

September saw Tanzanian schools closed temporarily as the government conducted the 2012 census. Teachers were employed to administer the process so lessons were interrupted for two weeks. Schools are now open again and getting ready for the national Form II exams.

VETA Exams

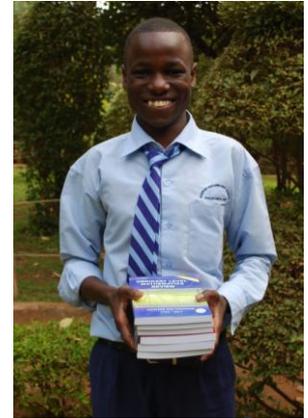
The entrance exams for the national vocational courses were sat in the first week of October. The exams are marked centrally in Dar and then the results published later in the year. Hundreds of teenagers take the exams in Mwanza hoping to gain a place at the government subsidised Igoma campus. Edward and Kulwa received tuition in preparation for these exams and to prepare them for the academic elements of the vocational courses. If the BTP sponsored children are lucky enough to win a place at Igoma, then courses start in January. If their results are strong but they don't get offered a place on the government course, then private colleges offer the same qualifications and several BTP children will be enrolled there. Kalwanda, about 45 minutes from Mwanza, has boarding facilities and offers courses in a range of disciplines from carpentry to mechanics. I met teachers and students at the college in July and saw some of the impressive furniture made by the students. We await the exam results.

Form IV Exams

The Form IV students have just sat their national exams. Once again, the exams are marked centrally in Dar and the results should be available by the end of January, although there is no rush as Form V classes don't start until next June! If BTP students' results are strong then they then may be able to continue into Form V (A-Levels) at Lake Secondary. If their results are not so strong, then they will need to consider the range of VETA courses available in January, or maybe go straight into professional training for the police, teaching, the army or nursing for which two year courses are available. Gaining the Form IV Leavers' Certificate is a significant achievement for any



Tanzanian teenager, so we are hoping that Aziza (pictured above), Asha, Shijay, Jennifer, Witness, Mazera (pictured right with the books he received in July to help him with his studies), Deogratias and Ibrahim perform to their potential. The teachers in July were confident that the students were working hard and that they should perform strongly. We wish them well.



A Few Words From... Witness Musa

My name is Witness and I live at an orphanage in Ilemela near Mwanza airport. Things are difficult at the orphanage as there aren't many resources, such as food and soap, and the walk to school is quite long, about an hour each way. My best friends at school are Jennifer and Anna and I enjoy the lessons. My favourite subject is Swahili, and other arts subjects. I have not been able to attend school every year, so I am 17 years old and I have just sat my Form IV exams. I hope one day to be a lawyer either in Tanzania or anywhere around the world. I hope my exam results will allow me to carry on at school.



Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to The BTP. Most recently, thank you to the St Albans School second hand shop for their generous donation and to all UK students who have bought a bracelet in the last few weeks! Donations from Australia and the US continue to boost those from UK students. The ongoing goal of the BTP is to provide the children with the education that will allow them to stand on their own feet. Many of the children told me in July that their goal is to get into a position where they can help young people in the same way that they are being helped now – an admirable goal.

Ed Beavington