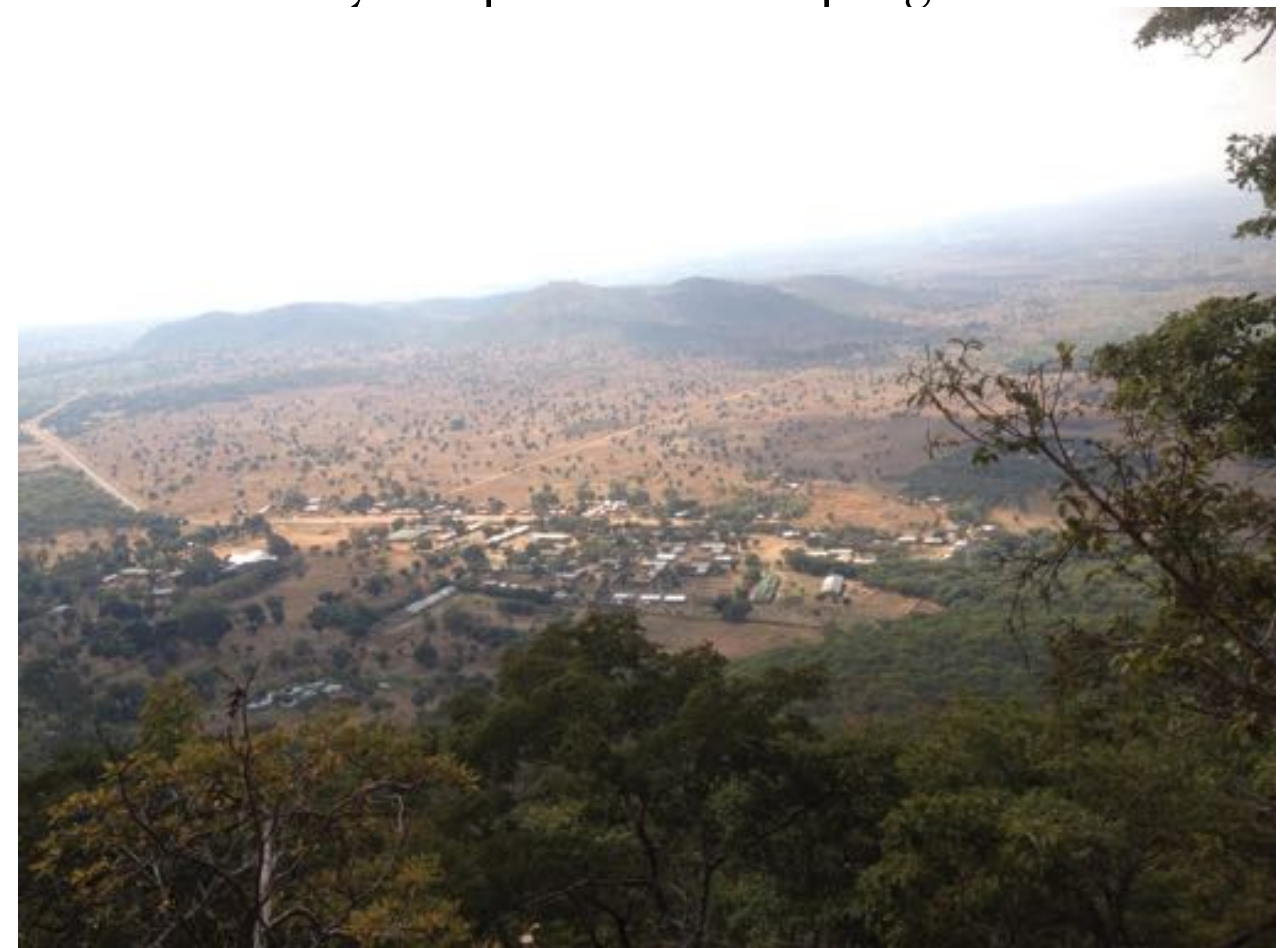


Hello to our wonderful supporters, old and new: we hope you're enjoying these final days of summer. For this edition of our newsletter, as well as some updates we wanted to give new readers a quick overview of Home of Hope's work. For our long-term supporters, this can serve as a helpful introduction for when sharing the wonderful work of Home of Hope far and wide! Take care of yourselves and as always, if there is anything you would like to see more/less of on these newsletters email zannah@malwiorphanfund.uk.

