

# SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

Sep – Dec 2025

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 47



Khadija Secondary School students pose for a group photo with their gift hampers issued by the office when they visited them ahead of their exam period in October.

## End of Term 3 overview

### Wishing our KCSE candidates success

Students in Kenya are now home for the long summer holiday, running from the end of October to early January, after completing their third term of the school year.

The third term of the 2025 Kenyan school calendar ran from August 25th to October 24th, 2025, marking a compact yet intensive nine-week academic period. This term was particularly significant for learners across the country, as it concluded with key national assessments, including the:

- Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)
- Kenya Junior Secondary Education Assessment (KJSEA).

Schools officially closed for the holiday on October 27th, 2025, with reopening scheduled for January 5th, 2026.

#### KCSE Examinations

The 2025 KCSE examinations were conducted from October 21st to November 21st, 2025, with oral and practical components administered earlier between October 21st and October 27th.

A total of 996,078 candidates sat for the examinations nationwide, with results expected to be released in January 2026.

SAAS proudly had 35 students sitting for this year's KCSE exam. As they await their results, we extend our warmest wishes and full confidence in their success.

### Season's Greetings!

As we draw the curtains on another remarkable year, the entire SAAS family extends our warmest and most heartfelt wishes to every member of our community. This festive season offers us a special moment to pause, reflect, and appreciate the shared journey that has brought us to this point.

Throughout the year, your trust, collaboration, and steadfast commitment have been central to our collective achievements. We are deeply grateful for the passion and dedication that each of you brings to the SAAS mission.

It is your continued engagement that strengthens our purpose and inspires us to reach higher, work smarter, and serve better. Truly, the SAAS community is a family—one built on unity, compassion, and shared dreams for a brighter future.

As the Christmas season unfolds, we hope it fills your homes with joy, peace, and meaningful moments spent with the people who matter most. May this time bring well-deserved rest and renewed energy as you celebrate the blessings of the year.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are filled with excitement for the opportunities that await us. We look forward to continued growth, deeper connections, and shared success.

From all of us at SAAS, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Students competing in a race during the Annual SAAS Fun Day 2025 edition held at the Kongowea Primary School Grounds on November 28, 2025.

## SAAS Fun Day 2025

### Fostering Connections Beyond the Classroom

The SAAS Annual Fun Day 2025 was a vibrant and successful event held at the Kongowea Primary School Grounds, bringing together 127 students for a day filled with sports, celebration, and community spirit.

#### Academic Awards

Top-performing students were recognized for their excellence in 2025 and received trophies, SAAS-branded mugs, and Christmas vouchers.

**Best Form 2:** Klaus Dullu, Larry Madegwa, Samuel Mutinda, Faith Muthoni, Lawrence Onyango

**Best Form 3:** Felix Odhiambo, Pamprudence Nanjala, Elizabethe Wekesa, Titus Maleve, Sasha Akoth

**SAAS Personality of the Year:** Grace Makasi

#### Honoring Mr. Richard Hayes

This year, we introduced the Richard Hayes Cup in memory of the late Mr. Hayes, whose generosity supported SAAS for over a decade.

#### Cup Results:

- Team Yellow (The Jaguars) – 70 pts (Winners)
- Team White – 55 pts
- Team Red – 45 pts
- Team Blue – 35 pts

#### A Day Well Spent

Students enjoyed exciting sporting activities and a delicious chicken biryani lunch, marking a refreshing end to the academic year.

We extend our gratitude to the SAAS Board and our dedicated alumni volunteers for making this memorable day possible. Here's to an even bigger and better Fun Day in 2026!



President William Ruto inspects agricultural products from the coast displayed when he officially opened the 122<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Mombasa International Agricultural Show in September.

## Mombasa Agricultural Show Shines President Ruto Opens the 122nd Edition

The 122nd Mombasa International Agricultural Show was held from September 3–7, 2025, at the Mkomani ASK Grounds, attracting thousands of attendees from across the Coast region and beyond. Guided by the theme **“Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth,”** the event highlighted the growing importance of climate resilience, innovation, and sustainable development within Kenya’s agricultural and economic sectors.

