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From all the Trustees at Friends of Amasango we hope this newsletter finds you well and safe. We very much appreciate your continued support of our work and hope that you will find this report inspiring. I, personally, have found this time to be challenging in my own life experience and therefore am humbled by the resilience and determination seen in the staff and students at Amasango.

We have felt very far away but have been in regular contact with Linda Ngamlana, the Principal, and have supported her requests. Families still need feeding, even more so given that jobs have disappeared and the welfare and health care systems in South Africa have come under immense strain. We must never underestimate the importance of routine and stability to the lives of students at Amasango, just as it is for humans everywhere, but exaggerated hugely for those who lives are at best chaotic and unpredictable.

Despite the difficult time that has been had over recent months and our obvious concern for students and their families there has been much to be thankful for.





Covid 19 has had an obvious impact on teaching and learning at Amasango, just as it has here in the UK. All schools were closed for a considerable amount of time and there has been intermittent openings due to local circumstances and cases. Initially, the Grade 7 students were brought back to school as they are in their last year before potentially moving onto high school. Since then it has been closed again due to 4 members of staff testing positive. Furthermore, the SA President instructed all schools to close while external monitoring occurred of cases in schools and in the community. Grade 7 will again be back in school as of August 12th with the remaining students returning from August 24th. However, the work of the Friends of Amasango has continued thanks to the dedication of the staff and Amasango as well as local community volunteers. In this time of closure the teachers have been producing suitable work for the students to complete at home where they can. In addition to that food parcels have been organised and distributed. This has been no mean feat given the rules of social distancing, and with several staff shielding.

Whilst the school has been closed to students, other work has been completed which will enhance the learning environment considerably. Two new water tanks have been installed and MTN have supported the installation of new computers.

2 new support staff have been appointed by the Education Authority thus reducing the financial load of the Friends of Amasango who had previously paid them, and a new social worker, Leandra Gardener has been assigned to



The local authority has donated a new bus which proudly has the school logo on the side. This has come just in time as the old bus was due for retirement having served for many years over rough terrain!



In the UK we would normally be busy putting the final touches to Linda's UK fundraising tour but, for obvious reasons, she will not be coming. However, we

like to organise an event we will gladly work with you. This could be totally online or projected with sound in a safe environment.



Good wishes from all the Trustees at Friends of Amasango. Thank you for your continued support.

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