An overview of Home of Hope

Over 20 years ago Home of Hope started to care for vulnerable children in Malawi, a country where many grow up in poverty. It has now become the largest fostering children's home in Malawi! Babies and young children live in family groups of 5-6 with a house mother, (who also needs a home) and older children live in dormitories. Those who have surviving family or community support available return home in the school holidays to prioritise keeping children with their community where possible.

Education is a priority to enable these children to grow into independent adults: primary, secondary and, more recently, vocational training schooling is on site. The teaching staff are paid by the Malawian Government, with some local children joining those who live at Home of Hope. The rest of the children's needs are provided by the caring staff, supported by donations from groups in many countries. Malawi Orphan Fund is a British charity which seeks to support HOH financially through fundraising and sponsorship of children. Having grown to support over 750 children, Home of Hope is set in a large, enclosed area at the foot of hills which provide plenty of clean fresh water and is a short way from neighbouring town of Mchinji.



A view of Home of Hope from the mountains

One of the most recent arrivals was of twins at the end of July, who lost their mother to childbirth and extended family are unable to provide care. Another new arrival came as a malnourished child with scabies and who, after a few months of loving care, is now a smiling healthy child.

Back to school

School for both primary and secondary school students started on 1st September after the summer break. The students in Standard 8, their final year in primary school before moving to secondary, started their exams to work towards their Primary School Leaving Certificate on the 8th September. We are wishing them all the best!! We'd also like to offer a belated congratulations to students from the Vocational Training Centre after their exam results came out in June. 75% of students passed and you can see a snap from the certification ceremony here! →



Standard 8 the day of their first exam



A Day in the Life

With the beginning of a new school year, we wanted to let you know what a day in the life of a student living at Home of Hope might look like. If this is something you enjoy reading please do check out two videos made a few years ago which film a day in the life of a Yakiti, a child living at Home of Hope and Dorothy, one of the incredible housemothers at the home.

5am - Wake up to the sound of roosters crowing! Wash and get ready for school

5.30am - Take part in Devotions while sun rises in the main hall

6am - The bell rings for breakfast - each child collects their plate of nsima (maize porridge) and eats with their house or dormitory

7am - School starts at either Nursery, Primary, Secondary or VT College, with lots of breaks for play, and one for lunch.

3-4pm - evening meal

5pm - play with friends or homework

6pm - Sunset. Younger children get ready for bed, older children carry on with homework using electric lights

A look back on COVID-19 and Home of Hope

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 we've been providing updates of how the pandemic has affected Home of Hope. Here is a quick synopsis and a current update. Thankfully the cases in Malawi and Home of Hope in particular have always been relatively low. Nevertheless team Home of Hope have done an amazing job in adapting to keep staff and children safe. They've introduced regular handwashing and mask-wearing and dealt with sudden announcements from the government that schools needed to close. Children have been sent home from school on three occasions and to catch up on missed schooling the normal dates for term time have been changed. COVID cases did grow over the summer but are now on the decline and the progression of the vaccine programme has made transmitted cases much less serious. If you would like to stay updated with COVID in Malawi go to the Ministry for Health Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/malawimoh/>

Videos

Finally, we just wanted to alert you to some wonderful videos that the team on the ground in Home of Hope have been producing over the summer. Please do give these a watch if you're able, they're a beautiful snapshot about lots of different aspects of Home of Hope. You can access these via the Home of Hope Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/homeofhopemalawi/videos>



Yakiti in 2021



Art class!



Farm update

Home of Hope has a farm a few kilometres away from the main village, where the great majority the food for children and staff is grown. This is a fantastic and sustainable endeavour which also enables Home of Hope to provide employment to many local workers and generate income to cover operational costs. Crops grown include stake ayres, tomatoes, carrots, maize (milled at the maze mill on the main site) and cabbage. A few years ago, with support from UK donors they were able to build a water pipe which allows them to have a second irrigated harvest and produce much more food. This years second crop has been yielded (see below!) and the main maize plot is being planted.

