

## Help a Basotho Student Complete his or her training

The average cost of an individual student's fees, including examinations, books and/or tools 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 set up a standing order on our website – [www.basothoeducationaltrust.org](http://www.basothoeducationaltrust.org) – or make a one-off donation using the form below.

### Donation Form

I would like to help the Basotho Educational Trust support a technical student:

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a one-off donation of:

£ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to "Basotho Educational Trust" and post to the address below.

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- I am a UK tax payer and want BET to claim the tax on my gift. My tax bill this year will be more than this gift.

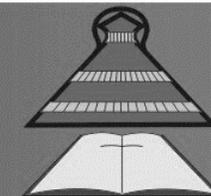
### Trustees

Ms Philippa Bird TSSF  
Dr Rebecca Chandler Wilde  
Ms Wendy Edwards  
Sr Monica CHN  
Sr Jean Mary CHN  
Mr Graeme Shaw

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Basotho Educational Trust is a registered  
Charity No. 285541

Basotho  
Educational  
Trust



## Annual Report 2018/19

Season's Greetings!

Firstly, thank you to all our supporters for enabling us to continue our work for another year. Without you the Trust would be unable to function.

In 2017/18 we have continued our support for the five schools where we sponsor students. As you will see in the accounts, this year we had to dip into our reserves as fees have increased. After intense discussion in the UK and Lesotho we have agreed to do more to meet the needs of the large number of AIDS orphans in the Kingdom (see trustee, Rebecca Chandler-Wilde's article below). We are therefore going to increase the number of students supported at each school by three.

Unless the cost is met by increased support from our donors, we will have to use reserves to fund this vital uplift in the help we can provide. We are aware that all our supporters are extremely generous. However, if you are able to help, the easiest and quickest way to give is through our credit care facility on our website – [www.basothoeducationaltrust.org](http://www.basothoeducationaltrust.org) By signing a gift aid declaration you can make your donation go even further as we can reclaim the tax you paid on the donation.

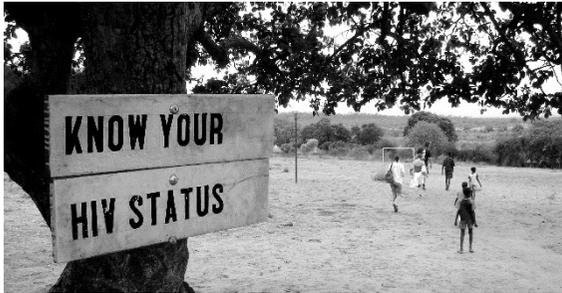
Political unrest continues to affect the country although there are some positive economic developments. The government has recently confirmed the importance of vocational education to tackle the present skills shortage. Thus BET continues to be as relevant as ever since its inception in 1981.

With best wishes

*Philippa Bird*

Chair of Trustees

## HIV and AIDS - Lesotho's "natural disaster"



HIV is a virus that attacks the immune system. If infected, a person can develop AIDS, a total breakdown of the immune system, leaving the body incapable of fighting off other diseases. We are very fortunate in the UK. In the

early 1980s, after the dramatic government warnings about HIV and AIDS, treatment programmes and advice on prevention were quickly put into place. Effective drugs, free on the NHS have reduced HIV prevalence in the UK to about 0.16% of the population and in 2015 less than 1% of people living with HIV here died. People in the UK, if diagnosed in time, can have a normal life expectancy.

Sadly this is not the case in Lesotho where, despite steadily increasing testing and treatment and a declining infection rate, the adult HIV prevalence rate of 23.9% is still the second highest in the world<sup>1</sup>. This is largely due to poverty and partly to cultural practices. The pandemic causes a multitude of family tragedies; in 2003, the Ministry of Health estimated that there were around 100,000 children under the age of 15 in Lesotho's 10 districts who had lost one or both parents to AIDS.

But in addition, it destroys the country's economy as more experienced workers die and are replaced by younger, less experienced workers. That's why King Letsie III has declared AIDS a "natural disaster" for Lesotho, disproportionately affecting the rural working-age population where most of Lesotho's population lives.

The lack of sexual education programs in schools means that younger people are at increased risk of HIV infection. HIV negatively impacts educational outcomes as children, particularly girls, are less likely to attend school or complete primary school because they are expected to care for sick family members or younger siblings orphaned by AIDS.

All of this means that providing a route for young women and men to train in useful vocational skills is more important than ever and the investment in training and development by BET is helping many students to help themselves, but also to help others and their country as they put their new skills to use.

*Rebecca Chandler-Wilde*

### Financial Accounts

**Policy on reserves:** All BET's income is unsecured. The Trustees therefore hold in reserves sufficient funds to support all sponsored students to the end of their course in the event that income from donors ceases.

**Restricted funds:** All covenants and funds from one off donors were received for the purposes of sponsoring the selected students. The figures represent the independently examined accounts of the Basotho Educational Trust for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.

INCOME	
Covenants	£ 5,525.00
Gift Aid	£ -
CAF	£ 1,550.00
Churches	£ 500.00
1 off donors	£ 5,128.45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 12,703.45</b>
EXPENDITURE	
Bank charges	£ -
Admin.	£ 542.53
Lesotho costs	£ 13,929.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 14,472.19</b>

Prev. Balance year ending March 31 2018	£70,908.92
Surplus/deficit on year ending March 31 2018	£- 1,768.74
Balance	£ 69,140.18
Represented by	
Current a/c	£ 69,140.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 69,140.18</b>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/sub-saharan-africa/lesotho>