



News from Choba, May 2023

At Choba we have had another successful year! Choba English Medium Primary School performed very well as usual in the Primary School Leaving Exams (PSLE) in October 2022.

- The 30 Choba students got 7 As, 22 Bs and 1 C
- The school average over all subjects was 76%, 1% higher than the previous year and our second best mark ever
- The Tanzanian government decided not to publish positions for the first time, but we expect our mark to keep us in the top 5% of the 17,500 primary schools in Tanzania
- 80% of the class were village children, many living below the International poverty line
- Children of Choba has managed to find sponsorship for 5 of this class (who otherwise would not have the chance) to attend Capuchin Boys' Secondary School, just half an hour from Choba. All these students have made an excellent start at their new school



Class VII of 2022 just before their Primary School Leaving Exams

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has donated to Children of Choba during the last year. The Rotary Club of Bradford on Avon financed the building of some extra showers for the Class VII girls who board in their final year, and the Royal Commonwealth Society (Bath) funded some newly published essential text books. We are extremely grateful to these longstanding supporters. As usual, we send a huge “Asante sana” to all our donors who pay monthly by standing order. They are the mainstay of our support and many have contributed since Children of Choba was registered as a charity in 2010. Thank you all so much – your continued support enables us to change the lives of hundreds of children!

Choba School is different!

One of the ways in which Choba Primary and Nursery School is different from most other Tanzanian schools is that we do not focus solely on teaching our students to pass the national Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE). Of course, we want our students to do as well as they can in these exams, but we consider it equally important to produce students who are happy, keen to learn and able to fulfil their potential at secondary school. Many Choba graduates have already gone on to great success, but in the last year we were provided with evidence that the foundation we are giving is enabling our graduates to excel immediately at secondary level. There are 3 Choba graduates at Ilboru Secondary School in Arusha, arguably the best boys’ school in Tanzania. Ilboru is a government “Special School” and all selected students are top of their district in the PSLE. In his first term at Ilboru, Choba graduate Mathias came 1st out of all the 125 brilliant boys in Form I at Ilboru! This is a fantastic achievement for Mathias, and has done wonders for the reputation of Choba Primary School!



Team Choba (teachers, non-academic staff, School Committee members) in December 2022

News of Choba Graduates

2022 was a big year for the very first Choba graduates. Choba Head Teacher Abraham Temu taught this class on his own under a tree in 2009, before we had built any classrooms. When they graduated from Choba in 2015, Temu thought that maybe 5 would get to university. He was wrong - there are 9!



Congratulations to Amina (Medical Doctor, Hubert Kairuki Memorial University), Asha (Project Planning and Management, Mzumbe University), Emmanuel (Computer Engineering, University of Dodoma), Hadija (Law, Tumaini Makumira University), Zanana (Education with Arts, Tumaini Makumira), Glory (Health Systems Management in Monitoring and Evaluation, Mzumbe), Samwel (Computer Science, Institute of Financial Management), Amina (Education with Arts, University of Dodoma) and Emmanuel (Health Systems Management in Monitoring and Evaluation, Mzumbe)

There are 223 Choba graduates so far, and 350 – 400 students at Choba Primary and Nursery School at any one time. More than three quarters of these children come from villages of Pangani District and many have parents who are yet to see the value of education. But with the success of Choba graduates, things are changing kidogo kidogo (little by little)! Children of Choba has so far sponsored 86 Choba graduates (38.5%) and 13 others to attend various secondary schools and colleges.

Other notable successes of Choba graduates during the last year are as follows:

- Dorcas gained a First Class Diploma in Early Years English Medium Education. This month she has joined fellow Choba graduate Aaliyah as a Choba teacher
- Mwanamvua, Msekwa and Bakari have recently completed their primary teaching certificate exams and will be volunteering at Choba Primary School after the June holiday
- 4 have passed the first of their 2 year diploma course (NTA level 5) at college, Batuli in Law and Casiano, Sufiani and Rose in Community Development
- 13 graduates from the class of 30 finishing at Choba Primary in 2016 have recently completed their A levels and are waiting for results
- 2 Choba graduates were chosen to make the speech on behalf of the graduates at their recent A level graduations, Deborah at Rosmini Secondary School, Tanga and Mary, Head Girl at Makongo High School, Dar es Salaam
- 2 of the recent A level graduates have been chosen to play sport for the army, Joackim (football) and Mary (netball), who has wanted to be a soldier since she was in Class I. The army has 3 teams in the Tanzanian Premier League, so we look forward to seeing Joackim on TV!
- We continue to turn Choba graduates into teachers, and whilst at college all the students come to us for their teaching practice. Asia will shortly complete her teaching certificate, after which she will join the staff of Choba Nursery School. Amina is almost half way through her certificate course, and Mwalilei and Masalimu (who have been volunteering at school since January) will join her at college in July
- Asha and Joseph are studying for a Diploma in Clinical Medicine in nearby Muheza and are already getting the chance to watch and sometimes assist in operations



Dorcas, who joined the Choba teaching staff in May 2023



Asha and Joseph, who are studying for a Diploma in Clinical Medicine

- Rose is studying for A levels in History, Kiswahili and English Language, which she will sit next year. She also sat Chinese O level as a private candidate last November, obtaining grade A! Rose is academic prefect and consistently in the top 10 at St Christina's Secondary School, where Children of Choba has sponsored 5 girls at A level this year.
- Johari completed the first semester of her 3 year diploma course very well. She is studying Animal Health and Livestock Production and enjoying every minute!
- Rajabu is half way through his diploma in Public Administration



Johari is studying for a Diploma in Animal Health and Livestock Production



Halima (Marketing) and Rajabu (Public Administration) are half way through their diploma courses

- Choba graduates of 2018 were our fourth class to complete O levels, sitting their exams in November 2022. Our results were the best ever, with 8 Division I and 3 Division II. All those with Division I were sponsored at Rosmini, Franciscan Girls' (FGSS) or Capuchin Boys' (CBSS).
- Congratulations to Godwin, who made it into the top 10 in Form III at Ilboru in 2022, and of course Mathias, 1st in Form I
- Choba graduates of 2020 are one of our favourite years as many of them are brilliant and most of them are very charming! It was therefore no surprise that their Form II National Assessment results were outstanding, our best ever. 13 got Division I, 9 Division II and 9 Division III. There were no Division IV and no one failed! Special mention to the 5 who got Division I.7 (7 or more As) - Joyce (10 As, FGSS), Paul (9 As, Ilboru), and Vicky (FGSS), Clara (FGSS) and Ali (Rosmini) all with 8 As
- We are also extremely proud of 2 Pangani girls who were sponsored by Children of Choba but are not Choba graduates because they are too old. During the last year Hadija (who has a Master of Public Health degree and a Bachelor degree in Health Systems Management), recently got a new job working with refugees for an American NGO in Kigoma. She travels frequently and has recently returned from 6 weeks in Rwanda. Kesia (whose younger brothers are both Choba graduates) was employed by the government as a doctor, just a few months after obtaining her licence. She is now working at a hospital in Singida.

All the students mentioned here by name are or have been sponsored through Children of Choba by individuals, mostly from the UK but a few from USA, Europe and Australia. On behalf of all the sponsored students, we can't thank their sponsors enough for helping to make their dreams come true.

The next year will be another exciting one, with the several Choba graduates completing their diplomas and looking for work, and about 20 more going on to tertiary education. All our students, from nursery to university, send a big thank you for your support – most of them would not progress beyond O level without it. Remember, we couldn't do what we do without our donors!



Goodbye from Choba Primary School!

Valerie McGivern
Chair of Trustees
Children of Choba

May 2023