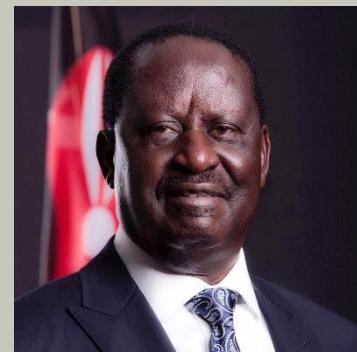
With more than 300 exhibitors participating, the show offered a dynamic platform for showcasing modern technologies, research advancements, and emerging trends across key industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, housing, SMEs, banking, hospitality, education, and both public and private sector institutions. Attendees explored a wide range of innovations aimed at improving productivity, strengthening food security, and driving economic growth.

This year’s exhibition reaffirmed Mombasa’s position as a hub for innovation and a vital contributor to Kenya’s climate-smart and sustainable development agenda.

## In Memoriam: Raila Odinga – the Enigma

In October, Kenyans were plunged into deep sorrow following the sudden demise of Raila Odinga, one of the most influential figures in the country’s political history. Widely regarded as the father of Kenya’s democracy, Raila dedicated his life to the struggle for political freedom, constitutional reform, and social justice. His passing sent shockwaves across the nation, with many describing his death as an immense loss not only to Kenya but to the wider African continent.

To honour his extraordinary legacy, the country accorded him a state funeral with full military honours, including lying in state—an exceptional tribute rarely extended to a senior citizen who was not a president. This historic send-off reflected the deep respect and gratitude of a nation for a man whose courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to democracy shaped Kenya’s journey. Raila Odinga’s legacy will endure as a symbol of sacrifice, leadership, and hope for generations to come.



## Annual Parents Meeting 2025



In September, SAAS held its annual parents meeting, bringing together parents, staff, and community members to strengthen collaboration in supporting students’ academic and personal development.

During the meeting, SAAS officials emphasized the importance of parents walking closely with their children, monitoring both discipline and academic performance throughout the school year.

Parents were also reminded of their key responsibilities, including providing their children with essential school supplies such as stationery and personal items, while SAAS continues to cover school fees for all sponsored students.

A highlight of the meeting was the insightful feedback shared by our peer counsellors, **Madam Lillian** and **Mr. Shedy**, who held impactful mentorship sessions with the students during the April and August holidays. Their observations and guidance offered valuable perspectives on students’ emotional well-being, behavior, and areas requiring parental support.

The gathering reaffirmed the importance of strong partnerships between SAAS and parents in nurturing confident, disciplined, and high-performing learners.



SAAS donors and sponsors alongside the SAAS staff in Mombasa pose for a group photo with SAAS-sponsored students at Kongowea Secondary School during the donors' latest visit to Kenya in October.

## October Delegation Visit to SAAS

### A Journey of Hope, Connection, and Student Inspiration

In October, SAAS had the pleasure of welcoming our esteemed donors and sponsors to the Mombasa office. The visiting team included the Hayes family, the Watson family, and Fr. John, who were in Kenya for the holidays and graciously took time to reconnect with the SAAS community.

During the visit, the SAAS team presented a comprehensive overview of the past 12 months, highlighting key milestones, achievements, and candidly discussing challenges faced along the way. The session provided valuable insights into our ongoing mission to empower students and their families through education.

#### Engagement with Sponsored Students

Our guests met several of their sponsored university and college students, who shared personal progress updates. These interactions highlighted not only academic growth but also resilience, determination, and the transformative impact of the support provided by our donors.

#### Field Visits to High Schools

The visiting team also toured three high schools — **Khadija Secondary School**, **Maweni Mixed Secondary School**, and **Kongowea Secondary School** — engaging in meaningful sessions with sponsored students. Witnessing firsthand the students' perseverance and hope, despite challenging home environments, was both inspiring and deeply moving for our guests.

