



Welcome to this edition of the Uongozi Connection themed- **PRESSING ON!**



#### CEO NOTE

Dear Scholars,

I trust you are keeping well as you continue to make the best out of the new ways of learning and working. I urge you to remain focused on your educational journey in order to achieve the transformation of yourselves and eventually your communities. I would like to reassure you that the Uongozi Centre management team is putting together all resources to ensure that you have all necessary tools and amenities so that your online classes run smoothly.

I am pleased to inform you that we now have a Director at the Uongozi Centre. Christian Gulzow is an educator who began his career in 1994 at Maryhill Girls High School which is a few kilometres down the road from the M-PESA Foundation Academy. He has worked in various teaching and leadership positions and is excited to be back in Kenya 26 years later, with a bag full of experience in national and international education. Christian's fundamental values are happiness, equality aspiration, respect and trust. This is exactly the way he would like to engage with the scholars at the Centre: in a friendly, gentle sympathetic and caring way, yet helping you push your boundaries and find your paths into tertiary education, entrepreneurship and eventually becoming young African leaders in any field you may choose to follow.

Lastly, I want to challenge you all to adopt an agile resilient mindset that embraces change as you continue with your online lessons. This will ensure that you create value for yourself through learning and building skills. I want to emphasize that it is your personal responsibility to protect yourselves and families by upholding all preventative measures during this time of the COVID 19 pandemic.

For any support, do not hesitate to reach out to the Uongozi Centre Management team.

**"A tree does not stop growing because the wind blew off its leaves  
~Matshona Dliwayo"**

*Les Baillie CEO, M-PESA Foundation Academy*

#### My University Experience

## My University Application Experience

By Ashley Chepkorir

I began my search for a suitable university started in August 2019, I initially came up with a list of about 11 colleges in the United States and Canada and I eventually narrowed them down to 8 colleges which I then applied to. This gave me the focus I needed to study because I had a goal in my mind. Out of the eight universities I applied to, I was accepted into five of them. When I finished my application last year, I thought the hardest part was applying and doing the exams but honestly the hardest part for me was choosing a college that I would go to!

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## I AM A SHARK! By Ivy Waikwa

A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step and a dream. I had a dream of studying in the US and all I had to do was work very hard to make it there. Despite all the challenges, I managed to apply to a couple of universities and I got admission to Simmons University. Simmons University is located in Boston, Massachusetts. It is a girls only university founded over a century ago with an intention of nurturing female leaders through education during an era where educating girls was considered a waste of time and money.

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### Experience at George School by Walter Wagude

One of the main reasons that compelled me to apply to George School was the diverse community that it has. The diversity of the institution has impacted me the most, having schoolmates from different parts of the world has been amazing. I have experienced different cultures and perspectives that have made me grow and develop as a person. It has instilled in me the urge to know more about a different cultures from my own and to embrace a new mindset.



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### Experience at George School by Grace Karanja

It is almost impossible to find words to describe my experience at George School and this article is not an accurate depiction of that experience, but a mere summary seeing that the adventure is ineffable. Firstly, the rigorous IB curriculum offered at George school enabled me to be a holistic student who is self motivated, a problem solver and a creative thinker.



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## CURIOUS MARKANDY



**Andy Muniywa**  
Founder & Host



**Marko Mutugi**  
Founder & Host



**Gideon Simiyu**  
Managing Director



**David Kihara**  
Host

Curious MarkAndy by Andrew Muniywa Muthoni

If passion was a journey of one thousand kilometres then it's only fair enough to boldly state that I have travelled a considerable distance through the journey. When the lockdown happened, me and friend-Mark started thinking of ways we would be able to inform and reach our colleagues. How can we continue to celebrate our successes and inspire others who are not necessarily from the MFA fraternity?

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CELEBRATING OUR WIN!



### WeCycle for a Sustainable Environment; Quality Education

**Team:** Umulkheir Ahmed, Victor Leina, Mark Ongina, Christopher Mwaniki, Ashley Chepkorir, Brenda Mwelu and Eusilar Kitur

Kenya and by extension the world faces spiralling plastic waste crisis. With seas of crumbled plastic waste spills across roads, littering playing fields and clogging rivers everywhere. On the other hand, kids across many counties in Kenya lack basic learning equipments like proper classrooms, desks, learning aids among others. As **Tujenge Team**, we are focused on solving the problem of plastic to address a key challenge in education.

[Learn More](#)

### My Work Placement Experience in Veterinary Medicine by Mary Zipporah



I come from Samburu County where I currently live and it may come to no surprise that I wanted to go to university to study Veterinary Medicine at the University of Surrey.

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