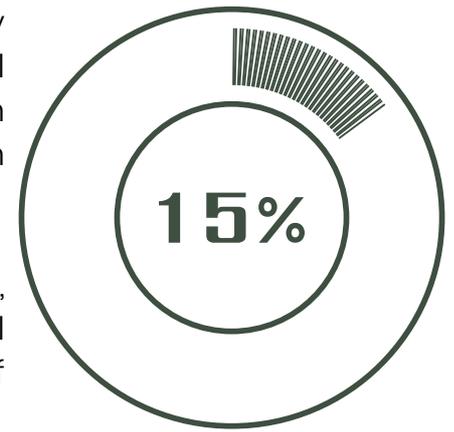
We are thrilled to have raised just over £10,400 in our first ten months. Here's where our funds come from.



Why secondary school scholarships?

In Malawi, while primary state education is free, secondary state education is not. And even though secondary school fees cost as little as £15 a term, only 15% of Malawians go on to complete a secondary school education (and 1% going on to university).

Education is knowledge, education provides opportunities, employment, and can end a family's poverty. School education should be a right, not a privilege, regardless of where you were born.



How you can help



Buy a Kibebe product from us!

And support refugees in Malawi at the same time:

www.mspmalawi.org/buyfromus



Take part in our 100km* challenge

*don't worry, you don't run all of it!

If you enjoy running (or walking), we are looking for people to take part in next year's 100km challenge. Set yourself a challenge, choose your distance, and help raise funds at the same time!

Interested? Email mspmalawi@gmail.com to learn more

Wait until December and get your donation matched!

Due to its success last year, we are bringing back Matched Funding in December. That means all donations made in December will be matched (up to £1,000) :)