

# Basotho Educational Trust



## Annual Report 2024

Khotso!

Looking back on 2023/24, it was a busy year with new people and new activities.

Keke Maketso joined us as a Trustee and soon became Secretary. She visits Lesotho regularly and brings valuable information, new insights and helpful links. She always tries to link up with our executive, Father Joseph and visit some schools.

We launched our Tools Fund in earnest following receipt of a £5000 bequest from a regular supporter living in Acton. Trial and error since it was conceived previously mean that it has now settled down into a specific scheme. Trustee Sue Claydon writes more about it in this newsletter.

At the BET we now have 63 students – a record number – at four vocational schools. During the coming year we hope to tell you more about the schools and for you to hear direct from the Principals via the website. The website already carries video interviews with some of the sponsored students so you can hear how much your support means to them. Without you our work would fail. With you, we can change lives for young people in this tiny mountain Kingdom.

We hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year

*Philippa Bird*

Chair of Trustees

## Meet the Students



*Keketso Hanyane*

Kiketso is studying for an International Computer Driving Licence because he has a great interest in computers and realises that there are few places in the world where computer literacy is not required.

The worst part of the course is losing data, that cannot be recovered, but the best parts are the skills that he will learn and which can be applied in so many areas of life. When he completes the course he hopes to start on a career in computing, with a focus on radio broadcasting.

When not in college he supports a couple of groups that are involved in justice and peace and various charity projects; this includes environmental action projects that clear rubbish as well as planting trees, and the justice projects tackle issues such as human trafficking and HIV/AIDs.

Without the the BET scholarship it would have been really difficult to fund the course so he is very grateful for people's support.

## Financial Accounts 2023-2024

The annual financial reports are set out below. On advice from our auditor, we have opened two new bank accounts – one with 35-day notice of withdrawal and one with 95-day notice of withdrawal. This was considered to be a prudent use of our funds allowing us to generate interest on our capital, and currently we are receiving approximately £1,200 per annum in interest to support students.

We have also set up a Tools Fund as a restricted funds account and will be meeting all purchases of tools from this fund and ensuring that individual donations for this purpose can be separated from the general fund.

Over the past few years, Sterling has strengthened against the Rand, going from 19/20 ZAR to the Pound to 23/24 ZAR to the Pound. This has been favourable for our work, meaning we have been able to support more students for the same cost.

We have been fortunate to receive some generous one-off donations. However our steady legacy income has been drifting downwards and we are actively seeking new long-term donors.

### Income

Fundraising	£0.00
Covenants	£4,491.00
Gift Aid	£1,151.33
CAF	£1,210.00
Churches	£3,065.00
One off Donations	£1,595.00
Trusts	£0.00
Interest	£136.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,099.24</b>

### Expenditure

Bank Charges	£0.00
Admin	£371.73
Lesotho Costs	£16,752.00
CC Payments	£409.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,533.64</b>

### Out-Turn

Surplus/Deficit	£-5,434.40
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## Balance Sheet

Previous Balance ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	£70,628.41
Surplus/Deficit on year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	£-5,434.40
Tools Fund surplus on year	£200.00
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	£65,394.01
<i>Represented by:</i>	
Current Account	£30,257.10
(of which Tools Fund)	£6,200.00
Savings Account 35 days	£20,068.87
Savings Account 95 days	£15,068.04

## Schools

BET financially supports **63** students in schools located in three districts of Lesotho. Two of these schools are in the Northern Region in Leribe while the other two are in the Central Region specifically in Berea and Maseru districts. A total of **19** students are at the end of their academic programmes and will be graduating in November and December this year. BET Lesotho Commit is currently following up on those who graduated in the previous years to find out if they have started their businesses, furthering their studies or employed. The aim of the Trustees in the UK together with the BET Lesotho Committee is to help the needy children to get **skills** which will help them to earn some income to support their families. The scholarship therefore is for those students who would otherwise not go school had BET not assisted them.

Institution	No. of Current Students	No. Of Finalists	Graduation Date	New Intake	Academic Year Cycle
CCCC (Leribe)	13	4	December	11	Aug - Jul
LOIC (Maseru)	15	2	29 November	2 (or 15)	Jan - Dec
MCEC (Berea)	9	9	1 November	15	Aug - Jul
SMHES (Leribe)	14	4	December	3	Aug - Jul
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>31</b>	
Grand Total	51 - 19 + 31 = 63				

## Tools Fund

Why a 'tools fund'?

BET supports students doing various vocational studies. These are all practical areas and require tools.

The 'tools fund' was set up to give our students access to tools both during and after their training. The costs of these tools vary from occupational area to area but are essential. Many of the students go into self-employment after their course and in order to do that need to have the 'tools of the trade' to work. Even some employed positions require you to have your own tools.

The 'tool fund':

- Works through the technical schools to identify the tools needed for each occupational area
- As the schools generally do not have enough tools in their own supplies, this means that BET sponsored students do not have to put a demand on this limited resource
- Schools purchase the tools in bulk and so make sure the quality and price are value for money
- On completion of their course the students take the 'tool kit' with them meaning they can start work immediately
- The 'tool kits' are basic but include all the essential initial tools required to do the jobs.

By supporting the BET Tool Fund we are making sure that our students can put into practice their training and begin supporting themselves and often their families.



# Help a Basotho student complete their course

The average cost of an individual student's fees is £350 a year.

With a regular donation, you can help ensure stability in these young peoples' lives and make it easier for them to plan for the future. You can also contribute to our Tools Fund which provides practical items for students at the beginning of their course.

You can give in various ways:

## Credit Card

You can make a donation using the credit card facility on the website:

## Bank Transfer

Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer, which will save us credit card fees:

Account Name: **Basotho Educational Trust**

Account Number: **28746783**

Sort Code: **60-10-07**

## Cheque

Make cheques payable to **Basotho Educational Trust** and post to *42 Ridley Avenue, London, W13 9XW*.

## Standing Order

You can make a regular donation by setting up a Standing Order, using the Bank details shown above. Alternatively, you can download a *Banker's Order Form* and *Donation Form* from the website and then post it to *42 Ridley Avenue, London, W13 9XW*.

## Gift Aid

Don't forget to Gift Aid your donation. You can download a *Gift Aid Form* from the website.

## UK Trustees

Ms Philippa Bird TSSF

Dr Rebecca Chandler-Wilde

Ms Sue Claydon

Ms Kekeletso Mokete

Sr Monica CHN

Mr Graeme Shaw

## Contact

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[BasothoEducationalTrust.org](http://BasothoEducationalTrust.org)

[www.facebook.com/BETstudents](http://www.facebook.com/BETstudents)

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