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friends of Amasango UK

Equipping ● Engaging ● Empowering

Welcome to the latest news from the Friends of Amasango.

Much has been going on both here in the UK and South Africa. In this newsletter, we will show you the developments at the school and news from the Department of Education. We are also planning for the Principal, Dr Shadaya, a fundraising tour to the UK in October.



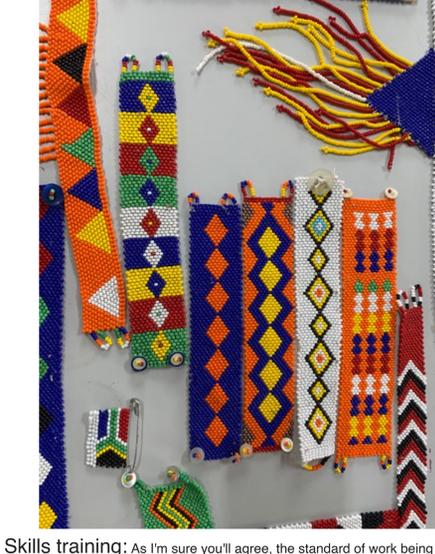
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Thank you



Beauty Salon: In the last newsletter, we showed you the progress which had been made in installing the container for the Beauty Salon at Amasango. Then it was a shell, now it is fully fitted with water, electric and all the equipment and furniture needed to teach students. Specific training will be given to the staff who will deliver the course. Students will be trained in various skills enabling them to take these back into their communities to practice and potentially form a career from.



Appropriate security features have been fitted to the Beauty Salon. This has been a project enabled entirely by your generosity. The students will benefit enormously from the additional vocational aspect of the curriculum.



Skills training: As I'm sure you'll agree, the standard of work being produced in the Skills Training Department at Amasango is superb. A wide range of crafts and skills is being taught, from beadwork to sewing, embroidery, and haberdashery.



If you are interested in purchasing any of the items that you see made here or have an enquiry, please get in touch as we will be exhibiting and selling a number of items in the Autumn when the Principal, Dr Shadaya, will be touring the UK. We are also looking into a partnership with another South African charity to sell the student's work locally in South Africa. Students retain a percentage of the profits made and learn about business skills through the process.

Despite the good news relayed so far in this newsletter, we cannot disguise the fact that the return to normal practice following Covid 19 disruption hasn't been easy. For a number of reasons, student numbers have remained lower than normal. Student numbers have dropped by as much as 20% despite the tireless efforts of staff to reconnect with families. Numbers have always fluctuated due to the nature of the situations from which students come, and due to the Department for Education's systems of registration and retention. If a student misses 10 days of school they are taken off roll. As a result of these fluctuating numbers and difficulties within the Department for Education, Amasango has been notified that 5 members of teaching staff will be redeployed. This is a huge blow to the school, and they are contesting it. However, the main issue coming from this is that there has been a severe drop in the number of early years students applying to attend Amasango. The school will be fighting this decision in addition to putting increased efforts into recruiting learners from the community. The Friends of Amasango are assisting with this by designing marketing materials to be used as flyers and as adverts in the local newspapers.



The Friends of Amasango visit Amasango: Over the past few months, Christina Thomas and John Cartmell have visited the school. Here you can see preparations for assembly which happens each morning. Students gather together to listen to a reading from the Bible, a short address, notices and to sing and dance. It is integral to the community teaching at Amasango.



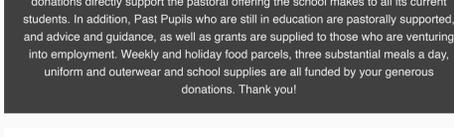
Life has its ups and downs, and Amasango is no exception. A new minibus is in use to help transport students to and from school and on trips, but metal thieves have infiltrated the security at the site and damaged some of the infrastructure. This is a stark reminder of the desperation of the local population, where unemployment has continued to increase. The battle with the Department of Education continues in securing the site and building of new premises for the school.



Shamwari Game Reserve: Amasango continues its long-standing tradition of wider learning. Shamwari Game Reserve provided an excellent day of learning and game viewing for all the students. 92 learners and all the staff thoroughly enjoyed the thrill of a safari and learning in the educational setting of the reserve.



Thank you: We'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support and interest in the work of Friends of Amasango and what this enables the school to achieve. Your donations directly support the pastoral offering the school makes to all its current students. In addition, Past Pupils who are still in education are pastorally supported, and advice and guidance, as well as grants are supplied to those who are venturing into employment. Weekly and holiday food parcels, three substantial meals a day, uniform and outerwear and school supplies are all funded by your generous donations. Thank you!



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