#### Gratitude and Commitment

SAAS extends heartfelt thanks to our donors and sponsors for their unwavering generosity and dedication. Your support continues to transform lives by opening doors to education for students who would otherwise be left behind.

What began as a small initiative 20 years ago has grown into a life-changing journey for countless families. With continued partnerships and support, SAAS remains committed to empowering more students — one student at a time.



The late Mr. Richard Hayes receiving a gift hamper from Fred, the SAAS communication officer during his recent visit to Mombasa, Kenya in October 2025.

## Richard Hayes: Echoes of a Generous Heart

### A Legacy of Generosity, Care, and Lasting Change

For over a decade, the late **Mr. Richard Hayes** stood as one of the strongest pillars of SAAS—an unwavering supporter whose compassion, generosity, and commitment shaped the very heart of our mission. His recent passing left a deep void within our community, but his legacy continues to shine brightly in the lives he touched and the opportunities he created for countless students in Kongowea, Mombasa.

Mr. Hayes joined the SAAS family with a profound belief in the transformative power of education. With humility and devotion, he championed the cause of providing quality secondary education to vulnerable children living in the Kongowea slums. His empathy extended far beyond financial support; he took keen interest in the personal progress, aspirations, and wellbeing of the students whose futures he helped secure.

One of Mr. Hayes' most remarkable contributions was his ability to inspire others. Through his gentle leadership and heartfelt storytelling, he encouraged parishioners from **Kilquade and Greystones Parishes in Ireland** to join the SAAS mission. Under his influence, these communities became steadfast partners, extending compassion across continents and nurturing opportunities for children they had never met but wholeheartedly believed in. This outpouring of support—sparked by Richard's sincerity—has continued to uplift SAAS students year after year.

His philanthropic work was not driven by recognition but by genuine love for humanity. Those who had the privilege of knowing Mr. Hayes remember him as warm, humble, and deeply devoted to helping others rise. He embodied the values of faith, service, and generosity, and his contributions will remain an integral part of the SAAS story for generations to come.

As we honor his memory in this September–December Newsletter series, we celebrate not just what he gave, but who he was: **a mentor, a friend, a visionary, and a father figure to many within the SAAS community.**

Though he has gone to be with the Lord, his spirit lives on in the dreams being pursued by the students he supported, the hope he restored in families, and the bright futures now unfolding across Kongowea. His legacy continues to inspire us as we strive to uphold the mission, he so deeply believed in.

**Rest well, Mr. Hayes. Your light continues to guide us. Your impact lives on.**



The September-December ICT cohort pose for a group photo with their certificates during their graduation ceremony at the office after satisfactorily completing the three-month course.

## Graduation of our September-December ICT cohort

### Empowering youth through digital skills since 2010

This December, SAAS proudly celebrated the graduation of its **September–December ICT cohort**, marking the successful completion of another transformative cycle in the organization's youth empowerment program. The graduation ceremony honored **15 dedicated students** who completed the rigorous three-month ICT course, demonstrating outstanding commitment, curiosity, and growth.

Throughout the program, the cohort engaged in hands-on learning sessions designed to build practical digital competencies essential for today's evolving job market. Under the expert tutelage of **Morris**, the students gained valuable skills in computer applications, digital literacy, problem-solving, and foundational ICT practices. His guidance, patience, and passion for teaching played a pivotal role in shaping the students' confidence and mastery of the course content.

During the ceremony, SAAS officials commended the graduates for their discipline and perseverance, emphasizing the importance of technology skills in expanding future career possibilities. They encouraged the students to continue exploring and applying what they have learned, reminding them that ICT is a powerful tool for innovation, opportunity, and self-reliance.

Parents, mentors, and partners who attended the event celebrated the achievements of the cohort with pride, recognizing the significance of this milestone in each student's personal and professional journey.

This graduation not only marked the culmination of months of dedicated effort but also reflected SAAS's broader mission to empower young people through skills development and meaningful learning experiences. **Congratulations to the 15 graduates—your digital journey has just begun!**

# News Pictorial

## Sponsors and Donors visit in October

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1. Silvia presents SAAS-branded merchandise to the Hayes family.
2. The SAAS team in Mombasa engaging the visitors at the office.
3. Mr. Donald presents a gift hamper to student at Kongowea Secondary School.
4. Our donors and sponsors joined by the SAAS Mombasa team pose for a group photo with students of Maweni Mixed Secondary School.
5. Madam Vanessa is all smiles with the girls.
6. The Watson family pose for a photo with their student Enock
7. Fr. Eric engaging our visitors during their brief stop at Kongowea Catholic Church.



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# News Pictorial

## SAAS Fun day 2025



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1. Students pose for a group photo during their SAAS Fun Day
2. The girls engaging in a fun activity
3. The students engage in a football match during the fun day vent
4. The SAAS personality of the year Grace Makasi
5. Best Form 3 students: Pamprudence, Felix and Elizabeth
6. Best Form 2 students: Samuel, Larry and Klaus

# Graduation Corner: 2025

SAAS proudly celebrates the achievements of all our outstanding alumni who successfully completed their university studies this year. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them great success as they transition into the job market and begin building their careers.



Halima Said, 22, is a graduate of Mount Kenya University, where she earned a Diploma in Special Needs Education. Passionate about inclusive learning, she is committed to supporting and empowering learners with diverse needs as she begins her professional journey in the education sector.



Graham Oyigo, 22, graduated from Chuka University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. A proud SAAS-sponsored student, he is currently working as a freelance research consultant with WorldQuant Brain while actively seeking full-time opportunities in the tech industry, aiming to apply his skills and drive innovation.



Bradley Mukuuzi, a Class of 2025 Computer Science graduate from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), is making waves in the tech world.

A software developer with hands-on networking skills, Bradley is an engineer by practice, curious, constantly learning, and experimenting with technology to explore its full potential.

We're proud to celebrate his achievements and can't wait to see the innovations he will bring to the tech industry!



Patrick Zuma, 22, has graduated from Moi University with a BSc in Statistics.

He now looks forward to continue with his masters in Data Science if opportunity comes. But at the moment he is waiting for pending responses from various companies and government parastatals where he had sent his applications.

SAAS is proud of his achievement and we wish Patrick the very best as he ventures into the job market.



Kenya's Education Cabinet Secretary engages grade 9 students as they prepare for the innaugural Kenya Junior Secondary Education Assessment (KJSEA) exams.

## A New Pathway Begins From Junior, to Senior School: Grade 10-12

Kenya's education system is marking a historic milestone as the first cohort of Grade 10 learners prepares to report to their respective Senior Schools starting January 12, 2025, shortly after the opening of schools for the new academic year. This transition represents a decisive shift away from the 8-4-4 system, which served the country for over 35 years and has been gradually phased out since 2017, in favor of the **Competency-Based Education (CBE)** curriculum.

The learners, who completed Grade 9, sat for the inaugural **Kenya Junior Secondary Education Assessment (KJSEA)** in November. The assessment, taken by over 1.1 million candidates nationwide, evaluates not only academic knowledge but also skills, values, and competencies developed during Junior Secondary School.

Following the release of the 2025 KJSEA results, the Ministry of Education confirmed that all candidates will transition into Senior School (Grades 10–12), where they will pursue one of three pathways: **Arts & Sports Science, Social Sciences, or STEM**. This marks a significant step toward a more learner-centered system that nurtures talent, practical skills, and diverse career pathways—aligning with Kenya's long-term education reforms.

As this landmark transition unfolds, SAAS is preparing to sponsor Grade 10 students, reaffirming its commitment to expanding access to education and supporting learners as they take this critical step into Senior School and beyond.